



# Salem Salamander News

Newsletter of the Salem Elementary School PTA

6116 Old Jenks Road, Apex, NC 27523

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Savon Willard, Principal  
Denise Kiser, PTA President

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## From Our Principal

### Team Approach

An appropriate education requires a team approach. The school, home, and community are all important parts of meeting the needs of all students. Federal “No Child Left Behind” legislation requires a team approach more than ever. We all need to work together to help our students succeed. An important part of working together is trust. There may be times that you may question how the school makes decisions or why we make our decisions. There are several systems in place to help us make decisions based on what is best for students. One of those systems is the School Improvement Process.

Our School Improvement Committee makes decisions based on data collected during the school year. We use survey results, student standardized test data, promotion reports, individual student testing, best practice research, and other data collected by the staff for different student groups to help us determine the goals and strategies included in our school improvement plan. Parents, teachers, and administrators make up the committee that writes our annual plan. Salem Elementary staff vote on the school improvement plan.

The process we use to write the plan is, “Plan, Do, Study, and Reflect.” Our main goal is the same as the Wake County Public School System’s goal. By 2008, 95% of students in grades 3 through 12 will be at or above grade level as measured by the NC End-of-Grade or End-of-Course tests, and all student groups will demonstrate high growth. Our plan includes Mission, Vision, and Values. We also write individual plans for our Academically Gifted program, Accelerated Learning program, Technology, and Safety. Our school staff will be working extra this year to write a new School Improvement Plan for Salem Elementary.

Historically, Salem Elementary has done very well on standardized measures. We are once again met our Annual Yearly Progress goals with all student groups. This is a wonderful accomplishment due to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students and their families. This is however, no time to rest on our laurels. We need to continue to strive to improve instruction for all student groups. Salem Elementary staff continues to pledge to do “Whatever It Takes to Honor and Educate.” With your continued support, we can make Salem Schools the best place to learn and work.

# Notes From Our President!



I would like to welcome all the new students, families, and staff from Track 4 who started back to school this week. Also, welcome back all returning students, families and staff. We are looking forward to a great year at Salem Elementary.

I would like to thank everyone who attended Open House for Tracks 1, 2, & 3 on Thursday, July 26. Everything ran smoothly thanks to the hard work of the Staff, the PTA Executive Board, and all of the outstanding volunteers. The PTA was proud to announce that funds from this year's fundraisers will be put towards the purchase of shade structures for the playgrounds. We are working very hard to make this possible and I would like to thank the Board for all their long hours investigating all the possibilities. GREAT WORK EVERYBODY!

August brings many exciting events to start our year off right. Tissue Tea for Track 4 Kindergarten parents is Monday, August 6 at 9:30AM. Open House for Track 4 is Thursday, August 9 beginning at 6:30PM with a repeat General PTA meeting also. Early release is August 16. Picture Day for Tracks 1, 3, & 4 is Tuesday, August 21.

September will start off with a bang with our Annual Grandparents/Special Persons Breakfast hosted by the Salem PTA! Friday, September 7 is for Tracks 1 & 3 and Monday, September 10 is for Tracks 2 & 4. Please look for more information in your Friday Folders. More information will follow regarding PTA events for the rest of the month.

We are also kicking off our No-Nonsense Fundraiser. Look for information in Friday Folders about this. Please keep in mind that this fundraiser is the catalyst for providing all the wonderful cultural arts events at our school. The money will also go towards our shade structure. I encourage you to consider supporting this fundraiser. The donations are tax deductible and 100% goes towards our endeavors. Also, please be sure to check with your employer's matching donations programs. Many area companies reward your generosity to your child's school with matching funds.

Our membership drive is still going on this month. If you have not already done so, please join our PTA. As always, our goal is 100% participation.

In closing, I want to remind you that the Salem PTA *does not* expect every family to participate in every fundraising event. We provide many options for support throughout the year so that everyone can contribute as best benefits their family. We all look forward to an exciting and productive fall season.

Thank you!

*Denise Kiser, PTA President*

### PTA Membership

Salem Elementary PTA invites you to become part of our dynamic association. PTA (Parent Teacher Association) is the world's largest organization working on behalf of children, youth, and families.

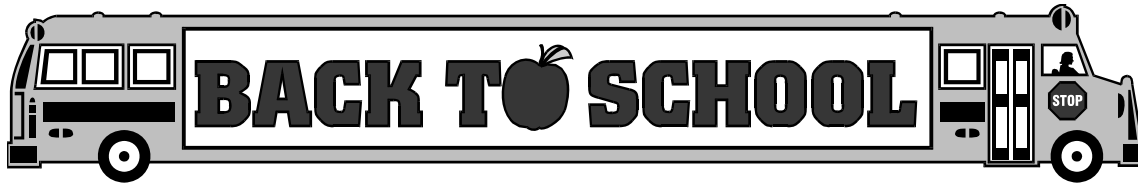
In 2006-2007, the Salem elementary PTA helped to support many activities such as but not limited to: cultural arts, Reflections Arts Program and Character Traits, Field Day, Salem directories & newsletters, Salem website, Reading incentives program, Service Programs and many more.

Our goals for the coming year are to continue to support the staff and families of Salem Elementary with the various programs listed above **and** to purchase several, much needed shade structures.

We know your support will bring us closer to accomplishing these goals. When you join your local PTA, you automatically become part of North Carolina PTA and National PTA. Your membership entitles you to the opportunity to learn about the education, health, and well-being of children and to have a voice in addressing these issues through a national network.

Below is a PTA membership form, which you may fill out, attach cash or check payable to Salem PTA and return with your child to school. Please join us in our efforts on behalf of all children and youth. To show our appreciation we will be sending you a \$5 off coupon to *The Loop*.

Salem Elementary PTA Membership Form	
Name(s)	_____
Address	_____
City	ZIP Phone
Student Name	_____
Grade/Track	Teacher
Amount Enclosed \$	_____
(Individual Membership \$5 and Family Membership \$8)	



## School Bus Safety Tips:

**For the safety of the children at the bus stop, *please provide proper supervision*, no matter the age of the child getting on the bus. Parents please review these tips with your child.**

- Make sure you leave home 10 minutes early so the children can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due. Running to the bus stop can be dangerous.
- Wait for the bus in a safe place, off the roadway. AVOID horseplay and always respect the privacy and property of others.
- Do not throw objects at cars and do not climb trees or do anything that may harm you or someone else.

### Waiting at the Bus Stop

- Do not let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic.
- Make sure your child stands away from the "danger zone," at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road, while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic. Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.

### Getting On and Off the Bus

- Warn children that, if they drop something in front of or near the bus, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions. If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they may not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- Do not push or shove getting on or off the bus.
- Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- The driver is not allowed to let a child off at another stop.
- Children are not allowed to ride a different bus than the one to which they are assigned (if someone is going home with a friend they cannot ride the bus unless they are originally on the same bus.)
- When you meet your child at the bus stop after school, wait on the side where the child will be dropped off, not across the street. Children can be so excited at seeing you after school that they dash across the street and forget the safety rules.

### Riding the Bus

- Children should talk quietly (never yelling) be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.
- Children should keep their hands to themselves. Don't throw things, or fight or push.
- Do not extend your hands, elbows, or head through the windows.



## SALEM ELEMENTARY 2007-2008 STUDENT DIRECTORY PATRON REQUEST FORM

One of the best resources for our parents, students, and teachers is our Student Directory. As in years past, we again will be asking for your support in the production of our school directory through the sale of advertisements and well wishes. If you would like to occupy a seat in the Patron Section of the Salem Elementary 2007-2008 Student Directory, please fill in the box below\* with a personal message for your child(ren) or an advertisement for your business (you may also attach a business card) and return this form to the school along with a payment of \$15.00. Double ads and combination ads with the Newsletter are also available.

Checks may be payable to Salem Elementary PTA.

Thank you for your support in the production of our school directory.

\* actual size of advertisement

Patron: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Thank you.

Maria Johnson, PTA Directory Chairperson  
919-362-0841 or [mariajohnson7020@bellsouth.net](mailto:mariajohnson7020@bellsouth.net)



**Spirit Night at The Loop Pizza Grill!**

**Come Join Your Salem Elementary Friends  
At The Loop Pizza Grill!**

**Thursday, August 16 from 5-9PM**

*The Loop Pizza Grill is located at 2734 Highway 55  
in the West Park Place Shopping Center.*

**A portion of the proceeds from sales will go  
directly to Salem Elementary PTA!**

# FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

## Grandparent / Special Person Breakfast

Mark your calendars for the Salem Elementary "Grandparent / Special Person Breakfast."

Families on Tracks 1 and 3 are invited to come on **Friday, September 7** and families on Tracks 2 and 4 are invited to come on **Monday, September 10**. This special event takes place in the cafeteria from 8:15 - 9:15AM on both days. Students are welcome to invite grandparents or special person to visit school and enjoy a free continental breakfast hosted by the Salem Elementary PTA Hospitality Committee. RSVP forms will be sent home with students. If you plan to attend, these forms must be returned to the school with your student.



The Salem Elementary PTA is excited to participate in the Greater Raleigh Citipass fundraiser again this year. The *Greater Raleigh Citipass* is a coupon book offering discount coupons to many Apex, Cary & Raleigh area businesses including **Char-Grill, Bloomsbury Bistro, Goodberry's, Borders Books, Home Depot, and Consolidated Theaters**. This is just a small sampling of the many merchants included. On Friday, August 24, we will send home one book per family for Tracks 1, 3 & 4 to preview, and on Monday, September 10 we will send home one book per family for Track 2 to preview. The books are \$20 each and our school will keep \$10 from each sale. Money raised from this fundraiser will go towards the purchase of shade structures for our playgrounds. Please contact Stephanie Bagwell, Ways & Means, at 303-4922 or [stephaniebagwell@nc.rr.com](mailto:stephaniebagwell@nc.rr.com) with any questions.

## Skip-Its Try-outs

- Who:** Any Salem student in 3, 4, or 5 grade.
- When:** **Tracks 1 & 3 Thursday, September 6** 7:15 – 9:00 AM  
**Tracks 2 & 4 Thursday, September 13** 7:15 – 9:00 AM
- Where:** Salem Elementary gym.
- What:** Try-out requirements are as follows –
1. 10 or more consecutive double-unders.
  2. Perform a single routine with at least 8 different skills/tricks. Jump consecutively 10 x your age (ex. Age 9 = 90 basic jumps with no mistakes).
  3. A positive attitude, strong work ethic and good standing with your classroom teacher in regards to schoolwork, performance, and behavior.

## Help Days

**What:** We will have former and current Skip-Its on hand to assist you in learning & perfecting the skills you will need to try-out successfully.

**When:** **Tracks 1 & 3 – Tuesday, September 4 3:45 – 5:15PM**  
**Tracks 2 & 4 – Tuesday, September 11 3:45 – 5:15PM**

**Where:** Salem Elementary gym.

More information, including try-out permission slip, will be coming soon in Friday folders!



## Box Tops for Education

We are pleased to announce our first competition of the year! Our goal for Salem this year is to collect at least \$1756 in Box Tops. We are well under way with at least \$150 in Box Tops so far!

The class that collects the most Box Tops by September 28, 2007, will be awarded a prize for their ENTIRE CLASS! Prize details will follow, as they are currently being finalized. We will keep you updated about how your class is doing through announcements and updates in the newsletter and Friday folders.

Remember to label your Box Tops when you send them to school so that your class receives proper credit.

PLEASE visit the website [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com), as each new registrant for Salem Elementary earns bonus box tops for our school. This must BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 2007. You can also see a complete list of all participating Box Tops products on the website.

Thank you for your continued hard work and support!

Your Box Tops coordinators,  
Maryellen Kist, Susan McMorris, and Laura Brockman



## Campbell's Labels for Education

We are pleased to announce our Labels for Education Competition for the 2007 - 2008 school year! Our contest will run through December 21, 2007. After returning from the holiday break, the winning class will be awarded their "Super Snack Party" prize.

Please keep in mind you must send in the UPC CODES from participating Campbell's products. Campbell's no longer accepts the label fronts. For a complete list of participating products, you can visit their website at [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com).

Remember to label your submissions when you send them to school so your class receives proper credit. We will update you on how your class is doing through announcements, newsletters, and Friday folders.

Thank you for your participation and support of Salem Elementary!

Your Labels for Education Coordinators,  
Dawn Worthington and Maryellen Kist

# Media Matters

## When and how can students use the library?

The media staff has received so many questions by parents about how we do things at Salem Elementary Media Center. The most popular questions: How and when can my children check-out books? The staff's philosophy about library usage supports the idea that all students should use the library at point of need and that students should not be hindered from using the library. In media land, we call this flex-access, where teachers can use the resources of the library when their students have inquiry. Every morning students are encouraged to check-out books between 8:45- 9:15AM After the initial open circulation, if they want to use the library they must obtain permission from their teacher to use the media center. Please check with individual teachers about their policy on library use.

## What is an Accelerated Reader Quiz?

Accelerated Reader Program consists of computerized quizzes on literary texts. After reading a chapter book, students can take a computerized test about the book. The program is set up to award students points based upon the number of right answers they give. At Salem, we use this program as a supplemental and/or enrichment part of reading. Students must be on a certain reading level before they are encouraged to take an "AR" test. They may take the tests in their classroom or in the media center. Once a test is taken the students can not re-take a test. Please ask your child's teacher what his/her policy is about taking "AR" test.

## Can I check out books for my children?

We are a school library set up to meet the curriculum and reading needs of our students. We do not have the number of books that a public library has. In many ways, we are a private library set up solely for the students of Salem Elementary. One of the objectives for students to learn is how to self-select books of interests to them. Parents are welcome to visit the media center with their children and help with the selection books. They may also checkout parenting books and a limited amount of other books. Our first priority is the needs of students and the teachers.



WHEN: MONDAY, Aug 20, 2007  
TIME: 4-5PM



WHERE: Salem Elementary Media Center  
WHO: Students in third to fifth grade.

Scrabble club begins on August 20, 2007 this is an extracurricular activity sponsored by Salem Elementary and supported by parent volunteers. Scrabble is a great game for helping students with vocabulary, spelling, and math skills. All parents are welcome to come to the first meeting but we also need parent volunteers to continue the program. We will meet every Monday except on holidays. Please contact Mrs. Wagner at 363-2878 or [Swagner@wcpss.net](mailto:Swagner@wcpss.net)

### SALEM ELEMENTARY SCARBBLE CLUB

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I can support the scrabble club as a parent volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot volunteer at this time. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the application to Sandra Wagner in the media center no later than August 13, 2007.

**PTA Volunteer Opportunities**  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Please fill out one survey per family. Check your areas of interest and return the completed survey to your teacher no later than August 17, 2007 (Tracks 1, 3, 4) September 7 (Track2).

**Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities**

**Hospitality/Teacher Appreciation: (Co-Chairs, Kelly Jaynes & Laura Stone)**

Help by donating items such as food, beverages, and entertaining supplies throughout the year to show appreciation to the staff for their hard work and efforts. Also help provide items for guests visiting our school or other special events. May also assist by soliciting donations from local businesses. Great committee for any one who is not normally available during the school day and would like to contribute otherwise. Also fun for those who are creative and like to serve and entertain.

**Spirit Wear: (Co-Chairs, Elena Skrinak, Terri Almauger & Tracey Ring)** This group helps set up the school apparel table at school functions and sells school apparel. They order necessary inventory and also fill random orders that come in from time to time.

**Beautification: (Chair, Erich Hoffman)** Help with beautification and landscaping projects around the school. Volunteer time can occur during or after school hours.

**Media Center: (Sandra Wagner)** Help with shelving books, book repair, and placing covers on books (days and times according to volunteers' schedules).

**E-Volunteers: (Melissa Ducharme)** Is your schedule highly unpredictable? Please sign up for E-Volunteers. You will be contacted by email when any committee or event is short of volunteers. You may respond and volunteer based on your last minute availability.

**Fundraisers**

**Spring Event (Co-Chairs needed):** Help with set up of activities, obtain donations, assist with manning booths and running activities, phone calls, photocopying, and running errands. Volunteers can help at school with tasks that can be completed in the home.

**Book Fair: (Chair, Marley Braun & Cathy Ketterer)** Help set up, staff, and run book fair in convenient time increments (October 17-24). This committee needs MANY volunteers.

**Service Projects**

Salem Elementary helps our community by collecting food items, toys, and pop-tops for various charities such as Western Wake Crisis Ministries, Toys for Tots, and the Ronald McDonald House. These projects are done two to three times a year and involve collecting, counting, and distributing items to central locations.

**\*\* Additional service projects may be added.**

**Other**

For further information, please call Denise Kiser (PTA President) at 363-9041, Stephanie Bagwell (Ways and Means) at 303-4922, or Lisa Sanchez (Long Term Projects) at 362-1881.

If you have already signed up for a committee and have not heard from anyone, someone will be contacting you soon. Thanks in advance to all volunteers. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Days/times available: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of youngest student at Salem:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Track \_\_\_\_\_

**PTA Membership:**

Salem Elementary PTA is off to a great start, but we are still looking for members. We have set a goal for 100% enrollment of parents and teachers. Membership is \$5.00 per person or \$8.00/family. Join today and support your children. If you have any questions, please call Doreen Salembier (Membership) at 362-9684.

## Dates to Remember

Monday, July 30		First Day of School (Track 4)
Thursday, August 2	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Monday, August 6		Tissue Tea (Track 4)
Thursday, August 9	6:30PM	Open House (Track 4)
Thursday, August 16		Early Release & Spirit Night at THE LOOP
Tuesday, August 21		Fall Pictures – Tracks 1, 3, 4
Monday, September 3		LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL
Thursday, September 6	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Friday, September 7		Grandparents' Breakfast – Tracks 1 & 3
Monday, September 10		Grandparents' Breakfast – Tracks 2 & 4
Tuesday, September 25		Make-up Pictures – Track 4
Thursday, September 27		Early Release & Chik-Fil-A Spirit Night



### YEARBOOK SHUTTERBUGS WANTED!



Do you have a great shot of your child or their classmates enjoying a special class event, field trip, etc? Upload your digital photos to our yearbook website and your photos may appear in the 2008 yearbook. Please include the teacher's name and the event in your photo description. Here's how to do it:

Step 1: Log on to <https://portal.jostens.com/login.asp>

Step 2: User ID: 1137277

Step 3: Password: salamander

Follow the upload instructions and include your photo description. Questions or problems contact Marley Braun at [marley@nc.rr.com](mailto:marley@nc.rr.com) or 342-7184.

