



Weatherstone Elementary ♦ 1000 Olde Weatherstone Way, Cary, NC 27513

(919) 380-6988 ♦ <http://www.WeatherstonePTA.com>

Safe Kids Attendance Line: (919) 380-6982 (Call in sick by 10:00 a.m.)

September	
09/01	Kindergarten Parent Social, 8:45-9:45AM
09/05	Holiday-No School
09/07-09	SIP voting in the front office
09/13	PTA Meeting / Parent Information Night
09/13-20	Citipass Books
09/15	Room Parent Training
09/16	Early Release Day at 1:15 PM
09/20	PTA Meeting, 9:30AM
09/21	PTA New Parent Social
09/23	BINGO: Family Fun Night

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the PTA Board I welcome you all to the new school year! I'm thankful to report that we have a fully staffed PTA Board with many new members. And, as you can see from the length of this newsletter - we have a lot going on at Weatherstone! We are excited to have a new Assistant Principal, Tim Chadwick - as well as many other new faculty and staff this year. Please be sure to take time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the Weatherstone Family. This year our PTA has finally "sailed" into the 21st century and we are tweeting, calendar-synching, e-mailing and blogging (via our Web site) at [www.weatherstonePTA.com](http://www.weatherstonePTA.com). I hope you'll take advantage of these new options to connect yourself to our school.

Our Board has been working hard all summer preparing for this year - especially our Web site team, led by our new VP of Communications Kira Wolfe and our Webmaster Jim Farrell. Thanks to all of you, and our PTA Board for the many hours they have invested. Please explore the site and let us know your thoughts!

Here are a few of the many projects that are either completed or in the works, including:

- **New logo and cool new spirit wear** (including reusable sticky ties!)
- **\$9,000 matching grant from Wake County Schools** in order to purchase anchored soccer goals, extend fence height to 10 feet along Maynard (to stop all our PE equipment from bouncing over the old four-

foot fence) and a new master plan for our entire campus that will include playground enhancements and outdoor classrooms (come to the 9/13 meeting at 6 pm to hear more! Come to our 9/20 meeting at 9:30 AM to be a part of it and give feedback!)

- **New school information sign** to be up soon
- **New copier** coming in September
- **Electronic newsletter** coming to your inbox the first week of September (say goodbye to paper and hello to a tree or two of saved paper)
- **Expanded Family nights** including Bingo 9/23, Book Fair 11/17, Math and Technology Night 1/19, International Night 2/28, Science Night 3/27, Night of Arts 5/10
- **Kindergarten Social on 9/1 and New Parent Coffee 9/21**

Please take the time to read through this lengthy newsletter and find out about all the exciting things happening at Weatherstone. It's taken me a year to get my arms around all the many things our PTA does and I am truly amazed and incredibly proud to be a part of it!

I challenge you to get involved - take a look at our volunteer opportunities listed on our Web site at [www.weatherstonePTA.com](http://www.weatherstonePTA.com) and find out how you can be a part of our thriving WES community. Our PTA is enriched by a diversity of opinions, experience, skills and resources. Whether you have time, talent, services or can just join to show your support - we'll take it.

I can honestly say that my life and my children's lives are richer because of the time I've invested in the PTA. I look forward to meeting you at one of our meetings or hearing from you!

Beth Satterfield,  
PTA President  
[Beth.Satterfield@gmail.com](mailto:Beth.Satterfield@gmail.com)



### VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION NEWS

- The volunteer registration system at Weatherstone Elementary School is open on Mondays from 8:00AM-4:00PM through May 21, 2012. However, during this period, the volunteer registration system will be closed on the following Mondays: December 19, 2011, December 26, 2011, January 2, 2012 and January 16, 2012.
- If you were approved as a volunteer during the 2010-2011 school year, you must reactivate your volunteer status **no later than October 31, 2011** to avoid the need for a new criminal background check. This will in turn avoid unnecessary costs to the school system.
- All **new volunteers** must register and have an approved criminal background check **prior** to engaging in volunteer work. Volunteers may go to any WCPSS site and register through the intranet.

### VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION MEETING

Committee Chairs, thank you so much for volunteering to lead one of our PTA committees this year! If you missed the volunteer orientation meeting held last week, your committee chair information folder is in the PTA file cabinet outside of the Media Center.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Ellerbe  
VP of Parent Involvement

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED! Weatherstone Needs You!

We are still seeking a chairperson for International Festival Night and the Talent Show. Please consider volunteering for one of these committees. Without **YOU**, these activities may not happen. If you would like more information about these positions, please contact Jennifer Ellerbe (dyanjen@aol.com).

### ROOM PARENT TRAINING

Room Parent Training will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 9:30 AM in Mobile Unit D. If you have signed up to be your child's room parent, please join us for instructions and procedures for making your classroom activities successful. If your classroom has more than one room parent, please have the main contact person attend. Thank you!



Elizabeth Humphries  
PTA Secretary/Room Parent Coordinator

### CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

We are excited to announce our plans for 2011-12 to improve our campus grounds and create better play and outdoor learning environments. Wake County Schools has initiated a "matching grant" program to assist older schools with facilities upgrades -- and the Weatherstone PTA was successful in receiving one of these grants! After discussion with Principal Wahl and faculty, some of these funds have been allocated towards purchasing new soccer goals and extending the fence height at the playground along Maynard Road.



In addition, the PTA Board is proposing that a portion of these funds be used to hire a local landscape architecture firm to create a long-term "master plan" for our campus. This master plan will be a multi-phased plan that will encourage a greater connection to nature and will be embedded into the classroom curriculum. We have a panel of teachers representing all grade-levels who will work with the architects and give crucial input to make sure that our outdoor learning environments will be useful and easy to maintain.

Grant funds cannot be used (per WCPSS policy) for the replacement of the upper playground sunshade that was destroyed in a windstorm last spring, but we have funds allocated in our budget to replace this as soon as we can. Come to the September 13<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting at 6:00 PM to approve this year's budget and to learn more about these exciting new initiatives! We will need lots of volunteers!



Also...mark your calendars for Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> for our annual Fall grounds beautification and clean-up day. More details to follow!

Katherine Peele, Chair, Campus Improvements



### BINGO Family Fun Night!

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, September 23rd from 6:30 to 8:00 PM!** There will be a pizza dinner, desserts, and lots of BINGO fun. Look for more information on this fun event in the next Explorer Express! In the mean time, if you have any questions, please call Catherine Dupuis at 380-1236, [catdupuisnc@gmail.com](mailto:catdupuisnc@gmail.com).

## COMMUNICATION UPDATE

The 2011-2012 school year is all about improving our communication with each other and in our community. The most important communications update is a new website for the Weatherstone PTA. Here, you will find all sorts of information on fundraising, school events and general news about WES. This is a great resource for families that are new to WES. Come check it out at: [www.weatherstonepta.com](http://www.weatherstonepta.com).

We are also converting our paper version of the Explorer Express to an online version which will be sent to you as an email. Please make sure you subscribe by going online at our website. After August 30th, the paper version will only be available on the bulletin board next to the media center.



In order to make the new electronic Explorer Express a success, we need parents, teachers, and students to tell us about what students are doing in the community and in the school. Positive press is a great way to show the community that WES cares! All questions, comments and good news should be sent to [kirawolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:kirawolfe@yahoo.com). My name is Kira Wolfe and my son is a 1st grader at WES. I'm your new VP of Communications and I'm excited about this new initiative to 'go green.' Thanks for being patient with us as we finalize our processes, but I look forward to a great year and a new era of communication at WES!

## MERCHANT FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

Merchant Fundraising is done as a partnership with companies that we already do business with on a daily basis. They reward our schools for shopping in their stores, buying their products, and using their services. Here's how you can help...

Our school is earning money! Thanks to all of you currently participating in the Target Take Charge of Education® program. Last year we only had 28 Target REDcard users, but made over \$1,000. By simply shopping with your Target Credit Card®, Target Debit Card® or Target® Visa® Credit Card and designating our school, a percentage of the amount of each purchase you make is donated back to our school. If you're not already taking part, please consider doing so. The new Target will open soon, so get your REDCard and designate WES.

Do you grocery shop? You can also earn money for WES just by feeding your family, BUT you have to register your **store reward cards** EVERY YEAR and designate WES. Please make sure to register your Food Lion MVP, Kroger Plus, and Harris Teeter VIC cards. It's easy...there is a link on the PTA website, or you can email your card numbers directly at [loriannem@hotmail.com](mailto:loriannem@hotmail.com). You do not have to be a member of the PTA to register your store cards. Everyone can participate in ANY of the Merchant Fundraising programs!

CLIP...CLIP...and CLIP...those Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education, Tyson Program A+, and Sunny D labels, and turn them in with your child's name/teacher in the bin by the media center. More information about these programs will be going out in your child's Tuesday folder. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to email the chairperson, Lori-Anne Vogel at [loriannem@hotmail.com](mailto:loriannem@hotmail.com).

## SIP (School Improvement Plan) Team



It is time again to nominate 2 parent representatives to our SIP (School Improvement Plan) Team for the 2011-2012 school year. We are looking for parents who can devote time and commitment to making Weatherstone the best it can be.

Our meetings are at 8:00 AM at WES on the following dates...9/15, 10/13, 11/17, 12/15, 1/19, 2/16, 3/15, 4/19, and 5/24.

If you are interested, please submit your name via e-mail to Mandi Baggett at [abaggett@wcpss.net](mailto:abaggett@wcpss.net) by September 6. We will have a parents-only voting window on Sept. 7-9 at the front office, and the top two vote-getters will be notified by Sept. 12.

Thank you for your interest in our SIP Team, as it is the living document that is at the heart of all we do.

Mandi Baggett and Tim Chadwick- SIP Co-Chairs

## WANTED: CHESS CLUB CHAIRPERSON

Do you love the game of chess? Would you be interested in teaching our students the game? The PTA is seeking a chairperson to organize and implement a Chess Club. The position includes designing and distributing registration forms to students, seeking out and organizing parent volunteers and managing the overall club activities.

Chess is fun, and playing the game teaches responsibility, improves discipline, and sharpens thinking skills. It also builds confidence and helps young people make new friends. If you are interested in starting a Chess Club at WES and would like to be the chairperson, please contact our VP of Parent Involvement, Jennifer Ellerbe, at [dyanjen@aol.com](mailto:dyanjen@aol.com)

## KINDERGARTEN PARENT SOCIAL IS SEPTEMBER 1ST!

All Kindergarten families are invited to come to our annual Kindergarten Social on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:45am - 9:45am. After you drop off your Kindergartener for their 1<sup>st</sup> official day, come to the WES cafeteria for some refreshments. You will meet other Kindergarten parents, WES staff and PTA members. We will have the tissues and the answers to all of your questions. See you there.



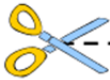
<b>Member Information</b> Name of individual joining the PTA. Please fill out the top portion of an additional form to add another PTA Member.		
<b>First and Last Name</b> Nombre del miembro de la PTA	First Name:	Last Name:
<b>Membership Type</b> (Please check one)	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent / Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<b>Email Address</b> Domicilio Electronico		
<b>Student First and Last Name(s) / Nombre de Ninos</b>	<b>Teacher's Name / Maestro</b>	<b>Grade / Grado</b>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

**SELECT PTA MEMBERSHIP LEVEL** Make checks payable to: Weatherstone Elementary PTA

\_\_\_ Admiral's Club (\$50)    \_\_\_ Captain's Club (\$25)    \_\_\_ Navigator (\$15)    \_\_\_ Shipmate (\$7)

**Additional Donation \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to request for your company to match any donations if available.



**Come Grow With Us!**

Welcome to all of the Kindergarten parents and new and returning families! We are excited about another successful year at WES! We cannot do it without you and your support. By joining the PTA every year, you make it possible for the PTA to serve our children and our school programs.

**Did you know?**

The PTA helps pay for many of our exciting school programs as well as teaching materials including:

- Accelerated Reader Program
- Cultural Arts Assemblies
- Teacher classroom supplies
- Assignment books/agendas
- Classroom Technology
- Teacher mini-grants
- Playground Revitalization
- PTA Website
- Teacher / Staff Hospitality

**Deadline: Wednesday noon ♦ E-mail: [explorerwes@yahoo.com](mailto:explorerwes@yahoo.com) ♦ Editors: Melanie Farrell & Cindy Korabik**

### What do you get by Joining the PTA?

- Be part of the decision making
- Opportunity to partner with the staff and administration
- Become an active participant in developing our future
- Meet other parents and students

### Fun stuff:

- All members receive a WES Student Directory (when available) and free coupons to Great Harvest and Chick-fil-A. (Over a \$7 value!)
- Admiral's Club level members also receive: a WES car magnet or WES evREware; PTA coupons for a free Bingo Card at Family night and two free raffle tickets for Spring Carnival baskets; and an entry into raffle for Southpoint mall \$50 gift card (to be drawn at the September 13<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting.
- Kindergarten families will receive a "Kindergarten Rocks, WES" awareness plastic bracelet for their kindergartner(s).

### Thank you if you have already joined the PTA!

As of August 25<sup>th</sup>, there are over 100 members signed up to join the PTA! The following families joined at the Admiral's Club level.

Haleem Agha	Angela Froese	Brandy Morton	Ragunathan Srinivasan
Sandra Beny	Elizabeth Humphries	Jen Newnam	Jill Straight
Mason Booth	Kim Hunt	Kathy Peele	Barbara Taylor
Terri Bruns	Tammy Kahm	Sarah Perkins	Rashmi Tomar
Nina Caricato	Sue Lynn Kim	Sue Reilly	Lea Ann Troiano
Kathy Cawley	Erica Kremer	Tracy Reilly	Tyra Vanek
Michele Counter	Kristin Lane	Beth Satterfield	Nichelle Weintraub
Meena Dorr	Shelia Martin	MaryBethSherman	Donna West
Cindy Dreikosen	Janet May	Catherine Smith	Monica Williford
Jennifer Ellerbe	Ella McGaughey	Kathryn Sobel	Pamela Yannoni

### Joining the PTA is EASY!

1. You can sign up online from any computer at [www.weatherstonepta.com](http://www.weatherstonepta.com) and submit your payment via PayPal or send in a copy of the online membership file with your payment (cash or check payable to WES PTA) with your child.
2. You can fill out the PTA form included in the Explorer Express or the [PTA membership / Student Directory](#) form available on the PTA website. Select a membership level, attach your payment, and return it in your student's folder or to the front office.
3. We will have computers set up in the morning from August 25<sup>th</sup> - September 1<sup>st</sup> for you to join online.

We look forward to a great year!

Nichelle Weintraub

VP Membership

### PTA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

We are having a contest to see which class in each grade has the highest percentage of families who have joined the PTA. By Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, we will announce the winners who will win a "decorate your own cupcake" party! You can see how each class is doing by watching the flowers grow in the front hallway. Help your student's class by joining the PTA!

### PTA Calendar

This year, as we are going green, we are not distributing a full WES PTA calendar. A summary calendar is available with this newsletter as well as on the PTA website. A Google calendar (WES PTA Calendar) is also available for you if you would like to synch it with your other online calendars. Please visit the PTA website and follow the link.

**Deadline:** Wednesday noon ♦ **E-mail:** [explorerwes@yahoo.com](mailto:explorerwes@yahoo.com) ♦ **Editors:** Melanie Farrell & Cindy Korabik

