



# 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

### What a great place!

I asked a parent recently what she thought the parents wanted to hear from me. She responded quickly, "They just want to know that things are okay!" I thought that was a perfect topic for the February newsletter. Things really are better than okay, they are great! A place can only be as great as the people in the place.

This school has come such a long way in a since the beginning of the school year and the change to the year-round calendar. Everyone seems to be adjusting well. The PTA is well organized and running smoothly thanks to the hard work of the PTA board. Community members are volunteering in the school each day. The teachers are continuing to attend staff development activities designed to improve instruction. The teachers and students are busy teaching and learning in the classrooms.

We have such a great reputation in the community. People outside the Salem family have heard what a great place this is for teaching and learning. That is because you are saying wonderful things about what you see in this school and I thank you for that. This is a great learning community. The students at Salem teach me something new each day.

Our students historically do well on the end-of-grade testing. Our teachers are making sure our students are well prepared. I see them working together on a daily basis to ensure your children are ready and prepared for next year. I do not have to remind teachers and parents that a great deal of teaching and learning goes on in this school each day. Your assistance at home with your child is such a critical part of the total picture. I want to thank you for all you do for your children, because the staff can tell many of you go "the extra mile."

We do need to stay focused and protect instructional time so your children can reap the full benefit of the time they spend in school. Make sure your children come to school each day on time ready to learn and you can leave the rest to us. I do not know when I have seen such and wonderful caring staff, student body, and parent group. People tell me everyday what a wonderful place this is and I owe that to the people that make this school wonderful. Those people are you! Think about how you would answer this question, "If failure was not an option, what would you do differently?" This helps us guide what we do at Salem Elementary each day. It can also help you to understand how important your support is to the success of all our students.

# Notes From Our President!



Thank you to all the students who participated in this year's Math-A-Thon! We will have a great time honoring those students at our awards ceremony and General PTA meeting on Thursday, February 21 at 6:30PM. The PTA truly appreciates all the parents, students, and sponsors who helped with this fundraiser. A very special thank you goes to Anna Johnson, Jennifer Mauney, and their entire Math-A-Thon committee for their hard work and dedication. Few people realize how much time and effort goes into our programs and fundraisers. Math-A-Thon has always been a fundraiser that incorporates many stages of planning and organization. Anna and Jennifer did a fantastic job making sure that this fundraiser ran smoothly. Thanks again to them and their committee for all their time and enthusiasm!

We all look forward to collecting items for Will Power again. I want to thank Alison and Tommy Hager, the organization's founders, for their tremendous help getting this together. The Salem Elementary family looks forward to participating in this wonderful event again this year. Please watch your Friday Folders for more information on this wonderful service project. The collection will be February 11 through February 22. I know that delivering the pillowcases to the UNC Children's Hospital will be a rewarding experience once again.

A nomination committee for next year's PTA Executive Board has been formed and is being chaired by Karyn Knoke. The nominations are open for positions on the Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons. If you have any interest in serving on our Board, please speak with Karyn Knoke. If you are approached about serving on the PTA Board, please give it consideration. All Board members will tell you that serving on the PTA Board has been rewarding. You, too, will find that your time can help the success of our school. Some positions require more of a time commitment than other positions. Our current board members range widely in their time constraints due to family and professional obligations. You will find that there are several Board positions that fit your schedule and the amount of time you are willing to commit. Salem Elementary is proud to have one of the most active PTA units in Wake County! Please consider joining our Board as an officer or chairperson and see how gratifying it can be to work for your child's school!

If you have any questions or interest in running for a position, please contact Karyn Knoke (363-4060) or anyone on the current board. I would be happy to answer any questions about the duties and time commitments of all positions. Please feel free to contact me at 363-9041 or [jkiser@nc.rr.com](mailto:jkiser@nc.rr.com).

Another big thank you goes out to all the Salem Elementary families for all your dedication to our school.

*Denise Kiser, PTA President*

## Volunteer of the Month



Do you know of a special Salem volunteer? We like to highlight someone new each month. Let us know whom **you** recommend!

Karin DellaMaestra at

[dmaestra@mindspring.com](mailto:dmaestra@mindspring.com)

Karyn Knoke at [Karknoke@aol.com](mailto:Karknoke@aol.com)

### **Congratulations to February's volunteer of the month, Debbie White!**

Debbie White is the mother of two Salem Salamanders on Track 2. Bailey is in Ms. Ortiz's grade 4 class and Peyton is in Mrs. Bartlett's grade 1 class. She can be found in the classroom whenever needed as well as helping Coach Hager with fitness testing, stuffing Friday folders, and volunteering for the book fair. She is helping to prepare our grader students for their end of the year writing test. This year she also helped wrap presents for our care and share program during the holidays, donated items for hospitality functions, and list goes on. Outside of school, she is a Brownie Troop leader and enjoys spending time with her family traveling and going to the Beach. We are very excited to have such a wonderful volunteer at our school. Volunteers like Debbie make Salem Elementary such a great place to be. Thanks Debbie!



### **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 Web site 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. Contact Marley Braun at [marley@nc.rr.com](mailto:marley@nc.rr.com) or 342-7184 with any questions or if you have problems.

### Last Call for PTA Membership

Salem Elementary School PTA is closing out our 2007-2008 membership drive on March 15. With each paid membership (\$5 individual and \$8 family), you will receive a \$5 off coupon to The Loop. Just fill out this form, attach cash or check made payable to Salem Elementary PTA and send it into your child's teacher. There is still plenty of time to consider being a part of a national organization that is working on behalf of children, youth, and families.

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)		

### Track Change Requests

Parents may pick up a "Track Request Change Form" at the school beginning March 7. The forms are due back to the school by March 20. Parents will be notified of the status of the request by April 7.

### Math-a-thon Recognition Night

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the Math-a-thon this year – you did a GREAT job! Thank you to all our parent volunteers for many hours of copying and grading tests. We couldn't have done it without you! Don't forget our Math-a-thon Recognition Night in conjunction with a PTA meeting on **Thursday February 21 at 6:30PM**. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Anna Johnson & Jennifer Mauney, Math-A-Thon Co-chairs

[annajohnson@nc.rr.com](mailto:annajohnson@nc.rr.com), 303-6579

[jennifer\\_mauney@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifer_mauney@yahoo.com), 367-2549

### The PTA Board Needs You!

Interested in a position on the PTA for the upcoming year? We need you! There are many committee positions available. Please email Karyn Knoke at [Karknoke@aol.com](mailto:Karknoke@aol.com) if interested.

### Attention 3rd Grade Parents

You are invited to attend an informational meeting that will explain the CogAt (Cognitive Abilities Test) and how to interpret your child's scores.

**February 21 – Media Center (time tba)**  
**March 13 – AG Room (3PM), Media Center (6PM)**



Our Campbell's Contest is complete and we have a winner! **Congratulations to Miss Phillips' grade 2 class with a winning total of 855 points!** Miss Phillips' class will be enjoying a "Super Snack Party" to say thank you for their team effort!!

The top collecting class in each grade as of the end of December is as follows:

- Kindergarten - Mrs. Groesser - 329 points
- Grade 1 - Miss Horwich - 486 points
- Grade 2 - Miss Phillips - 855 points
- Grade 3 - Mrs. Malone - 483 points
- Grade 4 - Miss Shue - 380 points
- Grade 5 - Miss Hickcox - 320 points

We have collected 8,556 points so far this year! Our goal for the 2007 - 2008 school year is 12,500 points, and **we believe we can do it!!** Please continue to send in the UPC Codes from all participating Campbell's products!

Thank you!

The Campbell's Label Committee,  
Dawn Worthington & Maryellen Kist



Salem Salamanders continue to show their school spirit by achieving goals when given a challenge. For the month of December, Salamanders collected \$209.50 in Box Tops. This enabled us to surpass our goal of **\$1,756.00!** We are currently at **107%** of our annual goal with a total of **\$1,886.50!** *WAY TO GO SALAMANDERS!*

We also have 100% of the classes at Salem participating in this program! The Box Top Committee would like to extend a huge *thank you* to all students, teachers, and parents for all their hard work and effort!

Our top collecting classes in each grade for the month of December are as follows:

- Kindergarten - Miss Monza - 79 Box Tops
- Grade 1 - Miss Bartlett - 155 Box Tops
- Grade 2 - Miss Tuggle - 225 Box Tops
- Grade 3 - Mr. Copperwheat - 136 Box Tops
- Grade 4 - Miss Anderson - 126 Box Tops
- Grade 5 - Mrs. Soriano-Lillis - 176 Box Tops

The earning does not stop here! Please continue to clip and save Box Tops. There is also another great opportunity available to us this month. **Box Tops will be giving away 1,000 Bonus Box Tops each day in the month of February!** Please log in to [www.boxtops4education.com/love](http://www.boxtops4education.com/love) each day in February for your chance to win 1,000 Bonus Box Tops for Salem.

What do you think will be our Box Top total for the 2007 - 2008 school year? Watch the newsletter for updates and see our numbers grow by checking the Salamander in the Town Meeting area!!

Thank you!

Your Box Top Committee,  
Susan McMorris, Laura Brockman, & Maryellen Kist

## THE ARTS CELEBRATION IS COMING SOON!



March is dedicated nationwide as the month to recognize music and art education. At Salem, we have several activities planned to celebrate Arts Month. Students will participate in an arts celebration at school on March 6 (Tracks 1 & 3) and March 27 (Tracks 2 & 4). Parents are invited to join us for Curriculum Night on March 27. There will be two sessions. The first will be from 6:00-6:45 and will be for students and families with last names that begin with letters A-J. The second session will be from 7:15-8:00 and will be for students and families with last names that begin with letters K-Z. Both sessions will be held in the multi-purpose room. The night will feature student artwork and musical performances. In recognition of Arts Month, the PTA is selling "Celebrate Your Creative Side" t-shirts. Order forms went home in Friday Folders and are available on the Salem Web site. Order your shirt today! We would love to see as many people as possible wearing the t-shirts throughout March, especially on Curriculum Night!



### REFLECTIONS NEWS

Congratulations to all Reflections Participants! Everyone did a great job and we appreciate your hard work and participation in this program.

There will be a reception for all participants and their parents in the media center on **February 8** from **8:30 to 9:00AM**.

Our Reflections winners are: Keliy G. - council winner, Michael L. - council winner, Chloe W., Jason B., Skye M.

There will be reception for all district council winners in March. Winners will be notified of date and location. Good Job!

# Save the Date!

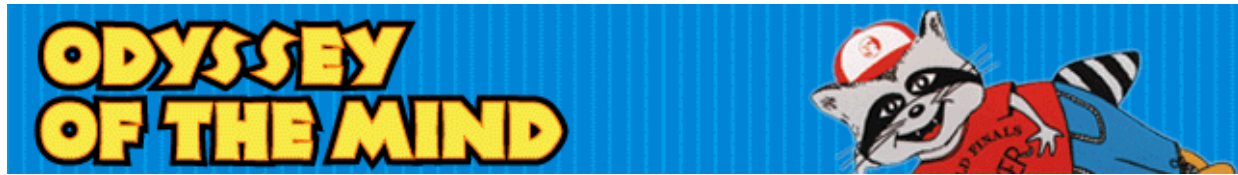
## The Annual PTA Sponsored Spring Event

### Including the return of

### The Faculty Follies (Our Fabulous Faculty Talent Show)

## Saturday April 19 10:30 to 2:00PM

### Much More Information to Come so Watch Out!!!



## Odyssey of the Mind Update

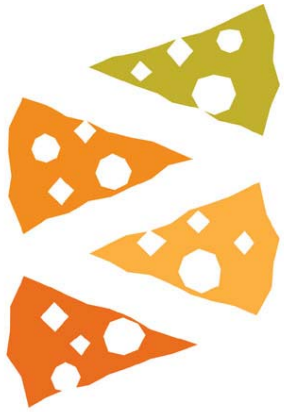
We are about a month away from the competition! Preparation for the big day is underway and is in the final stages. The kids are now rehearsing and revising their scripts and putting the final touches on their sets. Last week Several OM-ers took a break from working on their Long Term Solution to attend the Spontaneous Fair. They were exposed to many different types of spontaneous problems, which they may encounter on competition day. They also had the opportunity to meet a lot of other OM-ers from around North Carolina.

Each OM team will do a “dress rehearsal” on OM Nite, Wednesday March 5. Come see what your classmates and neighbors have been working so hard on for the last few months. Come cheer them on and help support them as they get ready to *WOW* the OM Judges on Competition Day. We have 12 teams this year, so take a look at the schedule:

Performance Time	Team	Coach(s)
4:30	Primary Team D	Profesorsky
4:45	Primary Team E	Rockafellow
5:00	Primary Team C	Jaynes / Cope
5:15	Primary Team B	Lowe / Deanhardt
5:30	Primary Team A	Harvey / Schaper
<b>5:45</b>	<b>Primary OMer Awards</b>	
6:00	Wonderful Muses A	Taft
6:15	Road Rally A	Leeder
6:30	DinoStories B	Braun
6:45	Rally B	Rao / Almaguer / Birla
7:00	DinoStories A	Johnson / Krevat
7:15	Eccentrics A	Randle / Grotheer
7:30	Eccentrics B	Shirsekar
<b>7:45</b>	<b>Division I OMer Awards</b>	

Are you wondering what OM-er awards are? The Odyssey of the Mind program hopes to teach each student various skills: How to work in a team, Teamwork Concepts, Brainstorming skills, and Problem Solving skills. We will pick one student from each team who we think displays all of these skills. These students are awarded a “Silly Hat.” The recipients can decorate their hat, and wear it on competition day just as the OM Judges do!

<b>DATES TO REMEMBER</b>		
Monday, January 28 – Friday, February 4		Grade 3 CogAt – Track 4
Thursday, February 7	6:30PM	PTA Board Meeting
Thursday, February 7	6:30PM 6:30PM	Rising Grade 6 Orientation at Salem Middle School
Friday, February 8	8:30AM - 9:00AM	Reflections Reception – Media Center
Saturday February 9		OM Judges Training
Thursday February 21	6:30PM	General PTA Meeting/Math-A-Thon Recognition CogAt Info Session
<b>Thursday, March 6</b>		<b>Early Release</b>
Thursday, March 13		CogAt Info Session
Friday, March 14		Spring Pictures – Tracks 2, 3, & 4
<b>Friday, March 21</b>		<b>Holiday – School Closed</b>
Wednesday, March 26 – Friday, March 28		Spring Book Fair – Tracks 2 & 4
Thursday, March 27	6:30PM	General PTA Meeting
Friday, March 21 – Wednesday, April 2		Spring Book Fair – Tracks 1 & 3



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