

PTO PAW PRINTS

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Walter J. Mitchell
Elementary School
LaPlata, MD

August 22, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

Back To School

PTA or PTO

What's Best For Our School?



After careful consideration, the Walter J. Mitchell PTA executive board believes that becoming a PTO is in the best interest of our children, parents and teachers. In order to make the change from a PTA to a PTO, a vote must be taken of the general membership at a special meeting. Some of the differences that influenced our decision are as follows:

A PTA is a large national organization that lobbies at the state and national levels on our behalf for better education laws. Under this organization we must follow strict bylaws and financial regulations. For example, we cannot purchase playground equipment, many teacher supplies, furniture, or books. It has been frustrating to want to make improvements in the areas that are most often requested by parents and being unable to due to PTA bylaws.

As a PTO we are not part of a larger organization. With the input of parents, teachers and administrators, we will create and follow bylaws that best serve our children and school. We can raise funds and purchase items that are most needed and used by the entire school, as well as make grade specific educational enrichment purchases. Most area schools currently benefit from a PTO including Matula, Higdon, and Milton Somers.

We will provide details on the date of this vote later this fall in your child's Thursday folder. Please feel free to contact us with any questions at jacko5@comcast.net. For more information please check the following links: www.PTOtoday.com and www.PTA.org.

Did you know that Box Tops for Education will Donate Cash to our School with your help?

With little effort, there are 3 easy ways you can make a difference through everyday activities like buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. You can even recruit your family, friends and neighbors to help.

Clip Box Tops – Find Box Tops on hundreds of your favorite products. Clip the Box Tops and send to school. Box Tops will donate 10 cents to our school for each Box Top redeemed.

Shop Online – Shop at your favorite stores online through the Box Tops website. Simply sign up for free with Box Tops and shop through the Box Tops Marketplace. Choose from quality store like JCPenney, Lands End, Gap, Old Navy, Target and Walmart just to name a few.

Buy Books – Order quality titles through the Box Tops Book Club. Our school earns one Box Top for every dollar spent.

To learn more, please contact the PTO or visit www.boxtops4education.com

Thank You Parents!

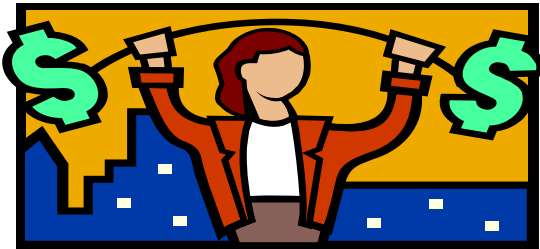
Special thanks to the Landscaping Committee for maintaining the front of the school grounds throughout the summer!

2008-2009 WJM Fundraisers

This year, PTO fundraising proceeds will go toward much needed playground improvements and to sponsor our many events throughout the school year.

Sally Foster

Our first fundraiser, the ever popular Sally Foster, will begin **September 4th** and run through **September 25th**. We encourage everyone to get behind this event as WJM will receive 50% of the proceeds earned. Look for information in your child's red folder. Remember to check out the website www.SallyFoster.com and have family and friends order online to benefit our school.



3 Ways to Order Bulldog Spirit Wear

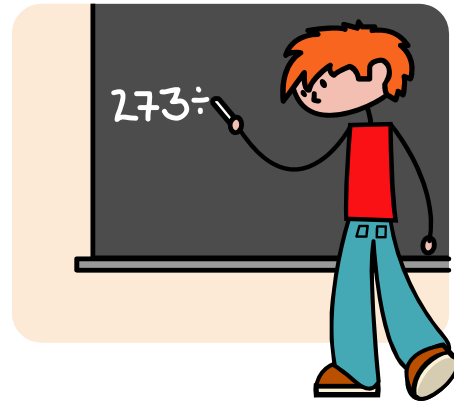
1. Purchase your new t-shirts and car magnets at both open house nights in September.
2. Through an order form sent home in the Thursday red folder in October.
3. Download an order form from the new PTO website www.WJMPTO.org and return it to school with your payment. Photos of the items for sale can be found on the website including our *new* long sleeved t-shirt.

Community Partner Fundraisers

Throughout the year you will receive information on our Community Partner Fundraisers featuring Outback Steakhouse, Ledo's Pizza and the Greene Turtle. Enjoy dinner out with your family and a portion of your check will be donated to our school.

Spring Joe Corbi's Fundraiser

Look for this great fundraiser in March. Just in time for the busy spring season!



Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- August 22 -** Meet & Greet 9:00 - 10:00 am
- August 25 -** First Day of School for Students

SEPTEMBER

- September 1 -** Labor Day Schools Closed
- September 2 -** First Day of School for Pre K
Back to School Nite 7:00 pm
Grades 3, 4 & 5 Only
PTO Meeting 7:00 pm
- September 4-** Sally Foster Fundraiser Kick Off
Back to School Nite 7:00 pm
Grades PreK-2 Only
PTO Meeting 7:00 pm

- September 12-** School Closed Fair Day

- September 24** 2 Hour Early Dismissal

- September 25** Sally Foster Fundraiser Ends

OCTOBER

- October 8-** 2 Hour Early Dismissal

- October 10 -** Bus Driver Appreciation Day

- October 17-** School Closed MST A

- October 24-** Fall Festival 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

- October 30-** 2 Hour Early Dismissal