



Eastside Elementary

On Target for Success

News to Use

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August 2006

A Big Hello from Ms. Hamil

Dear Eastside Families,

Welcome! The year is off to a great start, and I know this is going to be a happy and productive school year.

I strongly encourage you to be a part of your child's education. Studies show that parental involvement is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. We hope you will make it a priority this year to attend as many school-sponsored events as possible and to be involved as much as possible with what your child is learning. I encourage you to make it a habit to ask your child what he/she has learned in school each day. You may just learn something yourselves.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (601) 924-7261.

Once again, welcome to Eastside. Let's work together to make this the best year ever!

— *Cindy R. Hamil, Principal*

Back-to-School Nights

4th Grade – August 22

6:30-7 p.m., Meet and Greet the Teachers
7 p.m., First General PTA Meeting, Library

5th Grade – August 24

6:30-7 p.m., Meet and Greet the Teachers
7 p.m., First General PTA Meeting, Library

From the PTA...

On behalf of the Eastside PTA, welcome to Eastside. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year. As you may know, our focus will be to raise enough money to finish out the playground behind the school. We got a good start last year, but still have work to do. We hope that you will support this PTA effort to get the equipment ordered as soon as possible.

At both Back-to-School nights, August 22 and 24, we will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win a bicycle. The chances are \$1 for one ticket or \$5 for seven tickets. We will also be selling red Clinton Arrows tote bags for \$5. All funds raised from these sales will go towards the playground. Our major fundraiser will be coming up very soon, so look for more information about this.

If you would like to help with PTA or have any questions regarding our organization, please leave your name and number with the school office, and I will be happy to call you back. Let's all work together to make this school the best it can be for our children!

— *Cindy Smith, Co-President, Eastside PTA*



No Peeking!

Fall Fundraiser kicks off September 22

Candy, gift wrap, and gift items are the feature products in Eastside Elementary's fall fundraiser, No Peeking!, with proceeds benefiting the school's playground areas. Your family and friends will be able to stock up on great gifts for Christmas, birthdays, and other occasions — plus get the paper to wrap them all up nicely.

A fundraising kick-off will be held for students and teachers on Friday, September 22, with the campaign running for two consecutive weeks through Friday, October 6.

Students with big sales will qualify for big prizes. The five top student fundraisers will win cash prizes from \$100 to \$500. Top sellers from each class will get a limousine ride to a pizza party. Also, a surprise challenge will be offered to students on kick-off day to help Eastside reach its goal.

Join the PTA — Be Involved In Your Child's Education

When you attend Back-to-School Night with your child on August 22 or 24, don't forget to join the Eastside Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Memberships are \$5 each. Information about joining will also be sent home with your child.

- PTA is a not-for-profit association of parents, educators, students and other citizens active in their schools and communities.
- PTA was established to promote the welfare of children and raise the standards of home life.
- PTA secures adequate laws for the care and protection of children.
- The purpose of PTA is to bring closer relations between the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children.
- PTA involves your child in many special activities throughout the year, including Red Ribbon Week (drug awareness), Grandparent's Day, Veteran's Day program, Teacher Appreciation Week, and more.



Yearbooks, Yearbooks, Yearbooks!

Yearbook orders (\$16 per book) will be taken at Back-to-School night on August 22 and 24. Order forms will also be sent home with your child in the near future.

Also, if you take any photos at school events or in your child's classroom, please send copies or extras to school with your child and label the envelope "Yearbook." The Yearbook Committee needs your help in making the 2006-07 edition the best yet.

Bike Raffle Chances on Sale

Eastside PTA is raffling an orange, 6-speed, mountain bike licensed by SUNKIST. Tickets for this limited edition bike will be sold during the Back-to-School Nights on August 22 and 24, with the winner being announced on the 24th. Chances are \$1 each or seven for \$5. Proceeds will be for additions to the Eastside playgrounds.

Eastside T-Shirts: Show your Spirit!

Show your school spirit by purchasing Eastside Arrow Pride t-shirts at the Back-to-School Nights on August 22 and 24. Shirts are \$10 each, and there are a variety of sizes for the whole family – even grandma.

Special orders will be taken for sizes that may currently not be available, and payment is due when orders are placed. Forms will also be sent home soon in your child's backpack.

Box Tops Challenge

Let's give Clinton Park and Northside Elementary some competition this year by collecting more Box Tops for Education. Among schools within a 25-mile range, Clinton Park ranks #6 (\$979) and Northside ranks #9 (\$899) in funds raised from Box Tops collections. So, it's time for Eastside to catch up!

Earn cash for Eastside everyday by clipping Box Tops

from hundreds of participating brands such as General Mills, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Hamburger Helper, and Old El Paso. Then send your collection to your child's teacher. Learn more about this fundraising opportunity, visit box-tops4education.com.

Taking a few seconds to clip and save Box Tops means more education enhancements for Eastside!

What's the Accelerated Reader Program?

The AR prize patrol will roam the halls soon, handing out prizes to all Eastside readers who participate in the Accelerated Reader Program.

The AR Program is a computer-based supplemental reading program which helps students improve their reading skills while encouraging them to become lifelong readers. Students have the opportunity to earn points towards prizes when they read an AR book and pass the corresponding test. Parental encouragement will go far in assisting your child with earning points and prizes.

More information will follow in a letter sent home with each student, explaining the AR program in detail.

The Parents' Campaign Launches

The goal of The Parents' Campaign is to build a statewide network to ensure a brighter future for every Mississippi child. The organization works for this purpose through promoting an adequately funded, quality public education system in the state.

Through this group, parents are informed of legislation that affects their children's education. Parents can also learn who their legislators are and how they can be contacted, and are informed of how their legislators vote on important education bills.

Be sure and sign up to receive more information at your child's Back-to-School Night. You may also visit www.msparentscampaign.org.