

## The Sherwood Elementary School PTA Newsletter

Melissa Popham, President  
Corina Solé Brito, Editor

Jerry Perlet, Principal  
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### President's Letter

Hello Sherwood Families and Staff,

I can hardly believe we are so close to our Winter Break and staring down the end of 2011! This has already been a big month for my family with my marriage on December 10<sup>th</sup> to a fellow SES Alumni, Doug Popham. It is also the time of the year where giving is the focus. We would like to recognize our amazing staff at Sherwood Elementary School for all they give to our children. We thank them with all our hearts and wish them a happy holiday and peace throughout the coming year.

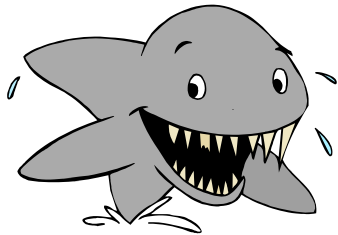
The Book Fair Grand Opening and following Book Fair Week were a complete success. I'd like say a big thank you to Pam Hjelle and Karen Schilling for all their hard work. Also, thanks to the many parent volunteers who helped children and parents pick out books and work the cash registers. We raised over \$3230 and about \$800.00 in Scholastic credits for classroom and library book purchases.

Membership continues to grow with a total of 333 members signed up so far. Our goal is 400. If you are not yet a member, please help us get there!

Also remember that your Direct Appeal is a tax deductible contribution and you can contribute up to December 31, 2011.

In this holiday season of giving, I'd like to encourage you to reflect on the contributions you all have made to helping Sherwood Elementary School be an outstanding environment for our children. Those contributions of time, energy and resources are essential for our continued success. As we approach the New Year, please consider doing one additional small thing for your children. It could be volunteering at an event for a few hours or helping to make copies for a teacher. If you have not come to a restaurant fundraiser, plan to attend one in the next few months. Try out a PTA General Meeting or come to the Sock Hop. All this adds up and makes a difference for our children. Now is the time!!!

Warm Regards,  
Melissa Popham



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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ December 26-January 2: Winter Break
- ◆ January 27: Bingo Night





Hey there everybody! Don't stop now-keep cutting and saving those Box Tops! All you have to do is clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of family products from brands like Cheerios®, Betty Crocker®, Pillsbury®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Juicy Juice® and more!



Did you know that each Box Top coupon is worth a dime to Sherwood Elementary students? One dime may not seem like much, but it adds up to a real change. If each student brings just 10 Box Tops this year, Sherwood would earn over \$450! Just clip the Box Tops, collect them in a Ziploc bag or envelope and bring them to school to deposit in the box in the lobby. We take care of the rest...it's that simple.

## Sherwood's "Ocean of Caring" Contributors PTA Membership and Direct Appeal

Tax 101:

Looking for one more tax deduction to claim for 2011? Make a contribution to the direct appeal fund before the end of the year! All contributions are tax deductible. Please visit [www.sherwoodespta.org/membership](http://www.sherwoodespta.org/membership) to make your contribution today.



Many thanks to all who have become PTA members and given a contribution to Direct Appeal. Have you been by the Wall of Sharks to locate your name on a shark? Stop by next time you're at school and see the progress we're making!

Direct Appeal is the main source of funds for your PTA's operating budget. We have not yet made our goal, but we're close. Please consider giving generously so that we can continue with the many programs which we decided on at the beginning of the school year. If you would like to make a donation in honor or memory of someone special, please contact Chelsea Curtis at [paulandchelsea@comcast.net](mailto:paulandchelsea@comcast.net).

Remember, the first Tuesday of every month is our "Dough Raising" night at Domino's Pizza in Olney.

### The Next Restaurant Fundraiser will be in February, 2012

PTA membership benefits extend farther than our own community. Log on to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) to see what other discounts are offered to you from companies like T-Mobile, Hertz, and Office Max, to name a few. Your log in information can be found on the back of your PTA card.

## Vendors Offering Discounts to PTA Members

El Andariego	10% off Sunday-Thursday
Dempsey's	10% off
Hunan Delight	10% off
Sole D'Italia	15% off

To our volunteers...



Sherwood Elementary  
1401 Olney-Sandy  
Spring Road  
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

Phone:  
(301) 924-3195

Principal:  
Jerry Perlet

Principal in Training:  
Dina Brewer  
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/sherwoodes/>

## Home of the Sharks!

**We're on the Web!**  
<http://sherwoodespta.org>

Contact us here:  
<http://www.sherwoodespta.org/contact.html>

Click here to volunteer:  
<http://www.sherwoodespta.org/volunteer.html>

## The Sherwood Variety Show is Coming!

This is one of Sherwood's most anticipated, participated, and attended events! Mark your calendars for Friday, March 23 to see Sherwood's best and brightest talents!

Here are some important things to remember:

- **UPDATED! Variety Show Preview Days** will be held on February 21, 22, and 23 (not the first week of March, as previously listed). Start working on your acts NOW so that they are in great form at the Preview.
- **All acts must be UNDER two minutes in length!** You will be asked to re-edit your act if it exceeds the time limit. This is necessary in order to be able to include every student who wishes to participate in the Variety Show.
- **ALL MUSIC MUST be prepared in MP3 format.** Now is the time to work on this!!! At the preview days, we will ask for you to submit or email a copy of the EDITED music, formatted in MP3 and cut at 2 minutes. The compilation, formatting and editing of music takes A LOT of time. If everyone can prepare their own music before the preview dates, it will free up our volunteers to work on other parts of the show. If you have any questions regarding how to format or edit music, please contact Angela Hagan [angela\\_hagan@msn.com](mailto:angela_hagan@msn.com). Due to the popularity of the Variety Show and the volume of acts, editing of individual music is not possible. Please do this on your own and *have your music cut and formatted before the preview dates.*
- **We need volunteers.** As we did last year, we will require all parents to volunteer in some way. A form will come home with options for volunteering.
- **The Mandatory Full Dress Rehearsal** will be held on Thursday, March 22 right after school. Please mark your calendars now.

Be on the lookout for Variety Show registration forms and volunteer sign-up information after the first of the year being sent through kidmail and email.

Any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Pam Hjelle ([pamhjelle@comcast.net](mailto:pamhjelle@comcast.net) or 301.461.6646).



## The Farquhar Middle School Modernization: Update

There continues to be broad community support for the land swap. We now have supporting letters from all local state delegates to the Planning Board Chair. This is significant and shows that our community is committed to the greater good of all children and families. If approved by the Planning Board and then the Montgomery County Council, the students will get a much-needed modernized school, there will be NO long bus trips to a holding school, and the community will have an increase in active ball fields. Thanks to everyone who continues to support this cause; our time and efforts are paying off.

The next meeting on the modernization will be **January 3, 2012, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** at the William H. Farquhar Middle School Cafeteria. Representatives from M-NCPPC, the Department of Parks, and MCPS Department of Facilities will describe the suitability of the exchange, the potential components of the future park, the proposed interim uses of the park, and the anticipated project schedule. It is my understanding that child care will be provided. Please make an effort to attend—it is vitally important to show that our parents (moms and dads) are committed to this.

The next step in the process will be for the Department of Parks staff to take a recommendation on the exchange and associated Mandatory Referral to the Montgomery County Planning Board. The public will have an opportunity to provide testimony on the proposal to the Planning Board at this hearing.

Again, I want to remind everyone that if you support the land swap, you can make your voice heard by signing the petition. You can also forward it to your friends, family, and neighbors to do it too. This is how the Montgomery County Planning Department will know we have HUGE community support and the time for their decision is coming very quickly! It's available here: [www.change.org/petitions/support-the-land-swap](http://www.change.org/petitions/support-the-land-swap). Contact Jennifer McKneely with any questions ([Jennifer.McKneely@jhuapl.edu](mailto:Jennifer.McKneely@jhuapl.edu)).

The Sherwood Elementary School PTA wishes your families a happy, healthy holiday season.

Thank you for your support!



## Foundation for Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST)<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League



**FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League**



**Junior FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League**

A partnership between FIRST<sup>®</sup> and The LEGO Group has created a powerful program that helps young people discover the fun in science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge, and valuable employment and life skills. The Junior FIRST<sup>®</sup> LEGO<sup>®</sup> League (Jr. FLL) and FLL introduces young people ages 6-14 to the fun and excitement of science and technology while building self-confidence, knowledge, and valuable employment and life skills. Jr. FLL and FLL challenges kids to think like scientists and engineers. Alongside adult Mentors, Jr. FLL and FLL teams solve problems using engineering concepts, presentation techniques, and robots. Teams will apply math and science concepts to research, design, build, program and test autonomous robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS<sup>®</sup> technologies. They will gain hands-on experience solving real-world problems through the annual FIRST<sup>®</sup> Challenge, which includes a robot game and research project. The group will learn to work as a team to overcome obstacles and meet the challenges. There will also be opportunities for teams to showcase the results of their projects and participate in regional competitions. The cost of participation varies by team (Jr. FLL vs. FLL) and is also dependent on other factors such as number of *students per team*, *fundraising offsets* and *optional items desired*. The table below summarizes the approximate costs.

	Ages	Number of Students	Required Team Cost <sup>1</sup>	Optional Costs <sup>2</sup>	Total	Cost per Student <sup>3</sup>
Jr. FLL	6-9	2 - 6	\$345	\$200	\$545	\$57.50
FLL	9-14	5 - 10	\$850	\$300	\$1150	\$85.00

Required Team Costs<sup>1</sup>: Include Team Registration Fee, Materials (Base Set, Field Set Up Kit, Robot Set), and Game Table. Some of these are onetime costs .

Optional Team Costs<sup>2</sup>: Include Storage Boxes, Team T-Shirts, Snacks, and Tournament Fees (FLL only)

Cost per Student<sup>3</sup>: Assumes maximum number of allowable students per team, and only considers required costs

The SES PTA has agreed to sponsor/endorse this program for SES students, and one of our SES parents has agreed to coach/mentor the team(s). An informational session will be held at the next PTA meeting.

# Sherwood Elementary School PTA Membership (2011-2012)

Check if you were a member last year **AND** all the information below is the same for this year. Then skip to the Direct Appeal section.

1<sup>st</sup> Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Youngest Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#3 \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> Member E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Member E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Sherwood Elementary School PTA DIRECT APPEAL CONTRIBUTION

Direct Appeal is the **main source of funds** for the Sherwood Elementary School PTA operating budget. We ask each family to contribute directly to the PTA.

- The suggested amount is \$50-\$75 *per family* for Direct Appeal and membership, but ANY amount is welcome.
- 100% of your donation goes directly to the benefit of your children.
- Your contribution is fully tax deductible.
- Your children do not have to sell anything
- You do not have to buy products you don't want in order to support the school

Please help make a difference by contributing to Direct Appeal. It's a great way to invest in your child's education!

### Direct Appeal Contribution Levels

Blue Shark	Up to \$25		<i>Your</i> Direct Appeal Contribution
\$ _____			
Tiger Shark	\$26 - \$50		
Hammerhead Shark	\$51 - \$100	(Member dues cover fees paid National, State and County PTAs and help cover the cost for your school directory.)	1 <sup>st</sup> Member Dues \$ _____ 10.00
Great White Shark	\$101 - \$250		2 <sup>nd</sup> Member Dues \$ _____ 5.00
Goblin Shark	\$251 - \$500		
Leopard Shark	\$501 +		
			Total \$ _____

Please check here if you prefer that your family **not** be included in a name-only list of contributors

### **Make checks payable to SESPTA**

Any questions, contact Chelsea Curtis ([paulandchelsea@comcast.net](mailto:paulandchelsea@comcast.net)).

Save this receipt for your records.

For tax reporting purposes, no goods or services were received for the following contribution

Sherwood Elementary School PTA Direct Appeal Contribution

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of the Sherwood Elementary School PTA, **Thank You!**