



August 2010

Quoth the Raven

President's Thoughts

If your household is like mine, the start of school is greeted by a lot of excitement, and just a little anxiety. The new school year marks a great opportunity for our entire family to start fresh, set new habits in place, and make new friends. Yet the new school year also allows us to re-ignite old friendships and continue with routines that have worked well for us in the past. My version appears to crop the right edge of this column.

As your PTA president, I also view the new school year in the same way – I'm excited about all the great things that the PTA does for our students and staff, and just a bit anxious about pulling it off "just right". Yet, I know that we have a terrific set of returning volunteers, and I'm looking forward to meeting new faces that are willing to devote some of their time to helping the PTA meet its goals.

As you read this newsletter, you'll see that the PTA will be busy over the school year. We'll host a number of fun events to allow our students a safe place to mix with their friends – the Ice Cream Social, the Rock 'n Raven, and Night at Poe, to mention a few. We'll host a Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the springtime to thank our teachers and staff for their hard work in helping our students to be successful. We'll sponsor Honor Roll Assembly celebrations to recognize honor roll students. As part of our academic program, we'll pay for all field trip transportation costs; we contributed over \$5000 last year. (As a note - school funds cannot be used to pay for field trip transportation costs so all bus costs are paid by the PTA!). These are just a sample of PTA events. Throughout the school year you'll see PTA announcements for these and others.

How can you help? The two biggest ways are to join the PTA and get involved in your child's education by volunteering some of your time. Please take time to complete the membership form and volunteer recruitment form in your parent packet and return with your other school forms.

On behalf of the PTA, welcome to Poe and the start of a great new school year.

Yvette Coffman

PTA Check List

- Complete and Submit your PTA Membership form with \$10 Dues
- Complete and Submit the PTA Volunteer Recruitment Form
- Register your grocery cards to earn money for Poe while you grocery shop. Safeway - Giant - Harris Teeter - Bloom
- Continue collecting Box Tops for Poe and send these with your child. Don't forget to cover Poe's face with Box Tops on the 50 for Poe sheet passed out last year!
- For on-line shopping sign up for Box Top Marketplace
- Subscribe for Poe Middle School KIT messages, <http://www.fcps.edu/kit>
- Keep up to date by visiting the PTA Site on the Poe Web Page
- Look for PTA updates in the Tuesday Folders

Calendar of Events:

- **August 30** - 7:30 p.m.
Welcome Back Staff Breakfast
- **September 14** - 7:00 p.m.
PTA Meeting
- **September 16** - 5:30 - 6:30
Ice cream social prior to 6th grade Back to School Night
- **September 30** - 5:30-6:30
Ice cream social prior to 7th and 8th grade Back to School Night
- **October 12** - 7:00 p.m.
PTA meeting - School library
- **November**. Rockin Raven
- **December and January**.
Night at Poe
- **January**. Pajama Bingo
- **December thru January**.
Armchair Fundraiser
- **February**, Valentine Grams
- **Spring** Fundraiser - "Saving the Earth One Bag at a Time"
- **Spring** Plant sale and Garden Nursery Card Sales

PTA Meeting Dates:

PTA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the school library.

September 14th - 1st PTA meeting

October 12th - 2nd meeting

This is a test:




1. Do you eat?
2. Do you shop on-line?
3. Have you filled up your "50 for Poe Box Top sheet with Box Tops?

If you answered yes to these questions then you can raise money, with very little effort, for the Poe PTA through the General Mills programs - "Box Tops for Education" and "Box Top Marketplace".

Grocery Shopping:

When you're out shopping for your everyday food and supplies - look for General Mills products such as: Pillsbury; Yoplait; Chex; Ziploc; Hefty; Old El Paso; Huggies; Cottonelle; Betty Crocker; and Ziploc. Your school supplies may have a Box Top on them because Avery and Kleenex products are included.

Check for and clip the Box Top  labels and send them to school with your student(s). There are 295 products with the coupon on them and the PTA earns 10 cents for EVERY label that is turned in. That can add up to HUNDREDS of dollars for Poe.

Shopping on-line:

Ever shop on-line from any of the companies below?

Well, if you shop through the Box Top Marketplace website, Poe will earn 1-12% from your purchase!

There are over 95 on-line companies that participate. The ones shown below are just a few. Barnes and Noble alone donates 6% of your purchases through their "Shop the Reading Room" site.

Visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> and see all of the simple things you can do to raise money with little effort.

After you've signed up and designated Poe as your receiving school, have your friends, family and neighbors collect and shop through Box Tops Marketplace for Poe. Schools as close as Springfield VA have earned over \$3,000 in one year.

What can WE do?



Grocery Cards – sign up or renew!



Earn cash for Poe Middle School when you shop for groceries. Simply register your grocery store cards for Poe MS and support our fundraising efforts. A percentage of what you spend will be given back to Poe MS.

Please note that you MUST register your cards each year!

You can register online at the following sites:

- Safeway www.escrip.com school code 154296594
- Giant www.Giantfood.com click on A+ Bonus Bucks School code 01836
- Harris Teeter www.Harristeeter.com Community scroll down to Together in Education school code 4816
- Bloom <http://www.bloomforyourschool.com/> school code 01977

You may also complete the attached form and send it in with your student, and we will register your cards for you.

Membership:

Why join the PTA? Poe PTA sponsors a number of programs; these include academic, social, community-building, and fundraising events. These are just a few of our favorites.

- Bus costs for most school field trips. School funds cannot be used for transportation costs
- Pajama Bingo
- Ice cream socials
- Student recognition assemblies
- March Madness
- Mixed Bag re-useable bags - "Saving the earth one bag at a time"
- Rockin Raven social
- Teacher Recognition
- 8th Grade graduation events

PTA Membership dollars are a primary fundraiser for the PTA and a great show of parental and staff support. Your PTA Information Packet includes a PTA Membership envelope; please use the envelope to join our PTA and submit your dues. Dues are \$10. Membership is open to all parents, family members, guardians, teachers, and the community.

Welcome Back Staff Breakfast:

Middle School PTA needs your help to support its annual Welcome Back Staff Breakfast on August 30 at 7:30 a.m. We will be serving breakfast for approximately 200 staff members. This is a great event to meet teachers and a positive way to kick off the new school year.

We need:

- One or two people to plan the event.
- Volunteers to set up for the breakfast, to arrive at 7 a.m.

- Volunteers to serve breakfast, from 7:30 – 8:30.
- Volunteers to clean up after the lunch, 8:30 – 9:30.
- Donations of breakfast casseroles, fruit trays and breads, ready to serve upon drop off.

If you can assist us, please call or email Yvette Coffman at 703-946-0097, yycoffman@cox.net, Subject Line: STAFF

Get Involved!

We know what you're thinking. "If I show up at a PTA meeting I will get sucked in to volunteering to chair some committee, hold a fundraiser, buy all the paper products for every event and so on."

Well, if you'd like to volunteer to do any of those things, we would welcome it, but what we want is for you to get involved with your child's education and your school.

What better way than through the PTA?

The number one reason to join the **Parent Teacher Association** is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help our school. But there's still more!

- **Get Connected.** There's no better way to know what's happening at Poe.
- **Tap into a Network.** PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, discuss issues that are on your mind and share ideas, concerns, and experiences.
- **Watch Yourself Grow.** By volunteering with your PTA, you put your skills and hobbies to use for a good cause—your child and all children in the community.
- **Speak Up.** PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- **Witness Improvement.** By getting involved at Poe you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role in fundraising to provide improvements, curriculum-based programs, and social events.

Did you know that we need one PTA membership per student to have 100% participation? That would be 1,265 members!

Can you do your part?

Arlington Regional Planning Study Committee Study

As most of you are aware, FCPS has established a group to address the continued over-crowding at Annandale HS and Poe MS. In addition they will need to establish an attendance area boundary for the new Lacey ES scheduled to open in 2012. The Boundary Study to provide multiple solutions, including all pro's and con's to the FCPS School Board for their final review and decision. All meetings are open to the public. The next will be held August 18, 2010, 7 p.m., at Annandale High School, in the cafeteria, entrance 7. Poe has two elected representatives on the committee.

