



THES PTA Newsletter

<http://thespta.yolasite.com/>

November 11, 2014

From the Green Team: November 14th is National "America Recycles" Day!

We will be celebrating by inviting families to create sculptures out of recycled materials. We will exhibit these "green masterpieces" during American Education Week in the front foyer for all to see. Please bring in your project for display in our Sculpture Expo beginning on Monday, November 17th. Include a label with the student's name on it so that the sculptures can be returned to their owners on Friday, November 21st. Look for more information in your child's Friday Folder, or check out past projects on the Green School website, which can be found on the THES web page. Please note that this project is completely optional and open to everyone. Thanks for showing that you care!

Reflections Chair Needed

National PTA's Reflections program encourages students to explore and be involved in the arts.

**The theme for the 2014-2015 school year is:
The world would be a better place if...**

Thousands of students will reflect on the theme and create original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, music composition, literature, photography and visual arts.

THES needs a chairperson who can recruit a committee to coordinate submissions. Thunder Hill's entries will be divided into two age groups: grades K-2 and 3-5. The deadline to submit entries in any category is January 5, 2015. This committee needs to start organizing now in order to request student submissions for judging.

More info, including a detailed toolkit, is available at www.mdpta.org/bridge_reflections.html.

If you are interested in this position, please contact Jen Cisneros at jencisneros@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

- Nov 11** PTA Meeting. 7pm. All are welcome.
- Nov 13** Parent Information Night on Executive Functioning. 7pm. Dr. Duane Isava and Dr. Brad Beam will discuss ways to improve children's problem solving skills, make better decisions, and strengthen self-control so children feel better about themselves and are more confident.
- Nov 14** National "America Recycles" Day. See left.
- Nov 19** Save the date for Restaurant Night Out at Chick-fil-A, Executive Park Drive.

Introducing ASK THES PTA!

In order to strengthen our PTA involvement, we'd like to get feedback from parents and families. Is there something you are excited about that's happening at school? The PTA wants to know so we can celebrate it! Is there something you wonder about? We'd like to know that, too!

For example, many parents wonder why we don't have snack at class parties, but don't want to bother teachers -- we can help! We'd like to celebrate success and answer FAQs in future newsletters. Emails can be anonymous or not -- up to you.

Send your celebrations and questions to: ask.THESPTA@gmail.com.

After School Classes – Winter Edition!

The PTA will once again sponsor a few classes this winter. Keep an eye out for the flyers coming home later this month.

Sports class K-2: 7 Thursdays

December 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 29, February 5, 19, (snow day make-up if needed 2/26)

Sports class 3-5: 7 Fridays

December 12, 19, Jan. 9, 30, February 20, 27, March 6, (snow day make-up if needed 3/13)

Club Scientific K-2 AND 3-5 (2 separate classes): 8 Wednesdays

December 3, 10, 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, February 4, (snow day make-up if needed 2/11)

Let Your Online Shopping Support the THES PTA!

With the holidays right around the corner, now is great time to set-up your online shopping accounts through any (or all) of these online merchants:

1. **AmazonSmile** - <http://smile.amazon.com>. Our organization number is 23-7111265. You still get the great prices and Prime deals, but the PTA earns money from your eligible purchases. You can also use this direct link - <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7111265>.
2. **GoodShop** - <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop>. Create an account and chose to support "Thunder Hill Elementary School PTA." Search for your merchant such as Children's Place or Kohl's, shop through the GoodShop link and the PTA will earn a percentage of your purchase.
3. **iGive** - <http://www.igive.com>. Create an account during the month of October, try the iGive button through 1/15/15 and earn the PTA \$5! No purchase required! Search for your merchant such as Old Navy or Best Buy and shop through the iGive link. The average shopper raises \$30-100 a year for their cause through iGive.

Share this information with family and friends. Anyone can shop and support the THES PTA. Have questions about any of these programs? Please contact Abby Wedeking at passret.thespta@gmail.com

Join and Donate to the PTA!

We encourage families to join the PTA to have your voices counted in the organization of PTA events. A membership form is available at <http://thespta.yolasite.com/membership.php>

The PTA coordinates the following: After School Programs; Teacher Appreciation activities; Reimbursements for teachers for items they use in the classroom to enhance your child's learning experiences; Back to School and End of Year Picnics; Halloween Spooktacular; Fun Run / Walking Program and other Wellness Efforts; Cultural Arts and Inhouse Education: field trips, author visits, special guests; STEAM Day - A day dedicated to recognizing Thunder Hill as an Arts Integration school, including special guests who work in STEM fields and hands-on stimulating activities that augment our children's learning.

Please support the PTA to ensure we can provide these activities for the THES community! Thanks.

Oakland Mills Food Drive

The Oakland Mills Food Drive supplies needed food and other items of necessity to community families in need. The food items are distributed once a month, usually on the 3rd or 4th Saturday. A box for donated items will be in the main entrance hallway. Students may bring in items at any time. We will be collecting items for the remainder of the school year. Thank you for considering this worthwhile project!

Food Items:

Rice (white and /or brown)
Macaroni and cheese
Noodles and rice mixes
Hamburger helper
Pasta
Pasta sauces
Tomato sauces
Powdered milk
Instant mash potatoes
Instant scalloped potatoes
Ramen Noodles
Dry Soup Mixes
Canned soups
Dried Beans ---no cans please
Powdered Drink Mixes
Flour (white and or whole wheat)
Cake Mixes
Cake frostings
Corn Meal
Sugar (white and /or brown)
Pancake mix
Syrup
Cereal (hot or cold)

Crackers
Mixed nuts
Chocolate
Spaghetti-So
Ravioli
Canned Fruit and Dried Nuts
Cooking Oil
Salad Dressings
Peanut Butter
Jelly, Jam preserves
Fruit Juices canned or Packages
Canned Fish (tuna, salmon, etc.)
Ketchup
Mustard
Mayonnaise
Relish

Infant Care Items (diapers, baby food, etc.)

Toiletries (toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper, etc.)

Household Cleaning Items