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# Pot Spring Press

## Principal's Message

It is with a deep sadness that we reach out to the Pot Spring community during the tragic loss of the Browning family. Our staff has worked hard

this week to comfort each other as well as the students and families in our school. Nick, Greg and Ben all attended Pot Spring and Mrs. Browning served as

the PTA president.

Please keep their family in your prayers as they struggle with their grief.

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POT SPRING  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Volume 6

February 7, 2008

## Community Outreach Meeting

Our staff is committed to helping all of our students be successful in school. To that end, the Leadership Team, which is made up of teachers and the administration, planned our first Community Outreach Meeting for January 22. The evening consisted of a variety of hands-on workshops with a focus on math, literacy, organization and the Parent

Mobile. Because of limited space and resources, we had to limit our first meeting to one geographic area of our school community. The evening was a huge success and we received very positive feedback from the people who attended. Martin's Valley Mansion was gracious enough to allow us to hold the meeting at their new facility on Cranbrook Rd. We

thank the PTA for providing a light snack of pretzels and chips.

The Leadership Team will be meeting this week to discuss the success of this first meeting and develop a plan on how we can repeat this format for other geographic areas of our school community this year and in following years.

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## Using Your Child's Report Card as a Teaching Tool

The second marking period ended on Friday, January 25th and report cards will be sent home with your child on Monday, February 11th. Report cards are used to identify strengths and weaknesses of each individual student. When a child receives a good grade in a subject, it is important to build on that subject by expanding the area of knowledge for the child. When a child receives

a grade below their achievement level, it is necessary to determine what might have caused a problem in that subject.

The report card should be used as a tool to help children learn as much as they possibly can. You are encouraged to sit down with your child and review all of their grades, self development marks and comments with them. Children also benefit from setting a couple of goals

based on this quarter's report. When your child gets good grades encourage him/her to keep up the good work. If your child gets poor grades, try to find out why and then work with your child to help correct any weaknesses as soon as possible. Please feel free to use the resources in our school to help you help your child improve. Whenever you have a concern or question about your child's progress, please contact the school and

set up a conference with your child's teacher(s) and any support staff who work with your child. Classroom teachers, reading specialists, guidance counselors and the administration are always available to meet with parents to develop strategies to help a student improve. We will do whatever it takes to help all of our students succeed.

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**CORRECTION** - Please visit the PTA Website at [www.potspringpta.org](http://www.potspringpta.org).

## Forgotten Homework

One of the most difficult challenges that parents face is to let their children experience the negative consequences of their actions or inaction's. At Pot Spring we are trying to teach the students responsibility for their class work and home-

work. One of the policies we have is that students are not allowed to return to their classrooms after school hours when they have forgotten their homework. Every classroom teacher provides time at the end of the day for the students to pack up the mate-

rials they need for their homework. They also encourage the students to have a homework buddy to call in case they forget their homework. Please support our efforts to help your child be responsible.

## Making Up Work When Absent

When your child is ill and not able to be in school, please know that the teachers will collect work for them to make up when they return to school. It is difficult to provide work for your child while they are out of the building on the day of their absence or prior to a trip because they are also missing the instruction that

goes along with that work. We appreciate how supportive the Pot Spring families are at ensuring that their children make up missed work.

As you plan family vacations, please try very hard not to plan them during school days. Our instructional program is rigorous and challenging

and it is difficult to "catch" students up when they return from an extended break. In addition we strive to exceed the state standard for excellent attendance each quarter and need your support to maintain our high attendance standard.

## Kindergarten/First Grade Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on Thursday, April 17th. If

your child will be five years of age by September 1, 2008, please contact the school office at 410-887-

7648 to receive a registration packet. First graders who will be entering Pot Spring may also register at this time.

## Pre-Kindergarten Screening

Pre-Kindergarten screening for the 2008-2009 school year will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd. If your child

will be four years of age by September 1, 2008 and you are interested in having him/her screened, please con-

tact the school office at 410-887-7648 to receive a screening packet.

## Instrumental Music News

The fourth grade exploratory music students enjoyed a performance in class last week from a guest artist, Mrs. Janet Kuperstein, a professional violinist. Mrs. Kuperstein took them on a musical tour of Baltimore, "visiting" the Baltimore Museum of Art, Orioles Park, Lyric Opera House, the National Aquarium, the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and Fort McHenry. At the end of the tour, the children asked questions about Mrs. Kuperstein's violin and profession.

The band and string ensemble are practicing eighth note rhythms and noticing the relationship to division in their math classes. We have almost finished learning their first scale. Next we will begin learning music for our Spring Concert on May 13th.

On these dark, rainy days, making music seems to lighten our mood. Spring can't be far away. Mrs. Hendry

## Emergency Early Dismissal Forms

New Emergency Early Dismissal Forms for the second semester are being sent home on February 11, 2008 with report cards. Completed forms for every student are due back to school by Friday, February 15, 2008.

**Important**

## In Honor and Memory of Tammy Browning

The Pot Spring PTA wishes to honor Tammy Browning's many years of service and dedication to our school, teachers and families. In ad-

dition to holding numerous PTA board level positions and committee chairmanships over the years, Tammy was a dedicated classroom volunteer and

friend to us all. We share in the grief of our community and seek to hold dear those memories of Tammy and her family.

## Outback Steakhouse Family Night is a Big Success

There is nothing like friends joining friends for good times and good food. Thanks to Amy Chenowith and Tina Will (Co-Chairs) our Pot Spring Cafeteria was transported to the Australian Outback for our first ever Outback Steakhouse Family Dinner Night. From authentic Outback table centerpieces to Austrian folk music, the evening was festive and relaxing.

The walls were decorated with our own Pot Spring Elementary coloring contest. All the Australian themed coloring was colorful and engaging. The winners of the contest were:

- Pre K - Jake Morris
- K - Mohammed Mustafa
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Eiko Mandai
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ashland Purvis
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Samantha Lannon
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jarrin Jacobs
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Michito Mandai.

Everyone enjoyed Outback Steakhouse's delicious food including steak, chicken, baked potatoes, caesar salad and rolls. Outback Steakhouse truly manifested all the best in community outreach through a wonderful event at Pot Spring. We are grateful. As with any great accomplishment, it is never done alone. Pot

Spring Elementary would like to extend our great appreciation to Green Pastures Mortgage & Finance Company, LLC, Wal-Mart, Mars Supermarkets, and Giant Foods for supporting this event. Our school is stronger because of their support

Finally, many thanks go to our wonderful volunteers: Melissa Whatley, Carol Purvis, Erin McGeehan, March Klein, Carol Trivett, Carol Jones, Carol Norton, and of course Mrs. Kutson. Allie Chenowith and Zoe Hermann helped out on the buffet line pretty much the whole night as well.

## Spring Fling

Do you own a company or frequent a local business? We are hoping to have our most impressive Silent Auction ever! Please ask a PTA Board

Member to give you a copy of our "request for donation letter." Please email event chair, Carol Purvis at [purvisc@cpakatz.net](mailto:purvisc@cpakatz.net) with the name of

the organization. We are creating a master list of organizations that can support our Spring Fling Auction.

## Box Top Update

Keep those Box Tops rolling in.... Fourth grade is in the lead! The following are the February Class Totals:

Pre-K and K \$188

1st Grade \$129

2nd Grade \$173

3rd Grade \$204

4th Grade \$269

5th Grade \$135

# Pot Spring PTA Website Update

Remember to check out our new website at [www.potsspringpta.org](http://www.potsspringpta.org). It is a work in progress. If you have a sug-

gestion for material to include on our site, please contact Melissa W. at [mbwhatley@comcast.net](mailto:mbwhatley@comcast.net) to share

your ideas. Don't forget, your expertise is always welcome!

## Community Outreach

The PTA would like to thank the Pot Spring administration and teachers for including us in the Community Outreach event at Martin's Valley Mansion on January 22. We were thrilled to have been a part of this important family outreach event and look forward to participating in similar outreach programs in our school community.

## Calling All 1st & 2nd Quarter Committee Chairs!

We need your Committee Binders! First, thank you for chairing a PTA event during the first half of the school year. As you know, the PTA is actively trying to document committee chairmen and member responsibilities for the various programs and events that we run each year. As part of this documentation,

the PTA purchased and started a bare bones "binder" for each PTA event chairman in 2007-2008. Now that your events are over for the year, we would like to gather those binders and review the information/notes/budget that you supplied for your event. By maintaining this important documentation, the PTA can

provide new chairmen with needed information about upcoming events each year. Please return your PTA binder to the PTA closet, or if you have any questions please contact a board member. We will be glad to help you complete, compile or organize your committee binder material.

## Kindergarten Round -Up

On Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the PTA will again support Pot Spring at Kindergarten and First Grade Registration. We will host an information table, present a welcome packet, offer refreshments and give tours of our kindergarten wing. It is a wonderful opportunity to welcome new families into our Pot Spring Community. Please join us by volunteering your time. We will have a morning and afternoon shift. Contact Carol Norton at 410-560-0434 or [bcrmnorton@yahoo.com](mailto:bcrmnorton@yahoo.com).

## Take Home Folders

The PTA has a limited supply of additional Take Home folders (the red, white and blue 2-pocket folders used to transport homework and notices from school to home) available for purchase on a 1st-come basis. If your existing Take Home folder is worn and you would like to purchase a new one, please complete the form below and send it, along with \$1.00 (cash or check payable to Pot Spring PTA) in a baggie, to the PTA mailbox in the school office.

***Mid-Year Take Home Folder Request Form (1st Come-1st Serve)***

***Please complete, tear off and return with \$1.00 (cash or check to Pot Spring PTA) to PTA mailbox***

***Today's Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Child's Name:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Teacher/Grade:*** \_\_\_\_\_