

WASHINGTON GT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

BACK TO SCHOOL PACKET

Welcome back, Washington GT Elementary students and families!!

The Washington PTA's mission is to make every student's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Washington PTA has translated this mission into four core themes:

- ★ Teacher Empowerment and Support
- ★ Enriching Student Experiences
- ★ Building the WES Community
- ★ Advocacy and Outreach

Our role is to create programming and events based in these four core themes. We invite you to become an active partner in your child's education by volunteering in your child's classroom and with the PTA!

Included in this packet you will find:

- ★ PTA Membership Information
- ★ School Calendar of Events
- ★ PTA Fundraising Information
- ★ Parent Survey
- ★ PTA Volunteer Interest Form

How can you stay informed about what is happening at school?

1. Join the PTA by creating a MemberHub account at <https://washingtongt.memberhub.com/join/pe8h0b>, then pay via credit card by clicking on the link to "Join or Renew your PTA membership" OR send in the enclosed Membership Information Form with cash or check. Membership must be renewed annually.
2. Read our bi-weekly newsletter, "Wizard Words," starting September 17. It will be sent through MemberHub and Class Dojo.
3. Visit our newly redesigned PTA website at www.wizardpta.org
4. Visit our Facebook page at "Washington GT Elementary PTA" and don't forget to "Like" it to stay connected!!

5. Attend our monthly PTA Executive Board meetings (Friday mornings 9:30-11:30 in the school conference room (main floor near the elevator). Dates are on the included calendar. Every parent's attendance and input is greatly appreciated and encouraged!

Please feel free to contact the PTA Board Members at any time. We look forward to working with YOU this year as we empower teachers, build our community, enrich our students and be advocates for education!

Amy Thomas, PTA President 18-19; wesgtpa@gmail.com

Washington Elementary PTA Membership Information 2018-19

Joining the PTA gives you a voice in the direction of our school, how to fund programming and classrooms, voting privileges, and allows you to hold an office on our PTA Board. Members also receive access to tools and resources from the National PTA and NCPTA, as well as digital magazines, e-newsletters, and discounts on products. Membership must be renewed every year and any person can join.

The PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America. Today's PTA is comprised of over 4 million parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers, foster parents and other caring adults who share a commitment to improving the education, health and safety of all children. We speak with one voice for every child. We hope you will join us to support children, families and our school. Anyone in our community can join Washington's PTA.

JOIN ONLINE through MemberHub! Either login to your existing MemberHub account or create one here: <https://washingtongt.memberhub.com/join/pe8h0b>. Once you are logged in to MemberHub, click on "Shop" at the top of the screen and you will see options to pay for your PTA membership with a credit card.

OR pay with cash or check. Please complete below and return form and payment to your child's teacher.

Checks are made payable to Washington PTA.

_____ \$20.00	Gold Family PTA Membership
_____ \$5.00	Individual PTA Membership
_____ \$5.00	Faculty PTA Membership

**With each membership, \$1.75 goes to the North Carolina PTA, \$2.25 goes to the National PTA and the remainder goes to the Washington PTA to fund school programs

Name(s): _____ (please print clearly)

Child's Name(s): _____ Teacher: _____

If you choose a family membership, please provide BOTH emails.

E-mail(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

PTA Records Only

Cash _____ Check# _____ Sprd _____
Cards _____ Web _____ Dbs _____

WASHINGTON CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018-2019

2018

AUGUST

T 16 Back to School Breakfast for Staff 8:00 a.m.
Su 19 PTA Playdate at North Cary Park 3:30pm
Th 23 Meet the Teacher (5:00-6:30)
S 25 Kindergarten Playdate (10:30 - 11:30am)
M 27 First Day of School
F 31 PTA Board Meeting (9:30am)
F 31 Kindergarten Meet the Teacher (2:00 - 3:00 pm)

SEPTEMBER

M 3 Holiday
T 4 Kindergarten Parent "Super Start" (8:50 - 10:00 am)
Th 13 Open House & General PTA Meeting (5:00 - 7:15 pm)
M 17 Electives begin 1-5
T 18 Room Parent Orientation (9:30-10:30am)
W 19 Holiday Yom Kippur
M 24 Shining Star Fundraiser Begins
F 28 PTA Board Meeting (9:30am)
F 28 Early Release

OCTOBER

TBD PTA Reflections Art Contest
M 8 Kindergarten Electives Begin
F 12 Fall Picture Day
Th 18 Fall Picnic (5:00 - 7:00 pm)
TBD Vision Screening
F 19 Early Release
M 22 5th grade Parent info session on magnet middle schools (6:00 - 7:00 pm)
M 29 4th Grade Writer-in-Residence Author, Kelly Starling Lyons
F 26 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)
W 31 Teacher Workday

NOVEMBER

TBD Jellybeans Spirit Night
M 13 Q1 Report Cards Go Home
M 12 Holiday
5-9 Book Fair
Th 8 Arts and Letters Night & General PTA Meeting
F 16 Fall Picture Make-Up
T 20 Early Release
21-23 Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

TBD Holiday Coat Drive and Holiday Magic
3-4 Grade Level Spelling Bees
F 7 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)
10-14 5th Grade Artists in Residence, Keith Norwall & Anna Podris
F 21 Early Release
24-2 Winter Break

2019

JANUARY

T 1 Holiday
Th 3 First day back for students
T 8 Spelling Bee Final (6:00 - 8:30 pm)
F 11 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)
F 18 Teacher Workday
M 21 Holiday
Th 24 Science Fair/Math & Science Night

FEBRUARY

M 4 2nd Q Report Cards Go Home
F 15 Early Release
18-19 Teacher Work Days
F 22 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)
TBD Jellybeans Spirit Night
TBD Bus Driver Appreciation Week

MARCH

F 8 Early Release
F 15 Spring Picture Day (Individual and Classroom)?
W 20 Theater Production Evening Performance
F 22 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)
F 29 Teacher Work Day
TBD Staff Appreciation Week

APRIL

M 8 Q3 Report Cards Go Home
Th 11 International Culture Night
15-22 Spring Break
F 26 PTA Board Meeting (9:30 am)

MAY

Th 16 Spring Fling Elective Showcase
Th 16 4th quarter electives end
F 24 PTA Board Meeting (Lunch, location TBD)
M 27 Holiday

JUNE

F 7 Field Day (rain date Mon 10th)
W 11 Last Day/Graduation (9:45 am)/Q4 Report Cards Go Home

WASHINGTON PTA FUNDRAISING

Washington Elementary School PTA offers programs and events that support four core themes:

- ★ Teacher Empowerment and Support
- ★ Building the WES Community
- ★ Enriching Student Experiences
- ★ Advocacy and Outreach

PTA's programs and events are created to promote WES students' growth and achievement. WES PTA can only accomplish this through dedicated volunteers and fundraising.

WES PTA fundraises in three ways: Shining Star Fundraiser, select product sales and passive fundraising.

Shining Star Fundraiser

WES PTA's direct donation campaign is the Shining Star Fundraiser. You Give. PTA Plans. Students Shine! More information about this fundraiser will come in the next couple of weeks.

Most importantly, like before, this fundraiser will still allow WES students to benefit from 100% of your donation. As always, donations made to WES PTA and Shining Star Fundraiser are tax deductible.

Product Sales: All products sold by WES PTA have been carefully chosen to work with PTA's mission and core themes. These product sales include:

Wizard Wear Sales – WES PTA designs, sells and distributes Wizard Wear to promote school spirit and to build the WES community. The order deadline for the fall order is September 18, 2018.

Scholastic Book Fair – This weeklong book sale occurs in the WES Media Center the Fall. The goal of the book fair is to enrich the student experience by putting books in the hands of WES students and by supplementing classroom libraries through the use of teacher wish lists.

School Store – The school store is open to students on certain mornings each week. The school store offers school supplies and is a fun way for students to use support fundraising efforts at WES.

Yearbook Sales – WES PTA sells and distributes school yearbooks. WES PTA also creates content and supplies photography to the publication. The sale of yearbooks occur in the Spring. Yearbooks are a lasting memento for students of their time at WES.

Passive Fundraisers: Passive Fundraisers allow WES PTA to earn money from companies like Amazon, Harris Teeter, and Box Tops for Education. WES families simply need to follow these simple steps to help WES PTA and WES benefit from these free programs.

Smile.Amazon.com – Before you purchase anything on Amazon.com, be sure to sign up for the free program AmazonSmile. You can sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1383300> or you can search for Washington GT Elementary School PTA on Smile.Amazon.com. After you sign up, 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be given to WES PTA.

Harris Teeter VIC Card – Go to <https://www.harristeeter.com/together-in-education> and link your VIC card number with WES PTA, our school code is 2308. **You must re-link your card every year.**

Box Tops For Education – Simply clip the 10¢ Box Tops from participating products and send them in to your teachers in an envelope or Ziploc bag marked "Box Tops."

2018 Washington Family PTA Survey

Please return to your child's teacher.

1. Do you feel like you get the right amount of communication from PTA about events / happenings at Washington?

No, please communicate more

Yes, its about right

PTA communicates too much

Suggestions for next year _____

2. How do you prefer to receive information from PTA?

Paper copy in Monday Folder

Email blasts from MemberHub or Class Dojo – don't waste \$ on paper

Text Messages

All of the Above

Suggestions for next year _____

3. Our Shining Star Fundraiser raised over \$20,000 last year by asking our families to donate directly rather than selling items or participating in fundraising "events." Should we change anything?

Nope – its working great!

I would like to see something different (please comment below)

Suggestions for next year _____

4. PTA Events – Fall Picnic (in October)

We loved it, don't change a thing

Could use some improvement

Unable to attend last year

Suggestions for next year _____

5. PTA Events – Arts & Letters Night (in November)

We loved it, don't change a thing

Could use some improvement

Unable to attend last year

Suggestions for next year _____

6. PTA Events – Math & Science Night / Science Fair (in Jan / Feb)

We loved it, don't change a thing

Could use some improvement

Unable to attend last year

Suggestions for next year _____

7. PTA Events – International Cultural Night

We loved it, don't change a thing

Could use some improvement

Unable to attend last year

Suggestions for next year _____

8. Last year, WES PTA spent almost \$10,000 on Teacher Start Up Funds and Grants. In your opinion, is this a good use of our budget?

Yes – and let's put even more \$ towards our teachers if we can!

That seems about right

No – that's too much of our budget, let's put more \$ towards events / community building

Suggestions for next year _____

9. Do you want to give your name / contact info?

No thanks, I'd rather stay anonymous

Yes! I am open to talking more about this, please contact me!

Name / Email / Phone _____

10. Are you participating in PTA as much as you want to?

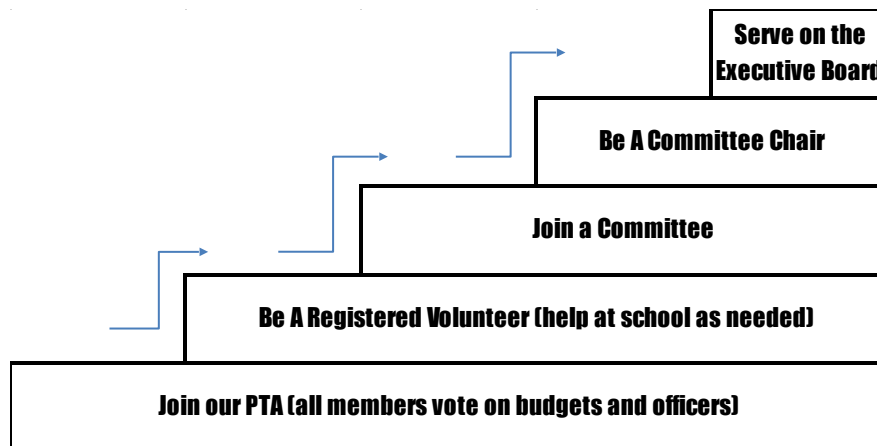
Yes

No

Committees I'm interested in _____

How can you be more involved in YOUR PTA?

Can you **Grow Together** with us and go up a step this year? We would love to have YOU!



The Washington PTA sponsors many events and programs for our students and their families throughout the year. We need help to make these programs a success!!

Here are just a few of the committees that could use more help THIS YEAR. Can you help???

- * Bus Driver Appreciation
- * Yearbook and Picture Days
- * Arts & Letters Night
- * International Night
- * Science Fair
- * Book Fair and Reading Incentives
- * Fall Picnic
- * Math & Science Night

2018-2019 WES PTA Executive Board Volunteers – Contact Information

President	Amy Thomas	amyblackthomas@gmail.com
Vice-President	Lola Houston-Hager	lyhousto@yahoo.com
Secretary	Sherri Satterwhite	satterws@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Jessica Dixon	jdixon8@gmail.com
Ways & Means Chair	Veena Shanmugham	veenavignesh@gmail.com
Communications & Recognition Chair	Marquitta McNeil	mcneil.marquitta@yahoo.com
Programs & Events Chair	Amy Jones	docteachjones@me.com
Media Center Support Chair	Kara Goeres	kara.goeres@gmail.com
Advocacy & School Support Chair	Hollin Goodwin	hollin.goodwin@gmail.com
Audit Chair	Carey Forman	kids@polyphony.org
Member at Large	Emily King	emilywking@gmail.com
Member at Large	Manjri Lall	mlall@mycomedical.com

Please provide us with your contact information if you are interested in being placed on a committee this school year. Please send this sheet in to school with your child.

Your name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Child/children's names and grades: _____

Area(s) of Interest: _____