

EAST EXPRESS

Newsletter of the Vestavia Hills Elementary East PTO

Providing Parent Support to the Students & Teachers
of Vestavia Hills Elementary East

THIS ISSUE:

Note & Announcements from
Dr. Richardson

PTO President Message

Spotlights:

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Community & Family Partners



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Dr. Mark Richardson

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school!

I wanted to start by expressing my thanks to our PTO, which recently awarded our faculty numerous special project grants. These include classroom technology items, map resources, classroom readers, a new basketball goal lift and speech resources. These will all directly benefit our students and school and could not happen without the help of our PTO. We are blessed!

We have also been provided for by our state legislators this year. I have already shared that Rep. Jim Carns granted our school \$16,500 this year, which will be used to help fund our academic support part-time teacher, playground enhancements, and professional training. On top of that, Senator Jabo Waggoner, Senator Dan Roberts, and Rep. Mike Shaw have provided additional funds which will help our school and district acquire more adaptive playground equipment, provide security enhancements, better lighting in our schools, and provide more STEM opportunities for our students. I appreciate all that our legislative delegation has done for our school system.

With all these resources coming our way, and less distracting months ahead, our teachers look forward to making great academic strides with all your kiddos. Barring illness, please do all you can to have your children at school in the coming weeks and month. So much is accomplished in those winter months, and we see such academic growth.

I can't say enough about the work that each teacher does to provide extra support for any student who struggles. Cindy Echols, Lee Carol Meads, and Pam Dennis do a great job of leading our Student Support Team to provide even additional support if it is needed. Our school's academic success (<https://www.al.com/educationlab/2023/11/us-news-world-report-ranks-top-10-elementary-middle-schools-in-alabama.html>) is a team effort, which includes great parents, diligent, caring teachers, and a fantastic support staff!

Having a Wonderful Time at School!

Mark

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

- Congratulations to those who participated in our school 3rd-5th grade spelling bee! Andrew Ezzell was our winner, and Charlotte Alford was the runner-up. Gaines Smith had the top score (a perfect one) on the written bee. Well done!
- January is recognized each year as School Board Member Appreciation Month. Our School Board members are Jaclyn Hudson (President), Scott Brown (Vice President), Jay Stewart, Jonathan Handey, and Kyle Whittington. I hope you'll take an opportunity to thank these wonderful folks who work so hard for our students and community.

WEDNESDAYS - WEAR HOUSE COLORS





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lauren Cater VHEE PTO President

Happy New Year, East Family! I hope your families had a wonderful break, making special memories.

As we start the second half of the school year, I am full of energy and excitement about all the PTO has planned. But first, I want to take a moment to outline what we have been able to provide our school through our fall Special Project grants. Through your support of our fall fundraisers, we were able to approve \$20,000 worth of grant requests from our faculty and administration. These requests included an additional 3D printer for 5th grade, reading tools for Kindergarten and school-wide intervention, pull-down maps for each 2nd-grade classroom, a Zen Den for the counselors, speech tools, an automatic lift for the basketball goals in the gym, board games for book buddy program, and additional tables and coolers for programs and events.

We hope you will participate in our spring fundraisers so we may continue to grant additional special project requests this year. These funds also allow us to continue supporting our East faculty and staff throughout the spring through our Hospitality Committee, treats from our Sunshine Committee, birthday gift cards, and many fun things during East Appreciation Week in March.

The months ahead are full of so many fun things! January may seem slower, but so much is happening behind the scenes! **Jordan Soyars**, **Anna Goldman**, and their amazing Soaring after Sunset committee are working hard on our new fundraiser. I hope you have marked your calendars for February 15! Information on tickets will be out soon!

Pitch in for Education supporting the Vestavia Hills City School Foundation is January 22-26. This year's Foundation president is our own **Ashley Groves**. The VHCS Foundation provides annual financial support through grant opportunities each year, and we are so thankful for their commitment to our school.

This month, we will also be putting out a call for nominations for next year's PTO Board, so be on the lookout! Serving on the PTO Board is so rewarding and fun! I encourage you to check out our board positions and nominate yourself or someone you think would you know would love to serve our school in these roles.

Again, welcome back, and thank you for your continued support!

Lauren Cater
2023-24 PTO President



SAVE *the* DATE



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
6:00 PM
VESTAVIA HILLS CIVIC CENTER

UPCOMING DATES

- 1/15 NO SCHOOL (MLK)
- 1/22 - 1/26 PITCH IN (VHCSE)
- 2/6 - PTO MEETING (9:15)

HELPFUL LINKS

[VHEE Calendar](#)

[VHEE Website](#)

Membership Toolkit App
[Apple App](#) [Google Play](#)

[Cafeteria Menu](#)

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REMINDERS

A NOTE FROM NURSE MONICA

EAST FAMILY,

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR CHILDREN FOR "LICE" OVER THE HOLIDAYS. WITH ALL THE PARTIES, TRAVELING AND GET-TOGETHERS, IT IS A PRIME TIME TO PASS THEM AROUND. REMEMBER LICE DON'T CARE IF YOUR HAIR IS DIRTY OR CLEAN, THEY DON'T JUMP BUT THEY CRAWL REALLY FAST! IF YOU DO FIND IT, PLEASE TELL EVERYONE YOU HAVE BEEN AROUND. IT REALLY IS A CHECK YOU SHOULD BE DOING ON YOUR CHILDREN'S HAIR WEEKLY IF NOT DAILY. HERE ARE SOME SITES THAT COULD HELP YOU!

[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/PARASITES/LICE/INDEX.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/index.html)

[HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/IPM/ABOUT-LICE-AND-THEIR-CONTROL](https://www.epa.gov/ipm/about-lice-and-their-control)

YOU CAN GOOGLE WHAT THE NITS LOOKS LIKE, A TEARDROP SHAPED WHITISH EGG ON THE HAIR SHAFT. IT WON'T MOVE IF YOU SHAKE IT AROUND.

HANG IN THERE, IT IS A PAIN I KNOW! MY FAMILY HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH IT TOO!!

NURSE MONICA



JANUARY 2024

SANTA'S WORKSHOP



THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PLATINUM SPONSORS

VHEE IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU!



Blair Moss
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With over 14 years of real estate experience, Blair understands that buyers and sellers need a partner that can walk them through every step of the real estate process.

Consistently a top producer, Blair continues to deliver results to her clients with over (50%) of her 2020 listings going for over the asking price.

<http://www.blairmoss.com>



Vestavia Hills Methodist Church is a church where families and individuals can find a number of places to learn and serve. We have many ministries geared toward families, the arts, and engaging the community. All of our ministries are designed to help make connections with others, and ultimately live out our life purpose, centered in Jesus Christ. So welcome home! We look forward to growing with you.

<http://www.vhmc.org>

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PLATINUM SPONSORS

VHEE IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

FARRIS RILEY & PITT

INJURY ATTORNEYS

Farris, Riley & Pitt, LLP has recovered multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements for our clients in Birmingham and throughout Alabama. Kirby Farris and Ken Riley were both born and raised in Alabama, and both lawyers are Birmingham residents who have been helping injury victims for more than 20 years. When you need legal help, trust the law firm that other lawyers in Alabama turn to with their legal needs — especially when it comes time to handle complex litigation. Other lawyers know the difference, you should too.

<https://www.frplegal.com>



Everything about Yanosky Orthodontists is different, from our level of service and expertise, to our new technologies that reduce pain and improve accuracy, to the friendliness of our staff — we even answer the phone differently, bending over backward to fit your orthodontics appointments into your schedule. Our goal is to create beautiful smiles that fill our patients with confidence, and we want the journey to that gorgeous smile to be as comfortable and smooth as possible.

<https://dryanosky.com>

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PLATINUM SPONSORS

VHEE IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

This month we want to highlight one of our platinum-level donors:

Elizabeth & Clark Worrell

VHEE PTO is so appreciative of your (tax-deductible) financial support, which goes directly back into our school via the additional benefits, incentives, experiences, and classroom enhancements that the PTO is able to provide to our amazing faculty and precious students.

A huge THANK YOU to the many Family Partners who have already donated to our school this year!

*If you want to become a Family or Community Partner, we are grateful and happy to help! Please contact Catherine Dempsey, Lizzy Jones, or email vheecommunitypartners@gmail.com