

# The Bamboo Shoot

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Debbie Mihalic, Principal  
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"Positively Committed to Excellence"

## Principal's Corner...

Dear Parents,  
I wish you a healthy and a happy New Year. It is amazing to think that we are already beginning the second half of the school year. Time certainly continues to pass by very quickly. Encourage your child to set high academic achievement goals as we enter the second semester. Also, please continue to support your child's teachers and maintain open lines of communication between home and school. There are many exciting learning opportunities ahead, and we look forward to a very successful and productive 2012! Thank for working with our Plain Family and being positively committed to excellence in doing what is best for all children.

Warm regards,  
Mrs. Mihalic

**REMINDER**—School dismisses at 2:30pm. Please make sure your child is picked up on time. Thank you!

**Congratulations** to the Golden Ticket Award Winners for the month of November. These students' names were drawn to have lunch with Mrs. Mihalic and Mrs. Hellams. The students were: Haley McElroy, Tanasia Mayer, Belle Jordan, Campbell McCarthy, Emily Carson, and Tyler Reese. These students display "all star" behavior!

We would also like to recognize our **OUTSTANDING** Safety Patrols for the month of December. They were: Mathew Johnson, Lindsay McCurley, Grayson Armstrong, Morgan Walter, Sam Shiffler, and our honorable mention winner was Ryan Haynes. Congratulations to each of you for your dedication and strong responsibility to school safety.

## GOZA GIVING TREE

A special **Thank You!** to all individuals, groups and organizations who so thoughtfully donated gifts for the Goza Giving Tree during the 2011 holiday season. Through your assistance, we were able to brighten the holidays for 148 children from 50 families in our Plain Elementary community! This is a significant increase in those we helped in previous years due to the generosity of our school families and organizations. I greatly appreciate all you have done for these families. Thank you and I hope you have a very blessed New Year!!

Dawn Smith  
Goza Giving Tree Chairperson

## A Letter from our PTA President...

Dear Plain Families,

Happy New Year to all of our families! The PTA is busy planning fun, family events for the winter and spring.

Save the date for our first PTA Family, "Beat the Winter Blah's," Dance. This will be held on January 27, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 PM, in the cafeteria, and we are excited to introduce this event. What a better way to beat the January funk than to have fun dancing. An informational flier was sent home with your student, and there is also more information located in this newsletter.

The PTA has also teamed up with the guidance department to offer three parent workshops. We hope our parents will find these worthwhile and support them. The topic for January is, "Internet Safety and Cyber bullying," and this will be offered on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 AM-8:00 AM. Children can be dropped off at the school beginning at 7:15 AM. In addition, we will have a workshop in February beginning at lunch time on, "Advocating for your Child's School," and an evening workshop in March regarding the "Love and Logic," discipline approach. We are hoping by offering these workshops at different times of day, that all of our families will be able to find a time that works for them.

A huge **Thank You** goes to Walmart for their \$500.00 donation to Plain Elementary PTA.

Please support the businesses that support Plain!

Please do not hesitate to contact any board member with any comments, suggestions or concerns. We appreciate input from involved parents to guide us in our decision making. The PTA Executive Board will meet, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 AM at Plain, and all parents who have joined the PTA are invited to attend.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dow

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## EXCITING NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY!!!

This year the PTA was generous enough to purchase a subscription to ACCELERATED READER ENTERPRISE. This enables our students to take a quiz on any book that has an AR quiz available whether we have it in our library or not. This would include books from the public library or books that are purchased outside the school as well as the ones in our collection. The students and teachers have been very excited to have access to so many more quizzes than we've had in the past.

In addition to more quizzes, there is also a new component that allows parents to monitor their child's reading practice. It is called HOME CONNECT. By logging into the website, you can see your child's quiz average, how many AR points they have earned, what their average book level is, as well as other information on all the books they have completed in Accelerated Reader.

To access this site please type <https://Hosted131.renlearn.com/46824/HomeConnect>. You will need the username and password your child uses at school to access their account. They should be familiar with these.

If you have questions or you have difficulty, you can contact Mrs. Kay in the library at 355-7705. We encourage your involvement in this program and hope that you find it useful in encouraging your child's reading habits.



Dear Plain Elementary School Families,

Happy New Year! This is the time of year when many of us make resolutions to get healthy, lose weight, tone up or just live a better life. 2012 is YOUR year!

Sportsclub Simpsonville is happy to announce that we have partnered with Plain Elementary School in an effort to promote health and wellness within the school and the community. Now, Plain Elementary School parents, teachers and faculty can access Sportsclub's state of the art equipment and world class group fitness program at a reduced rate while your regular visits raise funds that will come directly back to your school.

With adult and childhood obesity rates at an all time high and health care costs at unmanageable levels this is a wonderful opportunity to take back control of your health. Sportsclub's mission is to help better educate people about the benefits of regular exercise and to provide the kind of facilities and programming that will get more people involved. We have been helping people learn the best way to approach an exercise and nutrition program through our professional staff and superior quality programs and services since 1975.

Parents who model healthy eating and physical activity can positively influence their children's health. Please take a few moments to learn more about how this partnership can help your family, your health and your school.

#### Partnership Benefits:

Plain Elementary School families will receive a **reduced** rate on our Lifestyle Membership which includes use of Sportsclub Greenville as well as our weekend "Club Hopper" program which includes use of Sportsclub Five Forks.

Access to over 250 group fitness classes per week, nationally certified personal trainers, two swimming pools, two basketball courts, 8 racquetball courts, our newly renovated tennis complex, Sports Performance, Kinesis, Reformer, Youth Experience, basketball and volleyball leagues, swim lessons, swim team, tennis lessons, racquetball clinics, Childcare, FITKids, Parents Night Out, Mother's Morning Out, Kids Daily Camp and Summer Camp!

New members will receive a complimentary Personal Training Experience appointment with one of our nationally certified personal trainers.

Sportsclub Simpsonville will donate **\$5** to Plain Elementary School for every new Lifestyle Membership started.

Plain Elementary School members will earn **75 cents per visit** for the school based on their number of members.

1 – 25 memberships earns 75 cents per visit up to \$100 per month

26+ memberships earns 75 cents per visit up to \$200 per month

**Current Sportsclub members can participate in the program as well!**

Just stop in to see one of our Membership Advisors and let them know you're part of the Plain Elementary family.

We'll adjust your monthly membership rate and set you up to start earning 75 cents per visit for the school.

This is an amazing opportunity to raise money for your child's school while doing something that benefits both you and your family. The Sportsclub Simpsonville staff looks forward to helping Plain Elementary reach their goals while helping you reach your health and fitness goals.

## KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!

Plain students collected **\$1400** in box tops during 2011—lets see if we can beat that in 2012!!!

Please continue to send in your box tops and Campbell's soup can labels to help raise money for our school. We are also continuing the collection of can tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House. Don't forget to put your student's name on the items you send in. We will hold a drawing once a month and 5 lucky winners will receive a goody bag. Thank you for your support!

Jennifer Rose

Box Top Chairperson





## Help Wanted

The PTA is excited to host Plain Elementary Schools first ever family dance on January 27. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping with food and decorations. If interested in helping please contact Jennifer Dow at [j.j.dow@charter.net](mailto:j.j.dow@charter.net) or 228-6789.

## EAT OUT NIGHTS

### January

Thursday 12 Chick Fil A

Wednesday 18 Chuck E Cheese

Thursday 26 Tonys

### February

Thursday 2 Moes

Thursday 9 Chick Fil A

Monday 20 Chuck E Cheese

## Save the Date:

### PTA FAMILY, "Beat the Winter Blah's," DANCE

Bring out the family and let's dance the winter blah's away! D.J. provided by "Jumping Jukebox," and snack food and drinks will be provided.

**When:** January 27th, 2012

**Time:** 6:30-8:00 PM

**Where:** Plain Elementary School Cafeteria

**Cost:** \$5 per student, parents are free!

Every student must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over the age of 18.

Please note that school dress code and behavior guidelines apply.

All Plain Students, kindergarten through 5th grade, and their families are invited, but a reservation with payment is required by January 20th, 2012. A reservation form will come home with your child. Please contact Jennifer Dow at: [j.j.dow@charter.net](mailto:j.j.dow@charter.net) with any questions.

