



Warrior's World

From the Chief

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Well, I think we have had a smooth beginning to this year with the exception of a few bumps from Hurricane Isaac and our new computer program, JPAMS. Thank you for all of your patience and supporting us through the many changes we have faced this school year. We have gotten many questions about your children's progress, perhaps once straight "A" students are bringing home more B's and C's. I think what you are seeing is a change in the challenge and rigor of the curriculum. In order to better prepare our children for the competitive workforce, the Louisiana Department of Education has adopted the Common Core Standards. The skills that students must know in order to graduate and succeed in college are focused on more in depth. Students are required to dig deeper, using higher order thinking to ultimately make the connection between what is learned in school and how it does and will apply to their lives. For a better understanding of Common Core Standards and how Louisiana is rolling this out, please visit http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/common_core.html. As always, if you have any questions about your child's progress, please call, e-mail or set up an appointment with your child's teacher. Our goal is the same as yours-safe, happy and eager learners.

Thank you all who participated in our cookie dough fund raiser. A very big thank you goes to our tireless PTA for working so hard on organizing this for our school. I assure you that the money will be put to great use, in supporting our efforts to best educate your children. We appreciate any and all parental support, we could not do this job without you.

Please remember to visit our school fair booth at the St. Tammany Parish Fair. Our schools are closed on Friday, October 5th so that you may enjoy the fair. The following week will bring to a close our First Quarter already, and the following week, report cards.

Have a great October!

Donna Forrest and Rhonda Meyers



Working Together As One

Upcoming Events



October 1st-26th
Box Tops Contest

October 5th
Fair Holiday
No School

October 10th
Picture Retakes

October 11th
End of 1st 9-weeks
PTA Meeting/
Jambalaya Dinner
5-8:30pm

October 12th
No School

October 15th-19th
Bus Safety Week
Bus Driver
Appreciation Week
National School
Lunch Week

October 18th
Report Card Day
Grandparents Lunch

**October 29-
November 2nd**
Red Ribbon Week

October 30th
Free Dress for
Perfect Attendance
(NO COSTUMES!)

October 31st
1st 9-weeks
PBS Reward
Wear Costumes

November 1st
Reflections Entries
Deadline

Presidential Address

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Our first fundraiser went off with just a little hitch called "HURRICANE ISAAC", but after a one week extension, I have to say it went great!!!! We made just over \$12,000.00 profit. Yea!!! STUDENTS AND PARENTS!!! I would like to acknowledge Jeff Ruth who spearheaded the cookie drive and Janet Dufrene for working tirelessly to insure it was a success. We are now moving on to our "MOM'S NIGHT OFF" Jambalaya dinner on October 11th, which is the same day as our PTA meeting (I know I'll see all of you there). We are in need of some help with donations so that we can keep the cost to make the food as low as possible. If you know someone who works at a grocery store or any food distributor we could surely use your help. We also need donations of desserts that are either purchased, donated by stores or made by parents. Please let us know if you can help us with this request. We have a volunteer coordinator, Christine Hulin, who is helping us look for some workers for this event. We need people who can serve, sell and collect money. Tell all your friends to come out and support MOM'S NIGHT OFF!!! This event is in line with the school board and its community connection theme with the school trying to involve our entire community. Come out and spend some time with students, families, teachers and community partners.

We are still working out all the kinks of a possible Dad's Day event, and as we get closer we'll keep everyone up to date. If you would be interested in leading our Dad's Club we would love to see someone with a love of children, charismatic personality and team spirit take over this club and really get our dads involved in the children's education.

Our PTA membership drive is still on going and if you know someone who has not yet joined, please ask them to join. We are looking for 100% membership and we are doing well in trying to reach that goal but we still have a bit to go. Especially important are our community corporate sponsors. We have been asked by National to sell 20 of them and we are only at 9. Please ask your friends and family members who own businesses to support our school through the purchase of a corporate membership. These are only \$25 and include 5 sponsored memberships for the kids in the school who can't get a student membership for themselves. This also includes an ad in our newsletter each month that goes out to 500 families. It is the cheapest advertising in town!

I would just like to again encourage everyone to stay involved!

Dan Curtis,
ASMS PTA President

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live."

~George Bernard Shaw

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 abimiddleschoolpta@aol.com. We welcome your feedback and questions .

Financial Footnotes

We have completed our fall fundraiser and the numbers are outstanding. We set a goal for ourselves of selling \$25,000 worth of cookie dough. Our final tally shows that we sold \$30,902.00! We blew our goal away. I am so proud of our families for working so hard to sell those tubs of cookie to make the money we need to support the programs at Abita Springs Middle School. We couldn't have asked for a better outcome. Thank you so much!

We will be amending the budget at the October general meeting. This will allow us to move the excess funds from the startup account and also reallocate the funds that were originally intended for the art program to other projects. We have added an allocation for the 4-H and Student Council student organizations. These organizations provide important lessons in leadership, student government, agriculture and teamwork. We felt they were worthy of our support. The balance of the additional funds will go in to the Budget Reserve category and will allocated to a special project before the end of the year.

Please remember that the PTA is a nonprofit organization and as such our books are wide open for public review. We welcome questions and suggestions from our membership. If you would like to look at the books please contact me and I will make them available to you. Please review all of the financial reports presented at general meetings. The check register will let you know what checks we have written since the last meeting. The budget report will show you where we intend to spend money and how much we have already spent and received in the budgeted categories. These funds are the memberships funds and as such we welcome your input. I can be reached by phone at (985) 966-7371 or by email at jnorth1007@aol.com.

--Janet Dufrene, Treasurer

"I can live without money, but I cannot live without love."

[Judy Garland](#)

Membership Goals

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

Unit Actual: 361
Students: 67
Dads: 64
Grandparents: 42
Corporate Sponsors: 9



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.

www.pta.org

Members Only

We are still working on our membership numbers. We are doing very well but would love to see our numbers grow in a few key categories. If the school gets 100 dad memberships we will get an award. We are currently at 64 and we really want to reach that goal. Male role models are so important in the lives of both girls and boys. What better way to show your child how important their education and well being is than to become involved in the PTA. We will be starting up a Dad's Club soon that will allow Dad's to come have breakfast and some fun activities with their child once a month or quarter. We feel that the children in Abita need to see positive, strong, male role models involved in their schools. It will not be exclusively for dads. Grandparents, uncles, family friends and other family members can attend. We also hope to schedule some fun evening events for the kids and dads to do. This all starts with your joining the PTA and getting involved. We would love to have feedback from the dads about what type of topics you want to discuss at your breakfasts. We also would love input if anyone has guest speakers you think the dads and kids would like to hear from. Perhaps coaches, sports figures, community leaders...we welcome all ideas. Dad memberships are only \$5 and the difference male figures make in the lives of children is worth its weight in gold. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please contact the Membership Chair Jeff Ruth. The following teachers have reached 100% membership for their class and will get a reward party: Hernandez, Barringer, & Enderman. We also have several who are very close to their 100%: Bond, Spitznagel, Blades and Stewart are all within 10 memberships of reaching their goal. Thank you!



Cultural Arts

We are quickly closing in our deadline for the Reflections contest. All entries are due November 1, 2012. The teachers have been a big help in getting the kids to commit to choose and complete entries. Please talk to your child about what they will be completing and let us know if there are any questions or if we can help in any way. The Cultural Arts chair this year is Jill Barringer and she can be reached at jill.barringer@stpsb.org.



Safety Poster Contest

We are kicking off our Safety Poster Contest by announcing the deadline for entry date as **December 1, 2012**. We have always done really well in this National PTA contest and have had several students whose work went on to the District and State levels over the past few years. We encourage all students to create a poster for judging. The theme this year is "Safety Rules at Our School". Drawings may not exceed 18 X 12 inches. You may use regular paper, art paper or poster board. The drawing mediums include pencil, crayon, colored pencil and markers. All artwork must be original and completed by the student. Lettering should be done by hand and should be neat and simple, with a minimum of words. Do not use stencils, magazine clip-pings or any kind of machine cut-outs.

*Safety Rules
in Our Schools*

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)

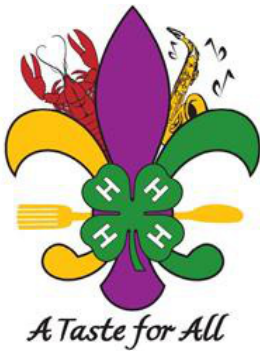
All entries are due November 13th!



B1 “Take a Stand, Lend a Hand”

Last month students did a great job on showing responsibility. Students were given a special B1 pencil and were challenged to keep it all month. On the last day of the month, any students that signed the B1 pledge and kept their pencil received a treat. Any student or faculty member who turned in their respect coupons by Aug. 31st will be receiving their B1 t-shirt Monday, October 1st! For October, B1 and our school is addressing "acceptance." We will be showing powerful videos, teaching students the steps to take in a bullying situation, and starting peace education. During October, we will also have a fundraiser for B1, called "Change for Change." Look for flyers and more information soon! Many thanks again to our wonderful P.T.A. for their generous donation to B1/PBIS!!

“Bullying is killing our kids. Being different is killing our kids and the kids who are bullying are dying inside. We have to save our kids whether they are bullied or they are bullying. They are all in pain.”



4-H

The next 4-H Club meeting will be held Tuesday, October 2nd at 2:30. Come out to the fair Friday morning, October 5th and visit the livestock barn and the center stage to see your fellow 4-H members shine! Some will be showing their chickens and rabbits, while others will be participating in the 4-H talent show! Hope to see you there!

Student Council

Congratulations to the newly elected 2012-2013 Student Council Officers!

President – Trey Kyulen

Vice President – Amelia Bretz

Secretary – Callie Dufrene

Treasurer – Ben Rabalais

Be on the lookout this month for our annual Red Ribbon Week Activities! Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. Red Ribbon Week generally takes place the last full week in October, with the weekends before and following the last full week included as appropriate celebration dates. This year Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 20-28, 2012.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of drug free America. And, perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

Sincerely,

Christine Magnuson, Advisor

Box Tops & Labels for Education

It is that time of year again where we will be holding a Box Tops for Education contest. The contest will begin October 1st and run through October 26th. There will be one class from every grade with the most box tops that will get a special treat. Please make sure to submit them in a zip lock bag with the teacher name on it or on one of the special box top sheets we will be sending out. We ask that you go to boxtops4education.com and register for our school there are many opportunities to earn bonus box tops by playing games or watching videos. We also receive rewards if you shop through the ASMS Box Tops Marketplace link by logging in and shopping at hundreds of popular stores through their links. We are hoping to reach \$3000 in funds for the year. We are already at \$1198 that we are set to get in December but all of the box tops we submit before November 1st will be included in that check so please send in ASAP. We are also collecting community labels and have always done really well with these. Ask your friends and family to save those labels. Thanks for your support. Please contact Susan Seely at tommy_suebee@charter.net or 504-701-8292 if you need anything or just want to help.



Baked Goods Needed!



On October 11th we will be holding our 1st Jambalaya Dinner. We will be getting donations from local businesses and purchasing what we don't get donated. We will however be looking for baked good donations from our "AWESOME" ASM parents. Anything you would like to make or buy would be a huge help and keep funds available for other needs. Please put your baked good in an individual container (Ziploc bag, etc.) ready for sale. You can bring it to the school office on October 11th no later than 3:00 pm. These will be sold for a minimum charge and the funds will spent directly on one of the needs on campus. The PTA will be

keeping NONE of the funds earned through the sale of the desserts. Please let us know what goodies you will be able to send so that we can have a count. Contact Christine Hulin at christinehulin@earthlink.net with questions or to show your support with a donation.



Juvenile Diabetes

In October the focus of B1 is going to be about acceptance. Accepting our friends and classmates no matter what their color, race, religion, or abilities. With this goal in mind I set out to find out about one of the issues our children face each day. In doing research I found out that Abita Springs Middle School has 4 students who are living every day with Juvenile Diabetes. These students are smart, happy, vibrant and fun but they are most certainly living with diabetes. Perhaps knowing what it is and how it effects their lives will help students to gain a better understanding and greater acceptance of these really amazing friends. Four students in one school is actually a pretty high number for such a small school in a small community. We all interact with these students everyday or week. We should know what they are experiencing.

Some of the things that children who are living with diabetes wish that other children and parents could know about their lives:

- Type 1 Diabetes is an autoimmune disease. It is not caused by eating too much sugar or doing something wrong. It is not something that people outgrow. It is a disease that will stay with them their whole lives or until a cure is found. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation works to try to find a cure for juvenile diabetes.
- Type 1 Diabetes is a disease that these students live with 24/7/365! It affects them ALL of the time. It doesn't stop when they are awake, asleep, at home, at school, or on vacation. They are forced to think of it every day...checking blood sugar at least 7 times a day, having an insulin pump attached to their bodies and measuring food to figure out the carbohydrate content so that they can dose themselves with insulin because their pancreas can't do it for them. They don't get "free time" away from it. No free foods or activities. They have to think about the consequences of every thing they do and eat and act accordingly.
- Type 1 Diabetes is unpredictable. Even with eating the same thing every day, getting the same amount of insulin and doing the same activities the outcome on blood sugar levels can be very different. Blood sugars can fluctuate for seemingly no reason at all. So many things can influence the levels including stress, emotions, hormones and growth.
- Insulin is NOT a cure for Type 1 Diabetes but without it they would die. The insulin pump does not just take care of it all for them. They must check sugar levels and count carbohydrates and put this information in to the insulin pump so that it can help figure out the dose they need and deliver it. They can still eat whatever they want but they must be able to figure out the carbohydrates so that they can get the insulin the body needs to account for what they have eaten. They don't have to have "sugar free" food. They often have to have candy or juice on hand in case their blood sugar levels drop too low and they need to treat it quickly to avoid passing out or having a seizure. .
- Type 1 Diabetes is a big deal. It changes the lives of those it effects. They seem normal on the outside but they are dealing with a lot. They have to endure several needle sticks per day along with the daily mental, physical, and emotional exhaustion that comes with high or low glucose levels.

Juvenile Diabetes (Continued)

The most important thing for people to know is that children who are living with Type 1 Diabetes are normal children. They are funny and intelligent and some of the best friends you can have. They enjoy the same things you do. They just have to be more careful and plan a little better than other kids do. They also want nothing more than for a cure to be found for Type 1 Diabetes so that they can have their lives back. Even if they do everything right there are side effects and outcomes that they have no control over. Their best hope is for a cure to be found.

How can you help? First, be a friend. Treat them like you do all of your other friends. Understand that the disease is NOT who they are it is something they have that affects their lives. Second, keep yourself educated. Know what the disease is and how it works so that you can be aware of what is going on and knowing is half of the battle. Finally, volunteer to help! You can do walks, earn money, donate and spread the word. Go to the website jdrf.org and educate yourself. Participate in the local walks and rides to help earn money for research. There are walks in both Baton Rouge and New Orleans in October and November. This would be an amazing thing for the whole family to participate in. We have local families who are participating in these events who are dealing with diabetes every day. Ask questions and give answers. If you don't know something find out the information and if someone else needs information help them find it. Knowledge truly is power!



WALK  TO CURE DIABETES



Grandparent's Day Lunch

We will be celebrating Grandparent's Day at ASMS by inviting our Grandparents to have lunch with us on October 18th. Lunch will cost \$3.45 for Grandparents who attend. The lunch times for each grade level are 4th grade: 10:45am, 5th grade: 11:30am and 6th grade: 12:15pm. There will be more information to follow but we wanted you to save the date and let your grandparents know that you are expecting them.

ASMS Spirit Cart

Spirit Cart sales have started and the kids are loving it! Spirit Cart opens during lunch every Tuesday unless weather prohibits it. We have been very busy and have been trying different things in order to allow all children a chance to purchase something. We may limit the number of items a child can purchase at one time and ask them to get back in line so that others will have a chance before the bell rings. There is a limited amount of time for the kids to shop so we don't want to miss out on anyone. Please bear with us as we give them a shopping experience while also teaching patience and respect for others. Thank you for your support. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out by working the Spirit Cart with us.

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 _____

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(985)809-0818

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985-645-8747

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Smoothie King

1600 N Highway 190
70456 Highway 21
Covington, LA 70433

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

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Cafeteria Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Grits & Toast Breesy Beefy Mac Salad & Green Beans Fruit Choice French Bread	2 Beignets Chicken Nuggets Baked Potato Broccoli & Fruit Texas Toast	3 Cinnamon Roll Pigs-in-a-Blanket Baked Beans Cole Slaw & Fruit Brownie	4 Sausage Biscuits Fried Chicken Rice w. Gravy Black Eyed Peas Fruit Choice	5 Fair Day No School
8 Muffins Red Beans w. Rice Spinach & Carrots Fruit Choice Corn Bread	9 Waffles Beef Taco w. Shell Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa Corn & Peaches Cinnamon Roll	10 Beignets Fish Square Baked Potato Broccoli & Fruit Texas Toast	11 Cinnamon Roll Hamburger w. Bun Sweet Potato Gems Lettuce & Carrots Fruit Choice	12 End of 1st Quarter No Students
15 Cinnamon Roll Chicken Poppers Fried Rice Broccoli & Fruit Texas Toast	16 Ham & Biscuits Pigs-in-a-blanket Baked Beans Carrots & Fruit Brownie	17 Beignets Quesadilla Potato Wedges Salsa Fruit	18 Ham & Cheese Wrap Spaghetti w. Meat Sauce Salad & Green Beans Fruit Choice Bread Sticks	19 Pancakes Grilled Cheese Corn Fruit Choice Oatmeal Cookie
22 Muffins Shepherd's Pie Broccoli Fruit Choice Vanilla Cookie	23 Beignets Beef Taco w Shell Cheese, Lettuce, Salsa Beans & Peaches Cinnamon Roll	24 Ham & Biscuits Chicken Tenders Mac & Cheese Black Beans & Fruit Texas Toast	25 Cinnamon Roll Hamburger Sliders Potato Rounds Fruit Choice Bun	26 Yogurt w. Toast Gumbo w. Rice Cauliflower Fruit Choice Texas Toast
29 Cinnamon Roll Spaghetti w. Meat Sauce Fruit Choice Bread Sticks	30 Sausage Biscuits Chicken Nuggets Potato w. Gravy Broccoli & Fruit Texas Toast	31 Beignets Ham & Cheese Sandwich Potato Salad Baked Beans & Fruit Brownie		

Abita Springs Middle School PTA

Presents

MOM'S NIGHT OFF

Drive-Thru Jambalaya Dinner

Thursday, October 11th, 2012




5:30pm – 8:00pm

Abita Springs Middle School

Sausage
Jambalaya,
Salad, Bread &
Drink

Desserts also available for \$0.50 ea.

Only
\$7

We accept Cash  Checks  & Credit Cards 

Detach and return to your teacher by Friday, Oct. 5th to reserve your dinner(s)

Student's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

of Plates: _____

Pay in Advance - Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Pay on night of event

Dinner
\$7.00 each

Desserts
\$0.50 each

(Price includes Jambalaya Dinner and Drink)

Thank you for your support!!