



# THES PTA Newsletter

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

October 21, 2014

## 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](mailto:passret.thespta@gmail.com)

## 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**

## CALENDAR

- Oct 24 Halloween Spooktacular!** 7-9pm.  
\$5/person. See page 2.
- Oct 26 Northfield Elementary School's 5th Annual 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run.**  
See below.
- Nov 3-4 Schools closed.**

**PTA Meeting Minutes start on page 3.**

## Join the Wellness Committee!

Do you have ideas related to wellness at THES? Would you like to help out with wellness initiatives, including the popular Spring Fun Run? Contact Erin Villard at [erinvillard@gmail.com](mailto:erinvillard@gmail.com) with your ideas or for more information!

## Northfield Elementary School's 5th Annual 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run

Thunder Hill ....looking for a great way to start your Sunday Morning and reunite with some old friends? Please join us for Northfield Elementary School's 5th Annual 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run. The race will take place in two (2) short weeks on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 8:30am!!!! All levels are encouraged to participate! Run, run/walk, or walk it!!

We looking forward to a fantastic fall day benefiting the children through this celebration of health and commUNITY to support the enriching programs of the PTA. We would love to see some old friends and make some new!!!

Don't forget to sign up NOW to participate and/or volunteer (we can't do it without your help) at: <http://www.northfieldpta.org/page-1406265>

Want to PROMOTE your wonderful business to over 400 people at an amazing rate? Please contact Patti Morse or Shannon Schneider for more information about sponsoring at: [5K@northfieldpta.org](mailto:5K@northfieldpta.org).



@ THES

Formally known as the  
Halloween Disco

**OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 7-9PM**

**ADMISSION: \$5 per child (Adults Free)**

**GAMES \*DANCING \* COSTUMES \***  
**FOOD AND DRINKS**



**One of the best eventS of the year!**

***This is for the whole family!! Younger siblings are welcome!***

**Admission can be purchased either at the DOOR or in ADVANCE**

To purchase tickets in advance, please send the bottom of this form. If you have any questions please email [briankushner007@gmail.com](mailto:briankushner007@gmail.com) .

*\*Children must be accompanied by an adult*



**Make checks to THES PTA. If paying in advance**

**Halloween Spooktacular Advanced Ticket Purchase**

\_\_\_: # of Tickets for Admission Purchased - \$5 PER PERSON



**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS IN ADVANCE**

You have a chance to win Huge Halloween decoration Blow Ups and more!  
\$1 per Raffle Ticket OR \$10 for 15 Raffle Tickets

\_\_\_:# of Raffle tickets purchased

Your Admission and Raffle ticket will be given to you at the door when you come to the party!





**THUNDER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA**  
9357 Mellenbrook Road • Columbia, MD 21045 • 410-313-6922

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for Tuesday October 14, 2014.

**Welcome /Call to Order**

Jennifer Cisneros, Vice President called the meeting to order at 7:10pm. See attached attendance roster for Executive Board and Committee Chairs attendance. Quorum was met.

**Membership Report:** ( Staci Taylor )

Two membership drops.

Membership forms available at BTS nights, and BTS –Picnic.

245 memberships. (25 individual, 88 family and 44 faculty)

Numbers are close to identical to 2013 numbers, though the enrollment of school students has increased.

We have collected 4,120 indonations. Which is very close to 2013 in when we had 4160 in donations.

Board discussed ways to increase membership possible suggestions:

- List Serve Contact with the question and information about “what the PTA does and how it supports the various programs”
- This may reach a larger base of parents and attach a membership form.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Christine White, Treasurer reported on the budget. (See attached)

Christine also reported on the following:

Art Teacher ( Ms. Atkinson) requested a grant of 1,000 for an artist in residence project. This is through the Young Audiences Arts for Learning Program.

The fund will be matched by 1,000 if the THES PTA can provide 50% of it.

Discussed that documentation would need to be provided and addition request for grant extension may be needed.

BOD reviewed that part of the money could be distributed from in-house education or cultural arts program.

It was also suggested that this be used in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class/gift/project.

Further information will follow.

**Principal’s Report:** Mr. Birus reported the following:

Staff Updates- Special Ed Teacher (FT) recently hired by THES.

Oakland Mills Food Drive- meeting this week with representative.

HCPSS Closed- 10/17, 11/3 and 11/4.

Restaurant Nights- 10/20 @ UNOS. Benefits 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

Green School Celebration on 10/21.

End of Quarter Dates 10/31.

Halloween Parade and Parties, 10/31.

Veterans Day Assembly Nov 11.



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Report Cards- Nov. 12.

Executive Functioning Presentation set for 11/13.

**Questions/Discussion:**

Discussion around the HCPSS wellness program. Healthy food choices for lunch menus. Discussed Halloween Parties, since they are held during school days, eliminating snack food, and sweets from the parties and making the parties more about holiday crafts/social.

**Upcoming Events:**

The Halloween Spectacular (formally Halloween Disco) will charge \$ 5 per child and adults will be admitted free. There will be a corrected flyer sent out to the community. Correction in previous flyer which quoted \$5 admission per individual.

Members, who have already paid, can use the extra money towards donation to the Halloween event.

**Teacher Liaison Report:** Mrs. Hutcheson was present. Thanked the PTA for providing the \$ 75 reimbursement to new teaching staff.

Mrs. Gatewood requested assistance with the Green School committee.

**Volunteer Needs/Calendar:**

Discussed that teachers will be given the volunteer sheets and according to needs request volunteers for their classroom.

Overall school requests will come from Volunteer Committee/Coordinators.

**Fundraising** – Angela Davis will take over from Sonia Odell. She will coordinate with Sonia on records.



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**Committee Reports:**

**Walking Program**

Abbey provided a report via email.

- Only 3 weeks left for the fall session
  - good number of kids participating
  - volunteerism is okay, but the program makes a for a long day and if recesses continue to run 3+ hours of the day, the PTA should consider revising how the program is run. Specifically, 2 committed volunteers who can split the day between them. Also, it may be worth considering volunteer slots versus the current method of seeing who shows up that day.
  - So far we look good with the budget

**Passive Retail**

- about 10% of grocery card sign-up forms distributed have been returned. I'll send a second wave in early November
- I've been sending home informational flyers about various ways families can support THES and/or THES PTA. In most cases, it is difficult to tell how effective these programs are because the corporations do not provide earning statements.

We are missing a lot of communication opportunities with our current website. I'd be happy to share my website mock-up and go over any questions the Board might have about it.

Submitted by Abbey Wedeking.

Board made the suggestion that Abbey put together a sign up genius for the walking program volunteers, so that parents can pick out different shifts.

**Restaurant Nights Out ( Jules Cassanova)**

Reported via email:

Restaurant Nights Out:

Smoothie King -

\$103.17 Check is on the way if not already here.

UNO Pizzeria & Grill -

Monday October 20 11am-11pm to benefit 5th grade.

Flyers should be going out this week. UNOs requires the ticket/flyer.

Chick-fil-A Executive Park Dr -

Wednesday November 19



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**Wellness Program /5K Run**

Erin Villard discussed Northfield Elem. School upcoming 5 K run. Will assist and post signs outside of THES.

Discussed 5K run in Spring, will look at dates and begin to form a committee/sponsors etc.

**Community Outreach (Julie Jones)**

Messages of Hope Bags – successful. Will consider doing another event in Spring 2015.

Food Drive- discussed the Oakland Mills Community need for Food Bank supplies.

Will continue drops and assistance.

Holiday Drive- Discussed options for children to assist. Shoes for Soles, Coat Drive and/or

Adopt a Family (gift donations)

Mr. Birus stated the following

Pennies for Patients will be held in November.

Jump Rope for Heart will be held in January 2015.

Meeting was adjourned at 830pm by Jen Cisneros, Vice- President.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Anita Roschy, Recording secretary.