



SALEM SALAMANDER NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

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SCHOOL TELEPHONE: 363-2865

<http://salemes.wcpss.net>

<http://www.salemelementarypta.com>



DEBBIE EDWARDS, PRINCIPAL
LAURA BROCKMAN, PTA PRESIDENT

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What a great place!

At the beginning of the school year, I try to find a "word" which the staff can use and depend on, this year the word is FLEXIBILITY. The 2011-2012 has brought changes, challenges and constants. But no matter which one of these "C" words are used I want to reassure you - things really are better than ok, they are great! A place can only be as great as the people in the place.

This school has come such a long way since the beginning of the school year, it is hard to believe we are already in the month of February. Some changes brought about this year are the new student assignment plan, a focus on growth, new faces on the School Board and various and sundry things which come with a school district this large.

Everyone seems to be adjusting well. The constants at Salem are: the students come every day whether it is raining or shining, parents are volunteering their time daily and the teachers are teaching each and every day. The PTA is well organized and running smoothly, thanks to the hard work of the PTA board. Community members are volunteering in the school each day. The teachers are continuing to attend staff development activities designed to improve instruction. The teachers and students are busy teaching and learning in the classrooms.

We have such a great reputation in the community. People outside the Salem family have heard what a great place this is for teaching and learning. That is because you are saying wonderful things about what you see in this school and I thank you for that. This is a great learning community. The students at Salem teach me something new each day.

Our students historically do well on the End-of-Grade testing. Our teachers are making sure our students are well prepared. I see them working together on a daily basis to ensure your children are ready and prepared for next year. I do not have to remind teachers and parents that a great deal of teaching and learning goes on in this school each day. Your assistance at home with your child is such a critical part of the total picture. I want to thank you for all you do for your children, because the staff can tell many of you go "the extra mile".

We do need to stay focused and protect instructional time so your children can reap the full benefit of the time they spend in school. Make sure your children come to school each day on time ready to learn and leave the rest to us. I do not know when I have seen such a wonderful caring staff, student body, and parent group. People tell me everyday what a wonderful place this is and I owe that to the people that make this school wonderful. Those people are you and our talented staff! Think about how you would answer this question, "If failure was not an option, what would you do differently?" This helps us guide what we do at Salem Elementary each day. It can also help you to understand how important your support is to the success of all our students.

Debbie Edwards
Principal, Salem Elementary School

The Newsletter keeps you AND your children informed!

Have you shared the Newsletter with *YOUR* children??

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Attention: Parents of 6th graders

North Carolina law now requires a Tdap booster for entry into 6th grade.

Which vaccine?

A booster shot of Tdap (tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis) is required for all children in 6th grade on or after August 1, 2008.

Why is Tdap needed?

To protect against whooping cough (pertussis), tetanus and diphtheria. Over time, protection wears off so a booster is needed to stay fully protected.



What if my child already had a Td (tetanus/diphtheria) booster?

If it has been more than 5 years since your child got a tetanus shot, they will need the Tdap booster. Almost all rising 6th graders will need to get the Tdap booster. However, if it has been less than 5 years since your child got a tetanus shot, they are not required by law to have a booster to enter 6th grade.

What do I need to do?

- Talk to your child's doctor to find out whether your child needs a Tdap booster.
- Make sure your child gets a Tdap booster shot **before** school starts.
- Get a copy of your child's shot record to take to school.
- While at the doctor, check to make sure your child is up to date on other recommended vaccines and yearly check up.



Where can my child get a Tdap booster?

- Your child's doctor or health care provider.
- If your child does not have a health care provider, call one of these Wake County Human Services locations:



Fuquay Varina
Southern Regional Center
130 North Judd Parkway
Call 919-212-7000 for an appointment. Ask for an appointment at the Southern Regional Center.

Wake Forest
Northern Regional Center
350 E. Holding Avenue
Call 919-562-8300 for an appointment

Raleigh
Public Health Center
10 Sunnybrook Road
Call 919-250-3900 for an appointment.

Zebulon
Eastern Regional Center
1002 Dogwood Lane
Call 919-404-3900 for an appointment.

Millbrook Human Services Center
2809 E. Millbrook Road
Call 919-250-3900 for an appointment. Ask for an appointment at the Millbrook Human Services Center.

For more information, visit www.wakegov.com/humanservices

Rev. 1-5-10

TECHNOLOGY @ SALEM

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NASA – ARISS

We are so happy to have been chosen to actually talk to the astronauts on board the International Space Station in real time. This is quite an honor. Thanks to our Science Fair volunteer Tony Rice and Principal Edwards for writing up the proposal many moons ago. I think they kind of forgot about it, but when they started emailing and talking to me I got very excited. A handful of schools in the United States get chosen every year and it has not happen in Wake County Public Schools since 2008 when Enloe High School was chosen as a contact. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity not only for students at Salem Elementary but for the staff also. We are excited!

WE ARE QUESTING AGAIN.

Our fourth graders are excited about the beginning of Quest Atlantis. We had to wait a bit this year because the grant was transferred to the University of Arizona. Now it is being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. We will focus on the seven social commitments which parallel our character traits here at Salem. Just a reminder to parents, that it is a closed and secure environment. Everything that your child does in actually monitored by a person. Don't be surprised if your children want to do Quest Atlantis while they are tracked out. It is an environment that can keep students engaged for long periods of time. Check out how it works at <http://www.atlantisremixed.org>

Sincerely,

Scott Bruns – Technology Facilitator

FIELD DAY

SAVE THE DATE: FIELD DAY 2012

Track 1 & 3 : Thursday, May 31st, rain date June 1st

Track 2 & 4: Friday, June 8th, rain date June 11th

All volunteers must have clearance. Please be aware that you can only apply on MONDAYS for volunteer clearance. It generally takes 2-4 weeks for it to be returned, so DO IT NOW!!!! Only registered volunteers for field day will be permitted to attend. We hope you can join us to make this Field Day, the best ever!

Look for the sign up genius link in late April.

Dawn Worthington dawnworthington@gmail.com and Amanda Davis amandamd@gmail.com
PTA Field Day Chairs

MEDIA MATTERS

MEDIA MATTERS

By Sandra Wagner

INFORMATION AND MORE: DO WE UNDERSTAND?

Information, information! We are surrounded by different types of information: trivial, sports, newspapers, nonfiction, paper, and electronic information. Reading and listening are common skills needed to shift through all the information we are being asked to digest every day. Some people think reading is an easy skill to acquire, but it is not. One common belief is that the more you practice your reading, the better you will become. All of us want our children to be better readers, but another important skill they must acquire while learning how to read is to understand what they read. As a parent, I know how easy it can be to "puff your chest out" and say, "My child is reading at a fifth grade level and he/she is only in the second grade." Have you taken the time to discuss with your child what they have read? Can you truly attest to the fact that the first and second graders who check out books more appropriate for older students such as **The Chestnut King** by N.D. Wilson or **The Mouse and the Motorcycle** by Beverly Cleary or **The Pilgrim Village Mystery** by Gertrude Warner actually comprehend what these books are about?

Teachers teach children how to read but parents need to help ensure that their children are practicing all the skills and strategies provided to their children, especially reading comprehension.

DONATIONS:

Salem Elementary School has always been blessed with people who have generously donated books to the media center (library). This year, the Kennedy Family donated close to four hundred books to our school. Nearly all of them were in perfect condition and will be included in our collection. We sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy and their children for thinking about Salem Elementary. In addition, the White Family has continuously donated books throughout their many years here at Salem. Big thanks also goes out to the White Family as well.

VOLUNTEERS:

The volunteers in the media center are like silver and gold. To the faithful volunteers who come weekly, your assistance cannot be measured or repaid. Thank you for your continued efforts in helping out in the media center. Thanks also to the people who can occasionally help. I would also like to say a special thank you to two former employees who read about the staff changes in the local newspaper and returned to support the media center as well.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH:



Sometimes parents ask my opinion about a good read for their children. If you have a fourth or fifth grade child, I would recommend Margaret Peterson Haddix.

Margaret Peterson Haddix Website: <http://www.haddixbooks.com/bio.html>

She was born on a farm in Washington Court House, Ohio. Her father was a farmer and her mother was a nurse. She grew up reading and wanted to be an author early in life. She studied English and Journalism and received a bachelor's degree from Miami University in Ohio. Years ago, I read Ms. Haddix's first novel **Running out of Time** and I have been a fan ever since. Her books are mostly science fiction and are fascinating, suspenseful, and well written. We have seventeen titles written by her and I would recommend all of them.

PTA News

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is the end of January/beginning of February so it must be time for Math-a-thon. All of our students will get the chance to participate in the Math-a-thon! Tracks 2/4 should already have their packets and they will be coming home on February 10th for tracks 1/3. Our Math-a-thon recognition night will be Thursday, March 1st at 6:30pm. I hope to see many of you there.

A Nomination Committee for next year's PTA Executive Board has been formed and is being chaired by Karin DellaMaestra. The nominations are open for positions on the Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons. If you have any interest in serving on our Board, please speak with Karin. If you are approached about serving on the PTA Board, please give it consideration. All Board members will tell you that serving on the PTA Board has been rewarding. You, too, will find that your time can help the success of our school. Some positions require more of a time commitment than other positions. Our current board members range widely in their time constraints due to family and professional obligations. You will find that there are several Board positions that fit your schedule and the amount of time you are willing to commit. Salem Elementary is proud to have one of the most active PTA units in Wake County! Please consider joining our Board as an officer or chairperson and see how gratifying it can be to work for your child's school!

If you have any questions or interest in running for a position, please contact Anna Johnson (303-6579) or anyone on the current board. I would be happy to answer any questions about the duties and time commitments of all positions. Please feel free to contact me at laura.u.brockman@gmail.com.

Thank you to all the Salem Elementary families for all your dedication to our school and community.

Laura Brockman, PTA President
laura.u.brockman@gmail.com



Thank You to our
Generous Newsletter
Sponsor

*Personal Travel Planning
with No Fees!*

*Specializing in Cruises,
Orlando Theme Parks &
Vacation Packages for
Families & groups*

*Stephanie Hudson
(919) 468-0652
stephanie@mei-travel.com*

 **MEI-Travel &
Mouse Fan Travel**

www.mei-travel.com | www.mousefantrip.com



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

THE SALEM ELEMENTARY PTA NEEDS YOU!!

Are you looking for a way to become more involved? Want to have a say in how things are done? Interested in helping your child's school continue to offer great benefits and programs for our students and teachers? Whether you have a lot of spare time or just a little, there is a position for you! We have many openings for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in becoming a Salem Elementary PTA Board member we want to hear from you! It's a great way to stay involved in your child's education, get to know the staff and other parents, and help out your school in a meaningful way.

Our most urgent need is to fill these Executive Board positions whose terms are up: Treasurer, Secretary, VP of General Operations, VP of Communications, VP of Programs, VP of Ways & Means. Please ask a current board member about what is involved. You will have lots of support!!

We also have many short-term positions available, such as Directory, Math-a-Thon, Book Fair, Turkey Trot Liaison & Reflections.

Open positions that continue throughout the year include: Volunteer Coordinator, Reading Liaison, Merchant Rewards, Friday Folders, Cultural Arts & Hospitality. Training and support are provided for all positions-no experience necessary!

If you have any questions or would like additional information about any board positions, please contact one of the following nominating committee members either by calling, emailing, or returning the bottom portion of this page to the school office.

Karin DellaMaestra @363-6624 or dmaestra@mindspring.com
Samantha Enoch @362-7685 or samenoch@nc.rr.com

NAME: _____
TRACK: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____

I AM INTERESTED IN HEARING MORE ABOUT PTA BOARD POSITIONS THAT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

FREE MONEY FOR SALEM

Making Great Things Happen for Salem Elementary

Now it's time you knew us as Coca-Cola **the company.**



Thank you for registering and donating your My Coke Rewards points to Salem Elementary. Currently, **11,840 points** have been donated to help earn FREE supplies for our school. If you have not registered and donated, it is easy to do – just go to mycokerewards.com/schools. Don't forget to ask family and friends to donate their points too.

Janet Overberg and Susan McMorris, My Coke Rewards Coordinators

More...FREE MONEY FOR SALEM



BOX TOPS for EDUCATION



Way to go, Salamanders! We have now reached **87 percent** of our goal with 27,268 Box Tops equaling \$2,726.80. We very close to reaching our goal. The Bonus Box Tops certificate printouts at many of the grocery stores have boosted our numbers, but our Salem families play a crucial part in it as well – thanks to all of you who have purchased Box Tops for Education products and sent the Box Tops into school.

Both Food Lion and Harris Teeter recently offered additional 15 to 50 Bonus Box Tops opportunities. If you received any Bonus Box Tops at the grocery store checkouts, please be sure to send them in!

Over the next few months, there are Box Tops that expire each month. If you have Box Tops in a bag or taped to a collection sheet, please be sure to send them in before they expire. Box Tops may be taped or glued to the collection sheets. **No staples please!** More collection sheets can be found by clicking on the following link:

http://www.salemelementarypta.com/sites/dsp/dsp_information.cfm?menuid=1688&siteid=143

The following classes are members of the **500 Club** (classes who have collectively turned in 500 or more Box Tops) or the **1000 Club** (classes who have collectively turned in 1000 or more) as noted in **red**:

K	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Bridges	Bartlett*	Addiss	Mize*	Carter	Fowler
Germano*	Gray	Love	Ryan	Ray	Hickcox*
Harvey	Latham	Malone			Hoffman
Monza*		Scholten*			
Zinkow					



*newly added

The following classes are *close* to joining the **500 Club** with the number of Box Tops submitted in parenthesis: Mrs. Coats (411), Mrs. Bentley (496), Mrs. Bidwell (437), Mrs. Chupka (404), Mr. Copperwheat (410), Mrs. N. Gray (401), and Mrs. Lillis (413). The following classes are *close* to joining the **1000 Club**: Mrs. Zinkow (949), Mrs. J. Gray (920), Mrs. Latham (996), and Mrs. Love (993).

It's easy to earn cash for Salem Elementary!
Your Box Tops Coordinators, Susan McMorris & Janet Overberg

MATH-a-THON



MATH-a-THON is UNDERWAY!



It's Math-a-thon time! In the past, Salem students have really enjoyed the mathematical challenge the Math-a-thon provides along with its recognition and awards by the PTA. **We challenge all students to participate in this year's Math-a-thon!**

For tracks 2 and 4, the Math-a-thon is due on February 3rd. If you didn't turn it in today, February 6th will be fine! Tracks 1 and 3, look for the Math-a-thon in the February 10th Friday Folder. Additional copies can be downloaded by going to www.salemelementarypta.com under "Other Activities" and "Math-a-thon". The Math-a-thon program was developed to practice math outside of school and to reward students who do so by recognizing them during a special awards night.

Here are the dates to remember:

Friday, February 3rd: Packets due for tracks 2 and 4 **Friday, February 24th: Packets due for tracks 1 and 3**
Thursday, March 1st, 6:30pm: Math-a-thon Recognition Night, PTA General Meeting.

Please plan to attend for a fun evening of recognition and award for all students who participate in the Math-a-thon!

Happy computing! ☺

Anna Johnson, Math-a-thon Chair, annajohnson75@gmail.com

YEARBOOK

ORDER YOUR 2011-2012 SALEM ELEMENTARY YEARBOOK TODAY!

Dear Parents and Students,

Don't miss the opportunity to purchase this important keepsake of the school year. The 2011-2012 **Salem Elementary** soft cover yearbook is FULL COLOR and is packed full of the memories you never want to forget. You can even have your child's name imprinted on their yearbook cover.

Sincerely,
Kelly Jaynes and Stephanie Bagwell, Yearbook Co-Chairs

Ordering Options

Option 1: Fill out the form below. Detach and return it with your payment to your child's teacher.

Option 2: Order Online, and avoid having to send cash to school with your child. Go to <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A01078183> It will take you directly to Josten's yearbook site for Salem Elementary, where you can place your order.

Yearbook Price: \$25
Special Messages: Up to 83 characters: \$5.00, more characters may be added for an additional \$5.00
5th Grade 1/8 Page Ad: \$20 – Message with up to 2 pictures/characters – Deadline – Monday, February 13, 2012
5th Grade 1/4 Page Ad: \$40 – Message with up to 4 pictures/characters – Deadline – Monday, February 13, 2012
(We will contact you by February 15th for you message and photo(s) to be included in your 5th Grade Ad)
Deadline for all other Special Messages is Monday, February 20, 2012

Examples of Special Messages:

Hopey J. – You make us proud!!! Love – Mommy, Daddy, Matthew
Jason B. – You ARE our Funky Rocky Rockstar! We love you! Mom, Dad, Hayley and Polly

You will receive an email confirmation of your order once it is placed.

If you have any questions, contact Kelly Jaynes at 303-5295, kellyjaynes@nc.rr.com, or Stephanie Bagwell at 303-4922, stephaniebagwell@nc.rr.com.

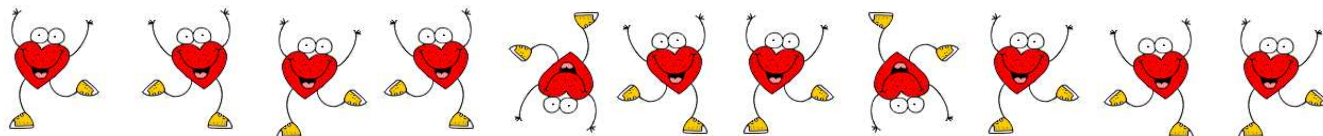
ORDER NOW!! DON'T GET LEFT WITHOUT A BOOK.

Fill out this form and return with your payment to your child's teacher.

Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____
Student Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Grade: _____
Email Address for Confirmation: _____ Checks payable to the Salem Elementary PTA.

Yearbook: Qty ___ @ \$25 _____
5th Grade 1/8 Page Ad: Qty ___ @ \$20 _____
5th Grade 1/4 Page Ad: Qty ___ @ \$40 _____
Special Message: Qty ___ @ \$5 _____
Total Enclosed _____

Special Message #1: _____
Special Message #2: _____



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

SKIP-Its GO ON A FIELD TRIP

The Skip Its had a great field trip on January 25th. They performed 3 shows at two different schools (St. David's, & Casa Esperanza Montessori) and taught 3 clinics at St. David's school in Raleigh for every 3rd & 4th grader at their school. The Skip-Its were great ambassadors for Salem Elementary.

They received MANY compliments from staff & students alike, including both administrations. The high schoolers at St. David's were trying to get glimpses of our show from any window/door available to them! We did end up having a mini-flash mob in the food court at Triangle Towne Center when the song, of our new jump rope routine ("You Make Me Feel" by Cobra Starship) came on over the speakers. The crowd loved them there too.

Many thanks to the numerous parents who drove and helped organize the trip.

SALEM'S RECORDER CLUB IS COMING SOON!



Recorder Club is a weekly opportunity for any student in grades 4 and 5 to work on recorder skills with other students and Mrs. Freund. We will work on new songs, learn more about the recorder, play games, and most importantly have fun!

Recorder Club will meet every Wednesday after school from 3:45 until 4:45 pm. We will not meet when track 4 is tracked out. Recorder Club will begin on Wednesday, February 22nd and will continue until June 13th, 2012.

If your student is interested, please have your student return the bottom the form located in the February 3rd Friday folder. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Freund at jfreund@wcpss.net.

SCRABBLE CLUB MEETING DATES:

January 2, 9, 23, 30

February 6, 13, 20, No meeting on 2/27

DATES to REMEMBER

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



PTA Board Meeting - Thursday February 2, 2:30pm

Ident-a-Kid - Thursday February 2, Tracks 1, 2, and 4

Math-a-Thon (Tracks 1&3) - Friday, February 10- Friday, February 24

Early Release - Friday, February 17, 1:15pm



Ident-a-Kid - Thursday February 23, Track 3

PTA Board Meeting - Thursday, March 1, 2:30pm

Math-a-Thon Celebration Night/General PTA Meeting - Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm

Wacky Week - Thursday March 1 through Wednesday March 7th