



The Chalkboard

**October
2010**



President's Letter

Welcome back to those of you already a part of our community, and a great big welcome and hello to those of you who are new to our school! I hope you all had a great summer and are ready to dive into this new school year with high hopes and expectations. We are lucky to have a fabulous group of teachers and staff that are so dedicated to guiding our children through their elementary school experience.

When you add an equally hardworking PTA organization to the above, parents who are dedicated to doing the best for our children, volunteering their time for events and programs, maintaining our Website, supporting our award winning butterfly garden, writing our newsletter, organizing our yearly calendar, providing assemblies, workshop's, Family Event Nights, Variety Show, Fall Fundraiser, Family Dine & Share Nights, and much, much more. There are many places where you can see evidence of the hard work the PTA parent volunteers do to make both schools a great learning place for our children.

Please take a moment and look and upcoming events and see what peaks your interest. Don't have time to help out at an event or during school hours? We can use help if you want to work from home. Consider the important role the Chesak/ Martin PTA plays in your child's life at school. There are so many ways that parents contribute, and by joining the PTA you can make a statement that you support the mission and activities of our organization.

We encourage and invite you to join in our efforts to advocate for our children. We want to find a way for everyone who would like to contribute to do so. When you join the PTA, you get a vote in an organization where you can voice your concerns, and work with others towards common goals. Make sure to join during our PTA Membership Drive already going on at both schools.

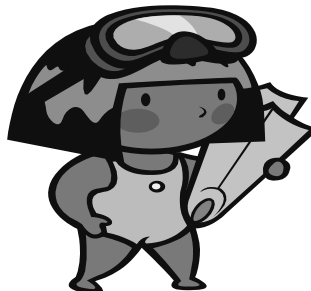
Dana Wiley

President Chesak/ Martin PTA

Family Events

Every month the CMPTA hosts a family event for all Chesak/Martin families. Last month the Ice Cream Social was a big hit as a way to get back to school and get to know new families in our organization. October will be equally fun. The Family Swim Night at Centegra will be held on Saturday, October 23rd from 7:30pm - 9:30pm. PTA members will be able to purchase advanced tickets, while non-members will have to wait. This event has sold out quickly in the past, so hurry for your tickets as soon as the flier comes home in your child's backpack. Donuts with Dad was a HUGE success last year, and will happen again this year on Saturday, November 20th at 8:30am in the Martin Gym. This event

is free for members, while non-members will pay \$1 per family. We will also collect canned goods again this year at the door. We hope to see all our families at these fun events!



Dates to Remember:

Fundraiser Orders Due	10/1
PTA Meeting 7pm Room 411	10/14
PTA Coffee Chat 9:30am Room 428	10/21
Family Swim Event 7:30pm Centegra	10/23
PTA Meeting 7pm Room 411	11/11
Fundraiser Pick up Chesak Gym 4 - 8pm	11/17
Donuts with Dad 8:30am Martin Gym	11/20

DID YOU KNOW:

We currently have a Dad who has stepped up to Chair Dad's Club. Meetings will take place the week of September 20th to gather ideas and create a plan of action for Dad's Club for the year. Anyone who is interested in being involved with Dad's Club, either attending events or ideas for events, please send an e-mail to the cmpta158@yahoo.com and you will be contacted.

Reflections

The Reflections Program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (drawing, painting, print making, & collage.) Students participate by submitting entries to their local PTA. This year's theme is



“Together We Can.” Watch backpacks next month for more information...

Ways & Means

The 2010 Fall Fundraiser packets went home in mid-September. Orders are due back by Tuesday, October 5th. The money we raise through this fundraiser helps to fund EVERYTHING the PTA does for the students at both Chesak and Martin schools. We need your help! What can you do? Collect orders from family and friends, use the on-line order option to reach out-of-town family and friends, or consider making a direct donation to the CMPTA. Together we can make a difference!

Spiritwear!

Children love to wear apparel with their school logo and name on it. Every Friday is Spirit Day at Chesak and Martin Schools. With our Spiritwear, your child can show off his/her school spirit! Information about Spiritwear will come home October 18th, with orders being due back to school by November 1st. Items will then be delivered to schools during the first week of December. Just in time for the holidays! More information can be found on the CMPTA website at: www.cmpta158.org.

**Give a little...
Change a lot!**

Membership

There are definite advantages to being a member of the CMPTA. You will be given advanced notification for all our family events, and most events will be free or a reduced cost for members. The CM PTA Membership Drive ends September 30th. Please see our website for a new form. The classroom with the most members from each grade level will receive a Popcorn Party!! Your membership fee helps support such student programs as: assemblies, field trips, Scholastic News, Variety Show, DARE, Challenger, Young Author books, and equipment for Art and Music. We would love to have you Soar to New Heights with us!

Volunteers

Many, many thanks to the nearly 200 people that have signed up to volunteer for various activities throughout the year sponsored by the CMPTA. We had over thirty people, with children in tow, come in to help distribute more than 900 Wrap Paks to both Chesak and Martin Schools. What a great effort by all involved! You may have seen volunteers at the PTA table at Open House. These people have offered up their time and energy to get the word out that participating with the CMPTA is a great reward for you and your children. The Ice Cream Social had an abundance of volunteers to help hand out sweets to children and their families. What a great way to get to know the school community, and it couldn't happen without these awesome people willing to donate their time. If you would like to be among our volunteers, we are looking for many people to help out with our Donuts with Dad event in November. Mr. Rohde, a music teacher at Chesak, is also looking for some people to help cut and count Box Tops to be submitted. Any and all efforts are GREATLY appreciated. Please contact Jill Cross at jcross1996@gmail.com for more information on how you can become more involved with the Chesak/Martin PTA.

