

December 2009

## Calendar

## December

- 1 Texas Roadhouse Spirit Night
- 3 PTA Board Meeting
- 11 Be Sweet Publications In-House Field Trip
- 14-17 Holiday Shop
- 15 PTA General Meeting & Reading Night
- 21 Holiday Break Begins

## January

- 6 Back to School!
- 7 PTA Board Meeting
- 15 Doughnuts With Dad
- 19 PTA General Meeting & Math/Science Night
- 21 Partners Pizza Spirit Night
- 22 Mom's Prom

## February

- 2 Wings 'n Things Spirit Night
- 4 PTA Board Meeting
- 9 PTA General Meeting & Nominations Committee
- 12 Father/Daughter Dance
- 15 CiCi's Spirit Night

**For a full calendar of events, visit our web site at [www.welchpta.com](http://www.welchpta.com)**



# The Pup Post

## Upromise Helps You Save For College!

Parents of elementary students may think college expenses for their children are a long way off, but with the cost of college going up and up, the savings really need to start early. At a recent Welch school event, this subject came up between some parents and it was realized that many Welch families could benefit from hearing about the Upromise college savings service.

Upromise was started about 10 years ago and has grown to over 10 million members. It is a college savings service that "harnesses the purchasing power of parents, extended family, friends, and students to make it easier to pay for college." Best of all, it's a FREE service! Members direct their spending to Upromise partners, and those partners donate money to the child's college savings account. When the child reaches college age, those earnings can go towards tuition, expenses or loans. Here's how it works:

Members of Upromise connect their store shopping card numbers (like the Kroger Preferred Member store card) to their Upromise accounts. If they choose to, members can also connect credit card numbers as well. Upromise has partnered with over 600 online stores, 8000 restaurants and 21,000 grocery and drug store chains. Anytime a

Upromise member makes a purchase at one of those stores or online, money gets added to the Upromise account of that member. Upromise has also partnered with realtors, car dealerships, and companies like Avis Car Rental, Disney, Avon, Dell, Sprint, Netflix, DirecTV, and more! These partners frequently offer discounts and special offers only to Upromise members.

Have more than one child? You can split the earnings between them. Upromise members can also invite friends and family (like grandparents!) to join Upromise and link their accounts to their child's college savings account. You can also link your Upromise account to Welch and give a portion of your earnings to the school. Plus, if you have a 529 College Savings Account for your child, they will automatically transfer your quarterly earnings into that 529 account so it can start earning more money.

All of this is FREE to Upromise members!

If you are interested or would like more information, we encourage you to visit [www.upromise.com](http://www.upromise.com) and carefully consider and review all of the information found there. Welch PTA is not earning anything from this company, but we wanted to share this valuable information with you.

## A Message From Stephen Schaefer, Welch PTA President

Holiday greetings to all of our Welch families and staff. 2009 winds down with a couple of key events planned for December. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> in-house field trip sponsored by the PTA, Be Sweet Publications, will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The Holiday Shop is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are invited to join in the holiday spirit and assist the students as they make their holiday purchases.

November provided the PTA with lots of opportunities to be thankful. Thank you to the parents who helped with GAPSS. Thank you to the family involvement team who provided a great 3-D Movie Night, the Winged Ambassador in-house field trip, and Health Fair. Thank you also

to all the local organizations who provided their time and knowledge at the Health Fair. Thank you to all the teachers and administrators that came out for McDonald's Spirit Night. Thanks also to all the people who donated cans for the can-a-thon. Welch was able to collect a lot of cans for Coweta families. Congratulations go out to the Reflections winners and yearbook cover contest winners! We have a lot of talented children and teachers at Welch!

2010 promises to be full of new adventures. I look forward to working with all of you to enrich the lives of the children at Welch and to help make Welch Elementary the best school in the county.

Stephen Schaefer



### How Can I Help at Welch this month?

- These PTA positions are still available: Grant Writing, 5th Grade Activities, School Board Liaison and Hospitality. For more information, please contact Stephen Schaefer at [stschaef@yahoo.com](mailto:stschaef@yahoo.com) or 770-254-9860.
- **Holiday Shop**-Volunteers are needed for our Holiday Shop, which will be held December 14-17. Volunteers will be helping students make their gift selections. If you would like more information or to volunteer, contact PTA Volunteer Coordinator Roxana Torres at 770.683.3471 or [roxanag@numail.org](mailto:roxanag@numail.org).
- **Doughnuts With Dad**—Calling All Moms! We are looking for Moms to help serve our hungry Doughnuts with Dad guests! If you would like to help, please contact our PTA Volunteer Coordinator Roxana Torres at 770.683.3471 or [roxanag@numail.org](mailto:roxanag@numail.org).

Our Welch PTA Holiday Shop will be held Dec. 14-17. Students will be able to purchase holiday gifts for their friends and family. Flyers will be coming home soon with more information!

## What has Welch PTA done so far this year? Find out here!

It has been a busy few months at Welch! Can you believe that we are almost half-way through the school year!? Your Welch PTA has been working hard to bring fun and educational activities and events to the school and to support the education of all of our Welch children. Here is a list of what we have done so far and what we hope to accomplish in the second half of the school year.

Welch PTA has sponsored several events already this year. We held a Meet the Teacher Day BBQ and we hosted Tears 'n Cheers for the PreK and Kindergarten parents on the first day of school. We organized Movie Night in early November. While we didn't get to watch the movie outside because of the cold weather, we still had a great time! We sponsored the Winged Ambassadors in-house field trip in November just before Thanksgiving Break. This was a great educational opportunity for the children to learn about birds of prey and their role in our ecosystem.

Our PTA meetings have been educational too! At the first meeting, we had a PTA 101 lesson. The November meeting was a Health Fair and in September we learned how to help our children with homework from Mrs. Crawley, our Welch REACH teacher.

And who could forget our fantastic Fall Festival!? What a great event! We moved the whole thing inside due to the threat of rain, but a good time was had by everyone. This was a huge undertaking and it could not have been done without a great Fall Festival committee and many fantastic volunteers! Thank you to everyone involved!

On the school grounds, your PTA has painted a giant USA map as well as hopscotch and 4-Square games. The Beautification Committee designed and planted a lovely outdoor classroom and butterfly garden outside the cafeteria in early October. It's a nice spot to read or have lunch at the picnic tables.

Inside the school, we've purchased or helped to procure items that have been requested by teachers and staff. During a PTA meeting, Mr. Bobby Welch, the wonderful retired educator for whom our school is named after, heard about a request by teachers for a heavy-duty stapler that can staple through 160 sheets of paper at once. He donated the stapler to the school! At the same meeting, the PTA Board voted to purchase a large paper cutter for the art room. However, before the purchase could be made, a large cutter was found in a closet at the school! The PTA has recently purchased three classroom sets of

dictionaries for the library. Each classroom currently has 2 dictionaries, but classroom sets will allow every child in a class to hold a dictionary while they learn how to use it.

All of these events and donations to the school cost money! Welch PTA is fortunate because many families and businesses support our school. In September, we held our first ever Read-A-Thon and we are so proud of our Welch students for their reading success! They helped the PTA earn \$4334.78. Way to go kids! We've also raised money by selling discount cards and manning a vending booth at Atlanta Motor Speedway.

Through Spirit Nights, Welch PTA has raised funds while allowing families to have much needed time together. Participation in Spirit Nights supports the local economy too. We've had many great Spirit Nights, including our kick-off at Bruster's with teachers and administrators taking your orders. We've also enjoyed Junction Lanes, CiCi's Pizza, Stevie B's Pizza, Partner's Pizza, McDonald's, HJ Wings and Things, and Chick-Fil-A.

Remember, we still have another half of the year to go! In January, look for Doughnuts with Dad and the Mom Prom. In February, we have scheduled a Father/Daughter dance. March will find us enjoying a Spring Fling event. We'll hopefully have our Movie Under the Stars in April when the weather is warmer. Muffins with Mom and Teacher Appreciation Week will be in May. We've got more Spirit Nights scheduled and there will be a Block Party to celebrate the end of CRCT. Plus International Night, Math & Science Night and more!

In the area of donations to the school, teachers have requested guided reading sets for all grade levels so we have a Guided Reading committee investigating the different options available and the costs. We hope to fund that purchase soon.

Welch PTA welcomes and invites all parents and staff members to give us their ideas and suggestions. Tell us what you would like to see donated, what events you would like to see happen, what you would like to see done differently. If you have a comment or thought on any of the past activities or on those upcoming, please share them with us! Visit [www.welchpta.com](http://www.welchpta.com) and click Contact Us to email your comments or send your comments in a sealed envelope marked PTA Board to the school. We want to hear from you. We want to do what the PTA members want us to do. But we can't do it if you don't tell us. Your opinion and your voice matters!

## Yearbook Cover Contest Winner

The winner of our 2009-2010 Yearbook "Join The Team" Cover Contest has been selected! With 35 entries, it was a tough decision for our judges, Mr. Bobby Welch, Mrs. Doolittle and Ms. Beard. They selected the drawing done by 5th grade student Kaitlyn Carroll for the cover. Congratulations Kaitlyn!

In addition, drawings by the following students will adorn the back cover of the yearbook: Brennan Mitchell (5th), Jonathan Ram-

sey (4th), Lindsey Martin (3rd), Hunter Macek (2nd), Emily Lofton (1st) and Eli Stanley (K). All of the entries were terrific and everyone did a fantastic job!

The cost of the yearbook is just \$20. After January 29th, the price of the yearbook will be \$25. 5th grade ads are available for \$25 and the deadline is Jan. 29.

For more information contact Julie Daniell at 678.414.3705 or [jhdaniell@msn.com](mailto:jhdaniell@msn.com).

## Fit Kids Club At SonRise Church Gym

At the recent Health Fair in November, the PTA was lucky enough to have Zumba instructor Shari Weston give a Zumba lesson for the adults and kids in attendance. It was fun!

Shari told us about a program beginning in January called the Fit Kids Club. It will be a 12 week session for kids ages 5-11. It will be held Thursday afternoons at SonRise Church Gym. The program will consist of all the components of fitness including cardio, strength and flexibility and it

will be fun! The kids will also learn about good food choices and more. The best part, it's only going to be \$1 a week! And even more cool, to participate the kids have to EARN the dollar from their parents by doing some sort of activity during the week, like walking, helping with the lawn, sweeping the floor, playing outside, etc. The Fit Kids Club is not sponsored by the PTA, but we thought you might like to know about it. For more info, contact Shari Weston at 770.317.7004.

## Reading Night

Our December PTA Meeting will also be a Reading Night! We are currently working to get local celebrities to come and read to the students and do storytelling. It is sure to be fun for everyone!

The PTA Meeting/Reading Night will be on Tuesday, December 15th. Look for more information to come home in a flyer closer to the date of the meeting.

## Spirit Nights Rock!

Our earnings from the McDonald's and Stevie B's Spirit Nights are not yet in but thanks to everyone for coming out to support Welch PTA! Look for the totals in the January newsletter.

Discount Cards are on sale now! They are \$10 each and are valid through June 30, 2010. To order a card, send in \$10 in an envelope marked PTA Discount Card. Include your child's name and teacher's name. For more info, visit [www.welchpta.com](http://www.welchpta.com).

## Box Top Update

### Top 5 Teachers as of Nov. 17:

1. McHughes—1128
2. Cliett—545
3. McCranie—375
4. Penson—374
5. Heinberg/Patel (TIE!)—372

Ms. Cliett's class reached 500 box tops & earned an extra 15 minutes recess!

### Top 5 Students as of Nov. 17:

1. Alden Appling—331
2. Jonathon Ramsey—255
3. Nate Thomas—224
4. Kyle Waters—221
5. Ethan Chambers—181

IT'S A TIGHT RACE! Keep sending in Box Tops, Tyson A+ labels, and Campbell's Soup labels! The more we get, the more we earn!

## Calling All Dads!

Our annual Doughnuts with Dad event is just around the corner!

On Friday, January 15th from 7-8 am, you can enjoy a special morning with your child at Welch in the cafeteria. We'll serve doughnuts, fruit, milk, juice and coffee. Mark your calendars and save the date because you don't want to miss it! Look for a flyer to come home with your child as the date draws near.

## In-House Field Trip

On Friday, December 11th, the PTA is sponsoring an in-house field trip by Be Sweet Publications, which was founded by two Georgia teachers. They've written several books with fun characters like Yumion (the Vidalia Onion). Using puppets, they teach children about the geography and history of Georgia in a fun and entertaining way. Students will have a chance to buy an autographed copy of the book they see done in the puppet show. Flyers will be coming home with more information.



**This month, the PTA would like to thank the following people and businesses for their help with these recent school activities and projects:**

**Faculty Meeting**-Thank you to the parents who supplied appetizer trays for the November teacher faculty meeting: Jennifer Petrino, Lori Goodwin, Amanda Jones, Regina Allen, Wendy Walter, Stephanie Koukoutsis, Dana Wagner

**Movie Night**-Thank you to Georgian Cinemas for donating the popcorn for movie night!

**Health Fair**-Thank you to the businesses who participated!

**GAPSS**-Thank you for sending in wonderful breakfast and lunch trays for our GAPSS committee and a big thank you to Amanda Jones for coordinating the volunteers for this event. Stephanie Koukoutsis, Heidi Lahie, Rachel Schaefer, Sneha Patel, Jennifer Petrino, Julie Daniell, Jenn Thomas, Thuy Hollenbeck, Thao Chambers, Janette Higgins, Regina Allen, Dana Wagner, LeaAnn Hurd, Elaine Eason, Montie Vervett, Tecia Janes, Sherry Mitchell, Hope Huey, Jeannie Doole, Heather Garger, Vina Kent, Amanda Jones, Tabitha Wilkerson, Jennifer Harrison

**McDonald's Spirit Night**-Thank you to the Welch staff members who helped at the McDonald's Spirit night: Mrs. Darrah, Mrs. Vaughan, Dr. Golden, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Beyer, Ms. Jaskot, Ms. Wood and Ms. Butry

If you would like to help with PTA events and activities, contact PTA Volunteer Coordinator Roxana Torres at [roxanag@numail.org](mailto:roxanag@numail.org) or 770-683-3471.

### Attention New Families!

Get up-to-date information about Welch PTA events & activities by visiting our web site at [www.welchpta.com](http://www.welchpta.com).



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WELCH ELEMENTARY PTA

Please contact the PTA officers if you have any ideas, questions or concerns:

Stephen Schaefer, President
stschaef@yahoo.com
770-254-9860

Jason Kent, Vice Pres., Membership
country75@gmail.com

Sherry Mitchell, Vice Pres., Fundraising
sherrymitchell@summergrove.net

Kim Schnabel, Secretary
Kim.schnabel@cowetaschools.net

Trish Sperberg, Treasurer
mktrish@numail.org

For more information about PTA and/or to contact additional committee chairpersons, please visit us on the web at www.welchpta.com.

To subscribe to the Welch PTA Yahoo Group, please go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/welchpta/

Newsletter Editor:
Jennifer Petrino
petrhino@cox.net
678-423-0178

Welch Elementary School
240 Mary Freeman Road
Newnan, GA 30265
770-254-2597

Haven't Joined Welch PTA? There's Still Time!

Welch PTA is still accepting members! All Welch faculty, parents, grandparents and community leaders are invited and encouraged to join. The number one reason to join? To benefit your child! But when you join, you also help the school.

There's no better way to know what's going on at Welch. PTA is a forum for parents to obtain knowledge and voice their opinions on what is happening in the school. PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change.

PTA membership, it is encouraged and does have an added benefit—the feel good factor! When you help at Welch, you will be making a difference in the lives of about 900 kids!

As of November 18th, we have 245 members. Memberships are \$5, \$25 or \$50 and include extra benefits like free discount cards! If you haven't joined yet, download a membership form from our website at www.welchpta.com or contact our Membership Vice President at country75@gmail.com or 770.865.3986.

While volunteering is not a requirement of

We hope you will JOIN THE TEAM!

Sponsor the Newsletter, Advertise your business!

To help offset the cost of printing, we invite local businesses to sponsor the Welch PTA Paw Post Newsletter! Sponsorships are just \$25 for one month or \$16 an issue when sponsoring every issue through the end of the year. All sponsors will receive recognition in the newsletter. This is a great way to reach the families of our approximately 900 students. If you are interested in sponsoring our newsletter, please contact Jennifer Petrino at petrhino@cox.net or 678-423-0178.

A special thank you to Charles Browne of The UPS Store in the Publix shopping center at Bullsboro and the Bypass for offering Welch PTA discounted printing services for our newsletter! Be sure to support The UPS Store because they support Welch!

Thank You To Our Paw Post Sponsors!



Capital Awning and Tarpaulin Co. has sponsored The Paw Post for the whole year!

Visit them on the web at www.capitalawning.com or call owner and Welch parent Frank Mann at 404-761-8431 for all of your custom canvas needs.



“Cutting Edge Marketing with Good “Old Fashioned” Service!”

Jeannie Doole, Realtor of Metrobrokers GMAC, has sponsored the Paw Post for the 2009-2010 school year.

Call Jeannie at 404.644.9394 or send an email to Jeannie.doole@metrobrokers.com

Visit www.jeannedoole.com for all your real estate needs!



Fantastic Sams has sponsored the Paw Post from November to May! Thank you Fantastic Sams owner, Todd Stafford!

Fantastic Sams is located at 348 Bullsboro Drive, in the Publix Shopping Center at Newnan Crossing Bypass

Bring this ad in and receive 10% off your salon service. Call 770-252-4247 for an appointment or just walk on in!