

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:

Soaring After Sunset

East Appreciation Week

Reminders / Upcoming Dates

Community & Family Partners



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



Dr. Mark Richardson

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we're closing in on springtime. As we move toward the end of the school year, please encourage your kids to finish strong!

Our PTO and all of our parent supporters certainly start strong and finish strong every year in their support of our school. In previous articles I have detailed some of the improvements that have been made to our school because of your efforts. Recently our families donated over \$5,100 during the one-week Vestavia Hills City Schools Foundation's one-week Pitch-In campaign. The Foundation uses interest earned from this growing endowment to support our schools through grants, which, as I have detailed previously, our teachers are happy to apply for. Thank you for supporting our school through the Foundation. At the time of this writing, our PTO's *Soarin' After Sunset* event is coming up, which will be another great fundraising, and fun, event that will benefit our school and our students!

We have so many incredible resources because of our community. That said, it's amazing what teachers can accomplish, even with minimal resources. Using an iPhone, and an endless supply of enthusiastic student news presenters, PE teacher Allison Charles has produced over 600 morning student broadcasts since she volunteered for this task a few years ago.

Those broadcasts are linked on our website.

Here is the address: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2Ibj_EUtSPOSp_yadZVpKv0mM7tFK4V9

I hope you will take some time to view some of these videos, especially the ones that feature our Character Cam. Another teacher who has taken on an extra duty is PE Paraeducator, Staci Barnes, who works with a group of students to produce the East Express, Jr. several times during the year. This is a passion project for Mrs. Barnes, who loves working with the kids to produce a school newspaper that appeals to students across all grade levels. (And it's actually on paper and not on a screen!)

Amy Abbott and Sue Huang go over and above each year to provide enriching activities for students in all grades. These STEM festivals range from robotics challenges in kindergarten to a "Pumpkinpalooza" in 5th grade. Elementary school is certainly more engaging now than when I was a kid!

Having a Wonderful Time at School!
Mark

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

--Parents, please remember that we encourage all parents dropping their children off in the morning to go through our normal carpool line. If you come through the Byrd Park parking lot, please do not drop your child off to walk through that very busy lot. We have had some close calls, with drivers unable to see small children as they park or back cars out. If a child exits a car there, please park and walk your child to the crosswalk. Thank you for working with us to keep our children safe!

--We received another check from Publix for over \$600 recently. Thank you to all of you who have signed up with Publix to support our school. It really helps! You can find out more here: <https://corporate.publix.com/community/corporate-campaigns/publix-partners>

WEDNESDAYS - WEAR HOUSE COLORS





A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lauren Cater VHEE PTO President

Dear EAST Family,

Happy Spring, East families! I hope that you are ready for all the fun activities ahead in the next few months!

Junior Achievement will be kicking off this month in all of the classrooms. Thank you to **Anna Coreno** for helping organize. Also, a big thank you to all the parent volunteers who take the time to learn the curriculum and go into the classroom weekly to teach.

East Appreciation Week is THIS week! Thank you to **Elizabeth Worrell, Lauren Thomason**, and all East families for all your work to show the East teachers, faculty, and staff such love over this week!

Thank you to **Mary Austin Jones, Mirim McCoy and Sara Manasco** for all they do each month throughout the year to spread sunshine and love to our faculty and teachers through our Hospitality and Sunshine Committees.

Thank you to everyone who supported our newest fundraiser, Soaring After Sunset, on February 15. It was a truly wonderful night out with amazing East parents. I can't thank **Jordan Soyars, Anna Goldman, Allison Chapman**, their committee and all of the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to get this new fundraiser going over the last few months. We are excited to add this to our calendar as an annual fundraiser.

Our March PTO meeting is Tuesday, March 5, at 5:00 pm and I hope you will be able to attend. We will be voting on the slate of leaders for the 2024-2025 VHEE PTO Board which this year's Nominating Committee worked so thoughtfully to put together. We will also be discussing opportunities to support our school through the rest of the year.

It is hard to believe we only have three more months left in the school year. As always I am so thankful to each member of our East family and the generosity of your support!

Lauren Cater
VHEE PTO President, 2024-2025



SOARING AFTER SUNSET HIGHLIGHTS



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East Appreciation Week

Here's how we're celebrating and appreciating our wonderful teachers & staff at East during the week...

Monday, March 4

Thank You Lunch from
Community Partner
Tasty Town for teachers
and staff

Tuesday, March 5

Lunch provided by parents
and PTO to teachers and staff



Wednesday, March 6

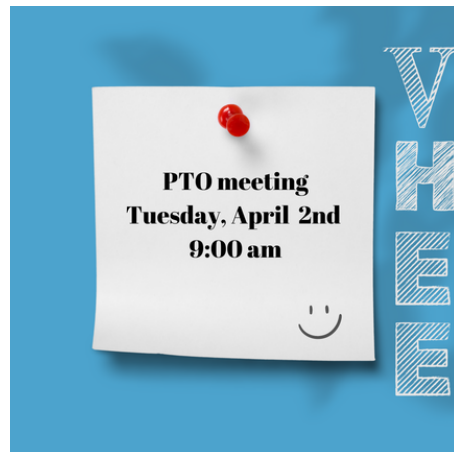
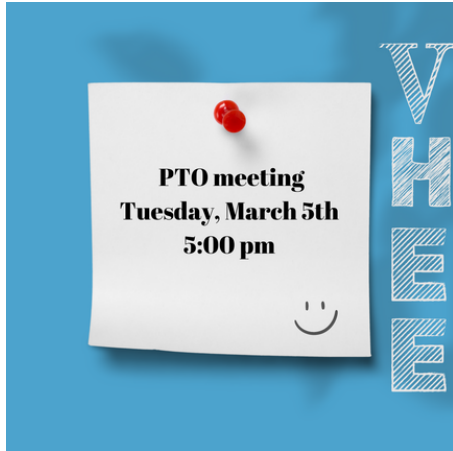
\$40 Visa gift card given to
each East employee from PTO

Thursday, March 7

"Treat your Teachers"
Sarah's Cinnamon Rolls
(compliments of Community
Partner Sarah Stevens) & coffee
(compliments of Community
Partner McDonald's) for all
teachers & staff

Friday, March 8

Breakfast and drinks
(compliments of Community
Partner McDonald's) for all
teachers and staff. Students
bring in cards for teachers close
to their heart. PTO notes to East
staff.



UPCOMING DATES

- 3/4-3/8: East Appreciation Week
- 3/5: PTO Meeting (5:00 pm)
- 3/11: Kindergarten Concert (1:15 pm)
- 3/12: 5th Grade Concert (1:15 pm)
- 3/18-3/22: I am Vestavia Week
- 3/25 - 3/29: No School (Spring Break)
- 4/2: PTO Meeting (9:15 am)

HELPFUL LINKS

[VHEE Calendar](#)

[VHEE Website](#)

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

[Cafeteria Menu](#)

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED GOLD SPONSORS

VHEE IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU!

Community Sponsors



W R A P S O D Y



Family Sponsors

Katie & Jason Bushby
Lydia & Brett Hollett
Molly & Hogan Knox

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