

Salem Salamander News

Newsletter of the Salem Elementary School PTA

6116 Old Jenks Road, Apex, NC 27523

School Telephone: 363-2865

Savon Willard, Principal

Kelly Jaynes, PTA President

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Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Salem Elementary. We are so excited to have new staff members and new families joining our school team. You will soon discover what a great place Salem Elementary is for all of us to work and learn.

I want to remind everyone that the safety and security of the student is of paramount importance. You will receive a copy of the student handbook from Salem Elementary and another from Wake County Public Schools. Make sure you read and understand all safety measures we have put in place. These measures are not intended to make life more difficult for you, but are intended to make life safer for your child.

Remember to always enter through the front door and obtain a visitors pass before going to the classrooms or the cafeteria. I believe that Salem Elementary is an exciting and purposeful place to learn each day. The staff is focused on learning and teaching, so we need you to observe all safety rules as we make the 2009-2010 school year a great experience for all of us. Thank you as we work to make Salem Elementary a safe place for all our students.



Savon Willard, Principal and
Kelly Jaynes, PTA President 2009/2010

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ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Salem Elementary 2009-2010 Bell Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Bell Schedule: 9:05AM-3:45PM

Wednesday

Bell Schedule: 9:05AM-2:45PM

Early Release Days for Wake County Public Schools (Year-Round) for the 2009-2010 School Year

(all Wednesdays)

July 22	Tracks 1, 2 & 3	December 2	Tracks 2, 3 & 4
August 12	Tracks 1, 2 & 4	February 17	Tracks 1, 3 & 4
September 2	Tracks 1, 3 & 4	March 10	Tracks 2, 3 & 4
October 21	Tracks 1, 2 & 4	April 21	Tracks 1, 2 & 3

2009/2010 Bell Schedule and Early Release Days

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The greatest responsibility we have as a community is the education of our children. We are committed to providing an environment in which all students reach their full academic potential.

Part of that commitment includes the continual improvement of how we teach. We are always seeking the best possible teaching methods and learning from each other. This helps our school community ensure each child's success.

Collaboration at our school is an important part of our efforts, and we regularly hold team-based learning sessions at our school. These meetings are called Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and are a time for teachers to discuss classroom strategies, individual student performance, and best teaching practices.

Recently, the Wake County Board of Education approved a school schedule for the 2009-10 school year that allows for more collaboration and PLC sessions.

Mark your calendars for these important changes:

Every Wednesday, all Wake County schools will release one hour early to allow for PLC meetings.

Six early-release days are also included in the 2009-2010 school year. All Wake County schools will dismiss 2.5 hours early. These early-release days also occur on Wednesdays.

Please check with the office for the availability of child care on these days.

Ten minutes has been added to the school day.

To meet the state requirements of 180 days of instruction and 1,000 hours of instruction, 10 minutes have been added to the school day to make up for the time used in the PLCs. You can view the bell schedules online at www.wcpss.net/2009-10-bell-schedule.html.

We hope that you will support our efforts at improving learning and teaching for our students. We are committed to helping your student reach his or her full potential, and PLC time will help us in these efforts.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Carpool Procedures

AM drop-off

- You may drop your child off in the “Carpool Drop-Off” zone between 8:45 and 9:05. We will have staff on duty to help students as necessary.
- Please stay in your lane until you reach the area past the handicapped-parking zone at the end of the sidewalk overhang. You may then carefully merge with other traffic.
- Do not start the drop-off until the staff is in place on duty and signals students to exit cars.
- Students are not allowed to cross the carpool line from the parking lot without being under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian. This area is designated as a “Hand Hold Zone.”
- When walking across the carpool line, please wait for the cars in line to key up to the first drop-off spot and stop before proceeding.

PM pick-up

- Cabs park in the designated area by the mailboxes. Do not park in this area. This will help speed up dismissal in the afternoon.
- Daycare Vans will continue to park in the handicapped area, as will parents of students that require special consideration.
- **Do not park your car and walk up to the dismissal area to pick up students. Having parents hanging around makes supervision of students very difficult. Please stay in the carpool line as we are all in a rush in the afternoon. When we place your child in your car each day, we can then attest to their whereabouts. I cannot state this strongly enough.**
- Students may not cross the carpool line to the parking lot without being under the direct supervision of their parent or guardian. This area is designated as a “Hand Holding Zone.”
- When walking across the carpool line, **please wait for the cars in line to key up** to the first pick-up space and stop before proceeding. This helps the carpool line to move along more quickly and efficiently.
- Do not change lanes until you have moved through the carpool area past the handicapped-parking zone at the end of the sidewalk overhang.
- If you are entering the parking lot in the afternoon for any reason, use the left lane.
- Do not block the entrance to the Middle School parking lot as they have students arriving for and leaving athletic events in the afternoon during our dismissal time.
- Do not cut in line at the turn if cars are keyed-up along the road to enter the carpool area.

Place an 8”x10” paper with your child’s name in large, bold, dark letters in the front window of the car. Some parents use a child clothes hanger with the sign on it and place the hanger on the rear view mirror when approaching the caller. **It becomes increasingly important for all our parents to follow our carpool procedures. When parents walk up and pick-up students or pick-up students around campus, we cannot properly supervise and assure student safety. The safety and security of the students on our campus is our number one concern. We have many safety checks in carpool and on the busses to insure students are going home with an approved adult. When we have adults standing around that the staff have to watch, it prevents us from watching the students and causes for a very unsafe situation. Please make sure any adult who picks up your child is aware of this rule.**

We are also requesting that you not come into the school after 3:30PM to pick-up students except in an extreme emergency. Please wait with other parents in the carpool line for dismissal. If waiting in the line is a problem for you, I recommend that you plan your trip to arrive on campus around 4:00PM. Our carpool students are off our campus by 4:05PM each day. This is a very short wait time and a small price to pay to ensure student safety.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS



Harris Nuclear Plant

Our school is located 10.1 miles from the Harris Nuclear Plant. In the event of a Level 4 evacuation, our students would be transported by school bus with police escort to Leesville High School. During a Level 4 emergency, you will not be allowed to pick students up from school. Students must be signed out at Leesville High School. All schools within the 10-mile radius are required to have an evacuation plan. Wake County Public Safety and Wake County Public Schools feels we are close enough to the line to respond as if we were in the evacuation area. The Harris Plant sends out a calendar each year to residence in the area. There is great information in the calendar about the Harris Plant, radiation, evacuation routes and relocation areas. We also have a few Student Safety Information brochures available in the school office or you may visit www.progress-energy.com.

Salem Elementary Professional Learning Team Agenda Wednesdays, 2009-2010

PURPOSE/CONTEXT: Weekly collaboration of teams to identify and support students in need of targeted, strategic interventions.

DESIRED OUTCOME(S): By the end of the meeting, participants will have:

- Analyzed the student data provided for student(s) identified as needing additional support/enrichment
- Collaborated to identify researched based interventions aligned with student performance
- Determine/Develop progress monitoring tools

WHAT (Content)	HOW (Process)	WHO (Facilitator)	NOTES (Minutes)
Review Norms & Agenda	Review	Focused Intervention Team Member	Review Agenda, Norms, Desired Outcomes: Tracked out:
Analyze Student Data	Presentation	Teacher(s)	
Match Research Based Intervention(s) with Student Need(s)	Collaboration	Team	
Determine/Develop tool for Progress Monitoring	Review/ Discussion	Team	
Next Steps:	List	Focused Intervention Team Member	Identify student(s) for next week's agenda Review student data Match interventions to students
Meeting Evaluation	List	Focused Intervention Team Member	Process: Results: Relationships:

In order for teachers to meet regularly to collaborate and discuss ways to improve individual student academic performance, the 2009-2010 bell schedule provides weekly one hour early dismissal on Wednesdays for all students. On six of those Wednesdays, schools will release 2.5 hours early. Schools will continue to use the six 2.5 hour sessions for school-wide faculty professional development. Professional Learning Teams at Salem Elementary will use this agenda format for the early dismissal meetings.

PTA NEWS

President's Note PTA President: Kelly Jaynes

I would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new students, families and staff joining us at Salem Elementary this year! Also, welcome back to our returning students, families, and staff! Salem Elementary is a fantastic school with an exceptional staff and a very active PTA. We can all agree that this school year will bring many new friends, opportunities, challenges and adventures.

It is an honor to have your trust as I serve as your PTA President again this year! My thanks to ALL the Board members and committee heads for their "behind the scenes" planning and organizing these past several weeks. Their enthusiasm and selflessness will ensure that our year will start smoothly. Please review the Executive Board directory in this newsletter and feel free to contact any of these members with questions about volunteer opportunities

July brings many exciting PTA events starting with our Tissue Tea for Kindergarten parents on Tracks 1, 2 and 3 on Monday, July 13. Tissue Tea for Kindergarten parents on Track 4 will be held Monday, August 3. Open House for Tracks 1, 2 and 3 will be held on Thursday, July 16, starting at 6:30PM. The PTA will hold its first General PTA meeting during Open House, and we will vote on the budget. Please come and see what exciting opportunities are available for you in the PTA. Even if you are tracked out, you are welcome to attend the General PTA meeting to place your vote. Open House for Track 4 will be held Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 PM. This same evening, we will hold a repeat General PTA meeting for Track 4.

With every new school year, the PTA launches its membership drive. Our goal at Salem is to have 100% of our families join our PTA. The cost of membership is as follows: single membership \$5.00 and family membership (2 adults) \$8.00.

This year we plan to unveil our new PTA Web site. This will be a valuable resource for you to find out about events, fundraiser and general school happenings. We are also hoping to continue our "Green" theme by providing our newsletter electronically instead of in paper form. Check your child's Friday Folder for more information and to sign up to receive periodic email updates for upcoming events.

Please know that there are many ways to be involved in your child's education; some don't even require being in the school building. Classroom teachers have jobs that could easily be done at home. Our PTA also has many volunteer opportunities that accommodate all personal and professional schedules. Your own attitude directly influences your child's attitude toward school. Please consider dedicating some of your time this year to making Salem Elementary the strongest it can be.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your PTA President. I am looking forward to a very exciting and rewarding school year. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 303-5295 or kellyjaynes@nc.rr.com.

Volunteer of the Month

Do you know of someone who goes that extra mile to help out our school? Someone who takes time out of their busy day to volunteer in the classroom, work with students, help out classroom or special teachers? Or maybe they work behind the scenes, organizing, recruiting, or soliciting. There are many ways our wonderful parents, grandparents, friends & neighbors help Salem Elementary be the best it can be.

Please let us know of these special folks so that we may honor and recognize them. Thank you!

Karin Dellamestra dmaestra@mindspring.com
Madhavi Krevat SalemNewsletter@yahoo.com



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Dear Salem Family,

My name is Katie Carroll and I am so excited to introduce myself as the new guidance counselor at Salem Elementary! I have lived in Wake County for 3 years and worked with Wake County Schools since I moved here in 2006 with my husband, Brian. I received a Bachelor's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2005 and received my Master's degree from Seton Hall University in 2008. Before moving to Raleigh, I lived in Dobson, NC (right down the road from "Mayberry"☺). I taught special education for three years prior to becoming a guidance counselor which has provided me with a strong foundation for working closely with parents, teachers and students.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child throughout the coming year, which surely promises to bring with it many new experiences and challenges. As your son or daughter's counselor, it is my goal to help him/her become a confident learner and I will do my best to help make this year a positive experience for your child. It is within the role of the school counselor to address academic, personal/social and career needs of each student. I will be visiting each classroom throughout the year as well as seeing students in small groups and individually based on parent, teacher, administration and individual referrals.

Again, I look forward to working together with you throughout the coming year and I am confident that together we can provide the support and encouragement needed to help your child excel. If you have any questions now or at any point in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me at the school at 919.363.2871 or by email (kcarroll2@wcpss.net). Please also check out my school blackboard page where you can find more information on the referral process, character education, newsletters, kid-friendly Web sites and more! This will be on the Salem Web site soon.

Sincerely,

Katie Carroll, M.A. Counseling

Good-Bye to Salem Parents!

Dear Parents of Salem Elementary Students,

It is with great difficulty that we write to inform you that your counselors, Heidi Van Brocklin and Lisa Mize, will not be returning to Salem Elementary next school year.

Ms. Van Brocklin will be moving to Asheville, NC. Ms. Mize had a baby boy in February, and has decided to stay home as a full-time mommy for some time, while running a family in-home child care center for teachers' children.

We have really enjoyed working with the students and staff here and of course, many of our parents. We are so impressed with the amount of parent volunteers who we see helping at our school. You become an integral part of our community when you give some of your time to help in the classroom or anywhere else in the school. Please keep it up!

We will miss being at Salem very much but we look forward to coming back for visits and seeing how much the kids have grown. Deciding to leave was not an easy decision to make, but we would like to thank you for including us as a part of the Salem family for awhile. Best wishes for a great 2009-2010 year!

Sincerely,

Heidi Van Brocklin & Lisa Mize
School Counselors





MEDIA MATTERS

SCRABBLE CLUB

School Scrabble Clubs were started in 1991 by Hasbro and the National Scrabble Association. Teachers praise the scrabble game as a good educational tool. Students learn vocabulary, spelling, dictionary and math skills. They also learn conflict resolution and creative problem solving. All students in grades three through five can participate.

The club is an extracurricular activity sponsored by Mrs. Wagner and Salem parents. The club cannot function without parent volunteers. **Participation is limited to 48 students, contingent upon how many parent volunteers we get.**

The participants will meet immediately after school on Monday afternoons from 4:00PM until 5:00PM. **Our first meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 2009 in the school Media Center.** Parents are invited to this first meeting for an introduction to the game of SCRABBLE, the format of our club program, and the expectations of all members and their parents. If you cannot attend the first meeting please let Mrs. Wagner know.

Turn in your application the week of August 3.

SALEM ELEMENTARY SCRABBLE CLUB

STUDENT NAME _____ TRACK _____ GRADE _____

TEACHER _____

PARENT NAMES _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____ E-MAIL _____

Person responsible for picking up child _____

YES, I can support the Scrabble club as a parent volunteer. _____

NO, I cannot volunteer at this time. _____

Any allergies: _____

Please return completed application to Sandra Wagner in the Media Center. For more information call 363-2878 or e-mail swagner@wcpss.net.



MEDIA MATTERS

Who is it that most influences your child to read?

A reading survey was conducted at Salem Elementary recently to determine reading habits of our students. One of the questions students were asked was “Where did you get your reading ideas from?” Most of the answers that I saw said “family.” Not “my brother,” not “my sister,” or “my teacher,” but “. . . it’s my family that leads me to read.” So moms and dads, your children are looking to you to suggest reading materials for them.

I, myself, would like to promote a series of books I noticed in a Newsweek Magazine article dated July 19, 2009 with the cover title “What to Read Now.” This article really peaked my interest. As I perused the 50 titles they suggested, I noticed one of my favorite children’s book series, *The Seeker: The Dark is Rising* by Susan Cooper. This is what the author of the article said: “Forget Harry Potter. In the tradition of Tolkien, this series of novels about five British children and one mysterious adult battling evil shows how powerful a child’s fantasy story can be.” The books are in our media center. *The Dark is Rising* and *The Grey King* are my favorites in the series and both of them have received children’s awards.

This series is based on Arthurian adventure and are filled with magic and fantasy. The first book has also been made into a movie, however movies adapted from novels cannot always convey the brilliance of the original book. Will Stanton is the seventh son of a seventh son. He discovers that he is one the old ones reborn to protect the earth from the dark forces. If you have a fourth or fifth grader, point them toward these books. I think they will enjoy them immensely.

The books are: *Over Sea, Under Stone*, *The Dark is Rising*, *Greenwitch*, *The Grey King*, and *Silver on the Tree*.

Sandra Wagner

FUNDRAISING

Another Soup-er Year Ahead

Welcome back to another fabulous year at Salem elementary! We want to thank all you soup-eating Salamanders for your amazing label submissions last year. Our goal was greatly exceeded thanks to you! This school year, please send your labels to school in a zip-lock bag labeled with your child's teacher, for your student to deposit in the Campbell's pop-up can in the Town Hall Meeting area. We will award the "Golden Can Trophy" to each month's winning class as we all watch the big can on the poster fill once again! As always, please send in your trimmed UPC symbols from your favorite Campbell's, Pepperidge Farms, V-8 and Prego products after enjoying your meals!

Rozanne Todd and Kelly Kunkel, Campbell's Labels Co-chairs



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! Over the past few years, Salem elementary students and parents have established an impressive history of supporting programs such as Box Tops for Education and Tyson Project A+. Thank you in advance for another great year.

Last year you raised over \$3,000 through Box Tops for Education and \$74 through Tyson Project A+ for Salem Elementary. Awesome! Here's how it works:

Box Tops for Education

- Clip Box Tops from your favorite products made by General Mills, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Kleenex and more. Ask your friends and extended family to help out – many people have no idea they throw away a dime with each Box Top. With each Box Top turned in we earn 10 cents for our school. This adds up fast when we work together!
- Place your Box Tops in a baggie or envelope with the name and grade of your child's teacher and have your child deposit the baggie or envelope in the Box Tops box located in Town Hall.
- REMEMBER, Box Tops do have an expiration date printed on each one. Please turn them in ASAP so we can be sure to bear the fruits of your labor.
- Go to www.boxtops4education.com for more information.
- 2009-2010 Box Tops for Education GOAL: \$3300

Tyson Project A+

- Clip the *entire* Project A+ label from the participating Tyson product as shown below:



found on bags



found on boxes

- With each Project A+ label we collect 24 cents for our school.
- Place Tyson Project A+ labels in the Tyson drop box located in Town Hall.
- Go to ProjectAPlus.tyson.com for more information.
- 2009-2010 Tyson Project A+ GOAL: \$100

Thanks for your support!

Susan McMorris & Janet Overberg

Salem Spirit Wear Order Form

Child's Name:	Daytime Telephone:
Teacher:	Grade Track: Date:

Spirit Wear is available by pre-paid orders. Please return this form to your child's teacher with exact change or check payable to Salem Elementary PTA. If you have any questions or problems with your order upon completion, call Elena Skrinak 387-4779.

New!
Long sleeve tie dye shirts

YOUTH SIZES							
Item	YS	YM	YL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due	
Purple Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$17			
Turquoise Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$17			
ADULT SIZES							
Item	AS	AM	AL	XL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Purple Tie Dye T-Shirt					\$19		
Turquoise Tie Dye T-Shirt					\$19		

Sweatshirts & Hoodies

1 TOTAL

YOUTH SIZES						ADULT SIZE SMALL				
Item	YS	YM	YL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due	AS	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Grey Crew Sweatshirt				\$13				\$14		
Grey Hoodie				\$20				\$22		

Short sleeve tie dye shirts

2 TOTAL

YOUTH SIZES						
Item	YS	YM	YL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Pink Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$14		
Green Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$14		
Blue Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$14		
Orange Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$14		
Lime Green Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$14		

ADULT SIZES						
Item	AS	AM	AL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Pink Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$15		
Green Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$15		
Blue Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$15		
Orange Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$15		
Lime Green Tie Dye T-Shirt				\$15		

PLUS SIZES					
Item	XL	XXL	Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Pink Tie Dye T-Shirt			\$16		
Green Tie Dye T-Shirt			\$16		
Blue Tie Dye T-Shirt			\$16		
Orange Tie Dye T-Shirt			\$16		
Lime Green Tie Dye T-Shirt			\$16		

3 TOTAL

Other Cool Stuff

Price Each	QTY	Amount Due
Salem Lunch Bag New!		
\$8	teal	
	purple	
Salem Blanket		
\$25		
Track-Out Calendar Magnet		
\$2		
Salem School Car Magnet		
\$5		
Salem Scrunchies (Teal)		
\$4		
Salem Rubber Bracelets		
\$4		
Salem Croc Buttons		
\$3		
Salem Keychains		
\$2		
4 TOTAL		

PAGE TOTAL

1	
2	
3	
4	
TOTAL AMOUNT INCLUDED	

DATES TO REMEMBER		
Tuesday, July 7		First Day of School – Tracks 1, 2 & 3
Monday, July 13		Kindergarten Tissue Tea – Tracks 1, 2 & 3
Thursday, July 16	6:30PM	Open House, General PTA Meeting – Tracks 1, 2 & 3
Wednesday, July 22	1:15PM	Early Release – Tracks 1, 2 & 3
Monday, July 27		First Day of School – Track 4
Monday, August 3		Kindergarten Tissue Tea – Track 4
Thursday, August 6	6:30PM	Open House, General PTA Meeting – Track 4
Wednesday, August 12	1:15PM	Early Release – Tracks 1, 2 & 4
Wednesday, August 19		Fall Pictures – Tracks 1 & 3
Wednesday, September 2	1:15PM	Early Release – Tracks 1, 3 & 4
Monday, September 7		LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL!
Wednesday, September 23		Fall Pictures – Tracks 2 & 4
Friday, September 25		Grandparent/Special Person Breakfast – Tracks 2 & 4
Monday, September 28		Grandparent/Special Person Breakfast – Tracks 1 & 3
Tuesday, September 29		Fall Pictures Make-Up Day – Tracks 1 & 3

Do you have ideas for “filling your bucket?”

Share your ideas with everyone, and have them included in the newsletter every month.

Parents: Ask your children/students for ideas on how to fill a person’s bucket. Have the children fill out the form (below) and submit it to their teacher. They may write as many ideas as they wish.

Teachers, please put all filled out forms in the PTA Box. Thank you!

Name (first name only): _____

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

How can you fill your bucket or someone else’s bucket? _____
