



Berkeley Lake Elementary PTA

Paw Prints



April/May

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) News
for the BLES Community

2018

Paw Prints delivers a snapshot of what's going on in the BLES community. It's brought to you by your PTA volunteers. Have feedback or ideas for the PTA? Send us a note at infoblespta@gmail.com.

Thank you for an incredible year.

Through your volunteer hours to conduct the events and your generosity in our fundraising activities, we were able to provide our teachers over \$7,000 to purchase reading materials for their classrooms. This will help enhance their language arts curriculum for our students.

We want you to be part of big happenings with the PTA next year, too! Thanks to feedback since the last general membership meeting, we will be switching to a new parent/teacher organization governance model that keeps resources local so we can do more for our school. Plus, we'll be celebrating our school's 35th anniversary!

We'll need special spirit wear and a commemorative yearbook to honor the benchmark. Currently, we don't have volunteers on board to take on these committees for such an important year.

Spirit Nights have brought in over \$1,400 to our school this year. We need someone to take on the planning with local restaurants for next year to keep this fundraiser going.

We'll be voting in our 2018-2019 board on April 26 at 6:30 in the cafeteria. We need two more board members to support the 20+ committees we operate in support of the school. Many of these committees provide funds for extra financial backing for our teachers and keep up the cherished traditions that make our school so great.

Please consider being a volunteer during our landmark 35th school year. Visit our [PTA Get Involved site](#) and thoughtfully consider donating your time and expertise. View our full list of committees [here](#).

We are thankful for each of you and hope to see you at these [upcoming events](#)!

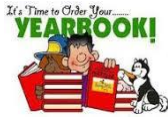
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Today's top 3



1. **Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 7 – 11. The PTA is planning some great activities for your student to show how much they appreciate their teacher! More information will be sent home in backpacks this week with more details. You can also contact Emily Shih (emilykshih@gmail.com) or Monique Somervell (raremuse@aol.com) with any questions.

- Monday 5/7 - Card and Artwork Day
- Tuesday 5/8 - School Supply Day



- Wednesday 5/9 - Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheon ([Sign Up Here to help and provide food!](#))
- Thursday 5/10 - Gift for Teachers and Staff from Favorites List
- Friday 5/11 - Something Special for the Specials Teachers

2. **Field Day** is just weeks away. Cathy Shumate leads the Field Day volunteer committee and is looking for grade level coordinators. They assist Cathy by contacting a list of volunteers either by email or phone. This is an important job to ensure we have enough volunteers per class to help make Field Day a success. Email Cathy at cattcars00@hotmail.com if you're interested.
3. We'll continue to be in the lobby the last Friday morning of each month so your child can order a yearbook and buy spirit wear. If you've not paid for your yearbook yet, the last day is May 18. The cost is \$30.

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Why we do what we do



Margo Williams,
outgoing 2017-2018
PTA Co-President.

Margo Williams is another one of our long-time volunteers that will be graduating to middle school at the end of the year. She started as a room representative when her daughter, Makayla, was in kindergarten. Since then, Margo has been Co-Chair of Science/STEM Night for four years. She's served as Vice President on the board in 2016-2017. Currently, Margo serves as our PTA Co-President.

"I did not want being a working mom take away from me being involved in my daughter's education. Being a part of the PTA gives me an opportunity to be hands on in my daughter's education," Margo said.

From all her work at the school, she's been able to get to know administrators, teachers and parents. One of her proudest contributions has been being a member of the PTA board. "We make decisions and have input on decisions that impact our students' educations," Margo offered.

Saying goodbye to members of our BLES family is always bittersweet. Margo will certainly be missed. We thank her for her leadership and all her contributions to our school community.

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Upcoming PTA-sponsored events



1. **April 24:** Spirit Night at Kikos
2. **April 26:** Vote to ratify the 2018-2019 board at 6:30 (cafeteria)
3. **May 7-11:** Teacher Appreciation Week, luncheon on May 9 – Volunteer to help or bring a delicious dish for this event [at this site](#).
4. **May 8:** Spirit Night at California Pizza Kitchen (Forum location)
5. **May 16-18:** Field Day activities – email Cathy at cattcars00@hotmail.com to volunteer
6. **May 17:** Spirit Night at Dairy Queen on Peachtree Industrial

7. **May 18:** PTA spirit wear sales will continue the last Friday of April but May 18 is the last day to get your yearbook!

Support BLES when you shop



Did you know that when you shop Amazon, Ingles, Publix, OfficeMax a percentage of those sales could go to BLES?

Sign up with your online accounts.

You can also send in your Box Tops for education. To help with counting, you can download this [Box Tops Collection Sheet](#). Teachers also have copies.

New this year with Box Tops!

Make sure to put your name on your Box Tops collection sheets and put them in the wooden box in the main hallway near the water fountain. We'll hold a random drawing each month. All students who submit Box Tops will be entered.

The prize? A coupon for a free ice cream or an item from the student store.

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Why get involved?

We're an association of parents and teachers that raises money to fund activities to help enrich our students' education experience.

Our volunteers do the committee work to plan and make the activities happen.

You are always needed – no matter how much time you can give.

Do I have to join a committee?

No. You can simply join for \$7 and/or make a monetary contribution. Membership numbers are important to show we are an active school that supports our students.

Will I have to come to meetings?

No, not unless you want to. We try to send email blasts with updates or weave our general meetings into activities parents will already be attending – and we keep them short.

Have lots of time to dedicate? Or only a few hours during the whole school year? Want to know more?

(You can even have a good laugh at the write ups!)

[Click for a full list of volunteer opportunities – with contacts!](#)

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Mrs. Sosa and some of the many volunteers it takes to put on our annual Bingo Night – one of the highlights of the school year!



Questions? Feedback? Contact us at: infoblespta@gmail.com.
Find out more about BLES PTA, officers, committees, etc. at: www.blespta.org.