



# The Chalkboard

May  
2011



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## Staff Appreciation Week

Step right up and join the fun, the Circus Carnival Staff Appreciation Week was the best one! Games, prizes, balloons and more, popcorn, cotton candy and treats galore helped to celebrate the outstanding staff at Chesak and Martin Elementary Schools and the District 158 Preschool during Staff Appreciation Week 2011. This week we wanted to let the staff know that they are the "Greatest Staff on Earth", so students placed their handprints on train cars for the staff doors. Staff members joined us "Under the Big Top" throughout the week with a delicious breakfast sponsored by the HEA, mailbox goodies, prize drawings, a catered luncheon by Jersey Mike's, and buffets of salty snacks, candy and sweets tables donated by the Chesak, Martin and Preschool families. Students were entertained by a wide variety of Circus Performers in the staff costume contest and played a daily trivia game with carnival and circus themes. Staff members also played "Spin It to Win It" to receive raffle tickets for donation prizes.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for their donations: 31 Consultant - Collette Meredith, 31 Consultant -Melissa Schmitt, Alfredo's, Anton's Landscaping, Barley House, Buddyz, Buffalo Wild Wings, Centegra, Chesak Martin PTA, Dairy Mart, Del Toro's, District 158 Administration, Garibaldi's, Huntley Park District, Jewel - Algonquin, Jimmy Johns, Kosta's, Lake in the Hills Park District, Learning Express, Lou Malnati's, Marlowe Middle School, Mary Kay Consultant - Karen Lavorata, Mel and Mars, Nick's Pizza and Pub, Niko's, Papa Saverios Pizza, Remembering Them Now Photography - Christine Lechowicz, Rosati's Pizza, Sam's Club, Sew Mad After Seven, Silver Edge Systems Software, Inc. - Kevin DeWitt, CPA, Sylvan Learning Center - Callie Masten, Target, Tastefully Simple - Heather Rivera, Tom's Farm Market, Uppercase Living Consultant - Janet Christophersen, and The Wilki Group.

In addition we had MANY generous Chesak and Martin families donate their time, salty snacks, sweet treats, and raffle prizes. Without their kindness and help, this week would not have been possible. Thank you to all of our wonderful families!



### Dates to Remember:

Memorial Day - No School	5/30
Last day of school	6/7
Wrap Packs delivered to both schools	8/17
First day of school for 1st - 12th	8/24
Boo Hoo Breakfast for Kdg Parents	8/25
CMPTA Meeting - first of 2011 - 2012	9/8

The Chesak Garden will need some green thumbs this summer to harvest the vegetables planted by the students. Please contact Bill Heiden at the PTA website for more information.

### URGENT

*The CMPTA is still looking for two people to chair our Ways & Means Committee. This committee is essential for our organization to continue to run programs for families, offset costs for field trips and classroom books, support the music, art, and PE programs, and purchase materials needed for students. Please contact the CMPTA via the website with any questions.*

# Ways and Means - aka Fundraising

As you are all aware, the PTA is funded 100% by the generosity of our families, and we very much appreciate all of those who participate in supporting the PTA for the benefit of the children and staff. Each year we do a budget projection based on our fundraising goals to determine how much money we can pledge to the activities we fund at each school. When our fundraisers do not meet the projected goals we have to adjust our budget for the next year, which is what we very reluctantly had to do for the 2011/2012 school year--the proposed budget for 2011/2012 cuts all funds for all activities by 50%.

We have asked for your opinion and suggestions around fundraising a number of times. We have tried to accommodate the needs of our families by adjusting our fundraising endeavors over the past few years, but we have not been successful in reaching a majority of our families. We realize this may be because you don't want wrapping paper or chocolates, you may not want a cookbook, etc. As such, the Executive Board has decided to use a four-pronged approach to fundraising for 2011/2012 to try to appeal to our families in a variety of ways:

1. Our fall fundraiser will be a 50/50 cash raffle -- more details to come.
2. An art memory program will take place in the fall with all proceeds from that program going to the art, PE, and music programs.
3. A Dine and Share event will take place each month. Each month's Dine and Share will be sponsored by a grade level, and that grade level will keep all of the profits from their month's Dine and Share.
4. A spring product sale will take place in the February/March time frame featuring items for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and spring.
5. Straight donations to the PTA are ALWAYS welcome and are 100% tax deductible.

Our goal in this approach is to give you the option to participate in those fundraising activities that appeal to you. We don't expect every family to participate in every event, but we hope by offering you a variety of fundraisers you will find one or two you would like to participate in.

Thank you, as always, for your time and attention to our PTA. Without your participation we will not be successful in enriching the lives of our children in so many ways.

## Wrap Packs

If you would like a school supply Wrap Pack, paper orders are due by June 10th and online orders are due by June 15th. These Wrap Packs come stocked with grade specific school supplies and will be delivered to your child's classroom for Open House. We are running a contest to win a free Wrap Pack. Order online or by paper order and your name will be entered in our weekly Friday drawing for a free Wrap Pack. See our website for more details.

## Spirit Wear

We are very excited to partner with Heads Up Apparel as our new Spirit wear Vendor for 2011-2012. Please be sure to stop at our spirit wear table during Open House in August. There will be samples along with order forms for those who want to start out the school year in style!

## Same Website ... Different Look!

We have made some exciting changes to our website, and are so thrilled to share them with you. Make sure to check it out today at [www.cmpta158.org](http://www.cmpta158.org). All the information you ever need to know about the Chesak/Martin PTA, what we do, what we fund, how we use the money we raise... it's all on our website. You can look at the pictures of our students and families enjoying themselves at our events, or being recognized for participation in PTA efforts. We have added a button to allow you to donate directly to the PTA using PayPal. All donations are 100% tax deductible, the PTA is a 501(c)3 non for profit organization.

### Thank you from Chesak!

All staff members at Chesak Elementary would like to send a HUGE THANK YOU to Niki Burkey and the PTA for their generosity during Teacher's Appreciation Week. From the decorations, fun filled events, and daily surprises in our mailboxes, to the daily goodies, lunch, and snacks, we cannot say thank you enough. We feel very blessed to be teaching our wonderful students and work with such a great staff and fabulous PTA! Thank you!



### Thank you from Martin!

To our PTA,

Thank you so much for the absolutely FABULOUS Teacher Appreciation Week! Despite our wonder and amazement each year, you always manage to top yourselves. This year was no exception. We loved all the food, decorations, and games; the spinning wheel was genius! You spread such good cheer throughout the building at the perfect time.

Thanks again, Martin Staff.