



# What's the Buzz?

AUGUST 31, 2017

## BEE THE CHANGE...

- **Become a PTA member!**
- **Make a donation!**
- **Volunteer your time!**
- **Attend meetings!**
- **Come to events!**

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## Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year!

On behalf of the SPES PTA, welcome to Short Pump Elementary School!

The PTA is an organization of moms, dads, guardians, grandparents, teachers, and staff that make great things happen at SPES. Our Fall Festival, Reflections Program, Kids Club, Book Fair, and Fifth Grade Celebration are just a few of the events organized by the PTA at SPES.

The PTA supports SPES financially by selecting and funding a Grant-a-Wish program

and underwriting many curriculum based events throughout the school year. In addition, the PTA provides volunteers in the classroom, around school, and beyond the school to make sure our families, students, and teachers enjoy their time at SPES. In many ways, the PTA helps to make SPES a special place.

We hope you will consider helping and becoming a part of this important organization. Everyone—parents, guardians, grandparents, neighbors—is welcome. No matter how much

time and/or talent you may have, we have a place for everyone and would love for you to be a part of our group!

*Jennie Kazzie*  
**SPES PTA President**



## Back to School SPES PTA Checklist

### ONLINE or PAPER:

- Join SPES PTA at <http://www.pta.org/about/join.cfm> or complete the Easy Registration form
- Donate to Stinger Fund at <http://www.pta.org/about/join.cfm> or complete the Easy Registration form
- Express an interest in volunteering for the PTA by completing the PTA Volunteer Interest Form\* in this folder or on [spespta.com](http://spespta.com)

### ONLINE:

- Join classroom [nList](#) site(s)\*\*
- \*\* Must join separate site for each child
- Add child(ren) to the student directory on [nList](#)
- Subscribe to SPES PTA calendar on [spespta.com](http://spespta.com)
- Like [Short Pump Elementary PTA](#) on Facebook
- Register Kroger Card to benefit SPES
- Select SPES on AmazonSmile

### PAPER:

- Fill out the HCPS Volunteer Mentor Application and return to school
- Submit spirit wear order to school by **Fri, Sep 29**

\* Complete by **Fri, Sep 8** to be considered for Room Parent

# Fundraising News

- **PTA Membership** is open to all people of the SPES community—parents, guardians, teachers, and administrators. To be recognized as an official member of the SPES PTA, you must pay the annual membership dues of \$5.00. Of this amount, \$2.25 goes to the National PTA organization, \$1.00 goes to the Virginia PTA organization, and the remaining monies are used for SPES PTA events and activities. It's easy to sign up. Go to <http://spespta.com/support/membership/> or complete the enclosed Easy Registration Form!

*What do families get in return for their membership?*

- \* Welcome packet with local coupons!
  - \* Short Pump Elementary printed directory!
  - \* Discount to Fall Festival (if you sign up by October 13)!
  - \* A certificate for your child to spend at the Stinger Store!
  - \* Ability to vote in SPES PTA elections, approve budget and bylaw changes.
  - \* Funding and volunteer support for school-wide cultural arts and science events, parent programming, student directories, teacher resource fund, Fifth Grade Celebration, staff appreciation, room parent support and much more.
  - \* National PTA discounts (Hertz, Sharp, Staples, Schwan's, and Sylvan Learning).
- **Stinger Fund** allows parents to make an upfront donation to the PTA, in support of our annual operating budget of over \$35,000, thereby eliminating the need to sell merchandise to your family and friends! Past contributions helped fund the Grant-a-Wish program, teacher resource and room parent funds, cultural art programs, Reflections competition, and technology used by SPES and the PTA.

*Contribute to the Stinger Fund at these levels and we'll send you...*

- \* \$25 to \$49—one Stinger car magnet!
  - \* \$50 to \$99—two Stinger car magnets!
  - \* \$100 to \$150—one exciting Stinger color-changing cup & two Stinger car magnets!
  - \* Over \$150—two exciting Stinger color-changing cups & two Stinger car magnets!
- **Rewards Programs** are some of our “painless” fundraising programs. FUNDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE PTA. We are not endorsing these companies, but if you happen to shop at any or purchase the brands, please participate. You can also ask your neighbors, friends and relatives to participate as well! Many of these are national companies (with the exception of i9Sports and Papa John's), so they don't have to be local to help.
  - **Spirit Wear** is a fun way to show your Stinger spirit! Kids and parents purchase a cool shirt or sweatshirt and the PTA gets a percentage of the sales. Check out the new designs available for purchase during the month of September!
  - **Fall Festival** is one of the largest fundraisers for the SPES PTA. Monies raised directly contribute to the PTA's annual budget which supports teachers, their classrooms, and ultimately the students—your children. Mark your calendar for **Friday, October 13!**

## Communication News

Join your child(ren)'s classroom nList site(s) by using the signup instructions in this folder

- **The Buzz** is a newsletter produced by SPES PTA. You do not need to be a PTA member to receive the newsletter. The newsletter is sent out regularly via email during the school year, as needed for special announcements, and periodically during the summer. It includes information from the PTA and SPES faculty about PTA activities and events, SPES activities and events, and items of interest for children and families of the SPES community.
- **nList** is a simple and secure online group organizational tool used with great success. It is used by room parents, teachers, and the PTA as a means for individuals to sign up for volunteer shifts, donate items or RSVP for an event. “Bulletins” are sent via email to communicate information regarding your child's classroom and PTA events.  
At the beginning of each school year, parents and guardians are asked to join your child(ren)'s classroom nList “site”. Both parents are encouraged to sign up—the information received is valuable for everyone! You may also join other groups/sites throughout the year, such as “Room Parents”, “PTA”, etc.
- **Memory Book** is a great keepsake from your child's school year! Each year, dedicated volunteers work hard to assemble a great book that captures the SPES experience. The book is a professionally printed hard cover “yearbook” with pages including class portraits and photos of enrichment, extracurricular, and fun SPES activities.
- Our **Website** is a great way to stay connected and is a valuable resource for PTA information, flyers, and forms.

<http://spespta.com>

# Volunteer News

Complete the PTA Volunteer Interest form in this folder or at [spespta.com](https://spespta.com)

Volunteering is a great way to meet people and enhance your child's experience at SPES. Don't feel overwhelmed and pressured to participate in every event. Just pick the ones you find most interesting or personally valuable.

Wondering how to get involved? Chair or join a committee. Volunteer at school or during events.

There are a multitude of ways to get involved in our PTA! Big or small, at school or at home, creative or administrative, there truly is something for everyone!

Consider this your invitation to volunteer today!

**Step 1:** All volunteers must return the HCPS Volunteer Mentor Application form. This is required every year prior to volunteering in the school. Additionally, all volunteers must provide their own transportation.

**Step 2:** Complete the PTA Volunteer Interest form if you did not fill one out last year or if your interests have changed.

**Step 3:** Be sure to join or accept invitation(s) to classroom and PTA committee nLists to receive bulletins about volunteer opportunities and to access signups.

# Programs News

**Reflections** is a program organized by the National PTA that encourages students pre-K through grade 12 to explore and be creative. Since it was founded in 1969 by Mary Lou Anderson, millions of students have benefited from this program. Students create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production,

literature, musical composition, photography, or visual arts.

This year's theme is "Within Reach" and entries are due **Friday, October 6!**

See the Reflections flyer in this folder for more information

# Other PTA Items to look for ...

- **Beautification** is a group that helps maintain the school grounds and Secret Garden.
- **Community Partners** are businesses who have a relationship with the PTA. They support the PTA financially and/or by providing benefits to our members. Please show them your support! A list of partners is available on our website and Facebook page.
- **Curriculum Programs** are PTA funded assemblies to enhance the student curriculum. Past programs included Metro Richmond Zoo, Engineering for Kids, author visits, and many more fun, educational, grade-based programs.
- **Green Team** is a team comprised of 4th and 5th graders who lead the school's environmental efforts.
- **Hospitality** is a group of volunteers that provides breakfasts, lunches, and special treats for our teachers.
- **Kids Club** is a great way to keep kids busy during winter. The after school enrichment classes are held on Wednesdays for six weeks starting in January (with make up days in March). A variety of classes are offered for their education, entertainment, and fitness.
- **Spirit Nights** are outings at local businesses, usually restaurants, that donate a percentage of sales from the event. These events give the kids a chance to hang out together outside of school, parents a chance to meet other SPES parents and teachers, and raise fund for the PTA so that we can continue to support SPES.
- **Stinger Store** offers students a place to purchase school supplies.
- **STREAM** stands for Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art, and Math. The Explore Lab provides teachers with supplies and a space to explore beyond the core curriculum.
- **Student Directory** provides contact information about the PTA, teachers and students. Use it to learn who is in your child's class or to contact SPES families. Directories are available online to all nList users. Print copies will be provided to PTA members ONLY in the Fall.

# School Information



## SHORT PUMP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3425 Pump Road  
Henrico, Virginia 23233

Phone: (804) 360-0812

Fax: (804) 364-0845

Website:

[http://  
schools.henrico.k12.va.us/  
shortpumpes](http://schools.henrico.k12.va.us/shortpumpes)

School Hours

8:10am to 2:40pm

Office Hours

7:00am to 4:00pm

Mascot: Stinger Bee

Colors: Blue and Yellow

# Helpful Hints about SPES PTA

- Check [spespta.com](http://spespta.com) regularly, both for content and the calendar of events. The PTA website is a great source for information about PTA stuff going on at SPES.
- Read the PTA newsletter, The Buzz, sent via email.
- Attend PTA meetings. It's a great way to get to know other parents and be in the know on school happenings!
- If you work outside the home, look into activities that go on after hours that you can participate in. Fall Festival is on a Friday night, school ground cleanups are on Saturdays, and many volunteering activities can be done from home.
- Volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! This is a great community of parents and children. You should get to know as many as you can.
- Enjoy your time here! It goes by too quickly.

## Important Dates—Mark Your Calendars!!!

- Sep 14 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & Back to School Night  
\* Parents ONLY please!!!
- Sep 22 @ 5:00—Back to School Pizza Picnic
- Oct 6—Reflections entries due
- Oct 13 @ 5:00—Freaky Friday Fall Festival
- Oct 19 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & Reflections Ceremony
- Nov 16 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & Math Night
- Jan 18 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & 5th Grade Concert
- Feb 15 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & International Night
- Mar 15 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting & 4th Grade Concert
- Apr 26 @ 6:30—PTA Meeting, Election & 3rd Grade Concert

\* All PTA Meetings are in the Multipurpose Room

## 2017-2018 SPES PTA Officers

Jennie Kazzie, President

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Heather Jensen, 1st VP

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