

Sprint Grant for EPTV

The PTA received information through the state PTA office about a grant opportunity offered by Sprint.

The grant is through the Sprint Character Education Grant Program funded through the Sprint Foundation. It awards grants to school districts and individual schools to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment and software that facilitates and encourages character education among K-12 students.

We felt it would be a great opportunity to pursue funds for ordering new studio equipment for EPTV News, the school's home-room television broadcasting system.

The EP staff had been repairing old equipment until last Spring when it finally went completely out-of-service.

With the help of Senior High's television production teacher, Erik Puskar, we have an equipment cost estimate ranging from \$4,500-\$5,000.

With Principal Springer's blessing, we are working on this project with Amy O'Neal, IASD Public Relations/Grant Writer.

We have had the opportunity to interview many teachers and staff at East Pike to learn how they think EPTV is a valuable asset to the school.

East Pike is the only elementary school in the district wired for this type of school-wide broadcasting.

A team of A-wing students spend a week planning and executing the announcements. There are two anchors who make the main announcements including the lunch menu and any school activities for the day. Other students provide the weather, sports update and do the Pledge of Allegiance as well as spotlight activities. Often times students read poems, sang a patriotic song or skits were performed by Dr. Chakot's Challenge students.

Typically, a few younger students in grades K-3 assist with the Pledge of Allegiance giving them the opportunity for on-air time too. There is also a technology coordinator and camera person behind the scenes. Staff and teachers also make appearances especially promoting the Heartwood Character program and Words of Wisdom.

The application requires focus on projects that promote youth leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. We feel EPTV does all of those things.

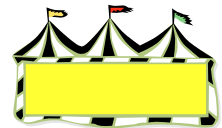
The deadline for the online application is February 5 with a status notification on May 14. The funds are sent on August 13. Keep your fingers crossed.

If you are aware of any other type of grant programs that would be a good fit for this project, please email any of the PTA officers listed in this newsletter. We know our first shot may not succeed, but we are more than willing to apply for additional opportunities to get EPTV back on the air!

PTA Tidbits

- **Spring Committee Sign Ups** were out at the January PTA Meeting and will be out again at the **February 10th** PTA meeting. We need lots of volunteers for our spring committees. Make sure to attend the meeting at **6:30 p.m.**

- **Valentine Homeroom Parties will be held on** Thursday, Feb. 11th.



- Flyers for **Under the Big Top Mother/Son Banquet** will be out soon in the backpack express. The banquet will be held from 6-8 p.m. on February 23. If you can volunteer to help that night, please contact Hallie Wacob at rwbrickworks@yahoo.com or call at 724-465-2582.



PTA Reflections Ceremony

March 10th PTA Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Grocery Store Program Update

Martin's A Plus program school comparison:

- Don't forget to sign up your Bonus Card at Martin's Grocery Store. Our East Pike ID Number is : 00050

| School Name | Registered Donors | Amount Raised to Date |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| East Pike Elementary | 56 | \$291.52 |
| Ben Franklin Elementary | 111 | \$659.68 |
| Eisenhower Elementary | 81 | \$502.36 |
| Horace Mann Elementary | 94 | \$627.94 |
| St. Bernard's Elementary | 112 | \$662.57 |
| Seeds of Faith Christian Academy | 62 | \$387.00 |

Giant Eagle: *Comparison Data is not available.*

Don't forget to go to www.applesforeducation.com and sign up your Giant Eagle Rewards Card for East Pike. Our East Pike ID is: apple0286.

From October 1-November 11, 2009 94 supporters 88 points earned

From November 12-January 2, 2010 92 supporters 69 points earned

Next reporting Period: January 3-March 17

Total Points Earned: 157 (Program earnings end March 17) (Last yr: 319 points redeemed for Science/Social Studies Fair Prizes for 2010 + 36 swing n'hops to use as prizes for Fitness for a Cause 2010.)

Calendar of Events

| Date | Event/Reminder | Location/Time | Information/Details |
|----------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2/1/10 | Refunding Committee Bin Pick Up | after school/office area | |
| 2/3/10 | Market Day Delivery | 4-5 p.m. | Cafeteria |
| 2/8/10 | School Board Meeting | 7:30 p.m. | Administration Offices |
| 2/10/10 | PTA Monthly Meeting | 6:30 p.m. | Cafeteria |
| 2/11/10 | Valentine Classroom Parties | 2 p.m. | All building |
| 2/12 & 2/15/10 | No School (2/12 is #1 Snow Make up Day; 2/15 is Parent Teacher Conferences; Book Fair Set up) | | |
| 2/16-2/19/10 | Book Fair | During School Hours | |
| 2/16/10 | East Pike Crime Caper (Grades 4-6) | 6-7:30 p.m. | Cafeteria/Library; Book Fair Event |
| 2/17/10 | Family Craft Night (Grades K-3) | 6-7:30 p.m. | Cafeteria/Library; Book Fair Event |
| 2/19/10 | Battle of the Faculties | 7 p.m. | Indiana Area Senior High |
| 2/23/10 | Mother/Son Banquet: Under the Big Top | 6-8 p.m. | Must register by Feb. 16 |
| 2/25/10 | Last day to place online order for Market Day | | |
| 3/2/10 | Read Across America Day—Book Swap | During School Hours | |
| 3/3/10 | Market Day Delivery | 4-5 p.m. | Cafeteria |
| 3/8/10 | School Board Meeting | 7:30 p.m. | Administration office |
| 3/10/10 | PTA Monthly Meeting/Reflections Ceremony | 6:30 p.m. | Cafeteria |
| 3/12/10 | Early Dismissal | 11:45 a.m. | |
| 3/13/10 | All School Basketball Tournament | Throughout the Day | Indiana Sr. High |
| 3/15/10 | No School (Make Up Snow Day, #2) | | |
| 3/25/10 | Last day to place online order for Market Day | | |

Valentine Classroom

Parties 2 p.m.: Thurs, February 11

If you were not able to attend the January PTA/Party Planning Meeting, please make sure to check with other parents in your child's classroom to see if they need any help in planning and volunteering on party day. There were not many parents in attendance, so more than likely the classroom could use your help.

Art Contest sponsored by Heinz

Students K-12 are welcome to submit designs for the 2010 Heinz Ketchup Creativity Contest. The top design will appear on 2.5 million ketchup bottles along with a \$5,700 cash prize. Twelve other winners will be selected and their artwork will be printed on 20 million ketchup packets plus a \$1,000 cash prize.

Winners' schools each receive \$1,000 toward art supplies, \$1,000 voucher for ketchup and a poster of the winner's artwork.

Contest kit available online at www.KetchupCreativity.com. Entry deadline is Feb. 26. Online voting March 22-27.

Thanks to Mrs. Katrina Smith for this information for the newsletter!

Book Fair: Feb. 16-19

Book Fair Chairperson, Andrea Neiderhiser, still needs volunteers. The Book Fair runs from February 16-19. Please contact her at 724.349.0246 or email: andreaneiderhiser@yahoo.com. Shifts are divided into AM and PM, but really any time you have to give is appreciated. You can help the children make their selections, re-stock shelves and help with check out.

Forms will come home for you to help your child make book selections. Your child goes to the Book Fair during normally scheduled Library Special.

This year to add an opportunity for families to join their children to tour the East Pike Book Fair, the PTA is sponsoring two special evening activities:

On Tuesday, **February 16**, there will be an East Pike Crime Caper—an interactive mystery event for students in grades 4-6 and their parents. Several EP staff members will be serving as the "suspects".



On Wednesday, **February 17**, there will be a Family Craft Night for students in grades K-3 and their families.

Although the events are free, we must have the registration forms completed so we can plan for the number of students attending. The Book Fair itself will be open both evenings from 6-8 p.m.

Read Across America Day: March 2



The East Pike staff is organizing the annual Read Across America event. The committee is planning a Book Swap. They will be asking students to bring in gently used books the week before and on March 2nd the students will select a book.

The PTA's chairperson for this event is Krista Grattan. She will need volunteers able to come to school and help the day of March 2 to organize the books and help the students select a book. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Krista by calling her at 724-349-7473 or vigcap@comcast.net



Due to the length of the month of March, there are two order deliveries in March. Here is the schedule:

February Order Deadline: 2/25/10

Delivery: March 3 from 4-5 p.m.

March Order Deadline: 3/25/10

Delivery: March 31 from 4-5 p.m.

We have raised: \$972.91 so far in just four months of sales.

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|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Barb Peles | President | 724-349-8077 or 724-388-6262 | barbpeles@comcast.net |
| Sheri Bowersox | Vice President | 724-349-5639 | sbowersox@yahoo.com |
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