

Wise Owl News

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From The PTA President

Hello Polk Community,

My name is Susan Keightley and I am honored to be your PTA president during another exciting year of growth. My children are Thomas Daley (K) and James Daley (3rd).

PTA shares information with the community throughout the year. To stay informed,

- *Come to the PTA meetings.* Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 8 PM.
- *Read the Polk newsletters.* They'll be issued 3 times a month in the Friday folders.
- *Visit the Polk web site, www.acps.k12.va.us/polk/ -- and click on the "PTA" link for a list of officers, calendar of events, and minutes from PTA meetings!*
- *Join "Just Between Friends," the PTA's new communication tool.* After joining, you can see what's going on at Polk, receive automatic event notices, volunteer, receive weekly PTA updates – and more! When you sign up for PTA or renew your membership and provide your email address, you'll get an email invitation to join. Visit the site at: www.justbetweenfriends.com.

Looking forward to a great year together!

--Susan

Community Events

PTA Picnic: Please join us at the playground September 16 at 6:00 pm for our Back to School Picnic – what a great way to start the new school year!

Worldwide Day of Play: The Safe Routes to School National Partnership is excited to announce a partnership with Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play and The Big Help project. On Worldwide Day of Play, September 24, Nickelodeon turns off all programming for three hours and encourages kids and their families to turn off their TV, get up and go play. Join your friends on the Ellipse in front of the White House in Washington, DC; maybe First Lady Michelle Obama will stop by and "see how you move!"

Marine Corps Fun Run: Run with your classmates and 3,000 other area kids at the One Mile Fun Run for ages 5-12 on Saturday, October 29. Look for a flyer next week from Ms. Chmura and Mr. McDonald with details. Sign up to run for Polk Elementary by returning your flyer to the PE teachers by September 22 or sign up at Back to School Night. Last year, Polk was one of the top five participating schools and received an award and a donation – let's keep the tradition going!

Just Between Friends Group: To receive PTA e-mail updates, please join the Polk PTA and provide an e-mail address with your PTA payment. We will add you to the Just Between Friends group. Alternatively, see instructions on the PTA link of the Polk web site at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/polk/pta-just-between-friends.pdf> to join Just Between Friends directly.

Dates to Remember

9/16/11	PTA Picnic (6:00 pm) – rescheduled from 9/9
9/23/11	Cookie Dough Fundraiser begins
10/05/11	International Walk to School Day
10/11/11	PTA Meeting (7:00 pm)
10/18/11	Picture Day
10/21/11	Reflections entries due (9:00 am)
10/17/11 – 10/21/11	Book Fair: 10/17: All day Preview Day 10/19: Family Night (5:30-8:00 pm) with Children's Program 10/21: Book Fair closes at noon



Grocery Programs

Each and every year the Polk PTA asks you to re-register your Harris Teeter, Safeway, and Giant grocery cards. When your card is linked to Polk, you automatically earn money for our school programs each time you purchase qualifying products and it doesn't increase your cost at all.

Last year we were able to earn over \$3,000 from Harris Teeter alone! We know we can do it again, but we need your help.

Please register your cards today and ask your families and neighbors to support us. If you Facebook or Twitter, post our code numbers (below) for your friends and followers. Anyone who shops at these stores nationwide can participate! To register, turn in grocery sheets to your child's teacher (we need the card numbers -- we cannot link by the phone number) or link by visiting the web addresses listed below:

<http://www.harristeeter.com/default.aspx?pagelid=172>
 (our code is 4268)

<http://www.escrip.com/> (Safeway - code 6553732)

<http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/> (code 02246)

Your links will help support all the great programs the PTA sponsors for our students and teachers. Let's see how fast we can make these numbers grow!

If you need any assistance getting your card linked, please contact Donna Ganter at donnagant@hotmail.com.



Walk to School Day

Please join us with your sneakers on, a smile, and your best "walk to school day" sign on Wednesday October 5 to celebrate International Walk to School Day with schools from around the world! The event will begin at approximately 7:15 am as our bus riders are dropped off at Hammond and will be joined by teachers, parents and community leaders. They will walk the half mile down the Pegram St. hill and are expected to arrive at the Polk playground near Pegram at approximately 7:45 am. Students who walk daily should meet on the playground. All walkers will be greeted with a healthy snack, a sticker, and perhaps a surprise or two.

Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and concern for the environment. They also help build connections between families, schools and the broader community.

If you must drive on this day, please help make International Walk to School Day a success by driving slowly and very carefully! Please contact Anne O'Neill, rubiapuku@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this school event and/or if you would like more information about International Walk to School Day or the Safe Routes to School program.



Diversity means...

"Diversity Means ..." is the theme of the 2011 Reflections contest. Reflections is a national PTA awards program promoting creative expression in our schools. Students may submit original works of art in six categories:

- Photography
- Visual Arts (drawings, paintings)
- Literature (poems, stories)
- Musical Composition
- Dance Choreography
- Film Production

Full contest rules and entry forms are available from your child's homeroom teacher or at www.vapta.org.

Entries should be turned in to the yellow Reflections box in the office or to your homeroom teacher. Entries are due Friday October 21 at 9 am. Questions, please contact Reflections Coordinator Betsy Wong, betsywong@comcast.net.

Box Tops For Education



The Box Tops for Education program is an easy way to earn funds for Polk initiatives. Keep an eye out for products with the Box Tops for Education logo. Send the clipped logos in to school with your children - they can drop them off in the PTA box in the copy room for collection by the Box Tops coordinator, Tina Rider. Each box top is worth 10 cents for Polk - that can really add up! The following link contains a list of products with the logo - <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?id=2164>.



Fundraising!

We have two fundraising efforts to kick off the fall. Please support our community by participating! Contact Leslie Kruse, leslie.kruse@verizon.net with any questions!

Sally Foster Gift Wrap Sales will occur online all year long! Look for packets in your child's backpack. Online sales and home delivery are easy to set up at www.sallyfoster.com. Students can earn prizes for sales!

Watch for Cookie Dough Flyers in your child's backpack on September 23. Prizes will be given to all who participate but additional prizes are available to those who sell four or more boxes. Forty percent of all sales come back to the Polk community.



Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Services

• Thanks to all the volunteers who donated breakfast items and helped with the "welcome back" staff breakfast. Congratulations to hospitality coordinator, Mary Patterson, for orchestrating such a lovely event!

• Book Fair is coming to Polk! October will be here before we know it and with the nice Fall weather comes Book Fair (October 17 - 21). Our Book Fair Chair, Julie Goodale, is in great need of an assistant. This is a wonderful way to get to meet teachers, parents and students at Polk. You really feel a part of the Polk community after a week of helping children find fabulous books to read. Please contact Julie Goodale at juliebgoodale@verizon.net or 703-212-9355 if you can help out.

• Photographers Needed! The yearbook committee is looking for a few dedicated volunteers to take candid photos at school functions throughout the year. If you plan to attend events like Walk to School Day, Math Night and Family Fun Night, take some photos and receive a voucher for a Spring Portrait package! For more information contact Marybeth Thompson at marybeth.thompson@verizon.net.

• We are always looking for people to support our school. There are many ways to help from home, online, or at school. Interested in helping? Please contact Susan Keightley, susank8ley@verizon.net. Susan will find the perfect spot just for you!