

The Tiger Times

A Publication of the East Side Elementary School PTA



May 14th, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 6

Principal: Elizabeth Mavity

Assistant Principal: Dianne Gurr

Assistant Administrator: Tucker Smith



End of Year Update from the Principal

May, 2009

Dear Parents,

Another year comes to a close! It has gone by so quickly. At the end of every school year it is always amazing to me to reflect upon the year's highlights. We always accomplish so much. Our students are offered many opportunities to excel beyond the classroom thanks to the PTA and Foundation-sponsored after-school programs. Our students have shined this school year from chess participants earning the recognition of state champs for a third consecutive year to students exhibiting their hidden talents in the school play "Dear Edwina." Our Robotics Team won some recognition in a state competition, an honor that was completely unexpected since the group was formed only this school year. I anticipate that the team will go even further in competitions next year. Our new Science Lab run by Annette Ranger has enriched the hands-on learning experiences of our students.

We have worked hard to support the "Green School" initiative by sponsoring walk-to-school days and recycling paper and plastic at school. We have encouraged our students to consider and think about living a healthy life style by encouraging them to make healthy eating choices and exercise often. PTA sponsored "Fit in Third" as a compliment to its "Fit in Fifth" by visiting the third grade classes once a week for 6 weeks teaching the students stationary exercises and things such as learning how to read their pulses and heart rates. We even had programs to educate parents about ways to influence children to live a healthy lifestyle. Our school also earned the distinction of being a "Heart Safe" school by training a team of staff members in CPR and use of the defibrillator. Several staff members volunteered to be trained as a response team in the event of an emergency on our campus.

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From the PTA Co-Presidents . . .

How quickly we have arrived to the end of the school year! It has been a fabulous year marked by many changes and many successes. With the notion that there are Endless Possibilities, we set out to focus on three major themes: to make a concerted effort to go green, to encourage healthy habits at school and at home and to embrace all families. We have done that and so much more!

We rolled out a number of new Environmental efforts and taught our students the importance of the three "Rs": Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Each classroom recycles their paper and cardboard is recycled school wide. As a PTA, we try to limit the paper we send home and saved over 40% in copying costs by communicating through E-News, Room Representatives and the website. We also began offering the electronic version of the Tiger Times. The PTA set up on campus recycling for plastic but encourages students and teachers to bring reusable bottles to school. Students can purchase a special East Side reusable bottle from the Tiger's Cage. Also new this year were efforts to clean up our air by establishing a No Idle Zone and encouraging families to walk, ride their bikes or their bus to school instead of driving.

As parents we know that healthy students make better learners. We've encouraged healthier snacks in the classroom and taught students key health and exercise concepts through our Fit in Third and Fit in Fifth programs. Many of our students used their energies to dance at the Sock Hop, jump at the Fall Festival, bowl during the Early Release Fun Days and take part in our Walk to School Days. Over 500 of you witnessed our dancers and performers at the International Festival and the Variety Show. East Side's got talent!

A record number of parents were involved in the school this year and we thank you! Some of you spent time in your child's classroom as center parents, Room Reps, Adventures in Art leaders or Mystery Readers. Others chaired committees and organized events like the Science Fair, the Sock Hop, Fall Festival and Variety Show. Many of you worked at night or on the weekend to organize your committees. We cannot thank you enough!

We are already making plans for next year and encourage you to get involved. There are numerous opportunities to make a difference both small and large. We have spots for both working and non-working moms, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and even older siblings! Please go to our website at www.eastsideelementary.com to learn more.

You should have received a letter from us and a presale form for the 2009-10 school year. Here's your chance to get Spirit wear at an early bird price, preorder a Memory Book, Calendar and Directory and most importantly, join the PTA.

As we close out a great year, we thank everyone who gave their time and their money to the PTA. Every student at East Side has benefitted from your contribution! We look forward to next year and to Building the Future together!

Patty Pace and Irene Barton, PTA Co-Presidents

WHY JOIN the PTA: A TRIP DOWN PTA MEMORY LANE TO FIND OUT....

What is PTA? Why is it important? PTA is more than just what we do inside the halls of East Side. Here is a brief look at what the National PTA has done throughout history:

1911

National convention included Second International Congress on the Welfare of the Child; recommended kindergarten be made part of the public school system; voted to work for *mothers pension laws* in every state, child hygiene departments in every board of health, and a separate home education division in the U.S. Bureau (now Office) of Education.

1941

Special committee on community school lunch appointed and school lunch program inaugurated on a nationwide basis.

1957

Awarded plaque by the National Foundation for *unprecedented participation* in historic development of a preventive measure against paralytic polio and for outstanding volunteer leadership in achieving record acceptance of the Salk vaccine."

1990

Launches the *Common Sense Drug Prevention Program*...National PTA president is named to President Bush's Education Policy Advisory Council.

2003

Introduces *Doors Open After School* observance to raise awareness of the importance of school-based, after-school programs...passes national resolution on "The Importance of Physical Education in Our Schools."

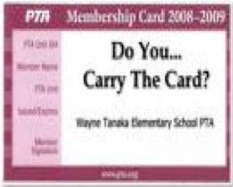
East Side Parents Gave *Three for Me* in 2008-09!

East Side PTA gives a special thanks to all the parents for giving their time, talent, and energy to the benefit of their children during this school year. Whether you came to school to teach Adventures in Art, work a shift in the media center or front office, ate lunch with your child, attended a parent-teacher conference, or helped them at home with their homework... you have made a difference.

THANK YOU!!!

East Side News Snippets

Are You a Card-Carrying Member?



Being a PTA member entitles you to numerous discounts at local merchants and with national retailers. When planning your summer outings, don't forget that you can receive a 10% discount to the Atlanta History museum and 10% off family memberships to the Chattahoochee Nature Center and Fernbank Museum.

To refresh your memory as to local benefits, go to the PTA Membership and Benefits page at www.eastsideelementary.com. Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see a link to the Georgia and National PTA websites for a list of additional benefits you have as a PTA member. To access the Member only benefits, use the password information shown on the back of your membership card.

Start saving today!

Mark Your Calendars!



Please mark your calendars for Thursday, August 6th for Tiger Day, East Side's Meet and Greet. It will be your chance to meet your child's teacher, sign up for the ASP program, get your PTA membership and calendar and find out about the Foundation's after school programs. Watch for more information in this summer's E-News.

CHADD is coming to East Cobb!

A satellite chapter of **CHADD** (Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) has been established to serve the parents in our area. If you have a child with AD/HD or if you want to learn more about AD/HD, this group is for you! Contact Movita at east-cobb@chadd.net or at 770-321-1783 for more information. Visit the website www.chadd.net/300 for details on upcoming meetings.



PTA Executive Committee for 2009-10

Co-Presidents: Irene Barton & Toria Peterson

Co-1st Vice Presidents: Paty Holdmeyer & Jayshree Sawant

Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Archana Patel & Mollie Cushing

Secretary: Patsy Hattori

Treasurer: Kit Carlson

Budget & Finance: Lisa Susman





Counselor's Corner


Summer Safety Tips for Children




Summer is a time for school classrooms and hallways to empty and the awaited anticipation of our children's fun and playtime. Yet, emergency rooms across the country call summertime "the trauma season for kids." From the heat to pools to bike riding, parents need to be on alert at ALL times. Close supervision, proper protective gear and other simple prevention steps will help keep your child safe.

Heat  can be very dangerous. Children are smaller than adults and they dehydrate quicker. When kids play, they sweat. They should not be out in the heat for more than 30 minutes. Bring them inside for at least 15 minutes for water and snacks.


Bike Riding  without helmets is an accident waiting to happen. Wearing a cast on an arm or leg can be uncomfortable in the summer, but you cannot put a cast on a child's brain. Brain injury is the most serious of injuries. Children must wear helmets every time they're on their bikes - no matter what.


Water Safety  is critical. To ensure that your children are safe, never leave them unsupervised around water. Teach your child to swim, but remember that younger children shouldn't be left unsupervised around water even if they know how to swim. It is recommended that children under age four not be given formal swimming lessons, especially as a primary means to prevent the risk of drowning.


For **Grilling Outdoors**  use caution. Never bring charcoal grills indoors. Burning charcoal produces carbon monoxide. When cooking outdoors with a gas grill, check the air tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. If you ever detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas at the tank and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed. Newer grills and propane tanks have improved safety devices to prevent gas leaks.


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Summer Tips for Children – Continued . . .

Home Playgrounds -  make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60 percent of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical. Concrete, asphalt or packed dirt surfaces are too hard. Use at least 9 inches of wood, chips or mulch.

Home –  install **window guards** to prevent children from falling out of open windows. Guards should be installed in children's bedrooms, parents' bedrooms, and other rooms where young children spend time. Or, install window stops that permit windows to open no more than 4 inches. Whenever possible, open windows from the top - not the bottom. Also, keep furniture away from windows to discourage children from climbing near windows.

Summer also means **yard work**  . When mowing, keep small children out of the yard, and turn the mower off if children enter the area. If the lawn slopes, mow across the slope with the walk-behind rotary mower, never up and down. With a riding mower, drive up and down the slope, not across it. Never carry children on a riding mower.

Finally, **Your Vehicle** -  Many parents mistakenly think they can leave a child in a vehicle while running a "quick" errand. Yet, a delay of just a few minutes can lead to tragedy. Heat is much more dangerous to children than it is to adults. When left in a hot vehicle, a young child's core body temperature can increase three to five times faster than that of an adult causing permanent injury or worse. Children should never be left alone inside of your car, even for a few minutes.

As school's out for summer, kids are everywhere and parents should be too. Even though your children may be older, make sure you're on watch, so that you won't have to take a trip to the emergency room. Enjoy the summer with your children - **SAFELY!**



Source: <http://www.loveourchildrenusa.org>



East Side Science Fair 2009 Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Science Fair for their outstanding displays.

Kindergarten -

- Josiah Taylor (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Broome) **Project:** "Which Color will Dominate?"
Nathan Dunbar (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Smith) **Project:** "Butterfly Lifecycle"
Oliver Wood (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Hendrix) **Project:** "What is Static Electricity"
Sarayu Ramachandra (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Schmidt) **Project:** "Refraction"

1st Grade -

- Ellie Fry (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Guy) **Project:** "Secrets of a Diaper"
Sara Patyi (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Rudolf) **Project:** "Eggstraordinary"

2nd Grade -

- Caleb Tsai (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Mardis) **Project:** "Rock and Roll"
Hannah Kedziersky (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Mardis) **Project:** "Hannah's Bananas"
Kayla Bloom (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Mardis) **Project:** "Explosion"

3rd Grade -

- Jack Bussjager (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Slayton) **Project:** "Tomatoes"
Jonah Verdon (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Judge) **Project:** "I can Lift Anything"

4th grade -

- Kenny Chian (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Appel) **Project:** "Air Pressure Magic"
Kyle Richardson (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Wood) **Project:** "Understanding Helicopters"

5th grade -

- Jessie Leung (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Pernaci) **Project:** "Invisible Shoe"
Lynsey Joy (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Pernaci) **Project:** "Optical Illusions"
Noemi Nath (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Pernaci) **Project:** "Gross Fungus"
Sean Larsen (Homeroom Teacher: Ms Pernaci) **Project:** "Rock Candy Solids in Solution"

What Can Parents do to Promote Healthy Lifestyle Choices over the Summer?

1. Set limits on the time children engage in passive time. Pediatricians recommend restricting children to one to two hours per day of TV and computers combined - though older children may need additional time for homework.
2. Curtail visits to fast-food restaurants. Select food and drink choices wisely.
3. Provide nutritious, well-balanced, low-calorie and low-fat meals.
4. Limit the availability of high-fat and high-sugar snacks in your home.
5. Create an Active Environment:
 - Make time for the entire family to participate in regular, enjoyable physical activities
 - Start an active neighborhood program
 - Plan active family outings
6. Create a Healthy Eating Environment:
 - Implement the same healthy diet (rich in fruits, vegetables and grains) for your entire family, not just for select individuals.
 - Plan times when you prepare foods together. Children enjoy participating and can learn about healthy cooking and food preparation from their parents and extended family.
 - Eat meals together (at the dinner table) at regular times.
 - Avoid foods that are high in calories, fat or sugar.
 - Have snack foods available that are low-calorie and nutritious.
 - Avoid forcing your child to eat if he/she is not hungry. If your child shows atypical signs of not eating, consult a healthcare professional.
 - Limit the frequency of fast food eating to no more than once per week.
 - Avoid using food as a reward or the lack of food as punishment.

Hats Off to Our 5th Graders

By Julie Marino, PTA Communications Chair

Remember the first day of kindergarten? Filled with anticipation, perhaps you couldn't sleep the night before, or grew weepy at the bus stop as your little one departed; maybe you even followed the bus to school, or sneaked in behind him/her to take a picture as he/she entered the classroom for the first time. Can you believe another school season has come and gone...our precious little ones have grown up so fast? This month, its time to honor those once wide-eyed kindergartners as they prepare to graduate from East Side Elementary as accomplished 5th graders. They will leave the halls of East Side as articulate, mature, well-educated and well-spoken young people ready to embark on the middle school journey; still full of awe and brimming with the anticipation of their bright future. Please come join us in honoring and congratulating our amazing 5th grade students as they stream through the halls in their **Walk of Honor...Friday, May 22nd at 1:45 p.m.** Come prepared with plenty of tissues as you get weepy again while witnessing this very proud moment.

Exciting Program Updates for Summer Enrichment

Your PTA and school staff have partnered to revamp our Summer Enrichment program and make it more accessible and relevant for everyone. No more logs to complete or math points to tabulate! Instead, the program will be completely self-directed with resources chosen to support grade-based standards and relevant subject matter for our East Side students.

Why is summer work so important? A great deal of learning loss can occur over the summer and teachers must spend a significant portion of time in the first few weeks of school reviewing material. Some studies put the loss as high as 30%! Help your child avoid this pattern by encouraging him to participate in the program. She can spend a little bit of time each day (or at least a few times a week) on a worksheet, a list of spelling words, an interactive math game or reading. There is a lot to choose from! Since you know best what motivates your child, you can create a home-based reward system – stickers, a Borders gift card, a trip to a museum, sleepover with a friend, etc. The possibilities are endless!

The site also contains recommended reading lists with titles selected by East Side staff. Check out the suggestions for your child's grade and feel free to go higher or lower – the important point is to not let those reading skills deteriorate!

Check out the newly designed website at <http://www.cobbk12.org/~eastside/>. The “bridges” have been thoughtfully selected by faculty and contain links to a variety of resources for your child to access throughout the summer.

Enjoy the summer and cross that bridge into your next grade!

Student Achievement 101: How a Parent Can Make a Difference

The most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is the extent to which that student's family can create a home environment that

- Encourages learning
- Expresses high expectations for their children's achievement
- Becomes involved in their children's education at school and in the community

This summer, take a minute to think about how well your family scores in each of these areas, and how you can improve your child's experience in school next year. Thanks for all you have done this year to make East Side students the greatest!

THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making this year so special. First of all I would like to thank the teachers and staff for nominating and choosing me to be "Teacher of the Year". Everyday I see the plant and TOTY bell and it makes me smile – I am so proud to work with such a wonderful group of people. I also want to thank all the parents and students for the lovely cards/notes/posters, gifts, flowers, the fabulous PTA luncheon for TOTY and the most amazing PEP RALLY one could imagine! I felt like a rock star! I would like to thank the community, especially East Lake Kroger's, our partner in education, and Chamber of Commerce for Pep Rally, luncheon, flowers, gifts, gift certificates, East Cobber parade, encouragement and appreciation! And lastly I would like to thank my family, especially my husband, Ron, for celebrating this special year in so many ways! I have loved teaching at East Side for 25 years, but I will always cherish this year as an extra-special year as "Teacher of the Year, 2008 – 2009"!

Mrs. Mary Kaltreider, Art Teacher with her adoring students



**So, Who is East Side's Teacher of the Year for 2009-10?
To Find Out, Please Turn to Page 15**

I JUST WANT TO BE GREEN

Here are a few ways to stay green over the summer:

- 🌱 Continue to drop off your paper and cardboard recycling at the back of the school
- 🌱 Encourage your students to write stories and draw pictures on the backs of cards or computer printouts
- 🌱 Make paper airplanes, hats and "footballs" from magazine pages, old newspaper or junk mail
- 🌱 Trade magazines you have read with neighbors
- 🌱 Consolidate errands. Minimize multiple trips to the store by planning ahead.
- 🌱 Identify other groups like the Goodwill or the Salvation Army who may benefit from your discards. Don't just throw them in the trash.
- 🌱 Recycle your foam trays, plastic bags, batteries and light bulbs through local retailers.
- 🌱 Donate gently used books, videos and audio tapes to the local library.
- 🌱 Bring water to the pool, the tennis court or the golf course in a reusable bottle.
- 🌱 Limit the number of times you open the refrigerator or oven door to save energy.
- 🌱 Reverse the motion on your ceiling fans so that you pull hot air out of the room.
- 🌱 Set your computer to standby if you will be away from it for a few hours.
- 🌱 Shop for local produce. Buying locally has less impact to the environment as the goods do not have to be transported long distances.
- 🌱 Take your reusable shopping bags with you on every shopping trip.
- 🌱 Water your annuals with water you have collected from your shower.

To find more helpful tips, go to:

<http://www.ecccpa.org/blog/eccc-pta-environmental-education/useful-links>

Goodbye from the Editor

Over the past two and a half years, I have really enjoyed volunteering my time as editor of the Tiger Times. As a working parent that cannot be at school as often as I'd like to, the Tiger Times provided me with an excellent avenue to stay in touch and give back to the school that serves my child so well. I've also enjoyed working along side other committed and well meaning parents, teachers, support staff and members of the administration. With the active support of then PTA President Kim Fry and the administration, we changed the Tiger Times to a communication tool that is best suited for the current needs of our school. I have really enjoyed having this opportunity and would especially like to thank Julie Marino, chair of the PTA communications committee, for all of her help and support over the past year.

I wish the incoming editor, Sujata Shah, the very best as she takes on this time intensive, yet very rewarding opportunity. I hope to stay closely involved with East Side, with one child starting kindergarten and another entering fifth grade. After all, one thing that East Side is never short on is opportunities for parents to become involved!

Warm Wishes for a Fun Summer,

Lalita Bellamkonda

Volunteer Spotlight: Helen Schmidt

Making Memories

For the last four years, PTA volunteer **Helen Schmidt** has been working hard to capture the memories of our children's time at East Side, and wrapping them all up in a nice neat package that we can look back on for years – the East Side Memory Book. The Memory Book, which is delivered in May, is a big hit with students who spend hours poring over the pictures of each class and signing their friends' books before they part for the summer. Although the delivery of the Memory Book is an eagerly anticipated event, few people know who makes it possible.

Planning for the next memory book begins even before the current year's product is delivered. Each spring, Helen and her partner, Noelle Paramore, carefully choose their Memory Book staff from a group of interested rising 5th graders. This group meets several times to choose the theme of the book and plan other details. They are responsible for helping with sales at Tiger Day and throughout the fall as well. Once the book is ready, the staff gets together again to label and deliver them. "Working with the students is the part I enjoy most about my job," says Helen.

Throughout the fall, Helen works with Room Reps to get pictures of each class. She also attends most of the major school events to take pictures herself. "I really get to know all the teachers and many parents as well," she says. Once all the pictures are collected, she spends hours putting them together on class and club pages, making sure every child is represented if at all possible. "The Memory Book gives me a creative outlet," Helen admits, "I love taking photos."

Helen also served the PTA as a Room Representative for seven years, and teaches Adventures in Art. Sadly, Helen's youngest child is graduating this year and she is moving on to Dodgen. East Side will miss this dedicated woman with wild curly hair and a lovely English accent. Thank you for your years of service to our children.

MAY TIME IS GREEK TIME!

Join in for the 20th Annual



May 15th

Friday

May 16th

Saturday

May 17th

Sunday

§ SAVOR Homemade Greek Food & Pastries § ENJOY Live Greek Music & Dancing § LEARN about Greek Culture & Traditions § SHOP for Imported Greek Gifts and Jewelry § PLAY in our Kid Art area § FUN FOR ALL AGES!

KIDS EAT FREE: FRIDAY, MAY 15th 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3431 Trickum Road * Marietta, GA 30066 FESTIVAL HOTLINE: 770-924-8080

Visit www.mariettagreekfestival.org for special promotions and free admission coupons.

Principal's Update . . . Continued from Page 1

Students in all grades shared their talents in writing, math, science, and technology as we held evening events for parents. Teachers shared their talents by modeling specific teaching strategies for parents during the curriculum nights. Student work was displayed so that parents had opportunities to see how students applied their learning. We plan to hold these evenings again next year.

Our students continue to excel in writing. We recently received the results of our fifth grade writing scores that indicated that ninety-five percent of our students met or exceeded the writing expectations. We exceeded last year's writing scores! The number of students who did not meet expectations decreased. I look forward to receiving the CRCT results. We hope to have those results by the end of this month. Next year we will add a mathematics goal to our School Improvement Plan.

I cannot say enough about the teaching staff at East Side. Your child is fortunate to be at a school whose teaching staff is so committed to teaching the "whole child." We at East Side are fortunate to have parents who volunteer, donate time, serve on committees and work so hard to help us provide resources and programs for our students.

I wish our fifth grade class much luck as they venture on to middle school. We look forward to hearing of our East Side student successes. I especially thank those families of students who no longer will be attending our school. Many of you have for years given so much time and energy to East Side. I know that you will continue to impact your child's education at the middle and high school levels.

May everyone enjoy a fun and safe summer! I look forward to the beginning stages of the construction of our new school. I will spend my free time this summer looking for a stylish construction wardrobe! Hopefully there are designer work boots and hard hats! In the next few weeks, please be sure to check the school's website as I will be posting an update regarding the construction of our new school.

**Best regards,
Elizabeth Mavity,
Principal**

Have You Had An Adventure in Art?

"Art is an adventure that never seems to end".

Jason, Los Cerros Middle School, 1999

Do you wonder whether you are smarter than a fifth grader? How about a fourth grader or even a kindergartener? Some of the things that our students are learning at East Side are things we as parents didn't learn until college...or are even just learning now. Did you know that your children would have learned about over fifty great art masters by the time they leave East Side? They do so through Adventures in Art, a PTA educational enrichment program.

Each month parent volunteers go into the classroom to teach students about a famous artist and to lead them through an art activity. East Side Art Teacher (and 2008-09 Teacher of the Year) Mary Kaltreider sings praises for the program. Mrs. K says, "I love this program because the students get to learn things that I don't have time to teach them in class."

Students study nine different artists in each grade. They range from unknown cave painters to modern sculptors and include artists like Picasso, Modigliani, Chagall, Matisse, Rousseau, Kandinsky, Rockwell, Hopper and Magritte. Parents who teach the classes can use pre-developed lesson plans and art activities or come up with their own. Students look forward to the monthly lessons saying they "love the art activities and learning about the artists' lives."

During the week of May 11th through May 15th, student artwork created during Adventures in Art will be on display around the school. We hope you have a chance to see it and celebrate East Side's *great masters*.



Priceless Masterpieces Produced by Our Great Masters on Display in East Side's Halls of Fame

A Word of Thanks to our Tiger Times Editor...

By Kim Fry and Julie Marino, PTA Communications Chair Persons

Lalita Bellamkonda, a working mom has tirelessly served as our Tiger Times Editor for over two years. We would like to thank her for her fabulous efforts. Through her dedication and many late night hours, she has transformed our East Side Elementary publication into an amazing communications vehicle. We give big kudos to her attention to detail, creativity and passion for always providing interesting and timely information. While we are thrilled to welcome our new editor, we will miss you Lalita. Thank you!!!

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart”.
~Elizabeth Andrew

There are volunteers at East Side every day working to enrich the lives of our students and to support the staff that make it such a great place. Thank you to everyone who greeted guests at the Front Desk, shelved books in the Media Center, read to students in the classroom, watered plants in the D.E.A.R. garden and collected plastic bottles for recycling. Whatever part you played, please know how much we appreciate it and how much our students gain from it.

A special thanks to the PTA Executive Committee for their hard work and for their commitment to delivering high quality programs and events. You have truly made a difference.

“Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless”.
~Sherry Anderson

Congratulations (2009-2010) Teacher of the Year: DEBORAH STEPHENS

Deborah Stephens was voted Teacher of the Year for 2009-2010. She always has a warm smile and a cheerful greeting for everyone, and not just her own students and their parents. To understand why she deserves such an honor, just ask the parents that have children in her class, and the praise for her is unanimous! “She is what every parent dreams of when they think of the perfect teacher to start their child's learning experience off right!!” “She encourages the children to do their best and instills a love of school and learning from a young age.” Ms. Stephens helps soothe the fears of ‘newbie’ and ‘veteran’ East Side parents alike by being an excellent communicator. She provides an inviting and creative environment for young children and builds a strong foundation for the learning ahead. An example of her unique approach to appealing to the sense of fun in young children is the presence of a bathtub in her class that works equally well during reading time as well as afternoon rest time!

Although Kindergarten students are her focus, Ms. Stephens started a school-wide mentoring program at East Side, a prime example of the breadth in perspective she brings to her work. In a school of excellence, Ms. Stephens is the cream of the crop. Congratulations, Ms. Stephens! East Side is fortunate to have teachers like you!

A Parent Star Retires

By Kim Fry

Being PTA Co-President is a glamorous job, one that gains you the admiration of all and floods you with glory and praise, not to mention the high salary and benefits. OK, OK, maybe not so much... how about this? Being PTA Co-President gives you the opportunity to serve your community in a way that touches the lives of a thousand families and a hundred teachers. So, what do you do with that opportunity?

If you are outgoing PTA Co-President Patty Pace, you grab that opportunity and run with it. In your first summer on the job, you work tirelessly to revamp the East Side website and introduce E-News to communicate with parents in a whole new way. You spend the next two years putting out fires, soothing fears, coaxing volunteers to do things they never thought they would do, making endless decisions and even more endless improvements to the outdated, the inefficient, the ignored... and you never stop asking why. Why do we do it this way? Why can't it be better? Why can't we do that? Why? Why not? Then you make things happen.

It is this kind of tenacity and dedication that makes Patty Pace a leader that everyone wants to follow. She listens and considers. She collaborates and cooperates. She is organized and efficient, yet diplomatic and kind. She works harder than anyone else in the room. She makes things fun, and she makes people want to join her in making our kids' world a better place. East Side has been lucky to have her for two years as PTA Co-President. Thank you, Patty, for your service to East Side, and to our children.



Patty Pace shows her fearless nature & sense of humor, dressing up as Frida Kahlo for a lesson in Adventures in Art.

The Tiger Tales – Investigative Articles Reported and Written

By the Junior Writers of East Side



Editor's Note: Over the past several months, the *Junior Writers* of East Side have contributed articles on current events and other interesting things happening at East Side. They have investigated and reported on these under the able guidance of Mrs. Werbke. These budding young writers have provided material for the readership of the Tiger Times with enthusiasm, commitment and timeliness, and for that they have the editor's sincere appreciation. Thanks also to Julie Marino & Kim Fry for sustaining the Junior Writers program and for their help with coordinating the collection of articles.

Here are the Junior Writers, pictured from left to right (standing): Richa Virmani, Rea Shah & Lauren Moody; (sitting) Lisa MacBeth, Charlotte Marshall & Maha Sohail.



Staying Smart in Summer

By Lauren Moody

Okay, I know what you're thinking; "You want ME to 'learn' during summer?" Yes, I do. And no, I'm not talking about doing 100 math problems a day. I'm talking about reading. What If there was a book that taught you not to judge book by its cover and you could have fun while reading it; well voile, here it is! It comes out on May 14 and it goes by the name of "Slob". I

interviewed the author, Ellen Potter, to find out the scoop.

LM: So what is this book about?

EP: It's about an overweight kid with insanely awesome inventing skills.

LM: What was your inspiration?

EP: I knew a kid like the main character...everybody would tease him, but he did well in school and was awesome at inventing.

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Okay so on May 14th are you going to go out and buy yourself a copy? You are! Awesome! I know that you'll love this book because I do!

Field Day in the Wild West

By Richa Virmani

I bet that most of you can't wait till the last day of school! Well I can't wait till Field Day! Yee, haw! It's the scorching western theme that really makes it stand out this year! Luckily it's coming up real soon. For K, 1st, and 2nd grades, Field Day will be on Monday May 11th and for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, it will be on Tuesday May 12th. Of course all of this will be held at our school. There are always thousands of games for us to play on field day, but this year there will be even more! The only problem is that you have to wait till Field Day to find out what those new games are. The games have gotten better by each passing year! I wonder how the P.E staff comes up with such great games for us to play. They sure care about how we end every year that we spend at East Side! What a fabulous way to end the year!!

Don't you just like it, don't you just love it, don't you just adore it, don't you just everything good it!!!!!!!

Lights! Camera! Talent!

By Rea Shah

The dazzling stars at East Side are making our own HOLLYWOOD. This year, we hung out and had dinner with the stars in the East Side Cafeteria. Families could bring their own dinner or have a wonderful dinner cooked for them from Six Beans. The scene was set with

shimmering gold stars. Thanks to the PTA and the student participants for the East Side Variety Show, held on March 28th. It was a great way for students to express their inner talents.

The emcees kept the show moving with great transitions to keep the audience asking for more. The evening started off with a wonderful guitar and singing performance by Erin Donoghue. The show was packed with lots of singing, dancing and instrumental performances and some funny skits. We even had a glimpse of Taekwondo by Zachary Sjostrom.

"The Egg Song" by Alyssa Saucier, Ellie Moonshower and Samantha Boyce was 'eggsellent' and cracked me up! Everyone was on the edge of their seats waiting for the grand finale, the TEACHER ACT. And like every year, the teachers put on a great show. I'll bet you never knew how talented East Side teachers are! If you missed it this year, you really missed a great show. Be sure to see the show next year; it is sure to be over the stars and beyond! Practice makes perfect, so polish your hobbies so that they will be bright and new for next year's show.

Relay for Life: One Person CAN Make a Difference

By Charlotte Marshall

One person can make a difference. Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity. It offers everybody in the community a chance to participate in the fight against cancer. Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others

to continue to fight...fight back! We Relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease. There is not a standard amount of money to raise in order to participate in Relay For Life.

One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer during their lifetime. The funds raised at Relay save lives by funding cancer research, early detection and prevention education. Some of the things we do to support Relay is sell ducks, flower pens, and hat day. So help support The American Cancer Society and you'll be saving 1,000s of people's lives!

Math Night

By Lisa MacBeth

Math night April 14th left the whole crowd saying WOW! At Math night this year, we showed parents what kids learned at school and techniques they can use at home. Kids in the early grades really have a mind for math. Bunches of kids brought their parents. Teachers said this was the best that they have ever had, probably because this year we made Math night more like Partners in Print. Who said math can't be fun? Teachers taught how kids can play games at home by using games to keep the kids attention and to make it fun. Now we have to thank the fabulous teachers for holding and being there on math night.

The 4th Grade Alabama Fieldtrip

By Maha Sohail, with contributions by Yulie Yakir and Kelsey Sternberg

Wow, the American Village in Alabama sure was a blast! This field trip was for the whole fourth grade. On March 27th, we left on a coach bus at 6:30 a.m. and didn't return until 6:30 p.m! The fourth graders went to Alabama to learn many things up close instead of reading it in a book. We saw one man shoot a musket ball and it was loud! We saw some gross things that people would do when someone got hurt, called amputation, but luckily I turned my head around. We also learned how to curtsy and bow and dance the way George Washington did at his party to celebrate his second term as president. The people who worked there also acted out a play for the fourth graders. The first play they presented was about how unfairly King George was treating the colonists. We attended the Constitutional Convention and fourth graders got to play the part of George Washington. After that, we met in a dark log cabin for a Sons of Liberty meeting. A strange lady came in and said she was General Gage's wife, and we had a long discussion to decide if we should trust her or not. We decided to trust her and Mr. Samuel Adams gave us a note to take to Paul Revere's wife to tell him to be ready to ride out to warn the militia. If you've never been to the American Village, we would recommend it. Then you will see how much fun this experience was for the students. We fourth graders will never forget about this fieldtrip!

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The next PTA Eat-Out Night is Tuesday, May 19th. 6% off ALL sales on that day (not just from East Side families) will be donated to the East Side Elementary PTA.

Good for your school, good for your family! Both order ahead and grab & go orders qualify for the East Side PTA contribution. **Order ahead online** at www.sixbeans.com to save an additional 5%.

FOR IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS NOT TO BE MISSED PLEASE LOOK AT THE CALENDAR ON THE PTA WEBSITE:
www.eastsideelementary.com

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