



# THES PTA Newsletter

www.thunderhillespta.weebly.com

October 6, 2015



## The Halloween "Super Hero" Disco is October 23!!!

The Halloween Committee is putting the final touches on the Halloween "Super Hero" Disco and we need your help. Please consider volunteering your time to make this a successful event for the students of Thunder Hill. This is a PTA Sponsored Fundraising event, with events planned for all ages.

Touch base with Mona Curran via email [mona1curran@gmail.com](mailto:mona1curran@gmail.com) or cell 410-456-4827 for a list of things you can do.

See the form on page 4 for information on how to purchase tickets for this events. Thanks in advance for your support.

### Welcome Fall and New Membership to PTA! Membership Matters!

The PTA supports, educational, social and community programs. Join Today! Membership Form enclosed, please print out and return! \$15 One Adult; \$20 Two Adults.

Membership has increased this year by 10%. Thank YOU for being part of the success! You can still be part of the winning team if you enroll today. Only 40 cards left. Is your name on one of them?

Questions? [dacroschy@verizon.net](mailto:dacroschy@verizon.net) or 443-896-3620.

## PARCC Test Design Changes See page 5

### Ask The PTA!



Got questions? Comments? Ideas -- for in the classroom, after school classes, new events?

This isn't your mom's PTA. We want to organize events and activities that you want to attend, not get dragged to. Join in and tell us how we can make your experiences at THES even better. Email: [askthes.pta@gmail.com](mailto:askthes.pta@gmail.com).

### CALENDAR

- Oct 13** PTA Meeting. All are welcome. 7pm. THES Media Center.
- Oct 14** Restaurant Night Out: Uno's Pizzeria. Long Gate Parkway. See details below.
- Oct 23** Halloween "Super Hero" Disco. See left.

### Uno's Pizzeria Restaurant Night Out Weds, Oct 14

Help support the 5th Grade class by dining at Uno's (Long Gate Parkway location) all-day on 10/14/15. Bring in the flier on page 3 and up to 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the 5th grade for their end-of-year activities. We hope to see you at Uno's!!

### Send in Your Box Tops!

We need your Box Tops. Send in Box Tops in baggies or envelopes. Look for a collection sheet in your child's Friday folder soon! Or print a copy of the collection sheet attached to this newsletter.

### Walking Program is Under Way

The Walking Program is going strong! We still have two dates remaining in the fall session 10/9, and 10/23. Please join the PTA for any or each of these days. Help your student's class earn the Golden Shoe. Help us reduce waste - send your child with a water bottle and they earn 2 bonus laps!

If you would like to volunteer, visit the Walking Program Sign-Up Genius links:  
10/9/15 -

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b44a9a62da57-walking6>

10/23/15 -

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b44a9a62da57-walking7>

Questions? email Abby Wedeking [walking.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:walking.thespta@gmail.com)

## Thunder Hill PTA

### Board of Directors

President - Jen Soler | [president.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:president.thespta@gmail.com)  
1st Vice President - Jen Cisneros | [jencisneros@gmail.com](mailto:jencisneros@gmail.com)  
2nd Vice President - Angela Davis | [school\\_davis@yahoo.com](mailto:school_davis@yahoo.com)  
Recording Secretary - Trish Saynuk | [newtoncats91@gmail.com](mailto:newtoncats91@gmail.com)  
Corresponding Secretary - Christine White | [cmp-white@comcast.net](mailto:cmp-white@comcast.net)  
Treasurer - Mona Curran | [treas.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:treas.thespta@gmail.com)  
PTA Delegate #1 - Brandon White | [blwhite01@gmail.com](mailto:blwhite01@gmail.com)  
PTA Delegate #2 - Tremin White | [treminw@gmail.com](mailto:treminw@gmail.com)

### Committee Chairs

After School Activities - Allyson Glassband | [ahglassband@gmail.com](mailto:ahglassband@gmail.com)  
Annual 5K/Fun Run - Joanne Alme |  
Back to School Picnic - Erin McNamara | [Erin\\_Elizabeth77@yahoo.com](mailto:Erin_Elizabeth77@yahoo.com)  
Community Outreach - Julie Jones | [julie.o.jones@gmail.com](mailto:julie.o.jones@gmail.com)  
Cultural Arts - Leah McIlvain | [leah\\_mcilvain@hcpss.org](mailto:leah_mcilvain@hcpss.org)  
End of Year Picnic – Erin McNamara | [Erin\\_Elizabeth77@yahoo.com](mailto:Erin_Elizabeth77@yahoo.com)  
Giant Cards - Jen Cisneros | [jencisneros@gmail.com](mailto:jencisneros@gmail.com)  
Grants - Tremin White | [treminw@gmail.com](mailto:treminw@gmail.com)  
Green School - Andrea LeWinter | [andrealewinter@cs.com](mailto:andrealewinter@cs.com)  
Halloween Disco - Mona Curran  
In-house Education - Shana Lang | [shanalang18@gmail.com](mailto:shanalang18@gmail.com)  
Membership - Anita Roschy | [dacroschy@verizon.net](mailto:dacroschy@verizon.net)  
Memory Book - OPEN  
Newsletter - Melanie Alston-Akers | [m.alstonakers@gmail.com](mailto:m.alstonakers@gmail.com)  
Passive Retail - Abby Wedeking | [passret.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:passret.thespta@gmail.com)  
PTA Directory – Jacquelyn Cooper | [Jacquelyn.Cooper@gmail.com](mailto:Jacquelyn.Cooper@gmail.com)  
Reflections - OPEN  
Restaurant Nights Out - Abby Wedeking (interim) | [rno.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:rno.thespta@gmail.com)  
Spelling Bee - OPEN  
Spirit Wear - Jennifer Wall | [jennifer.wall@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifer.wall@yahoo.com)  
Staff Appreciation - Eileen Franklin | [eileenfranklin28@gmail.com](mailto:eileenfranklin28@gmail.com)  
Ava Van Sickler | [ava.vansickler@gmail.com](mailto:ava.vansickler@gmail.com)  
Talent Show - Tremin White | [treminw@gmail.com](mailto:treminw@gmail.com)  
Volunteer Coordinator – Julie Jones |  
Walking Program - Abby Wedeking | [walking.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:walking.thespta@gmail.com)  
Website Coordinator - Abby Wedeking | [webmaster.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.thespta@gmail.com)

## Volunteer Opportunities with the PTA

**Memory Book Coordinator.** The PTA creates a yearbook keepsake every year that students treasure. While we have a variety of minions with experience willing to help take pictures and do page layouts, we need a sergeant to take command and lead the troops. Seriously, there are a number of wonderful volunteers who are ready, but they just don't want the head job. This coordinator works with the school portrait vendor. Other responsibilities include design cover contest and tracking THES and PTA events so that the yearbook culminates in a good representation of the school year. Responsibilities include asking parents to take pictures at Back to School Night, the Back to School Picnic, Grandparents' Day, Halloween, Veterans' Day, etc. and having them submitted them to you for potential inclusion in the yearbook. It's much easier to drop photos than to fill empty space! Contact [president.thespta@gmail.com](mailto:president.thespta@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### Reflections Coordinator

*We haven't heard anyone express interest regarding this position. If your child wants to enter this school-wide and countywide art contest, then a committee must be formed to solicit and review entries. Remember this contest encompasses all forms of artistic expression from writing and painting to performing arts. Contestants are judged in the category in which they enter. Reflections will be discussed at the October 13<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting. The position will be pulled if no one steps up to fill this role.*

Reflections is a nationwide program that is a creative and fun way for all students to engage in the arts. There are 6 categories: film, dance, musical composition, photography, visual arts and literature. Students submit artwork to their local PTA. The top three winning entries in each category and age group advance to the Council level. From the Council level, the top three winners proceed on to the state level and the top winner at the state level in each category and age group proceeds on the National PTA.

Coordinator responsibilities include:

- Establishing a timeline for your PTA's Reflection Program (anytime between Sept. and Dec.)
- Promoting the program to your community
- Distributing rules, deadlines, and entry forms
- Collecting the entries for judging
- Organizing and hosting the judging
- Celebrating the winners
- Submitting winning artwork entries and required forms to the Council level (due by TBD)
- In March/April, picking up the student's visual art/photography artwork from Council and returning to students

The Theme for 2015-16 is "Let your imagination fly...."



# EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

COME SUPPORT A DOUGH RAISER TO BENEFIT

**Thunder Hill Elementary  
PTA 5th Grade Class**

UNO® will donate up to **20%** of your check

DATE:  
October 14th 2015

VALID AT:  
Ellicott City  
4470 Long Gate Parkway  
410-480-1400

DINE-IN  
OR  
TAKEOUT!

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

[unodoughraisers.com](http://unodoughraisers.com)

PRESENT THIS TO YOUR SERVER

Pizzeria Uno Corporation © 2014



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# THES PTA HALLOWEEN SUPER HERO DISCO



**COME JOIN US FOR SOME FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN AND SUPPORT THE THUNDER HILL PTA.**

**PURCHASE ONE OF OUR PIZZA DINNERS AND HAVE ONE LESS THING TO DO THAT DAY.**

**BRING THE LITTLE ONES TO OUR "SUPER HEROES IN TRAINING ROOM" FOR SOME DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE FUN.**

**GOT A QUESTION OR WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN HELP? CONTACT MONA CURRAN AT [MONA1CURRAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MONA1CURRAN@GMAIL.COM)**

For advanced purchases, detach and return the form below to  
**THES PTA Halloween:**

**Make checks payable to THES PTA for advance purchases**

\_\_\_\_ **# of People for Admission (\$5/person/\$20 Maximum)**

**Pre-purchased tickets will be listed on the admission sheet at the door**

**Sale of raffle, game & Lolli Pop 50/50 tickets will be available on site, so please bring cash to spend.**

## ALL AGES EVENT

***CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT***

## ADVANCE TICKETS SALES

**\$5/per person  
\$20 Family Maximum**

**Tickets sales also  
available on site**

## FEATURING

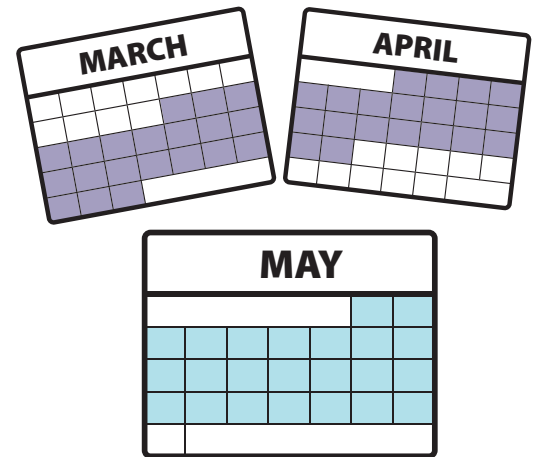
- ◇ **PIZZA SLICES**
- ◇ **SNACKS**
- ◇ **DANCING**
- ◇ **GAMES & PRIZES**
- ◇ **MAZE**
- ◇ **RAFFLE**
- ◇ **LOLLIPOP 50/50**
- ◇ **MOVIES**
- ◇ **SUPER HEROES IN TRAINING ROOM (FOR YOUNGER SIBLINGS)**
- ◇ **LEGO ROOM**
- ◇ **CRAFTS**



### Consolidate Testing Into One Window

With the changes, the PARCC assessment will be given during one window. States and schools will have up to 30 school days in which to test, but most can/will complete all testing in a week to two weeks, depending on their schedule and availability of laptops/devices.

The new single window will end at the 90% mark of the school year. Gone are the separate early spring performance-based (PBA) and late spring end-of-year (EOY) windows.



### Reduces the Number of Test Units

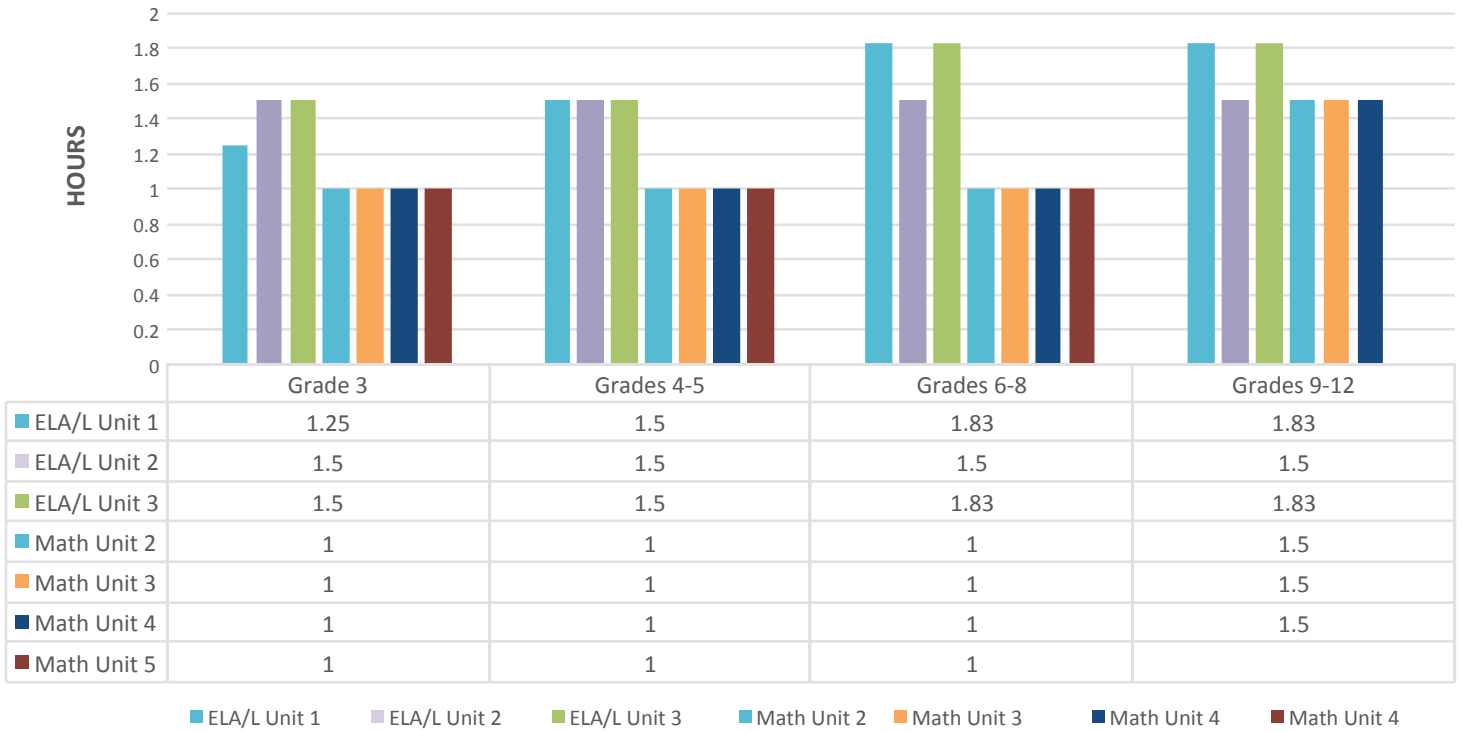
Reduces the total number of testing units from 9 (grades 6-8) and 8 (grades 3-5) to 7 units; at the high school level reduces from 9 units to 6.

*Each PARCC assessment, e.g., grade 4 math, is administered in multiple sections called units. The redesigned ELA/L tests are composed of 3 units. The ELA/L design also includes a field test unit. The proposed math tests are composed of 4 units.*

	2014-15			2015-16		
Grades	ELA	Math	Total	ELA	Math	Total
3	4	4	8	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
4-5	4	4	8	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
6-8	5	4	9	3	3 or 4	6 or 7
High School	5	4	9	3	3	6

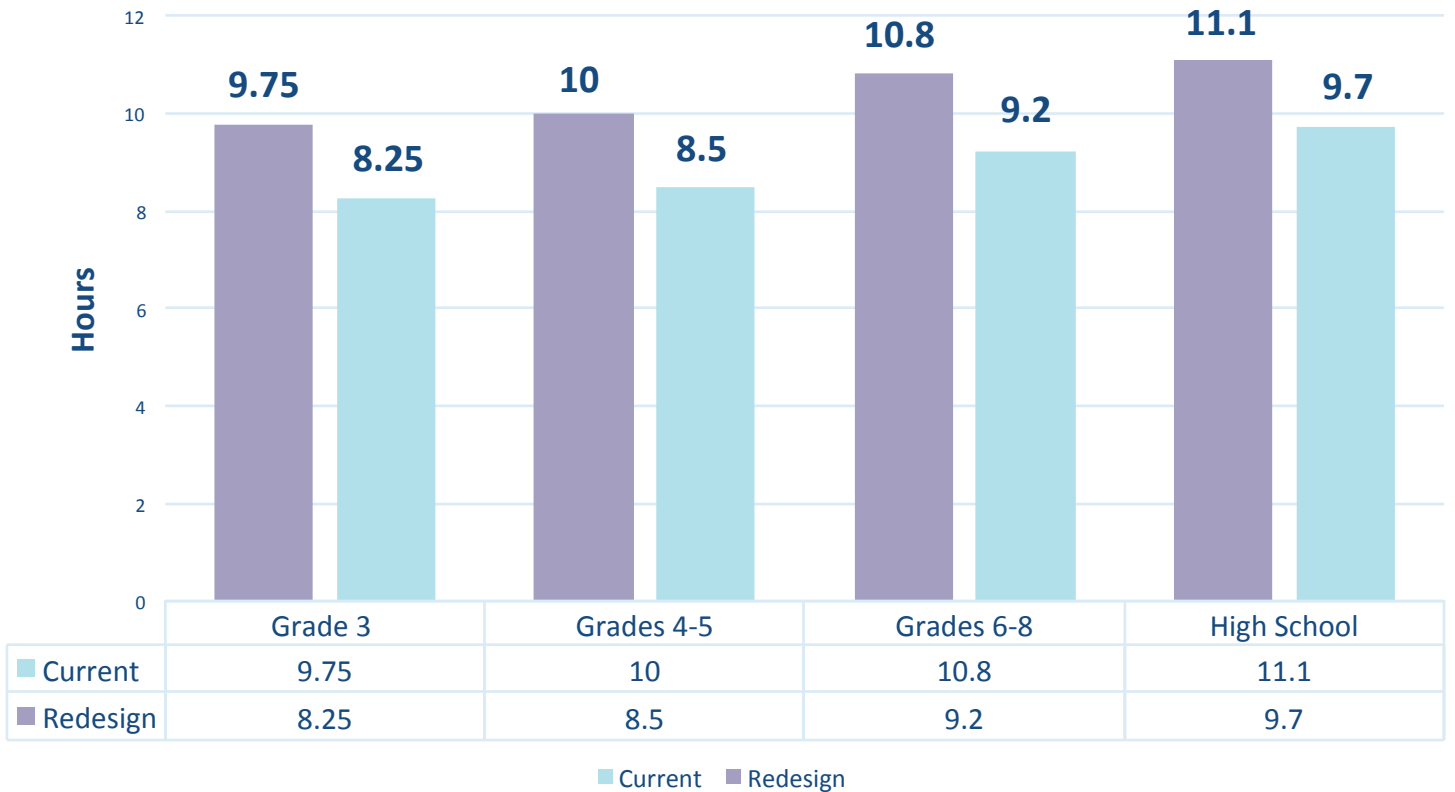
# Uniformity of Testing Units

## More Uniform Test Unit Times



# Cuts Testing Time by approximately 90 minutes in all grades

## Total Testing Time: 2014-15 v. 2015-16



## Preserves Performance Tasks

The test design changes do not result in the loss of any performance tasks in English language arts or mathematics with the exception of Algebra II and Integrated Math III at the high school level.

## Eliminates Standalone Field Testing

As with all similar testing, field test items – items that could be used in future years – are embedded in each student’s test. Because the performance tasks in ELA are longer, a sampling of students had to take a standalone field test unit in spring 2015. To further streamline the process for all schools, the PARCC field test will now be wrapped into the testing window.

Each year, a small percentage of students will take an additional ELA unit. Schools/classrooms selected in one year – per the process determined in their state – will in almost all cases not have to field test again for several years.