

PTA VALUE DEAL!

The PTA is an important part of your child's school. We are a group of teachers, staff, and PARENT MEMBERS who perform a variety of tasks that enrich your child's school experience. To see the list of PTA members at Elden, view our membership list posted on the PTA board near the cafeteria door at school .

Here are *some* of the many ways the PTA adds **VALUE** to our school:

How the PTA Provides Educational VALUE:

Arts in Education: We scout and recruit professionals in the arts to demonstrate their craft to the student body. We invite three professionals a year, and planning can take several months.

Book Fair: Your child selects books to *read*. Since your child goes to the book fair at school, your child can use this time to learn monetary value from the purchase transaction. The monies received from this event are simply reinvested in order to provide every student a book for PARP and a book for his/her birthday.

Character Education: This is a faculty-run committee, with the inclusion of two parent chairs. This committee *teaches* core values, places monthly emphasis on values, and emphasizes the Golden Rule. Character Ed is part of the newsletter, and also the monthly Morning Meetings. Character Ed touches every part of your child's day, from the bus ride to the cafeteria, to the classroom. This year, the 5th graders delighted in Restaurant Day, where a restaurant setting was created to teach restaurant manners to the students. Members of Character Ed waited on the students.

Enrichment: Classes on how to: tie dye, karate, cookie decorating, wild life, basketball, and MUCH more... all designed to develop basic skills and promote social skills building.

PARP: (Parents as Reading Partners) Parents, members of our community, local celebrities all come to Elden during a three week event to READ stories to the students. Students are encouraged to read, and to record what they read for incentives and class awards.

How the PTA promotes Social Skills Building for your child:

Art Show: Bring your child to school to see the Art Displays that are generated by Mrs. Collins' students. Mrs. Collins asks for parent volunteers to assist in hanging the artwork for the displays. This is a great opportunity for your family to meet other families in the school. We should mention that since the artwork is done during CLASS, it's educational, too!

Bingo Night: Your family can come and enjoy a fun night playing bingo. The cost: bring a canned good to donate to a local food bank (teaches community service.) Not a fundraiser!

Family Dance: Every Fall, the PTA sponsors a dance, with music by a DJ, and refreshments. Kids get to socialize with their friends, and listen to great music. Cost: Donation of a food item to a local food bank (teaches community service.)

Ice Cream Social: At the beginning of every school year, parents can bring their child in for a free ice cream novelty. This is a great chance for your child to meet new friends from class.

Field Days: At the end of every school year, it is time for the kids to relax, unwind and have some fun. Field Days provides many fun activities like balloon fights, tug of war, plus much more. It is exercise, it is fun, and the kids do some things as teams, which promotes teamwork! The staff plays an integral part in moving the kids from one activity to the next, and the parent volunteers help to teach the activity. What great teamwork.

Mail Boxes: Elden has a mail box, and students are encouraged to write letters to others. A parent member assists students in delivering mail to other students every Friday.

How the PTA helps the school!

Beautification: A parent member organizes the weeding of the butterfly garden and assists with grounds beautification as needed.

Emergency Phone Tree: Parents assist the school in notifying other parents of any school emergencies that may occur.

School Sign: A parent member places notices on the sign out front by the playground.

Newsletter: A parent member publishes a monthly newsletter that discusses the current events relevant to the PTA, and the school.

School Pictures: A parent member hires a photographer and coordinates a date with the school. All students get the opportunity to purchase photos, and class photos are taken.

Fundraising: The PTA has two major fundraising events each year: a Pizza sale in the Fall, and the Boston Coffee Cake Sale every Spring. These fundraisers help the PTA pay for the materials needed to coordinate and supply the other committees listed under educational and social skills. The fundraisers also assist with the 5th Grade Committee. Fundraising also allows the PTA to issue Elden Folders and informational packets at the beginning of every school year. The PTA does have some other fundraisers including: Box Tops (where parent contribution is cutting box tops from food purchases along dotted lines, and parent volunteer contribution is counting and validating box tops to send for redemption); Holiday Gift Sale (where kids can shop during school and all items are minimally priced ~ most are under \$3); Ink Cartridges (where if you WANT to send in used ink cartridges, PTA will redeem for a small value); Price Chopper Tools for Schools (where participants sign up at the grocery store, and every time they buy groceries, the store gives money to the school); Sportswear (where the kids can buy school logo shirts).