



from the PTA President

Hello Ward Family!

This is the time of the year to look around to appreciate our teachers, our children's learning environment, and all the support systems that surround family life. We are half way through the 2014-2015 school year, and are always striving to make the school and the daily programs better via PTA time or PTA funds. Please take note of all the volunteers that take time to support the efforts of the PTA, thank them when you see them out and about picking up or dropping off or even on the weekends or in the neighborhood. If there is a job or committee that you want to initiate, get involved with an active program, or see a need to chair/support for the future – please speak up and get active. February is a busy month for Ward ES, with testing, classroom field trips, performances and holidays. Please check the monthly calendar so that nothing is missed. Please be prepared for No School Days, as well as opportunities to meet up with our great Teachers/Administrative Staff.

This month our PTA meeting will be on Thursday, February 19th at 6pm, and it will be packed with excitement as our Kindergartners will be performing. The PTA will have some very important information and news to share in preparation for our annual nominations and election of new officers and committee chairs for the 2015-2016 school year. Please remember to sign in on the attendance sheet to be considered the evening's prize giveaways!! You are also encourage to support your school and its PTA with your donations of Box Tops! For every Box Top collected, Ward PTA receives .10 cents! This year alone we have collected more than \$1,000. The month of February has been declared "Box Tops Month" by the PTA. Each class has been challenged and the winners will receive an ice cream party! Who will win?!?! Stay tuned!!

Plant you now, dig you later,

Angela Clark Greene
 PTA President



PTA[®]
 MAKING A DIFFERENCE
 ONE MEMBER AT A TIME!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Nominating Committee | 2 |
| Membership/ Box Tops | 3 |
| Valentine's Day | 4 |
| Family Advocate | 5 |
| Library News | 6 |
| Back Page | 7 |

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

We are looking for 3 volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for recognizing and seeking qualified and willing nominees for the elected leadership of the PTA. Serving on the committee is an honor and a privilege. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact us at wardptapres@gmail.com by February 13, 2015.

Henry D. Ward Elementary School PTA is seeking individuals for Board positions and Committee Chairs for the elected term 2015-2017. The Nominations Committee will select one (1) eligible candidate for each office and/or committee chair position. Officers and committee chairs will be voted on during the April PTA meeting. The available positions, descriptions, and nomination packet will be posted on the PTA information board in the front hall and on the PTA website. Available positions:

- *President
- *Vice-President of Fundraising
- *Vice-President of Membership
- *Vice-President of Programs
- *Secretary
- *Treasurer
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Box Tops Coordinator
- Reflections
- By-Laws / Legislative
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Family Engagement
- Health and Safety
- Historian
- Legislation/Education – School Board Liaison
- Marketing
- Hospitality
- Carnival
- Grandparents Day

All nominations must be submitted by February 20, 2015.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTES

Just a quick reminder that it is never too late in the year to join your Ward PTA. As always, membership is only \$5 per member. Looking forward to seeing you all at the membership table before and after the February meeting!

Thank you for your support!

Charlotte Cecil



WHO SCREAMS FOR ICE CREAM?



Ask your family & friends for their Box Tops! Bring them to your classroom and you could win an ice cream party for you and your classmates!

The contest runs from Tuesday, January 27 - Friday, February 20th!!

The classroom from each grade that brings in the most box tops will win an ice cream party!

Which class is going to win?

Will it be yours?

Ward Elementary School



everychild.onevoice.*



Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

 *Happy Valentine's Day*

Valentine's Day Carnations

The PTA is selling Valentine Carnations for Valentine's Day! They can be bought for your parent(s), grandparent(s), teacher(s) or friend(s).

The carnations are \$1 and must be pre-ordered, along with payment, no later than February 11th and will be delivered to the classrooms on Friday, February 13th.

Request a form from your teacher if you would like to purchase a carnation!



Family Advocate

Howdy Ward Families! A little cold weather in the air, but all is going well at Ward! I have been joining some of our students for lunch and really enjoying the time to share with them and have great conversations.

On January 22nd, 2015 we had a school wide family engagement meeting for all parents and Family Bingo night. The meeting started off a little low in numbers, but got larger as the evening went on! There was a total of 97 adults and children with some of our Ward staff at this event. A lot of great ideas were shared at the meeting for improving our parent involvement and your volunteer program at Ward. If you have any ideas that you feel would work, to get more parents including: Grandparents, aunts, uncles and Male Role Models (“Ward Dudes”) involved with the volunteer program for your school please contact me! I would love to hear your suggestions and ideas! “All ideas are important and welcomed”! Also the Bingo was a Great Success with snacks provided by community partners and many prizes given away. Also our very own Principal, Mr. Bryan Almasian did a Fantastic Job in running the Bingo Wheel! Thanks Mr. Almasian, Ward Staff and Parent Volunteers who helped to make this event a success!

Please remember to continue, to send in your can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, to support families who stay there, while their children are being treated at MCV for serious health issues. Our can tab competition is really close with Baker Elementary, so please send in those tabs! The Competition will be ending soon, but we will continue to collect the tabs throughout the school year! A Great Big Thank you to Ellen Collins, who comes in every Friday and totals up all the can

tab pounds, by class rooms for the popcorn parties each month for the highest number of pounds between Pre-k to 2nd grade and 3rd to 5th grade. If you see Ms. Collins, please give her a nice thank you for all the work done. Also Thank You to Etta Billips who has had the highest number of volunteer hours at Ward! Yeah!

The time is here once again to start accepting applications for Pre-K children for the 2015-2016 school year. As of 1/27/15 parents can start picking up application packets at Ward for Pre-K children who will be four years old by September 30th, 2015. Also appointments are being made for parents to complete the application process at Ward with your Family Advocate. If you have a child that could possibly qualify for the Pre-K program, please contact your Family Advocate to schedule the appointment date and time. *Applications are taken by Appointments Only*

We will start planning a volunteer banquet soon, for the end of the school year for all volunteers and community partners. Please remember to sign in the books in the front office when you come in to volunteer on do things at home for your child’s class. We do not want anyone left of the invitation list for the volunteer banquet closer to the end of the school year.

Happy Valentine’s to everyone and have a wonderful February! Hugs many to all!

Your Ward Family Advocate!

Ellen Vaughan



What's GOING ON in the Library?

Want to keep up with what's happening in the library? Check out our new website! <http://henrywardlibrary.weebly.com/>

The Library has been a busy place lately!

5th grade recently came for Living Things stations. As part of the stations, they had the opportunity to look through a microscope at plant and animal slides and to examine the differences between lima beans that were dried and ones that had been soaked overnight.

3rd grade researched animals in the library and classroom, then shared their discoveries by displaying their projects in the cafeteria in an open house. They did a wonderful job and really learned some interesting facts about their animals!

1st and 2nd grades learned about the annual Caldecott and Theodore Seuss Geisel Awards which will be announced by the American Library Association on February 3. Check out the ALA website to find out those winners and many more, including the Newbery Award! <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/browse/bpma?showfilter=no>

Kindergarten learned about shadows and made their own bear shadow puppets.

Spelling Bee - The annual School Spelling Bee took place in the library December 17. It was an exciting morning! Here's the Spelling Bee by the numbers...

After 13 contestants, 109 words, and an historic 18 rounds we had a winner – Eva Bayer from Mrs. Sides's class, who won the bee by spelling the word "bounce" correctly! 3rd grade had a strong showing with all four making it to the 3rd round. The last two to fall were Yasmeen and Kamryn who made it all the way to round 10! Yasmeen Mohamed and David Parker were the grade level winners for 3rd and 4th, respectively. Taylor Waddell was the school runner-up.

The following students were eligible to compete in the School Spelling Bee. Each had bested his/her classmates and should be commended for their hard work. All these students were featured on the morning announcements.

3rd grade

Yasmeen Mohamed – Mrs. Farrow
James Loving – Mrs. Johnson
Jordan Walker – Ms. Korman
Kamryn Mitchell – Ms. Williams

4th grade

David Parker – Ms. Burriesci
Lynette Jones – Ms. Ferguson
MJ Poindexter – Mrs. Hirth
Dylan Lacy – Ms. Nielsen
DJ Gregory – Mrs. Harris

5th grade

Izzy Rodriguez – Mrs. Oley (Long)
Matthew Eberly – Mr. Phillips
Zariah Rodwell – Ms. Allen
Taylor Waddell – Ms. Liberatore
Eve Bayer – Mrs. Sides

Spelling Bee participants





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There are many ways to stay connected with your PTA

- Follow our blog to keep informed with the latest Ward PTA updates! (<http://henrywardpta.wordpress.com/>)
- From the blog, click on the Newsletter tab and sign up to receive our PTA monthly newsletter via e-mail!
- Facebook fans can also follow our *Henry Ward Elementary PTA* Facebook group.



2/6: Famous Americans

2/13: Have a Heart: “Wear Pink & Red”

2/20: Mardi Gras: “Wear Green, Yellow and Purple”

2/27: Wear Your Favorite Hoodie

Major Benefits

Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- earn better grades.
- score higher on tests.
- pass their classes.
- attend school regularly.
- have better social skills.
- show improved behavior.
- be more positive in their attitude toward school.
- complete homework assignments.
- graduate and continue their education.