



The Buzz

FEBRUARY 2019

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Message from the PTA President

Before we know it, spring will be here -- and very soon if we can trust Punxsutawney Phil and his prediction for an early spring!

For us, February always signals the beginning of the preparations for the following year of the PTA; and at our next General Membership meeting on February 21st, we will be officially electing our Nominating Committee. This committee will be responsible in the next three months for assisting in finding next year's slate of officers, chairs, and volunteers to serve on the PTA Board.



Unfortunately, we do not yet have a Nominating Committee to elect.

For the last few years the PTA has struggled significantly with finding volunteers to fill many of our top leadership roles. This year we were forced to cancel Fall Festival and nearly cancel Kids Club.

It is **VITALLY** important that we have leaders to serve on the PTA Board year-round and have volunteers to serve on the short-term Nominating Committee in order to continue to function as a PTA. In addition, we **MUST** have PTA members attend the General Membership meeting on February 21st. If we do not reach quorum at the meeting, we will be unable to vote on the Nominating Committee, which means we will be unable to present a slate for elections in May and be unable to function as a PTA next year.

In order to keep our PTA active next year, please consider participating in the Nominating Committee and assuming one of the open PTA positions you will be hearing about soon!

To sign up or get more information, please email spesvolunteer@gmail.com or check out MSA, and be on the lookout for more information about open roles as recruitment efforts continue.

Thank you very much to all of you who continue to invest your time and energy in this PTA and we look forward to seeing you all at the General Membership meeting on February 21st!

Sincerely,

Heather Jensen

Visit page 3 for more information about the Purpose of the PTA!

Find this newsletter online at [http://spespta.com/!](http://spespta.com/)

Message from the Principal

Greetings Short Pump Stinger Families:

As we begin another quarter, we focus on a new leadership/character trait – Considerate! (This trait is representative of the “C” in our Stingers R.O.C.K. positive behavior supports.) As we will be discussing about how to be considerate on the morning announcements and throughout the school day, be sure to ask your stinger how they may have shown consideration to another or how someone else showed consideration to them.



This month, we are celebrating the county of Iraq! Thank you to Ms. Hasan (proud mother a 4th grader in Mrs. Johnson’s class) for decorating our Country of the Month board. Please ask your Stingers what new information they have found out about Iraq during the month of February.



We are SO delighted to host our **2019 Wellness Night on Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.** Our night will begin with a PTA meeting. Directly following the meeting, there will be various stations to work out in with your children! Be sure to wear your workout gear! Don’t have time for dinner? Food trucks will be available on site. It should be a fun event, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Keeping safety a priority, “a healthy media diet balances three things: what kids do, how much time they spend doing it, and whether their content choices are age-appropriate” as shared by commonsense media. [Check out this site](#) to make a Family Media Agreement to set rules to ensure Internet safety and make the most out of media and tech time.

If you ever need to reach out to your child’s teacher to discuss a concern and need to conference, we are available outside of the conference window. Remember, we are partners with you in your child’s educational journey and want to support them as best we can.

I hope your child shared some love with you during our “Share the Love” Challenge the week of February 11th. We challenged each student to write a kind note on a heart and give it to a family member. Thank you for supporting your child’s education and our school!

Educationally yours,
Dr. S

**Spirit Day:
100th Day
of School**
Thursday, February 21st
**Dress like you are
100 years old!**

**Wellness
Night**
Thursday, February 21st
6:00 - 8:00 PM

A simple line drawing of a white sneaker with yellow accents on the toe and heel.

What is the **purpose** of the PTA?

The Parent-Teacher Association, or PTA, plays an important role in making SPES a great school.

We can't reach success without the involvement of parents!

What does the PTA do?

Without the PTA, great programs and support like these may disappear!

Events

Trunk or Treat, Bingo,
Coffee and Connection

Programs

Kids' Club
STEM Programs

Advocates for Kids

The Caring Fund provides financial assistance to cover the costs of field trips, memory books, field day shirts, etc. for families identified as in need.

Supporting Teachers

Helping with everything from providing funds for teachers to buy supplies to supporting requests for volunteers.

Finding Community Partners

SPES Community Partners donate funds to support our school programs.

Supporting Technology

Online programs such as MySchoolAnywhere are supported by PTA members!

What can parents do help?

Participation at all levels makes a difference.

Attend general meetings and vote! Important updates, like budgets, must have enough voting attendees to ensure they are passed and entered into records.

Volunteer for leadership positions. Without people to help organize and run events, they can't happen. The PTA was forced to cancel the Fall Festival and nearly cancel Kids Club due to lack of volunteers.

Join the Nominating Committee. Basically, without a Nominating Committee we can't vote on PTA leaders and *we won't have a PTA next year.*

Send an email to please email spesvolunteer@gmail.com with questions or check out MSA to volunteer for an open position.

Dance Factor!

Dance Factor is an after school hip-hop class offered by the physical education teacher, Mr. Gray, to 4th and 5th grade students at Short Pump Elementary. All participating students have the opportunity to learn basic hip-hop skills and combine new techniques into choreographed dances. By the end of their 8-week session, Dance Factor members will have mastered a combined hip-hop dance routine that they will have a chance to perform in front of their school during assemblies and at other school venues.



Turn Markers



Into Energy!

The ColorCycle program has repurposed more than 70 tons of expended markers in the United States and Canada since 2013 and uses the most advanced plastic conversion technologies available today to make wax compounds for asphalt and roofing shingles, as well as to generate electricity that can be used to heat homes, cook food, and power vehicles.

Drop-off boxes will be located around SPES to collect your used markers. Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers, highlighters, or dry erase markers - even non-Crayola brands! ***Don't throw out that used marker—ColorCycle it!***

*Program coordinated by Madeline Green
10th Grader at Deep Run High School, Girl Scout Member*

Reminder: The deadline to order personalized yearbooks is next Friday 2/22

Change for Children Drive



Our SCA is sponsoring the Change for Children drive **until Friday, February 22.**

All proceeds support children with cancer at the VCU medical center.

[Click here](#) to watch a YouTube video about the program!

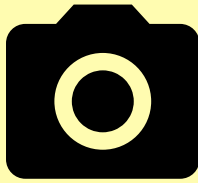
Turn Your Clothes into Cash for SPES!

Do you have clothing or shoes you aren't using? Do you want to make more room in your closets and help out the school at the same time? Donate your old clothes and shoes by putting them in the large white bin in the upper parking lot in front of the school.



Spring Picture Day: **Wed., February 27th!**

Individual and class pictures will be taken!
More information will be sent home soon.



Volunteers of the Month!



SPES volunteers are one of the many reasons we have such a great school.

Thank you to
Stinger Store volunteers:

**Irina Stefanova &
Harriet Golding**

Thank you for your great patience and kindness when working with the students at the Stinger Store each month!

Book Fair

Mark your calendars!

Sat., March 9 - Wed., March 13

Barnes & Noble

Your purchases support SPES!



Stinger Store!

Wednesday,
March 6

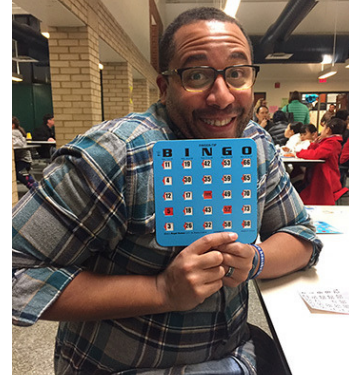
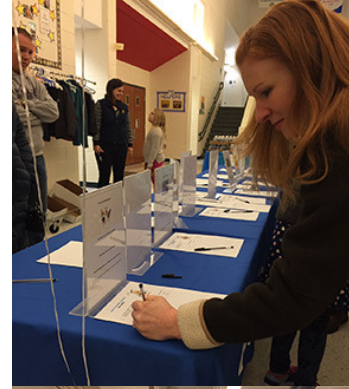


BINGO Spells Fun!

B-I-N-G-O was a big H-I-T!

The cafeteria was packed with parents, students, and teachers hoping to get the right combination to win a round of bingo! Mixing the patterns each round made each game exciting.

To add to the fun, a Teacher Feature Silent Auction was set up for attendees to bid on great prizes provided by the teachers. Included in the auction was a day of being the Principal, VIP parking for upcoming events, and STEM projects led by teachers.



Short Pump Wellness Night

**Thursday, Feb. 21
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Join teachers, classmates, and parents for a night filled with health and fun!
Free for the entire family

The fun starts with a PTA presentation in the Gymnasium at 6:00 PM.

Food Trucks will be available for families to purchase food and drinks.

All activities will be **INSIDE** of SPES. Please come dressed to participate in physical activity.

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- Jump Rope Contest
 - Tag Activities
 - Yoga - Games
 - Hula Hoops
 - Endurance Challenges
 - Dance Lesson - More!

Community Partner Profile:

Mathnasium

At Mathnasium, “We make math make sense!” Whether your children are far behind or already advanced, we’ll help them catch up, keep up and get ahead because we know that any child can be successful in math—it’s a matter of teaching it in a way that makes sense to them. Our staff of math experts is passionate about helping children in grades 1 through 12 improve their math skills, and we offer both year-round and summer math programs. Call (804) 272-MATH today for a FREE complimentary assessment to see how we can help your child learn to love math!



Upcoming Events



Thurs., 2/21:

**100th Day of School Spirit Day
Dress like you are 100 years old!**

Thurs., 2/21 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM:

**Wellness Night
PTA General Meeting**

Fri., 2/22:

**Last day of Change for Children Drive
Last day to order a personalized yearbook**

Wed., 2/27:

Spring Picture Day - Individual & Class

Wed., 3/6 - 7:50 AM:

Stinger Store

Sat., 3/9 - Wed., 3/13:

Book Fair at Barnes & Noble

Tues., 3/19 - 7:00 PM:

3rd Grade Performance

Join the PTA!

Join as a regular member or be part of the leadership team on the PTA board or as a committee chair!

The PTA plans, organizes, staffs and operates several activities each year.

It takes the continued commitment of a lot of people to make all of the activities a reality. Membership is only \$5 per person and is not limited to parents - grandparents, aunts, uncles, or anyone else is welcome to join.

Go to spespta.com and click on Become a PTA Member!

2 easy ways to sign up to volunteer or for more info.

>> Send an email to spesvolunteer@gmail.com

>> Login to MySchoolAnywhere and do the following:

On Your Desktop:

Click on SignUps on the top navigation bar

In the App:

Click on the hamburger menu (3 lines) and select Sign Ups

Bee-fore you Volunteer

Fill out a volunteer form and bring your government-issued ID to present to the front office when you sign in for your volunteer days.

[Click here for the Volunteer Form](#)

[Click here for the Volunteer Guidelines](#)

About Short Pump Elementary School

3425 Pump Road
Henrico, Virginia 23233
Phone: (804) 360-0812
Fax: (804) 364-0845

Website:

<http://shortpumpes.henricoschools.us/>

School Hours

8:10 AM to 2:40 PM

Office Hours

7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Mascot: Stinger Bee

Colors: Blue and Yellow

Connect with us!



Henrico County Public Schools

@henricoschools



SPES PTA

@shortpumpespta



SPES PTA Website

<http://spespta.com/>

spescommunication@gmail.com