

# ESTABROOK PTA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2008

## From the Board

Is it really Fall already? The first few weeks of school at Estabrook have flown by with all of the excitement of the new school year. We are very grateful to the many people who have pitched in everywhere to get the year off to a great start. From stuffing envelopes in the heat of summer to planting beautiful mums to brighten the building, lots of new and returning families have helped out in many capacities around the school. Please look for a longer list of thank-you's on page 5!

We have an exciting year ahead. This month we are looking for-

ward to the International Heritage Potluck which we organize with the Anti-Bias Committee. In the winter, we'll once again bring you Movie Night and, in the spring, our annual Family Fun/Bingo Night. Along the way we'll have shopping days at Barnes & Noble on December 12 and 13 and a night out at Flatbread Company to raise money for Arts Created Together (ACT) and all of the programs the PTA supports at Estabrook. We're thrilled to announce that the Run-of-the-Mill, Estabrook's own road race, will return in May, 2009. Finally, we're looking forward to Estafest,

our spring fundraising fair – stay tuned for more details!

Again, many thanks to all of you who give your time, formally and informally, to Estabrook. We look forward to working with you this year!

The PTA Executive Board

Margaret Counts-Klebe - President

Karen Kristin - Vice President - Fundraising

Betsy Sarles - Vice President

Gretchen Reisig - Secretary

Karen Nyhof—Treasurer

## Welcoming Coffee

A belated thank you to those who attended the Welcoming Coffee held on August 20<sup>th</sup> this year. The event was a great success! We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our volunteers who helped us with the tours of our school as well as Ms. Batten, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Robertson who took time out from their busy schedules.

The volunteers were: Benedicte Brabant, Kamala Sparkar, Margaret Counts-Klebe, Mary Rose Scozzafava, Sima Bilge, Rachel Cortez, Terre Oram, and Lisa Kling.

Welcoming Committee Co-chairs:

Helen Galanopoulos

Miko Brais



### Inside this issue:

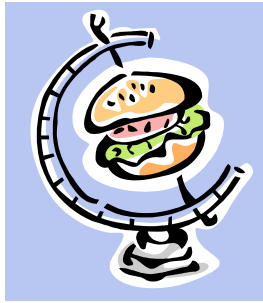
International Potluck	2
Fish Tank Update	2
Kids Cooking Green	2
LEF Trivia Bee	2
Landscape Committee	3
PTA Contributions	3
Box Top for Education	4
Thank you to...	5
Calendar	5

## Student Directory

The Estabrook Directory will be sent home to PTA members during the week of October 14. It should arrive with your youngest Estabrook student. Please let us know if you do not receive a directory and believe that you

you have paid your membership dues. Also, if you have not yet joined the PTA and would like a directory, please fill out a membership form in the office and submit it with a check to the PTA mailbox.

## International Heritage Potluck Wednesday, October 22, 6 - 7:30pm



We all love to share our heritage and what better way than through food and culture. We'll share food and performances of the many cultures and heritages that make up the Estabrook community. There is no fee for this evening but every family is asked to bring a main dish of

food to share with the community. Please bring enough for 8 - 10 people. (You can also bring a dessert, if you wish, but in order to have enough food for everyone, please bring a main dish as well).

We will also have some performances during din-

ner, the ever-popular henna hand painting in the lobby and games from International Games Day to play in Mr. Richardson's classroom.

Please contact Rachel Cortez at [caterama@aol.com](mailto:caterama@aol.com) or Benedicte Brabant at [fam.brabant@gmail.com](mailto:fam.brabant@gmail.com)



## Go Fish!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the "Top off the Tank" fundraiser at Back-to-School Night. The PTA will match every dollar of the \$150 raised

that night and will soon purchase and install a new tank in the library. We are exploring several different low maintenance options and plan

to have the new tank in place by the end of October.



Coming soon...April 2009!

## Kids Cooking Green - A New After School New Program

The PTA is very excited to bring you "Kids Cooking Green" - an innovative program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students that involves children in the process of planning, preparing, and presenting a

celebratory meal at Estabrook for their parents. Through five after-school sessions, children will learn about nutrition and the value of eating locally and preserving their environment. They

will also learn basic gardening in the Greenhouse as well as valuable cooking skills! Look for more info on "Kids Cooking Green" in the coming months!



## Support the Estabrook Trivia Team

Calling all trivia buffs! The 13th annual Lexington Education Foundation Trivia Bee will take place at Cary Hall on Thursday, November 6th at 7:30 PM, and more than 40 three-person teams will be competing. Last year, Estabrook sent four teams. Please help us to send them again this

year by being a sponsor.

There is no limit to the number of teams we can send - more sponsors mean more teams which means more opportunities to be crowned Lexington's Masters of Minutia! An individual, group, or company can sponsor a team with the \$375 tax-deductible fee

that helps to support LEF grant programs. Sign up soon -- the deadline for team entries is October 24. The participation form can be found at [www.lexedfoundation.org/bee.htm](http://www.lexedfoundation.org/bee.htm), or contact LEF Office, (781).372-3288 or [lexed@att.net](mailto:lexed@att.net).

## Estabrook Blossoms with the Work of the Landscape Committee

Under the leadership of Suzie Barry, the Landscape Committee has weeded, pruned, mulched, watered and planted for hours this fall to reinvigorate the front gardens, back patio and other outdoor areas around the school. Forty members of the Estabrook community came together over three weekend afternoons to help cleanup and beautify the school grounds at the outdoor cleanup days. Projects undertaken included: weeding and mulching the gardens, installing a new perennial garden at the base of the flagpole in the front circle, pruning brush to improve the sight lines/security in the front parking lot, planting 300 bulbs along the front of the school that will bloom in a burst of color this spring, cutting

back and trimming the shrubs on the back patio to make the area more usable at recess time, planting mums, new shrubs and hostas, picking up trash from the parking lot, playing field and playground, removing rocks of all sizes from all of the grassy areas, weed whacking hard to reach locations and bringing a burst of fall color to the back patio planter with some fall plantings. We are also very fortunate this fall to be having the benches on the front and rear patios completely rebuilt by the Town Facilities Department with a lovely composite material (no more splinters!)

With the major fall cleanup projects completed, it is now time to shift the work from cleaning up what we have to planning for the

future and figuring out what we would like to do with the wonderful space we have. Ideas so far have included: a cozy reading garden, a fitness path and more shade trees on the playground and in the front circle. Perhaps you have experience in landscape design, installation or maintenance or have connections that would help us purchase materials at a discount; maybe you just love to garden or work outdoors. You don't need to be an expert; we just need your help and input to get the process moving along. Please email Suzie Barry at [mrbarry@rcn.com](mailto:mrbarry@rcn.com) to get involved in the efforts.



## Your PTA Contributions Directly Benefit Our School...

Since the start of school, the PTA has purchased many supplies for Estabrook including custom-designed student planners for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, the yellow homework folders and a supply of Kleenex and Purell for the classrooms. As many of you know, your donations also pay directly for the Arts Created Together and Science Enrichment pro-

grams as well as many other events and activities throughout the school year. We cannot fulfill our goals this year of enriching the Estabrook community without your financial support. We hope you will consider the PTA in your end-of-year charitable giving – big or small, all donations are needed and appreciated. Remember, since we are a

non-profit organization, all donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to make a donation or have questions about donations, please contact Karen Nyhof, PTA Treasurer at [ktn7772003@yahoo.com](mailto:ktn7772003@yahoo.com) or Margaret Counts-Klebe, PTA President at [margck@yahoo.com](mailto:margck@yahoo.com).

**Thanks for your generosity!**



## Box Tops for Education

One of the ways that you can help the PTA support the many great educational, cultural and fun programs is by participating in the funding activities. Estabrook, like other schools, has partnered with outside organizations to help raise money. These activities take a little thought but are a large payoff for our children. Box Tops for Education is one of the most successful school fundraising programs ever! And it is easy.

Box Tops are located on products we all buy, just clip and send to school! Put the box tops in a bag or envelope marked with your child's name and deposit it into the Box Tops box in the Main Hallway. (If you're interested in saving Campbell's Labels for Education, please put them into the Box Tops Box as well. If there is a big enough response, we will submit those also.)

Another Box Tops contest is coming up soon; so snip, snip, snip and save those Box Tops!

Other opportunities to earn money for Estabrook through the Box Tops website include:

### 1. Sign up for the Box Tops Newsletter

For each school member who signs up for the Box Tops email newsletter at [www.btfe.com/2008](http://www.btfe.com/2008) before December 31, Estabrook will earn 5 bonus box tops. The newsletters are sent about every 2 weeks and remember to specify that you would like to support "J ESTABROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL" when you register.



### 2. Shopping online through the Box Tops Marketplace at [btfe.com](http://btfe.com)

Online shopping can earn a lot for our school! If you haven't already signed up to support Estabrook at [btfe.com](http://btfe.com), you'll need to do that first (It's fast and free). Then, whenever you shop online and start your shopping trip at the Box Tops Marketplace, a percentage of your purchases is automatically donated to Estabrook. There are many popular online stores (currently 83 listed) available to shop at. In addition, all first time Marketplace shoppers who make any purchase at the Box Tops Marketplace between now and November 2 will also earn an extra 5 Bonus Box Tops for our school—and that's in addition to the normal percentage our school already earns when you shop at the Marketplace.

### 3. Check out the Box Tops website for special offers, coupons, etc.

If you visit the Box Tops website ([www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)), there is a list of products that have box tops, there are special offers for bonus points (updated weekly), and points sweepstakes throughout the year. Currently, there are two contests for bonus points and each person can enter each contest once daily.

There are also coupons for items that have Box Tops available to print through the website. The website also contains a Barnes and Noble Reading Room that has suggested literature for children, a recipe section, and a section that has articles on parenting, nutrition, etc. Save those Box Tops and check out the website today!

## Thank you to...

- \*Everyone who sweated through the July heat to put out the summer mailing on time
- \*Diane Fucci and Kate Benson who took over production of the school directory this summer. In a tremendous effort, they compiled data and produced the directory in record time
- \*Sarah Kuli for stepping in to run the Innisbrook Fall Fundraiser
- \*The Welcoming Committee for all of their efforts to welcome new families to Estabrook
- \*Bonnie Brown who stepped in at the last minute to help serve the 80 (!) pizzas we ate at Pizza Night
- \*Suzie Barry who has led the landscaping efforts, along with Susan Bottan and the many others whose back-breaking work has made us smile and feel proud when we see the beautifully maintained school grounds
- \*Kim Coburn who organizes the Library Volunteers
- \*All of the Room Parent volunteers this year
- \*Hildy Mazur and Kim Reynolds for once again donating and serving refreshments at Back-to-School Night
- \*Betsy Sarles for designing the homework planners and organizing the Spiritwear sale
- \*Cissy Porter for organizing Family Photo Day and, along with Debbie Everin, School Photo Day
- \*All of the Math Olympiads volunteers
- \*Yu Jin Ko and all of the Chess Club volunteers
- \*Jennifer Breen for coordinating the Big Backyard program

### Calendar

<b>Friday, October 17</b>	Picture Day
<b>Wednesday, October 22</b> 6 - 7:30 pm	International Heritage Potluck
<b>Wednesday, October 29</b>	Half Day Elementary School (Conferences)
<b>Wednesday, November 5</b>	Half Day Elementary School (Conferences)
<b>Tuesday, November 4</b>	Election Day
<b>Wednesday, November 12</b>	PTA Meeting
<b>December 12—13</b>	Barnes and Noble

*Save the Date!*

## Estafest

Estabrook's Spring Fair

Saturday, March 28, 2009

Start thinking about what you can do to make this our most successful (and