

DRAGON TALE

NOVEMBER 12, 2009

Olney Elementary PTA Newsletter

3401 Queen Mary Drive, Olney, Maryland 20832
 PTA President – Nancy Hull, nehull@aol.com
 Newsletter Editor – Judith Casey, dragon_tales@verizon.net
 Principal – Joan O'Brien, 301-924-3126
www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/olneyes/pta.html

MARK THE DATES!

Nov 13 Family Night Bingo Night, 6 PM
 Nov 24 California Tortilla & Coldstone Night, 5-9 PM
 Nov 25 Early release day
 Nov 26 No Dragon Tales
 Nov 26-27 NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving

Make Friday the 13th Your Lucky Day at the OES Bingo Night

Don't miss out on the fun tonight at Olney Elementary. Come and join us at our annual BINGO Night. The doors open at 6:00 and the Bingo calling will begin at 6:30. There will be LOTS OF COOL PRIZES TO WIN!! Pizza will be available until 7 pm while refreshments and snacks will be sold all evening. Bingo Packets will include 10 Bingo Games with 3 chances for each game played. This will allow you 30 chances to win throughout the night. The cost for each packet is \$3.00. Come early and grab a bite to eat before joining the BINGO FUN!! Any questions, please call Kathy Hughes at 301-570-1522.

CHECK IT OUT!

Page #

New PTA Committee Positions	2
Drop n Shop Info	2
Restaurant Night info	2
5th Grade Memories Meeting	3
HBCU On the Spot Admission	3
From the Media Center	4

From the PTA President:

Volunteer Opportunity: Fall Fundraising Chair

Olney Elementary PTA organizes several fundraisers every year such as Sally Foster/Cookie Dough sale, Spring Carnival, Scholastic Book Fair, Spirit Clothing, October Yard Sale, and Restaurant Nights. These fundraisers bring in the revenue we need in order to pay for the many programs and activities sponsored by the OES PTA. By far, the Fall Fundraiser, traditionally the Sally Foster/Cookie Dough sale, is our largest revenue producer and we are looking for someone with good organizational skills to take on this task. If interested, please review the job description [page 4](#) and email Nancy Hull at nehull@aol.com.

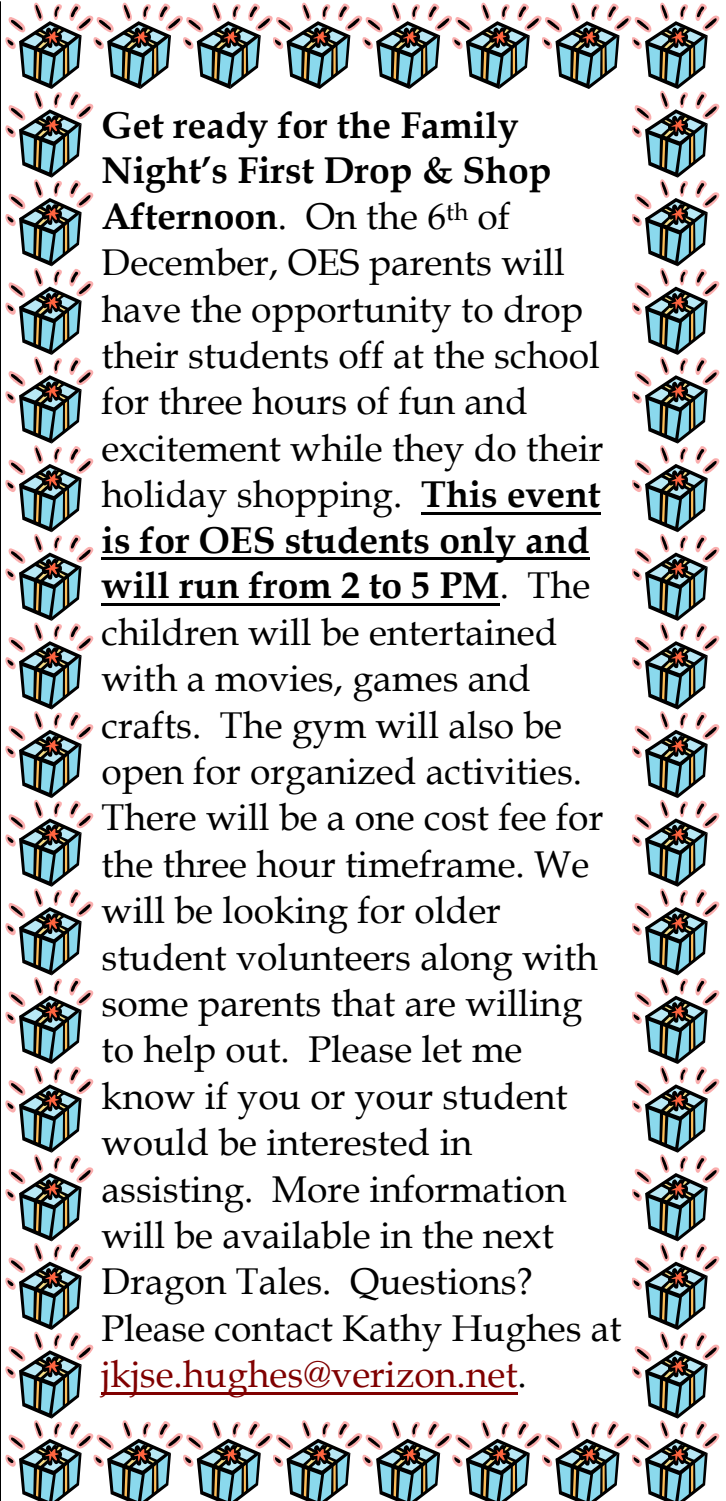
Nancy Hull, Olney PTA President

Announcing two new Committee positions to the Olney Elementary PTA.

Tsili Wolf (tsiliwolf@yahoo.com) has volunteered to be the **Restaurant Night Fund-raiser Chair**. She is off to a running start and has already started planning a restaurant fundraising — see the information below.

The second newest Chair is our new **Web-master**, Elissa Golan (elissagolan@yahoo.com). Elissa has an expertise in computer design and will be instrumental in helping the PTA start its own website. This OES PTA website will be an additional way the PTA will be communicating with parents. It will contain our Calendar of events, have links to parent resources, have the ability for members to pay membership and Spirit Wear with Paypal, and much more. Look for more information in the coming months.

Please help me welcome our newest Committee Chair and again many thanks to Elissa and Tsili for volunteering.



Get ready for the **Family Night's First Drop & Shop Afternoon**. On the 6th of December, OES parents will have the opportunity to drop their students off at the school for three hours of fun and excitement while they do their holiday shopping. **This event is for OES students only and will run from 2 to 5 PM.** The children will be entertained with a movies, games and crafts. The gym will also be open for organized activities. There will be a one cost fee for the three hour timeframe. We will be looking for older student volunteers along with some parents that are willing to help out. Please let me know if you or your student would be interested in assisting. More information will be available in the next *Dragon Tales*. Questions? Please contact Kathy Hughes at jkjse.hughes@verizon.net.



The OES PTA is organizing a Restaurant Night Fundraiser on Tuesday, November 24th, 5 PM - 10 PM.



Come have a great meal, Order take-out or eat-in, and meet other Olney ES families while enjoying a night out at Olney's own California Tortilla and Coldstone located in the Village Mart Shopping Center. The CT password is "Dragon Tales". A portion of your sale will directly benefit the many Olney Elementary PTA programs and activities. Thank you in advance for your support. For more information, please email tsiliwolf@yahoo.com.



News Flash!



The staff of *Dragon Tales Jr.* would like to send out a special "thank you" to Christine Young, who printed the November issue for us. Your time, effort, and support are much appreciated!

HBCU on-the-spot admission/scholarship events

- VSU: Week of 10/26/09 — Seneca Valley, Northwood, JFK, Blake, Springbrook, Gaithersburg, Paint Branch, and Wheaton
- VSU: Week of 11/9/09 — 11/9 Clarksburg--10AM; 11/12 Northwest — 9 AM ; Watkins Mill HS, Einstein HS
- Nov. 4 at Gaithersburg HS: Morehouse College & Dillard U, 6 to 10 PM
- Nov. 19 at Wheaton HS: Trinity (Latina outreach), 6 to 9 PM
- Nov. 23 at Rockville HS: Hampton University, 6 to 9 PM
- Dec. 2 at Walter Johnson HS: Morgan State U, 6 to 9 PM
- Dec. 9 at Springbrook HS: University of Maryland Eastern Shore, 6 to 9 PM
- Dec. 17 at Einstein HS: Norfolk State U
- Feb. 11, at John F. Kennedy HS: Bowie State University, 6:30 to 9:30 PM
- Feb. 17, at Richard Montgomery HS: UNCF/ NAACP/MCPS HBCU College Fair, 6:00-8:00 PM
- March 10 at Northwood HS: Coppin State University, 6 to 9 PM
- Jan. 26 at Watkins Mill HS: Johnson C. Smith

ATTENTION FIFTH GRADE PARENTS

The first meeting of the 5th Grade Memories Committee will be held on Friday December 4th, 2009n(A Club Friday night) at 7:30 pm at the home of Gina Murray, [4234 Briars Road, Olney MD 20832](mailto:orangina1@verizon.net). All 5th Grade parents are invited to participate in the planning process for these very exciting events for your wonderful 5th Grade students. There is much to plan so please consider attending this important first meeting. Please contact Gina Murray at 301-774-2144 or orangina1@verizon.net or Dawn Green at 301-570-6270 or greens_olney@hotmail.com with any questions. Hope to see you on the 4th!

Cultural Arts Update

The first Olney Elementary School PTA Cultural Arts program of the school year will take place on Monday, November 23. Brian Curry will bring his Math Magic Show to Olney Elementary combining math concepts such as measurement, multiplication, shapes and geometry with music, humor and world class magic to make math exciting and fun. Mr. Curry has been featured on FOX and CBS new programs as well as in the Washington Post. This program promises to be filled with fun and excitement, and is only made possible through PTA memberships and fundraisers. Thank you for making this program possible for our students!!

THE PIEGIVING SEASON AT OES IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Every year we give a pie to all of our awesome staff at OES and to the awesome transportation department that drive our children to and from school everyday. This year we will be giving out the pies on Tuesday, November 24, 2009. The OES PTA and Staff Appreciation Committee are looking for volunteers to bake or buy pies for this event. We need a total number of 78 pies. Please consider showing all those that help to make your children's day successful and safe by donating a pie. The staff so much enjoy picking out their pie and truly appreciate our efforts to make their holiday a little bit easier.

All you need to do is drop it off the morning of November 24 and we will take it from there! Please let me know either by email: jhdebalso@yahoo.com or phone: 301-774-9322 what kind of pie you would like to donate as well as how many. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks in advance for your support!

Jennifer DeBalso, Staff Appreciation Committee Chair



FROM THE MEDIA CENTER :

The Media Center extends a special thank you to the PTA book fair committee for their generous donation from this year's event. The funds allowed us to order 23 additional books for the media center. Extra copies of Black-Eyed Susan titles, the 2009 Newbery Award book, an almanac, a new set of the Wimpy Kid books, which is one of our most requested series, will be arriving soon from Scholastic. I would also like to thank the individual families who bought and donated a book from the book fair to the media center. The students will enjoy these great books for years to come.

I attended the American Association of School Librarians conference in Charlotte, NC last week. There I met media specialists from around the country and took part in many engaging, fun, and informative sessions to expand my own knowledge about teaching and learning in the 21st century. The conference theme was "Rev Up Learning@ Your Library." In the months to come I hope to do just that in the Olney Media Center.

Noted author, James Patterson, spoke passionately about reading and school libraries. Here is a wonderful website that he has developed with Judy Freeman, well-known consultant, writer, and speaker on children's literature:

www.readkiddoread.com

On this site they have organized and listed books that will turn kids on to reading. In the words of Patterson, "turning kids on to reading is one of the best things you can do on the planet." If your child is a reluctant reader or perhaps needs some suggestions for what to read next, take a look at this website. Let me know what you think.

Stay tuned for updates on Pumpkin Art Contest.

FALL FUNDRAISING CHAIR JOB DESCRIPTION

This fundraiser is mainly done from home with some time spent at school. The Chair or Co-chairs connect with the Sally Foster representatives late summer. The fundraiser is advertised in the summer edition of Dragon Tales and every Dragon Tales edition in September, on our ListServ, at our Back To School night, on the school sign, and on the PTA Bulletin Board. The Chair organizes promotional material to be put into the student's back first week of school, and then enters the data as it arrives. When the selling period ends, late September, there is a rush of orders that need to be entered and then you wait until delivery of the product. Delivery is a one day affair that involves small packages to go home with the student and large packages to be picked up one evening in October at the school.

Hours: 6 hours at beginning of sale in order to get promotional materials distributed. 15 hours of data entry spaced out in the month of September. 8 hours at time of delivery in order to organize and distribute product.

Available Resources: The prior Co-Chairs Susan Wilhelm and Karen Kahn have organized this fundraiser for the past two years and are ready to take on other volunteer duties within the OES PTA. They both still have children in the younger grades and are available for training and answering of questions. Also, the Sally Foster program has an interactive website and offers training days throughout the county.

NOTE: This is the description of the Sally Foster fundraiser which OES PTA has organized for more years than I can count. The OES PTA is investigating other possible fundraisers that are similar to Sally Foster so that we can **choose** the Fall Fundraiser, rather than it **exist by default**. The job description should be very similar and the Fall Fundraising Chair will have a definitive say in which fundraiser we end up choosing.

