



---

# Pot Spring Press

## Principal's Message

### American Education Week a Huge Success

Our turnout during American Education Week was impressive again this year. This year we had over 521 visitors representing the majority of our students! We continue to increase our attendance each year. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to spend time in our school.

The feedback from our visitors was very positive. They shared that they were impressed with the quality of the instructional program that they observed taking place. In

addition to verbal feedback, many of our visitors completed our Parent Satisfaction Survey. You can still complete your surveys. The surveys will be sent to our data office for tabulation. Once those results are back I will share them with all of you.

It is always a pleasure to see so many parents, grandparents, friends and relatives visiting our school. Your interest demonstrates your commitment to helping your child have a successful school career. Please know

that you are always welcome at Pot Spring Elementary. If you ever want to visit your child's classroom to observe, just let the office know the day or so before and we will arrange a visit with the classroom teacher.

A special thank you goes out to all of our parent volunteers for the hard work that they put into organizing American Education Week and providing daily treats for our visitors. It would not have been a success without their help.

---

POT SPRING  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Volume 4

December 6, 2007

---

Karen Harris

Principal

kharris@bcps.org

Jane Martin

Assistant Principal

jude@bcps.org

Carol Jones

PTA President

ctjbalto1@aol.com

## First Quarter Awards Assembly

On Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> we held our first awards assembly of the year to acknowledge the accomplishments of many of our students. The gym was packed with both students and visitors as we celebrated students who had made the Principal's List (all A's in all subjects and 90% 1's in effort and self development),

Honor Roll (all A's and B's in all academic subjects and all 1's and 2's in effort and self development). We also honored students from each class for achieving their personal best. The assembly was a wonderful celebration of the good work that our Pot Spring students are showing and we are proud of all

of them. Next quarter, every student in grades 2-5 (our first graders can qualify for a B.U.G. award by simply **Bringing Up a Grade** without letting any other grades drop.



## New Volunteer Check-In!

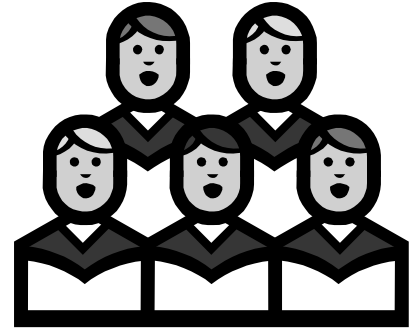
Thanks to our generous PTA we now have a computerized check in system in the office for volunteers and visitors. The new system will generate name badges and calculate service hours for our volunteers. Those of you that have completed the volunteer application have been entered into our data base. Volunteers and visitors who have not turned in an application will be registered by scanning their license through the machine. This feature also checks visitors against the national database for sex offenders. Many thanks again to our PTA for funding this tool to help keep our children safe!

---

## Winter Concert



Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us in the gym on the evening of Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for our annual Winter Concert. Our students have been working hard to prepare seasonal music that they will perform that evening. If you are unable to attend the evening performance, you are welcome to attend the dress rehearsal that will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in our gym.



## School Supplies



This is a great time of the year to check your child's school supplies. Not surprisingly many supplies are used up, broken or lost by this time of the year. The holidays are a wonderful time to replenish these supplies.



## SCA Food Drive

Thank you for collecting for the Maryland Food Bank. The food bank services many food pantries in Baltimore County. Each year the SCA looks forward to promoting this project. It teaches students to give, no matter how small. We have collected 620 pounds. Every can is greatly appreciated.

## Group on Separation/Divorce and Loss of a Loved One

These two groups will begin meeting this week. A letter for signing up for either of these groups was attached to the November newsletter. If you are still interested in having your child join one of these groups, please contact Mrs. Kutson, Guidance Counselor at 410-887-7648 and a permission letter will be given to your child.

## Special Thank You

A special thank you goes out to the many Aquarium volunteers. The program wouldn't have been a success without the assistance of the following parents: Pam C., Marie S., Donna H., Susan A., Amy C., Melissa W., Ellen M., Laura L., Maryann C., Pam M., Cathy S., Maggie R., Erin M., Jan H., Anna A., Sue W. and March K.

**THANK YOU!**



*Happy Holidays to all of you!*



# Counselor's Corner

## Communicating With Your Child

Talking with children involves the exchange of words, ideas, and feelings between two people. Communication is what we say and how we say it. We communicate with looks (scowls and smiles), with actions (slaps and hugs), with silence (cold or warm), as well as with words (kind and unkind). Adults usually do not have any difficulty communicating with children when it simply involves giving directions on how to use scissors or explaining the danger of cars, but they do have difficulty communicating when feelings are involved - either the child's or their own. Poor communication leads to conflicts and bickering, kids who "turn off" adults, and feelings of worthlessness. Good communication leads to cooperation, warm relationships and feelings of worth.

Listed below are several winning ways to talk with children. Try them. But remember, what works well for one person may not work for another. If these suggestions are not successful, try other ways of communicating based on your own experience and understanding of your child.

### 1. Communicate Acceptance

Example - "Mother, I'm afraid to sleep alone."

Response - "I know you are frightened. I will turn on the night light and leave the door open."

### 2. Use Door Openers

Example - "I see," "Oh," "Tell me more," "Really?" You are giving the message that his

ideas are important

3. Use "I-Messages" to communicate your thoughts and feelings  
Example - "I need help in picking up now," instead of "You sure made a mess."
4. Get the child's attention before speaking to him. Communicate at eye level.
5. Try not to interrupt and scold children when they are telling you their story.
6. Use kind words to encourage and build up the child.

Good communication helps children to develop confidence, feelings of self-worth, and good relationships with others.

## Blue Bird Poems

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird!

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird soaring through the sky.

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird how do you fly?

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird, you hatch from eggs.

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird you have tiny legs.

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird you are so pretty.

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird stay away from the kitty.

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird it is time for you to leave

Bluebird, Oh Bluebird it is Christmas Eve.

-Samantha L. - Gr. 3

Bluebird

Building nests in cavities,

Having four to five babies,

Eating insects in the summer,

Trying to fly away from enemies,

Raccoons trying to destroy the nests,

The eggs are light blue and you know there will be hatchlings!

-Emma K. - Gr. 3

## Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee

The Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee is pleased to present an informational meeting on Monday, December 10th. The topic of the meeting is Learning Disabilities (LDs). The meeting will be held at the ESS Building, Room 114, at 6901 Charles Street from 7-9 p.m.

## PTA

"As the calendar year 2007 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTA Board members - - **Carol N.**, 1st V.P.; **Maryann C.**, 2nd V.P.; **March K.**, Volunteer Coordinator; **Melissa W.** Secretary; and **Carol P.** Treasurer - and the many wonderful volunteers and event chairs who have made the first half of our school year at Pot Spring so successful. Just look at what we have accomplished already. We successfully elevated our Volunteer Coordinator to a Board level position, and with it, began to streamline and organize volunteer training and room mother duties for the whole school. Thank you **March K.**, Volunteer Coordinator. Our PTA Membership drive proved successful, as chair **Diane L.** organized both the membership effort as well as donations and helped us elevate our goals for another year. We successfully combined the "old" with the "new" by incorporating our ever-popular Scholastic Book Fair with our 1st-ever family dance party in September. The combo event was nothing short of genius, as Book Fair co-chairs **Monica R. and Trish T.** oversaw record-breaking Book Fair sales while dance co-chairs **Tina M. and Kathleen Z.** watched dancing spirits soar on the dance floor. Another way that we were able to integrate tradition with new ideas was our Ice Cream Social and Halloween dance party in October. Co-Chairs **Pam C. and Maryann C.** successfully organized this fun-filled family event despite the rain, rain, rain that night. We dolled out ice cream and smiles and enjoyed the festive decorations in the lobby and gym. Our Innisbrook school supplies and paper

sales, chaired by **Kim B.**, ran smoothly and efficiently and we continue to benefit from on-line paper sales through out the year. Our Student Directory, chaired by **Michelle B.** was delivered on time and under budget and we thank everyone who participated in the Directory this year. Joe Corbi Pizza sales are off and running to another successful start, thanks to chair **Barb D.**, and our families will be thankful for these tasty baked treats in the upcoming winter months. American Education Week was a huge success this year, and we thank **March K.** for organizing hospitality treats in the lobby as well as Room Mother buttons as an extra-added treat! Thank you to **Mrs. Harris** for loaning us the button maker! **Donna P.**, designed our new PTA logo and is our wonderful Box Top Coordinator. Donna has made this year's boxtop challenge exciting and interactive for all grades. We look forward to finding out which grade has collected the most boxtops this month! Behind the scenes, **Melissa W.** has been busy getting our 1st ever PTA website up and running and we look forward to sharing more news about that with you in the next few months. Thank you, **Melissa!** **Carol T. and Tina W.** are due a huge THANK YOU for agreeing to do our annual audit of records. They will report their findings in an upcoming PTA meeting. Thanks also go out to **Jason G.**, for chairing our new spirit wear line and to **Paul L.** for designing the blue bird logo for the spirit wear. Also new this year is the PTA's participation in a community ESOL event in October at Padonia Elementary. Thank you to **Deb Tewey** for including the PTA in this important

## CORNER

night. We look forward to continuing to build our relationship with the ESOL community in the months and years ahead and we encourage these families to let know how we can help them and their children do their best in school. The PTA's cannot overlook the contributions of school personnel who have helped us this year as well: **Scott Purkins, Lois Dukes and their respective staffs** for all their help with setting up for our events; **Stephanie Weigert** for sharing the library with us for a whole week during Scholastic Book Fair; **Robin Simmonds and Fran Medlin** for all the help they provide to us in the front office and of course, **Karen Harris and Jane Martin** for their guidance and support during our meetings and many events. All of this good will and success would not be possible without the tremendous time and talents provided to all of us by our wonderful parent volunteers. I would like to take this time to thank each and every one of you for helping the PTA be a strong and vibrant part of our school community and invite you to participate in one of our meetings or events in 2008. I can't wait to get started on the second half of the year and I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your PTA President. Happy Holidays!

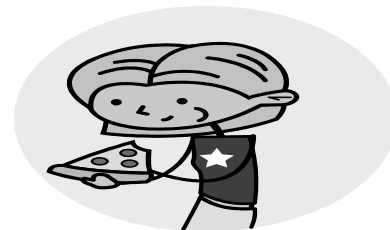
Carol J.

## JOE CORBI'S

*Chairperson, Barb D. 410-628-4070*

Joe Corbi's orders were due Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. Delivery will be in the lobby on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:45 - 5:45. Many thanks to Barb Duvall and

her entire family for all of their hard work pulling this program together. It is a Pot Spring tradition that lives on in our happy tummies!



## ORDER HOLIDAY WRAPS AND GIFTS TO SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL

*Chairperson, Kim B. 410-666-8573*

Please order your holiday wrap and special gifts from Innisbrook. Remember, you can order Innisbrook all year long, on the internet. Again, our school code is 103895.

## DIRECTORY

Contact, Karen L. 410-308-1810

We are pleased to introduce an update to the Pot Spring PTA Directory! Please add these names to your directories. For those of you who have not included your names, it is not too late to add your name to the directory. Return the form that came home with your child. Fill out your information and we will publish another updated list next month.

## OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE DINNER

*Chairperson, Amy C. 410-252-0341*

Hold the Date! Outback Steakhouse is coming to Pot Spring Elementary January 31<sup>st</sup>! Look for more details to follow in early January. Contact Amy C. with any questions.

## AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Thank you to March K. for setting up snacks for American Education Week and to Carol J. for making Room Mother Buttons.

**POT SPRING ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**

2410 Springlake Drive

Timonium, MD 21093

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Phone: 410-887-7648

Fax: 410-887-7649

E-mail:

**POT SPRING PRESS**

---

---