



WIZARDS PTA NEWS



The newsletter of the Woodlin Parent Teacher Association

MARCH 2008

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PTA
Everychild, onevoice

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

Dear Woodlin families: Woodlin families definitely know how to have a good time even in the middle of winter—Woodlin's Winter Festival was great fun for both grown-ups and for kids. The kids loved the moon bounce and the craft room, the adults competed for bargains at the Silent Auction, and everyone enjoyed the used book and jewelry sales, and the 5th grade bake sale. Events like the Winter Festival give us a chance to talk with other parents, meet more of our

kids' friends, and just enjoy being a part of the wonderful Woodlin community. Thank you to everyone who donated items, everyone who bid on items, and everyone who attended. Special thanks to the people who did the enormous amount of planning needed to create this event: Lisa



Woodlin's always working PTA President, Linda Giannarelli

Tenley Alton, Chris Rutledge, Jane Curtin, Mary Press, and Chris Scanlon. And that's not all that happened in February! Thanks to Pat Price, Aisha Burgess, Shelly Duckett, Yvonne Moore, and Yvette Harris for the very informative Black History month newsletter and for the skirts and presentations at
(continued on page 2)

SAY IT WITH FLOWERS!

Spruce up your home and/or that of a loved one by placing an order for the Woodlin PTA's spring fair flower sale. The order forms are due Thursday, March 20. Order forms came home earlier this month in your child's backpack.

The flower sale is held annually at the Spring Fair in May; this year, the fair will be Saturday, May 10. You can pick up pre-ordered flowers at the Spring Fair. There will also be some flowers available for purchase that day,

but if you place orders by March 20, you will insure that you get the colors and species you want.

The annuals and specialty annuals are available in hanging baskets and flats. Varieties include geraniums, New Guinea impatiens, impatiens and wave petunias.



Please make checks payable to Woodlin PTA and mark "PTA Flower Sale" on the envelope. If you need more order forms, go to the Woodlin PTA's website, www.woodlinpta.org.

If you have questions, please contact this year's flower sale coordinators, Vickie Rocha and Michael Horowitz, 301-588-6078 or horocha@msn.com.
—Vickie Rocha

It Takes A Village to Make A Winterfest!

We had a very successful Silent Auction this year and raised over \$9000! Did you know our auction brings in many community members that are not parents at Woodlin? They look forward to the event every year. What a terrific way to get our community involved with the school!

A BIG THANKS to **Lisa Alton** and **Chris Rutledge** for chairing this wonderful event. Planning started

back in the fall with mailings, follow-up phone calls to businesses, getting the items and cataloging everything—whew! They would like to thank the following businesses and people for making the event run so smoothly.

Minuteman Press for the printing discount
Party Warehouse for donating the helium and balloons

Thank you to the following volunteers: Alexis Ruffin, Abbi Lichtenstein, Karen Lee, Jane and Phil Curtin, Ed Alton, Elly Sullivan, Carol

Woodside, Vicki Rocha, Melita Flannery, Jeannette O'Connor, Donna O'Connor, Melissa Davis, Lois Trojan, Mary Boyle, Karla Silvestre, Anne Mutti.

The Silent Auction was only part of the fun of the Winter Festival.

We had a terrific Winter Festival on Sunday, February 10. Everyone enjoyed the auction, pizza, book sale, teacher raffle, jewelry sale, spirit items, yummy baked goods, art and crafts and bingo! We'd like to thank the following volunteers for leading the many areas of the festival:

Alice Stephens, Sara Morris, Lynne Yao, Chris Scanlon, Elly Sullivan, Melita Flannery, Dave and Heather Zeitlin, Dara Schrier. A special thank you to Mary Press for her leadership in leading the teacher raffle and coordinating all the volunteers:

(continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S CHAT

(continued from page 1)

Monday morning Town Hall meetings. Thanks to Melita Flannery for organizing our dining-out fundraiser at Noodles and Company – there were so many Woodlin families there, it was like a community supper except nobody had to cook! Thanks to everyone who baked and brought goods for the Woodlin Primary Day Bake Sale and who made time during the day to work at the table. Last but not least, a belated thank-you to Melissa Davis and Shelly Duckett for the Woodlin Dance in January.

Despite all the recent activities, don't think things will be slowing down. Our Audubon "Green Kids" coordinator has planned several Trash Free Tuesday events, plus activities for Earth Day in April. April will also see the Book Fair, Project Quality Time, and the kick off of Walk Across Maryland (No, you don't *really* have to walk across Maryland...).

Gee, the PTA sure has a lot of people doing different stuff! (hint, hint) Over the next couple of months, the PTA Nominating Committee will be working to figure out who will do different jobs next year. The three members are: Karla Silvestre, Sabrina Thomas, and Alice Witt. Talk to any one of them to find out how your interests, skills, and time availability might fit with the available jobs.

While a lot of what our PTA does is focused on Woodlin, our PTA is also part of a larger organization of county, state, and national-level PTAs. Your state-level PTA was hard at work in Annapolis in early February, lobbying the state legislators on education-related issues. The county-level PTA is collecting input from parents on an issue related to assessments for next year's kindergarteners (see article on page 7). From our PTA website's homepage (www.woodlinpta.org) click on "About the PTA", and you'll find links to the county, state, and national PTA organizations.

Mark your calendars now for the April PTA meeting, when the focus will be on Woodlin Outdoors—both the physical space and physical activity.

Linda Giannarelli



Project Quality Time Is Coming!

Spend an afternoon with art and enrich your life and your families! It's Saturday April 12. Stay tuned for more details!



Principal's Corner

Put Reading First: Helping Your Child Learn to Read

When children become good readers in the early grades, they are more likely to become better learners throughout their school years and beyond. Learning to read is hard work for children, but fortunately, research is now available that suggests how to give each child a good start in reading. Becoming a reader involves the development of important skills, including learning to:

- Use language in conversation
- Listen and respond to stories read aloud
- Recognize and name the letters of the alphabet
- Listen to the sounds of spoken language
- Connect sounds to letters to figure out the "code" of reading
- Read often so that recognizing words becomes easy and automatic
- Learn and use new words
- Understand what is read

At each grade level, teachers work to build different aspects of reading proficiency. Preschool and kindergarten teachers set the stage for your child to learn to read with some critical early skills. First and second grade teachers then take up the task of building the skills that children will use every day for the rest of their lives. Third, fourth and fifth grade teachers continue the work to build skills with reading comprehension and writing in response to reading. Children come into the classroom with different levels of preparation. In addition, learning to read requires a combination of skills, including phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, and text reading comprehension skills. Not all children learn in the same way and one strategy does not work for all children.

Phonemic awareness

Phonemes are the smallest units making up spoken language. English consists of about 41 phonemes. Phonemes combine to form syllables and words. Phonemic awareness refers to the



Principal Sarah Sirgo

ability to focus on and manipulate these phonemes in spoken words.

Phonics instruction

Phonics instruction is a way of teaching reading that stresses learning how letters correspond to sounds and how to use this knowledge in reading

and spelling. Children are taught how to use these associations to read, typically in texts containing controlled vocabulary.

Reading fluency

Reading fluency is one of several critical factors necessary for reading comprehension. If children read out loud with speed, accuracy, and proper expression, they are more likely to comprehend and remember the material than if they read with difficulty and in an inefficient way. Reading fluency develops from guided reading and independent silent reading.

Reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is very important to the development of children's reading skills. Reading comprehension involves vocabulary development and a thoughtful interaction between the reader and the text (text comprehension instruction).

Parents play a critical role in helping children learn to read and understand text.

Learning to Read:

- Practicing the sounds of language. Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. Play simple word games: How many words can you make up that sound like the word "bat"?
- Helping your child take spoken words apart and put them together. Help your child separate the sounds in words, listen for beginning and ending sounds, and put separate sounds together.

- Practicing the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading alphabet books.

Just beginning to Read

- Pointing out the letter-sound relationships your child is learning on labels, boxes, newspapers, magazines and signs.
- Listening to your child read words and books from school. Be patient and listen as your child practices. Let your child know you are proud of his reading.

Emergent Reader

- Rereading familiar books. Children need practice in reading comfortably and with expression using books they know.
- Building reading accuracy. As your child is reading aloud, point out words he missed and help him read words correctly. If you stop to focus on a word, have your child reread the whole sentence to be sure he understands the meaning.
- Building reading comprehension. Talk with your child about what she is reading. Ask about new words. Talk about what happened in a story. Ask about the characters, places, and events that took place. Ask what new information she has learned from the book. Encourage her to read on her own.

Fluent Reader

- Read together every day. Spend time talking about stories, pictures, and words.
- Share conversations with your child over meal times and other times you are together. Children learn words more easily when they hear them spoken often. Introduce new and interesting words at every opportunity.
- Be your child's best advocate. Keep informed about your child's progress in reading and ask the teacher about ways you can help.
- Be a reader and a writer. Children learn habits from the people around them.
- Visit the library often. Story times, computers, homework help, and other exciting activities await the entire family.

It Takes a Village to Make A Winterfest

(continued from page 4)
 Betsy Toretzky, Julie Kaplan, Rachel Auerbach, Richard Harris, David Harris, Suzanne Harris, Carol Woodside, Julie Savage, Carolyn Yancey, Eve Zimmerman, Paul Ellis, Adam Zamostny, Carolyn Yancey, Laurie McWright, Samantha Burke, Devon Tiller, Chris Scanlon, Ethan DeWaal, Anna Hadfield, Michelle Radecki, Nancy Nerad, Ram Kurup, Cullen Morris, Matthew Kaiser, Cullen Morris, Matthew Kaiser, Christy Mallen, Chloe Andre, Sierra Polston, Christy Mallen, Aisha Burgess, Sheila Mosee-Cross, Chloe Andre, Sierra Polston, Karen Sharp, Ellen Airozo, Rebecca Bradley, Sydney Trent, Christine Sonnabend, Grace Chupka, Claire Wexler, Daniel Press, Max Warsaw, Kalyani Chadha, Maya Martin-Udry, Emma Lansworth, Linda Elam, Shannon Burke, Edith Living-

stone, Carmina Marie, Malika Temba, Alan Gregerman, Jim O'Hara, EJ Douglass, Vicki Hadfield, Sue Udry, Quinn Pittman, Katherine Rowell, Bruce Seeman, John Marc Charpentier, Diana Arrington, Gladys Solis, Reva Alperson, Susan Morawetz, Emily Owens, Jasmine Diaz, Yvonne Moore, Lois Trojan, Emily Owens, Jasmine Diaz, Talene Yeghissian, Kathleen Bouchand, Jasmine Diaz, Talene Yeghissian, Alves Watson, Lisa Walker, Didi Bild, Amy Egan, Mary O'Driscoll, Jane Rodgers, Carole Giunta, Chris Spiezio, Troy Clarke, Mark Niles.

Special thanks to Ms. Beeson and Ms. Wallace for letting us use their rooms for the book sale and craft room. Thank you to Mr. Rafael and his staff for their hard work and assistance during the Winter Festival.

—Jane Curtin

PTA MEETING CHILD CARE!

We still need a parent to volunteer to supervise the gym at each PTA meeting. There are teens in the gym to organize and play with the children, but we need a parent there to ensure safe practices. If you would like the gym to continue to be open during the PTA meetings, please volunteer to help. Without a parent, we will not open the gym. Please contact Dara Schrier at 301-565-3622 or steven_schrier@hotmail.com. Thanks.
 —Dara Schrier



Woodlin Goes for the Green!

A very cool opportunity to help your kids respect and value their natural world has come your way—brought to you by GreenKids. This program will be updated at the April PTA meeting on April Throughout this school year, Gina Riaz of Green Kids has been helping Woodlin teachers choose and implement environmental education activities. She is also helping coordinate Earth Day (watch for your chance to volunteer!). Leading up to Earth Day, we would like to challenge all families to participate in the following:

Waste-Free Lunch Challenge

Woodlin students and teachers will be encouraged to reduce/reuse and recycle during lunch on the following Tuesdays:

**March 18 April 1 April 8 April 15
 Plus April 18 (Friday Earth Day Celebration)**

On each date, during lunch, students will learn about recycling and reducing waste. All students will learn about reducing food waste and will help with recycling any plastic, paper and aluminum/tin products from lunch time.

We are challenging packers to reduce their lunch waste by packing food in reusable containers and taking home any unopened food. Parent volunteers are needed to help with teaching recycling lessons during lunch—it will be fun and no experience is necessary!

Some important hints on how to participate:

How to Pack a Waste Free Lunch

Avoid plastic bags. Re-use take-out containers or purchase inexpensive reusable containers.

Pack sandwiches, main dishes, fresh fruits, vegetables and yogurt treats in the reusable containers.

Use reusable drink containers and water bottles. Avoid juice boxes.

Pack cloth napkins, stainless-steel forks and spoons or re-use heavy duty plastic wear.

Use reusable lunchboxes or bags. Many come insulated.

Encourage your children to bring home uneaten food in place of throwing it away.



Election Day Success!

No matter what your party affiliation, you'll be pleased by our results from the bake sale on Primary Day. We raised over \$800! Thank you for making this possible! Special thanks to Dara Schrier, Alice Witt, Linda Giannarelli and Jane Curtin for coordinating the effort. We met several voters who expressed their gratitude for our service, many told stories of when they had children at Woodlin. The event is a wonderful way in which we reach out to the community.

Thank you to Clear Mountain Coffee for donating 14 lbs of coffee to the PTA! They are located directly behind Woodlin on Brookville Rd.



Thank you to Mr. Rafael and Mr. Huntley for their help setting up and during the event.

Our wonderful volunteers who brought food and/or stayed at the table included: Richard Harris, Mar-

tha Kaiser, Melissa Polito, Edith Livingstone, Karla Silvestre, Pat Price, Mary Press, Sharon Bisk, Linda Elam, Christy Mallen, Linda Mack, Kiesha Harris, Yvette Harris, Robin Brady, Maria Quintanilla, Sara Morris, Deca Salhan, Sheila Maith, Gladys Solis, Theridine Gloscoe, Lisa Otterstrom, Chris Spiezio, Noelle Kurtin, Anne Mutti, Monica Kerns, Charlotte Anderson, Kathleen Bouchard, Chris Rohde, Julie Rasicot, Teresa Lamphear, Carol Woodside, Claressa Nzame, Chris Scanlon, Lynne Yao, Ram Kurup, Fida Adele, Melita Flannery, Vickie Rocha, Julie Savage, Alexis Ruffin, Lena Browne, Dena Leibman, Didi Bild.



We tried to keep track of everyone, our apologies for anyone left off this list. We look forward to our next bake sale in November.
—Jane Curtin

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS READS AGAIN

If you were considering doing the Junior Great Books training, we now have one opportunity for this spring and urge you to do it!



The training will be on April 2, during the school day, here in Silver Spring. If interested, please contact Julie Kaplan at jubekaplan@starpower.net. Due to county budget issues, all other training opportunities have been canceled.
—Julie Kaplan



Call for Parent Volunteers: Come and help the children on Friday, April 18th between 10:30 and 1:00 during grade recess as we celebrate Monarch Butterflies for Earth Day. Contact Barbara Schweitzer at Barbara_L_Schweitzer@mcpsmd.org for sign up. We need three parents for each grade. Hope to see you there!



WALK LIKE A WOODLINER!

Do you know which grade has the most active walkers at Woodlin Elementary? We will be able to answer that questions after this year's "Walk Across Maryland." Woodlin Moves, a health and safety committee of the PTA, announces the Walk Across Maryland program. This walking promotion is accompanied by a scenic and informative virtual tour of the state. Some of the wonderful places that walkers will visit are the Antietam Battlefield, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal and the Chesapeake Bay. We will record the miles walked by all participating Woodlin students and family members. Come to April's PTA meeting and hear more about it. As another incentive, Woodlin Moves will provide door prizes—pedometers. So, let's get moving! Don't walk like an Egyptian—walk like a Woodliner!

—Katherine Rowell



Tasty Staff Treats

A big thank you to everybody who contributed food, money and time toward making today's staff birthday luncheon a success. There were plenty of sides to go with the lasagna, and Russell Price's gave Santucci's a run for their money with his superb homemade fare.

A special thanks to my husband and co-lead volunteer Bruce Seeman for making the Costco run and hauling the necessities to the school, to Pat Price, Karla Silvestre and Lena

Browne for helping with set-up and clean up and to Julie Savage and Mary Press for loaning their tablecloths and cooler.

For those who did not have time to donate money to help cover the cost of the meal, you can still send it to school. Just put my name and PTA staff appreciation on the envelope.

—Sydney Trent and Bruce Seeman, Lead volunteers, PTA Staff Appreciation



Black History Committee Thank You's

The Black History Committee offers a special thanks to the Yvette Harris and Yvonne Moore, Troy Clarke, Teresa Stephens, Karen Sharp and Alexis Ruffin. An extra special thanks to Aisha Burgess, the writer of the town hall meeting black history skit and Shelly Duckett for coordinating the food tasting at the February PTA meeting. This year's events wouldn't have been successful without your support.

—Pat Price

PTA NIGHT IN ANNAPOLIS

Monday, February 11 was PTA Night in Annapolis. If this summary (a shortened version of a description by Victor Salazar, the VP for Legislation of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs) seems interesting to you, keep this annual event in mind for next year!

Parents from across the state of Maryland representing 23 school systems and the city of Baltimore gathered in Annapolis on Monday evening, February 11, to meet with legislators and Nancy Grasmick, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, at the annual PTA Night in Annapolis.

Maryland PTA President, Debbie Ritchie, kicked off the meeting with welcoming remarks. Legislators representing different parts of the state also welcomed parents and students and provided their own perspectives on lobbying legislators to address the needs of residents. Maryland PTA's VP for Legislation, Laura Carr, provided an overview of bills that MDPTA is currently monitoring, including one that would provide a tax credit to those who volunteer.

Ms. Grasmick's presentation touched on several issues. According to Grasmick, the Bridge to Excellence Act has helped student proficiency levels at all grades among all subgroups and has helped to narrow the achievement gap. When the Maryland General Assembly passed the Act in 2002 they required funding to adhere to four principles: adequacy, equity, simplicity and flexibility. The State Superintendent of Schools believes that Maryland Public Schools are on the right track. Ms. Grasmick also talked about Education Week's 2008 "Quality Counts" report. Quoted in the report is Christopher B. Swanson, Director, Research Center on Editorial Projects in Education stating "No state is at the top of the nation on everything, but Maryland comes as close as we've seen to a consistent, outstanding performer overall."

The evening ended with parents from Montgomery County interacting with legislators. Topics of discussion included bills being sponsored by legislators, holding Governor O'Malley to his promise to provide the county with \$55 Million in School Construction Funding, fully funding GCEI, removing the cap and moratorium on the inflationary index, and working with Comcast to waive its fees when their facility is utilized by MCPS as a graduation venue at the University of Maryland.



Woodlin's Geography Bee In Full Swing

Can you name the capital of Wyoming? How about the capital Bolivia? Do you know the name of the world's largest inland body of water? If not, you might want to check with your Woodlin student.

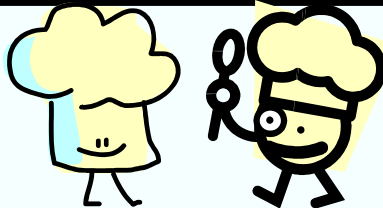
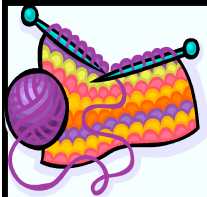
Geography study packets have been distributed to all third, fourth and fifth grade students, and they are busy learning all about US and world geography. Please encourage your child to complete a page or two each day—they'll be done before you know it! Once a student has completed a packet, they should bring it back to school and check their answers against the answer key (each classroom has one).

Each student that completes the packet will have their name read and receive a certificate during Town Meeting. The class with the highest percentage of participation will win a pizza party! The deadline for completed packets is April 8, and the pizza party will be held on Friday, April 11.

If you or your child have any questions about the program, please call Brenda Mejia at 301-589-9308

—Brenda Mejia





AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

For Spring Session
STARTS

April 8, 2008--TUESDAYS & April 10, 2008--THURSDAYS

WE'RE OFFERING SOME OF OUR OLD FAVORITES:
CREATE ARTS, FENCING, and THE WOODLIN POST;
AS REQUESTED FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR:
CHEERLEADING, and LEARN TO KNIT;
and BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: **YOGA TALES!**

YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PACKET INCLUDING THE REGISTRATION FORM IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK. PLEASE SIGN UP YOUR KIDS FOR A CLUB, AND **HAND IN THE FORM WITH PAYMENT BY MONDAY, MARCH 17 IN THE PTA MAILBOX.**

THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE GREAT FUN, AND THE BEST HOUR YOUR KID WILL SPEND!

QUESTIONS???

YOU MAY CONTACT ABBI LICHTENSTEIN at JAMS4@STARPOWER.NET or 301-587-1871

KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENTS

MCCPTA President Jane DeWinter has been asked by the head of MCPS elementary school instruction to obtain parent input on options for the timing of kindergarten assessments.

MCPS currently assesses kindergarten students at three times during the year: right away in the fall, mid-year, and end of year. These assessments give scores on reading level, fluency, letter and word recognition, etc. MCPS has provided some money to schools to use for substitutes, but teachers would prefer to do the assessments themselves (to get a better sense of their students abilities and because they feel the students perform truer to ability when assessed by someone they are used to). It is problematic to have the teacher out of the classroom during the first two weeks of school when students are just starting to be familiar with the school and routine.

MCPS put together a work group to explore several options. They were: **1)** Have parents bring incoming kindergarten students in for assessments over the summer. **2)** Conduct the assessments during the first two days of the pre-service week (week before school starts when teachers work anyway) and have kindergarten start 2 days after the other students begin school (to give kindergarten teachers time to set up their rooms, etc). **3)** Have a rolling start to kindergarten. One-third of the students come in each day during the first three days of school. All students attend the fourth day. MCPS is currently considering the third option only, but would like to hear from parents. It has not been decided if MCPS would make the change during 2008 or 2009.

Woodlin families have 2 ways to submit your comments.: **1)** Submit your comments to our MCCPTA representatives, Lisa Otterstrom (GregerOtter@aol.com or 301-588-4533) or Sara Morris (saramorris@paulhastings.com or 301-589-7620), and they will forward your comments to MCCPTA. **2)** Mail your comments directly to Ms. Ebony Langford, MCPS, Carver Room 248, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The Harvard Family Research Project has a three part series of reports on a subject that Woodlin Families know well; family involvement makes a difference in children's educational outcomes! The report focusing on elementary school states: "Home-school relationships characterized by bilateral communication and opportunities for participation in school events and formal parent involvement programs are predictive of children's interest in reading and math, as well as improvements in reading and math achievement."

At Woodlin our children benefit not only from highly qualified teachers and an excellent curriculum, but also from the talents of parent volunteers that share their time in numerous capacities to make a difference in our school. We would like to encourage all parents to volunteer in some way next year and would like to highlight a few parent volunteers from this year by sharing their stories. Sydney Trent, Staff Appreciation Lunch Volunteer, recently answered some questions for us about how she and her husband became volunteers.

How did you become the staff appreciation luncheon coordinator?

During the summer before my daughter Alexandra enrolled in Woodlin, I was reading the PTA listserv, which I'd signed up for a couple months before we even moved to Woodside Park, and noticed that the PTA was looking for lead volunteers.

What attracted you to this position?

The PTA needed someone to do it and a couple others, but my husband and I thought this would be the perfect way to get to know the teachers and the school. It's also wonderful to help with something that people seem to appreciate so much. We think it's very important to contribute to the schools our daughters attend to the extent we can, both to show them how much we value their educations and to help other children succeed.

Have you volunteered at your child's school in the past? If so, in what role?

Alex, who is in Mrs. Beeson's fourth-grade class, spent the first six years of her education at Grace Episcopal Day School in Silver Spring and Kensington. There, Bruce and I served on the PTO Board, leading the Sally Foster campaign at the school for two years. We also led class fundraising drives and auction projects and helped in other ways as well. We both work full-time outside the home but feel if we work as a team we can still make a contribution.

WOODLIN APRIL PTA MEETING



When: Tuesday, April 1

Where: All Purpose Room

Time: Meeting 6:30-8:00

Pizza and refreshments served 6:00-6:30

TOPIC: Update on GreenKids, Earth Day Celebration, and Walk Across Maryland

FREE DOOR PRIZES! FREE DOOR PRIZES!

Free child care too!

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday	March 17	After School Club Deadline
Thursday	March 20	Prospective Parents Tour
Thursday	March 20	Flower Order Deadline
Friday to Friday	March 21-28	Spring Break
Tuesday	April 1	PTA Meeting
Tuesday to Friday	April 1-11	MSA Testing
Monday	April 7	No School
Saturday	April 12	Project Quality Time
Tuesday to Friday	April 15-18	Scholastic School Fair
Friday	April 18	Earth Day
Thursday	April 24	Take Your Child to Work Day
Monday to Friday	April 28-May 2	Terra Nova (2nd grade)
Tuesday	May 6	5th Grade Class Photo
Tuesday	May 6	PTA Meeting
Saturday	May 10	Spring Fair

What do you like most about this experience?

I really like the contact with the staff during the lunch, and it's also been a great way to get to know some of the parents, who have volunteered to help us at the luncheons or who have shown us the ropes. We're convinced that we've made the right decision in enrolling Alexandra in Woodlin, and look forward to sending our daughter Olivia there for kindergarten in the fall. It's a wonderful school.

If you would like to learn more about how you can help out, contact Karla Silvestre, Alice Witt, or Sabrina Thomas at karlasilvestre@hotmail.com or call 301-587-2752. Stay tuned for information on the volunteer opportunities available.

—Karla Silvestre