

# Cranberry Station Elementary School PTA

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Dear Families,

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I would like to welcome each of you and your families to Cranberry Station Elementary School. As President of our PTA, it is among my responsibilities to talk with you about our organization, enroll you as a member, and very importantly, encourage you to get involved in your school. Since this may be the first time at Cranberry Station Elementary School for many of you, it is important for me to explain what our PTA is all about.

## **What is the PTA and who can be a Member?**

Our PTA is a local chapter organized under the authority of the Maryland Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (Maryland PTA), a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (National PTA). Being part of a national organization, we must pay annual dues. To offset these dues, we have a membership drive. Becoming a member does not mean you automatically sign up to volunteer, it just means you support our group and believe in what we're doing. Please enroll or renew your membership for 2011 - 2012 and help us achieve our membership goal!

**You will see our membership table at the open house and orientation events. Parents, grandparents, school faculty and other caregivers over the age of 18 can be members for only \$5!**

## **PTA Programs & Fundraising**

Our primary objective is to provide our schools with funds, programs, resources and services that will enrich and maximize the education of every child. Our PTA provides the funds used to purchase Student Agendas, Quick Word Books, Book Fair Coupons, prizes for Project A.C.E.S., Helping Hands Closet –(extra classroom supplies), funds for field trips, Birthday Books for every student, and Play Day refreshments, just to name a few. We fund school assemblies, cultural programs, and author readings. We hope to host a monthly family event such as craft night and an ice cream social.

To provide these programs and offer services that are no longer covered by our school budgets, we must raise funds. Though it may not be our favorite responsibility, it is a necessary one. Our school community must raise money if we want to continue to provide our children with these products and programs.

One big initiative, this year, is to raise \$60,000 for new playground equipment. I am hoping to earn a grant from Pepsi through the RefreshEverything campaign. It works similar to American Idol – the top 10 vote recipients win the grant. You will be getting more information about this in September. We will hold a Fall Book Fair, a Holiday Shoppe, and will continue collecting BOX TOPS to support our other programs. Additional fundraising activities are still being finalized. We welcome your ideas!

## **Become a Volunteer...Why YOU should get involved!**

As you can see, we are a busy group. This is where you come in! We need your help, and so do your children. Over 500 independent studies on parent involvement show that when parents get involved in their children's education grades go up, test scores improve, children are more likely to attend better schools after high school, they have fewer discipline problems and they're less likely to use drugs and alcohol. Get involved TODAY!

Please look at the PTA volunteer sheet, indicate what events/activities interest you, and we'll contact you to discuss it further. Volunteering need not be a huge time commitment. We know time is in short supply but we can use whatever time you can give. We even have tasks that can be done at home.

Our parent group is certainly about more than cookie and candle sales! We're about Fathers and Mothers working together toward a shared goal of building a better educational experience for our children. There is so much to be done and we can achieve it together.

On behalf of the Cranberry Station Elementary School PTA I would once again like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a successful school year! Please contact any board member with questions or comments. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Aimee Schultz, PTA President

This document and other PTA information may be found at <http://www.carrollk12.org/cse/pta/default.asp>