

ILCHESTER ELEMENTARY PTA NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2016

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November

- 2-11** – Candy for Our Troops Collection
 - 2** – Boosterthon Pledge Payments Due
 - 3** – Restaurant Night at Cheeburger Cheeburger
 - 15** – PTA Meeting in the Media Center at 7:00pm
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FUNDRAISERS

BOOSTERTHON UPDATE

The Ilchester Cheetah Chase Fun Run (Boosterthon) was an amazing event!!! All the students had an absolutely fantastic time! There were miles of smiles all over those running tracks!! As a matter of fact, there have been smiles and high-fives since our kick-off Pep Rally on October 17!

I spent a lot of time at school with our incredible Boosterthon team of Action Austin and Tommy Tsunami, and I can tell you that every child who saw them in the hall, or classroom, or cafeteria or outside lit up with smiles for them! Their character lessons were welcomed each day and the whole program was inspiring, beneficial, thoughtful and FUN! This truly may have been the most profitable part of this event. Thanks Austin and Tommy! But wait, it gets better – Ilchester raised enough money so that Boosterthon themselves will donate 123 meals to Feeding America! These meals will go to those in need in our community!

My personal thanks go out to EVERYONE who supported us in this first-ever type of fundraiser – parents, family members, friends, the Ilchester Staff and Fun Run day volunteers! All the pledges will be tallied over the next several weeks (please get all your students' pledges in by Nov. 2) and we will notify you how much Ilchester made to help our school. Also, many thanks to the businesses who sponsored the fantastic Fun Run Day T-shirts that were given free to all students – Melissa Daniels and The DEAR Team, OUCH! Urgent Care, OX Orthodontix and Fitness 19 Elkridge!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Beth Benoit
Mom, PTA President & Boosterthon Chairperson

Square 1 Art

All of the children have been busy creating masterpieces during their art class time! This artwork has been shipped to Square 1 Art, a company that will turn your child's artwork into keepsakes that you can purchase. A preview of the art and a catalog of the products will be sent home mid-November. Please consider purchasing the keepsakes as a fundraiser for our school. All products should be shipped to the school in time for holiday gift giving!

Restaurant Night – November 3

Going out for dinner? Why not go to Cheeburger Cheeburger where 20% of your order will be donated back to our school? The yellow Restaurant Night flier, which is required, was sent home in last week's Friday Folders.

Location: Cheeburger Cheeburger, 8872 McGaw Road, Columbia (across the street from Wegman's)
Time: 5:00 to 9:00pm

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Candy for Our Troops

The Ilchester PTA will be collecting "Candy for Our Troops" again this year. A collection box will be placed in the front lobby of school from November 2 to 11. Send your "leftover" wrapped Halloween candy in with your student and have them deposit it into the collection box (or sneak it in yourself!). It would be very helpful if you would put the candy in Ziploc bags. We will deliver the candy to the USO office at BWI airport. Questions? Contact Ashley Fremont-Smith at ashfremontsmith@gmail.com or 443-629-4960.

PTA VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

PTA President

The position of Ilchester Elementary PTA President is available for the next two-year term of 2017/18 through 2018/19. This is a position that will be voted upon near the end of this school year. Requirements are many and the current president would be glad to give you an overview. Time availability and flexibility are necessary to fulfill activity requirements. If you are interested, or just want to find out more, please contact Beth Benoit at bethbenoit428@aol.com.

New "Dad" Program Chairperson

The PTA is seeking a Chairperson to get a new "Dad" program up-and-running at Ilchester. Ideally, we would like a Dad or Grandfather to chair this committee, but it is not necessary. A program outline has been written and we would love to get it started right after winter break. The program would get Dad volunteers to sign up to spend a day at school by greeting the buses, interacting with the students, possibly popping into PE and lunchtimes, and adding more male presence at our school. (This is not a safety program.) If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Beth Benoit at bethbenoit428@aol.com.

Moms & Dads on Campus Chairperson

The PTA is seeking a Chairperson to coordinate our Moms on Campus and Dads on Campus days in the spring, starting next school year. These are one-day programs each that encourage Moms and Dads to come spend recess and lunch with their student/s. Grandmothers and Grandfathers are also welcome, or other relative special to your student who would like to spend the time with them. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Beth Benoit at bethbenoit428@aol.com.

Winter Coat Drive Chairperson

The PTA is seeking a Chairperson to coordinate the Winter Coat Drive that happens each October. Time commitment is minimal but would include coordination, sorting and delivering the collected outerwear to the Board of Education building. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Beth Benoit at bethbenoit428@aol.com.

REWARDS PROGRAMS

Giant A+ School Rewards

Here's an easy way for you to help earn money for IES while you do your grocery shopping! If you have a Giant card, you can enroll your card in Giant's A+ School Rewards program, and you'll earn money for our school every time you shop! The rewards from this program go directly to the school, not the PTA.

If you have already enrolled your card in the past and don't need to make changes, you do not have to do anything. If you are new to IES or would like to add or change the schools you've designated, please go to giantfood.com. Under **savings and rewards**, you can click on **A+ school rewards**, and then

it will take just a few minutes to follow the steps that will help our school. You will need to have your card number handy.

When you enroll, you can designate up to two schools. If you don't have an account on the website, you will need to create one prior to designating your card for **school rewards**.

Enrollment is open now. The program began on **October 7** and continues through **March 16, 2017**. In recent years, funds from Giant's school rewards programs have been used to benefit IES in many different ways, including before-school programs for our children. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Heather Tom at heathertom@gmail.com.

Shutterfly and TinyPrints

This is a year-round rewards program. It's time for holiday cards, extra photo prints, calendars, party invitations, etc. If you plan to order items like these, try Shutterfly or TinyPrints. Simply enter the site through this storefront link: <http://ilchesteres.shutterflystorefront.com>. 13% of your purchase will automatically be donated to Ilchester PTA at no additional cost to you, and coupons and promotional codes can still be used! For questions, contact Colleen Howland at colhowland1@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All-in-One PTA Membership and Donation Form

Thank you letters and PTA membership cards have been distributed to families who submitted their All-in-One sheets. If you joined and/or donated and did not receive a letter and membership card (if applicable) please contact Tina Hill at ilchesterptamembership@gmail.com. If you still want to join the PTA or make a tax-deductible donation, the All-in-One Sheet is still available for download on the IES PTA website, <http://iespta.weebly.com> and can be submitted at any time throughout the year.

Questions about the PTA?

Feel free to contact Mrs. Beth Benoit, PTA President, at bethbenoit428@aol.com.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart."

- Helen Keller

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!