



Warrior's World

From the Chief

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am very happy to report that our school year has started off wonderfully. We were thrilled to have the number of parents and students come out for our Meet and Greet Night, and I hope that we will see you again on September 5th for Open House. We also ask that you plan to come for our first Parent Information Night on September 27th where you can learn more about the Common Core Curriculum and what it means for your child. Both events begin at 6:00 PM.

I know at the beginning of the year you are given so many papers to fill out and things to read. I hope by now you have become familiar with both the St. Tammany Parish Handbook as well as the Abita Springs Middle Handbook. Rules may vary a bit from school to school, but all rules are made to ensure your child's safety and all around well-being. Please pay careful attention to the attendance requirements as listed in the Parish handbook, as these are state requirements.

There are so many ways to keep in contact with your child's teacher, and we hope that you will take advantage of these to keep actively involved with your child's progress. Each teacher is required to maintain a website with up to date information about what is going on in their classes. You can link to each teacher through our website at <http://abitaspringsmiddle.stpsb.org/>, and then go to faculty and staff. A newsletter is sent home weekly with the students giving an overview of their learning. Please check your child's agenda for notes and homework, and coming soon you will be able to see your child's grades via JPAMS. Always remember that teachers check e-mail during their planning time, and that is a great way to stay in touch. As always, you can visit www.stpsb.org to see what is going on system wide. Welcome to our school family and a new school year. We hope that your children will have a wonderful learning experience with us while making special memories.

Sincerely,
Donna Forrest, Principal
Abita Springs Middle School
donna.forrest@stpsb.org



"Working Together As One!"

Upcoming Events



September 3
Labor Day Holiday
No School

September 5
Open House
6pm

September 6
Picture Day
Uniforms Only

September 7
Spirit Shirt Order
Forms due
B1 Acts of Respect
Forms due

September 11
Fundraiser Money
& forms due

September 13
Interim Reports

September 27
Parenting Night
Common Core
Curriculum Info
6pm

September 28
Free Dress for
Perfect Attendance

Presidential Address

AND WE'RE OFF!!!! To wonderful start to the new school year. I hope everyone is getting in to the routine with few, if any problems. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of what your PTA is working on for the very near future. Right now we have two very important tasks at hand.

First is finalizing our fall fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who sold cookie dough. Please get your order forms back ASAP. This fundraiser is our single largest source of funds for the programs we sponsor. Without this fundraiser we would be unable to do any of the things we do for the school, teachers and students. The due date is September 11th. Any forms or money not received by September 14th will not make the final order or counted for prizes.

The second and most important is our MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. Most of you know that the school board has cut funding for all schools and some programs have taken a hit. Budgets are tight and school administrators and faculty are being told and expected to do more with less and they have graciously accepted the challenge. Abita Springs Middle School is "OUR" school. We need to do what we can to assist "OUR" school because it's for "OUR" children. This starts with a membership! Membership is not a fundraiser; it cannot be according to PTA bylaws. My goal is to have 100% membership before the end of October. It shows the District and State PTA we are committed and it sends a clear message to our school board members and administration that the family at ASMS stand in solidarity behind our school, our faculty, our administration and most of all behind our children! Fundraisers are how we support them financially and memberships are how we support them in ways money can't buy. Memberships give a voice to every child in our community. We will be giving awards to all classes that have 100% membership. This means that every child in the class is represented by a membership. If you would like to sponsor a child in your student's class please send in the envelope and money and mark the member name line with "Sponsored". Be sure to include the name of your child's teacher. We already have 100% membership of our faculty and administration because they realize how important PTA is in the education of children. We have 326 memberships sold already. There are around 490 students in our school so we're off to a great start. Remember that a membership costs only \$5.00 and anyone can join. We need parents, grandparents, students and businesses or even friends who don't have a child in our school. Membership forms can be found at school or from any of your board members. The board members' phone numbers and email address are on the school website under the PTA tab on the left side of the page or in this newsletter. You know the old adage: 10% of the people do 90% of the work? I'm not great at math, but if you only have 10 people that means only 1 person is doing the 90%. To my knowledge, that has never happened at ASMS but my feelings are if we have 100 people sign up that means 10 people are doing the 90%. Sounds much better!

We are also trying to involve more parents through volunteering. There are a number of ways you can get involved. We all understand the stresses and strains of our busy lives, however if you can find the time; we can use your help. Make sure you have filled out the gold volunteer form with your phone number and address and the Volunteer Coordinator will contact you when we have a need.

Keep up with all the news via the school website, PTA newsletter, or PTA Facebook page. We are putting together the dates for our next general meeting and other events we are planning and will post them ASAP.

Dan Curtis,
ASMS PTA President

***"I HAVE DONE SO MUCH, FOR SO LONG WITH SO LITTLE,
THAT I CAN NOW DO ANYTHING WITH NOTHING!"***

PTA Gets Technical

There are many ways that you can get information about what is happening at the school and with the PTA. The first is to call or email one of the Board members.

President	Dan Curtis	dcurtis0135@charter.net	985-373-2971
Vice President	Jeff Ruth	jruth@22global.com	985-966-5315
Secretary	Jill Barringer	jbarringer002@att.net	985-892-2070
Treasurer	Janet Dufrene	jnorth1007@aol.com	985-966-7371

We also have a link on the school's website at <http://abitaspringsmiddle.stpsb.org/>. We have boxes in the office at school where you can drop off items for us to pick up. The PTA has gone technical and now has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AbitaSpringsMiddleSchoolPta>. Just "like" our page and you will get updates directly to your news feed as they are posted. This is also a great way for you to give us suggestions, feedback and questions. Please do not post student or teacher specific information on this site. Those questions should be sent to the teacher or administrators. Finally, we have an email address for the PTA at abitamiddleschoolpta@aol.com. We welcome your feedback and questions.

Financial Footnotes

The PTA started off the summer by auditing the financial books from last year. An auditing committee was chosen that was made up of people who were not signers on the account last year. All books from last year were audited and found to be complete and correct. The PTA taxes were filed and submitted also.

The executive board met over the summer to formulate a budget and it was presented at the first general meeting on August 7th. The budget was approved and accepted. This budget is a fluid thing and will change throughout the year as needs and available funds change. We have already found areas that need to be changed. Those changes will be submitted and voted upon at the next general meeting in October. The PTA can not spend any funds without first having it approved by the general membership. It is everyone's responsibility to be aware of what funds are coming in and what funds are going out or planned to go out. All of the PTA financial records are public information and must be made available upon request for viewing. I will be presenting a check register and updated budget at every general meeting. If you would like to meet with me to see the official records or to discuss financial matters please call me or email me at jnorth1007@aol.com and I will make myself available to answer questions.

Please be aware that the PTA is a non-profit organization and as such we must have a plan to spend all of the money we earn. We are not allowed to just earn money to make money. We give the money we earn to many different programs at ASMS and without these funds the school or teachers would have to use their own money to pay for these items.

Finally we have secured a "Square" this year which is a tool used for us to charge credit cards for items we are selling. If you would prefer to use a card to pay for memberships or fundraiser activities please contact Jeff Ruth and he will arrange it for you.

Janet Dufrene, Treasurer

"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time."

Steve Jobs

Membership Goals

Unit Goal: 490
LA Goal: 225
Dads: 100
Grandparents: 50
Corporate Sponsors: 20

Unit Actual: 326
Students: 58
Dads: 58
Grandparents: 35
Corporate Sponsors: 9

www.pta.org



Membership Levels

Parent/Dad: \$5.00

Grandparent: \$5.00

Student: \$5.00

Corporate: \$25

The Mission of the Parent Teacher Association®

PTA® serves as:

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Members Only

We are happy to announce that we will not only be offering rewards this year for classes and grades who meet their goal of 100% membership but also for families who purchase at least 4 memberships. If you have already purchased memberships but not 4 you can send in additional memberships and we will credit them to your family. We also are accepting sponsored memberships for children who are unable to purchase their own. A good option is to get a business owner to purchase a corporate membership which includes 5 cards and advertising in the monthly newsletter every month. This is a great, inexpensive way for business owners to reach the community.

Our teachers, staff and administrators at ASMS are the best! They realize the importance of the PTA to the students, school and themselves. We have reached 100% memberships for our faculty and staff. That includes custodians, cafeteria workers, teachers, administrators...everyone! 62 faculty/staff are now members of the ASMS PTA! Thank you for your support! You are truly an example to the students, parents and community.

Joining the PTA rates you among one of the largest child advocacy groups in the world. National PTA uses its resources to change or pass laws that affect our children and their education. They invest time and money in to causes that affect children and family such as childhood obesity, bullying, parental involvement, etc. Parents and teachers working together with students are the key to making sure that every child has a voice. Be a child's voice today by joining the Abita Springs Middle School PTA and volunteering your time and talents. For more information about memberships please contact Jeff Ruth at jruth@22global.com.

Cultural Arts

2012-2013 Reflections Program



The National PTA Reflections Program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in Pre-K through grade 12. As participants in the program, students are encouraged to create works in the following art categories:

Deadline for Reflections will be November 1st, 2012!

Categories

1. Dance choreography
2. Film Production
3. Literature
4. Musical Composition
5. Photography
6. Visual Arts

Divisions

- Intermediate 3rd grade-5th grade
Middle 6th grade-9th grade

Students submit artwork to the ASMS PTA. Works are judged by the local PTA's judges and the winning entries advance to the District and State PTA round. Top entries from each state will advance to the National PTA for a final round of judging.

The theme for 2012-2013 is "Magic of a Moment". The winner of the theme search, Kate, wrote the following about what the theme means to her:

"I wrote the theme the 'Magic of a Moment' because it's true. Every moment of every day is unique, good or bad, no moment is the same. We all have that one moment that we can look back on and say, 'I wish I could live that day over and over again.'"

We will be providing paper supplies and rules for the different categories in a box by the front office of school. If you are interested in having your child participate please have them go to the office and request the rules for the category they wish to enter. Many of the teachers are assigning this to their students so check with your child to see if their teacher is one of them.

Attention! We Need You!

Parents, we are looking for a group of parents who would be interested in forming a cultural arts committee to help plan, distribute and carry out the needs of the Reflections Program. It will not require a large time commitment but the volunteers will need to be organized, detail oriented and proactive. You do not need to be artistic! Please contact us at abitamiddleschoolpta@aol.com if you are interested in serving on the committee. The committee will work closely with Jill Barringer (4th grade teacher) in making sure that the program is carried out.

B1 “Take a Stand, Lend a Hand”

B1 is an anti-bullying campaign that began on our campus last year. Bullying has become a huge topic in schools, and as a B1 team, Abita Springs Middle plans to stomp it out through prevention, education, and positive awareness. All students who completed ten random acts of kindness last year received a t-shirt and pledged to B1. This year, all new students to our school can complete ten random acts of respect by September 7th, receive a t-shirt and pledge to B1. Each month we will focus on a goal; respectfulness, responsibility, etc. Students should look forward to monthly contests, skits, videos, and special events!

Remember: **“B1! Take a stand; and lend a hand!”**

What is Bullying?

The definition of bullying on dictionary.com is “to treat in an overbearing or intimidating manner.” Stop Bullying Now!, a national campaign by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines bullying as, “Aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time.” Some parents may remember what bullying is from when they were children, and typically think of the bigger kids on the playground pushing down the smaller or younger ones; this is a form of physical bullying. However, the times are changing, and so has bullying. Bullying can be verbal or physical and has now extended to the new technologies available. There is an increase in cyberbullying, which extends bullying to technologies such as the internet and telephones.

“What if the kid you bullied at school, grew up, and turned out to be the only surgeon who could save your life?”
— **Lynette Mather**

Who is Being Bullied?

- According to the report Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2008 by the National Center for Education Statistics, about 32 percent of students reported being bullied at school.
- 79 percent of those students reported being bullied inside the school building, 23 percent reported being bullied on school grounds, and 4 percent reported being cyberbullied.
- According to the 2001 National Crime Victimization Survey by the U.S. Department of Education, there were no major differences found between the number of boys and girls being bullied.
- There were also no major differences found between the number of students being bullied in public and private school.
- However, fewer students reported being bullied in schools where a security guard or police officer was present.

What are the Effects of Bullying?

- Students who were bullied are more likely to take a weapon to school for protection.
- Bullied students are also more likely to get involved in a physical fight.
- Bullied students are more likely to receive lower grades than those students who are not being bullied.
- Bullied students are more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, health problems, and mental health problems.

What does this Tell Us?

Bullying can happen anywhere and to any child. This is what makes bullying such an important issue. However, there are measures that schools, teachers, parents, and children can take to prevent or stop bullying and the first step is to become informed on bullying and its effects. **National PTA® Connect For Respect**

Box Tops & Labels for Education

Start collecting your box tops and community coffee labels. We will be sending out sheets this year for contests that pit class against class in Box Tops Wars. Make sure your box tops are not expired and trim them down to size. You can either paste or tape them to the sheets we send home or put them in baggies with your child's name and teacher name on the outside so that we can credit them correctly. Finally, go to the website www.boxtops4education.com and register under Abita Springs Middle School. There are periodic bonus points you can earn for the school that get credited immediately to our account. We are expecting a rather large check in the next few months from all the hard work of the students last year. If we start now we can grow that check and get another submission in this year for a check in March. We have always had a lot of support from our families. We would like to earn \$3000 this year. We already have \$1187.00 in our account waiting to be dispersed so we are well on our way. Keep an eye out for the sheets and for our requests for volunteers to help count, clip and ship the box tops. Thanks for your support!



Don't Forget!

Fall Fundraiser Wrap Up

Don't forget to return all of your Fall Fundraiser forms and money starting on September 11. All orders and money must be received by September 14th in order to be included in the master order. Thank you all for your help in raising funds to support our teachers, students and school! ASMS is **OUR** school and these are **OUR** students.



4-H

4-H is a learn-by-doing youth development program in which students work together to help their community. We have many exciting activities and events planned this year! With the St. Tammany Parish fair right around the corner, we will kick off the year planning for our participation in it. Students will have the opportunity to show livestock, create and make crafts and food dishes, and participate in the 4-H talent show at the fair. Other activities and events planned this year include a 4-H Winter Lock-In, a bake sale, a community-canned food drive, and a Spruce-Up day. Along with the help of Mrs. Fortner's class, we will continue to sponsor our school's recycling program. It is sure to be a great year! Thanks to all who signed up! See you September 4th!



2011-2012 4-H Events



ASMS Spirit Shirts

All order forms for the ASMS spirit shirts are due by Friday, September 7th. The shirts will be delivered to homeroom classes at the beginning of October. These shirts may be worn on Fridays to school in place of your regular uniform shirt. Extra order forms are available in the office or room 205 if you need one. These are very popular with the kids so don't miss out on getting yours today! Show your Warrior Spirit!

Attention Students of Abita Middle!

Are you looking for a fun way to get involved in both your school and your community? If so, then the Abita Springs Middle Student Council could be the place for you! Representatives will be elected within homeroom classes in early September. Elected Representatives will be eligible to run for the following offices: President (6th grade only), Vice President (5th and 6th grade), Secretary (all grades), and Treasurer (all grades).

As a Representative, you will be asked to lead your classroom in various activities throughout the year, such as Red Ribbon Week, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, and the Holiday Present Drive. You will also be invited to participate in planning both the St. Tammany Parish Fair School Booth and the Annual Night with the Stars Talent Showcase.

More information will follow during the September Student Council Meeting, date to be announced. I can't wait to see you there!

Christine Magnuson, Advisor

VFW Americanism Contest

4th Grade Students: Make an illustration of a Historical Event on 9 1/2 X 11 max paper size.

5th & 6th Grade Students: "How I Honor Veterans" Essay (300 words or less)

All entries are due November 13th!



A Note from Band

The Abita Springs Middle School Band has kicked off the recruiting this year already and plan to start rehearsals soon. We will be looking to continue our impressive showcase of musical talent. Last year, the band received a Superior rating (the highest possible) in Sight-reading at LMEA District IX Festival, a competition featuring many top high school bands. We hope to continue this tradition and aiming for more awards this year. Any student in fifth to sixth grade is welcome to sign up for band for this year.

The Music Department strives to create a strong culture that goes hand in hand with the traditions of academic success at Abita Middle. Through rigorous study, and fun activities, students leave music class with a better appreciation for all types of music.

“Music can change the world because it can change people.”
Bono



"Ms. Young-Bridges' General Music classes are cookin' up some great rhythms as the 6th graders prepare for singing the Veteran's Day program in November! They are also learning all about the instruments of the orchestra - did you know that bands and orchestras join forces and create a symphony orchestra?"

Strings (ASMS Orchestra) Classes start Monday, August 27th - here is the schedule. Please put a sign on the fridge or front door reminding yours to bring instruments on:

MONDAYS:

- 8:00- 8:40 Advanced Orchestra
- 10:05- 10:45 Intermediate RETURNING Cello and Bass (not beginners)
- 12:10 - 12:45 4th grade RETURNING violins (not beginners)

WEDNESDAYS:

- 8:00- 8:40 5th/6th Intermediate RETURNING Violins/Violas (not beginners)
- 10:05- 10:45 4th, 5th, 6th BEGINNING Cellos and Basses
- 12:10- 12:45 4th, 5th Beginning Violins and Violas
- 12:50- 1:30 6th Beginning Violins and Violas

A class roster will go out to teachers at the beginning of the week. We are getting started early this year, so grab a fiddle and hang on!

ASMS Spirit Cart

Welcome back! The Spirit Cart will be open Tuesdays for lunch recess starting September 11th. We will add additional days if demand is high. We carry an assortment of ASMS logo items such as pencil bags, shoelaces, and key rings. We also carry fun, interesting, and unusual pencils, pens, sharpeners, erasers, and other school supplies as well as an assortment of mints. All items cost between \$.25 and \$2.00. Proceeds go to printing at least one new school spirit item per year with any excess going to the PTA. All school spirit items are sold at cost. If you would like to order school spirit items, please use the form below.

ASMS Spirit Items Order Form School Year 2012-2013

Parent's name: _____ **Phone #** _____

Child's name: _____

(If you have more than one child at ASMS, please put the name of the child to whom you wish the order to be delivered.)

Homeroom teacher: _____ **Grade (circle):** 4th 5th 6th

Item	Description	Quantity	Price	Total
ASMS shoelaces, pair	navy w/white "ASMS", 36" (5-6 pairs of holes)	X	2.00 =	
ASMS logo keychain	white/navy, vinyl w/metal ring, logo & phone #	X	0.75 =	
ASMS logo pencil bag	clear/white, vinyl with zipper and binder holes	X	1.00 =	
ASMS logo sticker	clear/white, 4" round <i>(not reversed/not a window cling)</i>	X	1.00 =	
ASMS lanyard	navy w/white "ASMS"	X	1.00 =	
ASMS pencil	navy/silver	X	0.25 =	
Total (Enclose payment with order. Make checks payable to ASMS PTA.) =				

Please return completed orders with payment to your child's homeroom or the school office in an envelope marked "Spirit Cart." Orders will be delivered to your child's homeroom on Tuesdays by the Spirit Cart volunteers.

_____ FOR STAFF USE ONLY. PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE. _____

Cash Amt _____ OR Check Amt _____ /Date _____ /Number _____

Received by: _____ /Date _____

Corporate Sponsors

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Smoothie King

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70456 Highway 21
Covington, LA 70433

(985)809-9722 (985)875-7793
www.smoothieking.com

Blank rectangular box for corporate sponsor information.

Cafeteria Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
03	04	05	06	07
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	Yogurt Pizza Corn Fruit Choice Cookie	Muffins Pigs-in-a-Blanket Potato Salad Fruit Choice Brownie	Biscuits & Ham Beefy Mac Salad Fruit Choice Roll	Cinnamon Roll Hamburger w Bun Tater Tots Lettuce & Carrots Fruit Choice
10	11	12	13	14
Muffins Red Beans w Rice Spinach & Fruit Cornbread Frozen Yogurt	Breakfast Pizza Beef Taco w Shell Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa Corn and Peaches Cinnamon Roll	Beignets Fish Patty Baked Potato Broccoli & Fruit Choice Texas Toast	Cinnamon Roll Chicken Tender- loin Macaroni & Cheese Salad & Fruit Roll	Biscuits & Ham Hamburger w Bun Sweet Potato Fries Lettuce & Carrots Fruit Choice
17	18	19	20	21
Cinnamon Stick Chicken Pop- pers Rice w. Gravy Broccoli & Fruit Roll	Biscuits & Ham Pigs-in-a- Blanket Baked Beans Fruit Choice Brownie	Ham & Cheese Wrap Chicken Quesadilla French Fries Salsa Fruit Choice	Pancakes Spaghetti w Meat Sauce Green Beans & Salad Fruit Choice French Bread	Beignets Grilled Cheese Corn Fruit Choice Cookie
24	25	26	27	28
Fruit Squares Shepherd's Pie Broccoli Fruit Choice Roll	Beignets Beef Taco w Shell Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa Corn and Peaches Cinnamon Roll	Biscuits & Ham Chicken Tender- loin Macaroni & Cheese Salad & Fruit Roll	Cinnamon Roll Sloppy Joe w. Bun Potato Rounds Lettuce Fruit Choice	Yogurt w. Toast Fettuccini Carrot Sticks Fruit Choice Texas Toast