

The Bamboo Shoot

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Plain Elementary
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Debbie Mihalic, Principal
Kelly Hellams, Assistant Principal
Jennifer Dow, PTA President
Jennifer Rose, Editor
"Positively Committed to Excellence"

Principal's Corner...

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year. I look forward to working with each of you to ensure a productive and positive school year for your child!

We are ready to face the challenges and excitement of a new school year, and will continue to focus on academic excellence for all of our students. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Action! Premiering Plain Stars." We will maintain our focus of creating an optimal learning environment that fosters tolerance and diversity while encouraging community involvement. Our students' safety and academic success will continue to be our top priority.

We ask for your support, involvement, and commitment to the educational journey that lies ahead. You are encouraged to become actively involved in our parent volunteer program, as there are endless opportunities for involvement at Plain.

Thank you in advance for your contributions, ideas, and suggestions that will lead to continuous improvement of our school.

Positively committed to excellence,
Mrs. Mihalic

Special Business Partnership Announcement!

Food Lion generously donated \$500 to Plain Elementary at their recent grand opening celebration. Please be sure to support our business partner by shopping at Food Lion.

Eat Out Nights—

Please save the dates for the following eat out nights! These restaurants generously give a percentage of the nights sales back to our school.

August

Wednesday 31 Chuck E Cheese

September

Thursday 1 Moe's

Thursday 8 Chick Fil A*

Monday 12 Sonic

Wednesday 14 Chuck E Cheese

Thursday 22 Tony's

October

Thursday 6 Moe's

Thursday 13 Chick Fil A*

Wednesday 19 Chuck E Cheese

Thursday 20 Sonic

Thursday 27 Tony's

November

Thursday 3 Moe's

Thursday 10 Chick Fil A*

Wednesday 16 Chuck E Cheese

Thursday 17 Sonic

Tuesday 22 Tony's

December

Thursday 1 Moe's

Thursday 8 Chick Fil A*

Thursday 15 Sonic

Wednesday 28 Chuck E Cheese

*Chick Fil A- from 5-8 only and customers MUST tell the cashier when ordering they are with Plain for it to count!

PTA dates to remember...

9/2 "Pandapalooza," Carnival Meeting 9:00 AM, conference room. Come and be part of the fun!

9/9 After school club informational meeting

9/12 Fall Fundraiser Ends

9/12 PTA General Meeting and Parent Workshop, "Homework Help—Let Us Help You, Help Your Child." 6:30 PM, Atrium.

9/16 Volunteer Breakfast and Room Parent/Grade Level Coordinator Meeting 9:30 AM, Atrium

9/30 PTA Executive Board Meeting, 9:15 AM, Conference Room at Plain. All PTA members are welcome to attend.

10/21 PANDAPALOOZA—fall carnival

A Letter from our PTA President...

My name is Jennifer Dow and I am looking forward to a great 2011-2012 school year as the President of Plain Elementary School PTA. It is the PTA executive board's goal to keep all of our Plain Families involved, informed and educated in your child's school and activities. Please look for PTA updates each month in the Bamboo Shoot. We hope you will use this resource to stay informed on PTA initiatives and ways you can help.

An important and easy way to get involved at Plain is join the PTA. **Membership fees are only \$4.50 per membership**—that includes membership card, coupons to local businesses and PTA voting privileges. Our goal is always 100% participation! However, Membership is **NOT** a fundraiser—all membership fees are forwarded to the proper area, district, state and national levels in order for our local unit to pay its' dues which keep us in good standing, maintain our eligibility for awards, and allow us to brag about our parent and community participation. The number one reason to join the PTA though is that you are becoming an advocate for your child's education.

The PTA is always looking for volunteers. It truly takes everyone's help, enthusiasm and ideas to keep our school great. Our school can benefit from ANY amount of your time. Whether you can give two hours a week, two hours a month or two hours a year, Plain has a volunteer role for everyone. I want to personally invite everyone to our volunteer breakfast on September 16, at 9:30 AM, in the atrium. We will have information on all of the volunteer opportunities at Plain. Please contact Stephanie Towe, our volunteer coordinator, at: 270-5919 or towes01@charter.net, with any questions about how to volunteer.

Our fundraiser kick off is August 29th. We have some wonderful products to sell this year and we are excited to offer, "Plain Panda Partners," this year as well. This program is perfect for those families that may not wish to sell items for a fundraiser, but would still like to support the PTA. This is a great way for any extended family members or businesses to support Plain as well. Please remember all monies the PTA raises goes right back into the school to support programs for our children and teachers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, suggestions or concerns. The PTA Executive Board meets the last Friday of the month, at 9:15 AM at Plain, and all PTA Members are welcome. Involved parents, working in partnership with the PTA, staff, and administrators, are key to creating a successful learning environment for each of our children. I am excited for all of us to work together this year to make Plain Elementary School the best it can be.

Jennifer Dow

j.j.dow@charter.net

864-228-6789



It is with pleasure that we welcome the following new staff members to our "Star-studded" Plain Family:

Christine Lindsey – 4th grade

Anna Derrick – 2nd grade

Tara Adams – 2nd grade

Ashley Waldrop – 1st grade

Jon Placko – Physical Education

Ruth Larsen – Art

Emily Howerton – Music

Kristin Krinock – Guidance

Kennon Crawford – Speech

Sheri Benore – Office clerk

Doug Mizell – Custodian

Save Your EGG SHELLS

We need parents to save their egg shells for us to make Confetti Eggs for our Fall Carnival, Pandapalooza!! It is very easy to do! Crack the egg on one end. The hole can be as large as a quarter. Dump the egg out. **Wash the inside of the egg out very well.** Leave egg shells in egg cartons, please. When your carton is full of empty, clean egg shells, send them to the school PTA room. We will be collecting these until the October 17. PLEASE put your child's name and teacher's name on the outside of the carton. We will be rewarding the two students collecting the most egg shells with carnival tickets and a dozen confetti eggs

Please remember that students should be in their classrooms ready to learn at 7:45am. Thank you for helping to get your child to school on time.

Congratulations to the following Fifth Grade Students who were selected by their teachers to participate in our Safety Patrol program for the 2011-2012 school year.

Alvarez, Peyton	Anderson, Hayden	Trammell, Devon
Armstrong, Grayson	Austin, Alexis	Wright, Xavier
Bratka, Brian	Campbell, Hanna	Scott, Haley
Coker, Justin	Cox, Sam	Salazar, Alex
Davidson, Drew	Fowler, Keon	Miles, Brett
Fowler, Kourtney	Gomez, Sophia	Waldrop, Kylie
Gunter, Jaymee	Hanshaw, Sarah	Oliver, Niya
Hilderbrandt, Stefani	Hoyer, Sean	Woods, Patience
Huber, Andrea	Johnson, Matthew	Moyer, Mary
Kern, Richie	McCurley, Lindsay	Wilson, Audrey
Neuman, Christopher	Patel, Isha	Brown, Zane
Snipes, AudriAna	Wilson, Mason	Darby, Clayton
Hallums, Isaiah	Sciffler, Samuel	Moore, Keyanna

Parent/Student Handbooks

Parent/Student Handbooks can be accessed through a link on Plain Elementary's Web-site Home Page. If you need a hard copy, please request one through the front office. **There are also copies in the office for your reference.**

Be Sure to "Like," Plain Elementary PTA on Facebook!

It's time to start thinking about Reflections!



The elementary years are an exciting time when anything is possible. Each new school year brings with it the opportunity for your child to explore his or her own potential, discovering talents and passions along the way. The national PTA Reflections program celebrates the importance of arts education, encourages students to express themselves through a variety of media, and applauds them for their efforts.

PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

This year's theme is "**Diversity Means...**" When it comes to expressing this theme, the sky is the limit. Write a story, paint a picture, compose a song, choreograph a dance, make a movie, or snap a photo.

PLEASE NOTE: The letter your child brought home incorrectly lists the theme as "Together We Can." The theme for this year is "**Diversity Means...**" Your red-faced Reflections chair apologizes for the confusion.

Reflections entries may be submitted in the following six categories:

*Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, Visual Arts,
Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production*

Winners will be chosen in each category at the school level and recognized at Awards Day. These entries may then be selected to represent Plain at the Council, District, State and National levels... lots of opportunity for recognition!

Entries will be accepted until Oct. 3, so get to work on yours today! Call or email Allison Walsh with questions; 363-8274 or writeupyourali@gmail.com. Good luck!

REMINDER—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
willjenn03@yahoo.com



Pandapalooza



Our Fall Carnival will be held on Oct. 21st and along with the carnival we will have our Silent Auction. For those of you who have attended the carnival in the past, you know how many wonderful items we have each year at this event. If you know of any business or have a business that would be willing to donate an auction item please let Jennifer Dow know at j.j.dow@charter.net. Thank you for your help in making our carnival a success!

We need you to make our Fall Carnival, **Pandapalooza**, a success! We are looking for volunteers who would like to take part in planning this fun event. Please come to a carnival planning meeting on Sept. 2nd at 9:00 AM, in the Plain conference room. Questions: Please contact Jeana Coker, jeanahcoker@gmail.com or Jennifer Dow, j.j.dow@charter.net.



Please support the Plain Elementary PTA by purchasing a membership. Our goal is to achieve 100% in every class room. Each membership purchased goes toward the goal of one child. If you have 3 children then 3 memberships would need to be purchased for each one of them to get credit. The PTA is looking forward to a great year and we appreciate all of your time and support. If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Jennifer Lankert butterflykisses069@yahoo.com

Focus on the Gardening Stars:

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Chapman for their hard work in beautifying our front gardens throughout the summer. Miss Bonnie and Mr. Jerry are the parents of Mrs. Nikki Rice. The gardens look amazing and full of life and color. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Chapman!
Fondly,
Your Plain Family

A huge Thank You goes to the following businesses that donated coupons for our PTA membership drive: Chik fil a, Simpsonville McDonalds, Simpsonville Sonic, Simpsonville Jason's Deli, Greenville The Channel, Greenville Chuck E Cheese, Greenville Please support the businesses that support Plain!

Volunteer News

Hello Volunteers! I am excited about this new school year and seeing all of you wonderful volunteers around our school. I would like to welcome all the new volunteers coming to our school this year and welcome back all the returning volunteers. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all that came to help put together Welcome Back Packets before school started. We had over 35 volunteers show up and we stuffed 1000 envelopes in less than one hour. WOW!!!! We are in need of a chair person for Red Ribbon Week which will be coming up the last week of October. It takes several weeks of planning, so we need someone immediately to start deciding on activities for the week. If you would be interested in this position, please send me an email or call me, and I will give you more details. Do you play Chess? Plain Elementary is looking for someone who would be willing to lead the school's chess club. This has been a popular club for many years and we would hate to discontinue it. If you play chess, please consider leading this afterschool club. We are also looking for someone to be a Chairperson for Testing. If you are interested, contact me for more details. Volunteers you are invited to the Volunteer Breakfast on September 16th @ 9:30 in the atrium. This is for anyone who volunteers in our school. Shortly after the breakfast, I would like to have a short meeting with all Room Parents and Grade Level Coordinators to discuss new things for this school year. Our 1st Annual Fall Carnival will be October 21st, so please mark your calendars. We need lots of volunteers to make a success. Please email or call me if you would be interested in volunteering or if you have any questions. Thank you for taking a large part in making our school "JUST PLAIN PERFECT!"
Stephanie Towe, Volunteer Coordinator towes01@charter.net or 270-5919.

SIC NEWS

Greetings from your Plain Elementary School Improvement Council (SIC)! I hope everyone had a great summer – it sure was hot. Let me start by introducing myself as your new 2011-2012 SIC Chair. My name is Bill Miller and I took over this position from Michelle Yates. Thanks to her efforts over the past couple of years (I have big shoes to fill). We also have 2 other new board members. Ann Simmons has taken on the role of vice-chair and Molly Dunlap will be our new secretary. Congratulations to them!

The SIC is a good vehicle to get involved with the school. The Council is made up of a representation of parents, teachers, community members, and ex-officio members (i.e. School Principal, PTA President, etc.) who collaborate on the improvement of their local school (Plain Elementary). We act as an advisory to the school administration and help support its success (i.e. the student's success).

Some preliminary things we are targeting for this year :

1. HOPE day (Hands On Plain Elementary): a clean-up/beautification day. Last year we did this in the fall on a Saturday morning. There was mulching, flower planting and bush trimming. This year we will probably focus on some exterior painting and fence staining.
2. Support raising funds to resurface the track (Lap-a-thon, etc)
3. Support Family Literacy Night
4. Organize a parent night for 5th graders for their transition to middle school.
5. Support strengthening local business partnerships.
6. If you would like to find out more about participating or have questions about what the SIC is all about, please feel free to contact Mrs. Mihalic, Mrs. Hellams, or myself. The best way to reach me is via email at ford33as@charter.net. You may also want to visit the South Carolina SIC website at <http://sic.sc.gov>. Our first SIC meeting will be at Plain Elementary on September 15th at 8:15am. Thank you in advance for your support.

Bill Miller
Plain Elementary SIC Chair
ford33as@charter.net



Congratulations

to all the students who participated in the SUMMER READING LITERACY LUAU. We had over 90 students complete their Plain Elementary summer reading sheets. These students wore their leis to lunch and were treated to a special "summer reading sundae" for all of their hard work!

Angela Kay - Media Specialist - Plain Elementary



My Coke Rewards for schools—

By drinking the Coca-Cola products your family already enjoys, you can earn My Coke Rewards points and donate them to our school. Your point donations will go towards rewards like physical education equipment, art supplies, and educational resources that help our students learn, play and have fun. It's easy to donate:

1. Purchase your favorite Coca-Cola products to get codes (they're on hundreds of different packages, including DASANI®, Sprite®, Minute Maid®, POWERADE ION4® and more.)
2. Go to mycokerewards.com (register if you aren't a member).
3. Enter codes to collect points - choose "Donate to Your School" from the six ways to spend points.
4. Find our school by Zip Code. When our school's page comes up, click enter the amount of points you'd like to give, then click "Donate." OR you may send in all of the codes to the PTA room and we will enter the codes for you! Please collect codes from your friends, family and neighbors!

CLUB NEWS

Is your child running everywhere? Would you like to harness that energy and get them involved in the new Plain running club? Come join the Plain Pacers! The running club will take place from 7:15-7:40 on Friday mornings. Starting a child out early understanding the value of exercise can make a huge impact for the rest of their lives! Plus, it'll be lots of fun! We would love be able to organize a Plain Elementary 5K in the Spring to raise money for the track and playground area. It would be awesome to see tons of Plain kids out there running with their parents! Please contact Jenni Risell at jrisell@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



Who doesn't love Legos? Get your child's imagination moving! We are thrilled to be starting an afterschool Lego Club at Plain for all interested students. It will take place every other Friday after school from 2:30-3:30 in the cafeteria. It will alternate with the Chess Club. We will plan appropriate themes for each meeting and would love to get the older grades started on some robotic Lego masterpieces. Please contact Laura Huskins at lthuskins@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



We will be having an information meeting for both clubs on Friday September 9th at 3PM and immediately following the PTA general meeting on Sept 12th in the cafeteria. Permission slips must be signed by a parent or a guardian for your child to join either club. We are also looking for lots of enthusiastic volunteers for both clubs! Parental involvement is the only way to make these clubs a success! Although Chess Club has been well established at Plain, we need volunteers for the

upcoming year to help "teach" chess to our incoming members. We also need parents to help keep things organized, so even if you don't know chess, we can use you! Please fill out and return the form below to your teacher if interested:

Child's Name:

Grade and Teacher:

Parents Name:

Club(s) Interested in : Lego Running Chess

Would you be willing to help volunteer with any of these clubs? If yes, please state which club and include your email or phone number: