

# east lake eagle

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*everychild.one voice.*

Please join and be a part of what makes East Lake special!

### Dear East Lake parents, teachers, staff and students,

Happy New Year! It's our hope that 2023 is off to a great start for you and your families.

I am so excited to be able to say our PTA has successfully executed so many of the activities we all love, as well as some new ones during the first half of the school year. With the help and support of the truly extraordinary East Lake administration and staff, our PTA has been able to host the Back to School Bash, Walk to School Day, Halloween Family Fun Trunk or Treat, Blood Drive, Reflections Contest, Picture Day, Jared Campbell Character Education Assembly, and an all-time favorite, Holiday Fair. We have also been able to give a warm welcome to all our new Kindergarten families with welcome signs and our BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast.

Additionally, our Staff Appreciation Committee has been hard at work to remind teachers and staff how much we value them. This committee hosted a welcome breakfast for all East Lake staff the first week of school and surprised teachers and staff with a hot cocoa bar for the holidays.

Our Outreach Committee introduced two new initiatives the first half of the year; a Snack Drive, benefiting St Rose and Our Lady of Lourdes food pantries and an Adopt a Family event, benefiting Momma's House. Thanks to our East Lake families, both were a success!

As a giveback to our students, East Lake PTA's Book Vending Machine Committee has been on site every month to ensure the PTA's book vending machine is fully stocked and that students are able to use their tokens to make the perfect choice.

### PTA President Message

Danielle Ocuto



"Fund the Fun" raised enough resources to be able to keep our programs running. Our Box Tops Campaign has been encouraging parents to scan their receipts to the Box Tops app. This year's Box Tops check will be used to gift East Lake with a new lawn sign. The East Lake community is a generous one!

In addition to the support of our PTA board, it takes two amazing groups to make our many events come to fruition. First, our parents; we are lucky to have so many parents to chair and volunteer on our committees. Without you, they simply would not happen. Second, we are incredibly fortunate that the East Lake administration and staff are supportive of our organization. I'm grateful that East Lake is a place where our PTA missions and activities are adopted by administration. Teachers and staff not only assist in promoting our activities, but often attend with their families! So I extend a tremendous THANK YOU to East Lake parents, teachers, staff and administration. Without you, the East Lake PTA wouldn't be what it is!

There's lots planned for the second half of this school year including a rockin' PARP program (hint to this year's theme!) that will incorporate an Author in Residence Assembly and Book Fair, several Arts in Education Assemblies, a Reflections Contest Ceremony, the Boys and Girls socials, Mother's Day Plant Sale, Father's Day Boutique and everyone's favorite, Field Day! Not to mention what our Family Fun Committee is working on - Ducks Game and Adventureland! I am confident the second half of the year will be just as great as the first!



## A Message from Principal McKillop



Dear Parents:

As a teacher, and now as an Elementary School Principal, parents frequently ask me what they can do to get their child to read at home?

It is a question that my own mother struggled with when I was a child. Motivating reluctant readers to open a book for their own enjoyment can be a difficult task today, but not an impossible one.

One simple step that you can take to help your child gain a greater interest in reading is to read yourself. By exhibiting to your child that you make time in your busy schedule to read, indicates that you value reading.

Invite your child to read with you or share what you're reading with them. Whether it is a newspaper column, magazine article, or a how-to book, the important thing is that they see your interest.

Reading with your child doesn't have to be you reading to them. Just as they do in school, each of you can read your own book and then share what you've read or learned with each other.

Modeling good reading habits is a valuable technique that can be used at home to motivate your reluctant reader.

Another way to generate interest in reading is to provide your child with a new book or children's magazine. The winter season is an ideal time to pick up a book for your child. (The PTA PARP Program is coming up in February) A book is an excellent gift that will last a lifetime.

After the novelty of a new game from the holidays wears off, and before the weather is warm enough to use that new scooter or bike, books are perfect for wintertime entertainment.

The winter season is a wonderful time to begin or continue reading with your child. So, on your next trip to the library or on your next trip to Target why not pick up a book for your child. And while you're there pick one up for yourself. A book is an excellent gift that will last a lifetime.

I wish the entire East Lake School community a very Happy New Year, one that is filled with health, happiness and plenty of reading.

Thomas A. McKillop III  
Principal

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## 2022-23 East Lake PTA Board

Danielle Ocuto - President

Luz Bove - 1st Vice President

Stacie Tranchina- 2nd Vice President

Christina Vitucci - Treasurer

Meaghan Wrona - Corresponding Secretary

Ashley Ianotta -Recording Secretary



# Back to School Bash



The East Lake Pta was able to welcome students, parents, siblings and teachers back to school with its annual bash. The weather was beautiful and participants enjoyed the DJ, lawn games, raffles and ice cream. A good time was had by all, even the East Lake Eagle!



# Picture Day

The East Lake Pta hosted yet another successful picture day in September! Students and teachers were dressed to impress. Thank you to all parent volunteers!





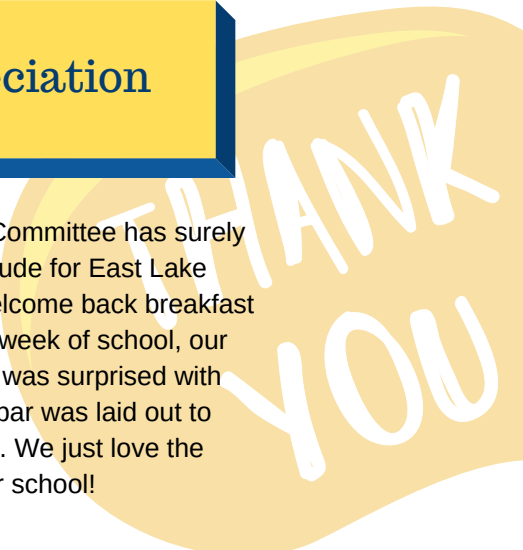
Grades K-5 participated in the Walk to or From School event - gathering together to get exercise and spend some extra quality time with friends or siblings before school. They were tasked with searching for nature items (tree, flower, acorn) and marking it off on their sheet as they walked. The grade with the most participation got extra recess - Approximately 350 students participated and 1st grade came out on top!

## Walk to School Day

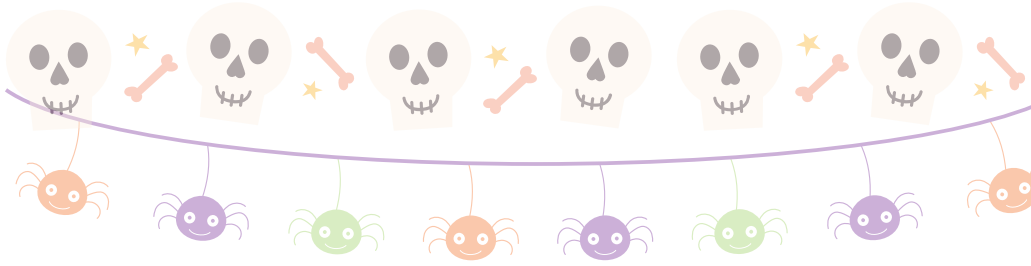


## Staff Appreciation

The Staff Appreciation Committee has surely shown our level of gratitude for East Lake teachers and staff. A welcome back breakfast was laid out for the first week of school, our nighttime custodial staff was surprised with dinner and a hot cocoa bar was laid out to welcome in the holidays. We just love the teachers and staff at our school!







# Halloween Trunk or Treat

The Family Fun committee hosted their first Trunk or Treat event on October 27th. It was a great success and everyone had so much fun. There were balloons, awesomely decorated trunks, a DJ, a Photo Booth, a performance by the NYPD dance team and TONS of candy!

More than 600 tickets were purchased - for an inaugural year, this an amazing show of support from our East Lake community!

We were overwhelmed by how many of our committee members volunteered to decorate their trunks and their enthusiasm was evident in each trunk's theme.





## Character Education Through the Power of Music Assembly

More than 160 Kindergarten and 1st grade students were highly engaged and sang songs with Jared Campbell - a musician who reaches his audience through the power of music.

Through his presentation he promoted responsibility, respect, and kindness. He also reinforced positive character building messages giving the children confidence about themselves. The kids loved the performance and left encouragements to always do the right thing and spread kindness to others.



A fun time was had by all at our annual Holiday Fair on December 6th & 7th. There was such excitement as each student found that perfect gift for their parents, siblings, grandparents, extended family, pets, and friends! The joy when they shared all their purchases with their classmates was priceless!

## Holiday Fair

The holidays were made extra special by kids picking out their own gifts for their loved ones. We hope everyone loved their gifts!





## Book Vending Machine

The East Lake Book Vending Machine Committee works hard to ensure our machine is fully stocked and operational for the children to visit twice a month. This committee also assists students with choosing the right book with their earned tokens. Students seem to love their visits to this machine and we're so grateful for the chairs and volunteers that keep it going.

## Reflections

The PTA Reflections contest provides opportunities for students to express themselves in the arts. East Lake had entries in all categories this year: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. The awards ceremony will take place on March 21st for all participants. We had a total of 70 entries and 20 entries moved onto the county level! The students shined with creativity for this years theme "Show Your Voice".

## Blood Drive

Our annual Blood Drive took place on Thursday, November 3rd. It's goal was to help alleviate the blood shortage that is currently being experienced. In order to make sure the children were involved, we held a poster contest. Students were asked to draw their own version of how to call for heroes to donate blood. There were winners from each grade and two overall winners from grades K-2 and 3-5. Winners were selected the day of the blood drive by Nurse Mary. That evening, 39 community members donated blood.

## BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast

On Thursday, September 1st, Kindergarten parents were able to meet, mingle and enjoy light refreshments with our Principal, Mr. McKillop at East Lake's annual BooHoo Yahoo Breakfast. This morning of mixed emotions gave our newest parents a chance to connect with other parents and enjoy a warm welcome from the East Lake PTA Executive Board. Coffee, donuts and tissues were on hand along with lots of love and encouragement for our newest East Lake parents!



## Newsletter Committee:

**Chair:**  
Mallory Kerley

**Committee:**  
Catherine White  
Meghan Griffin

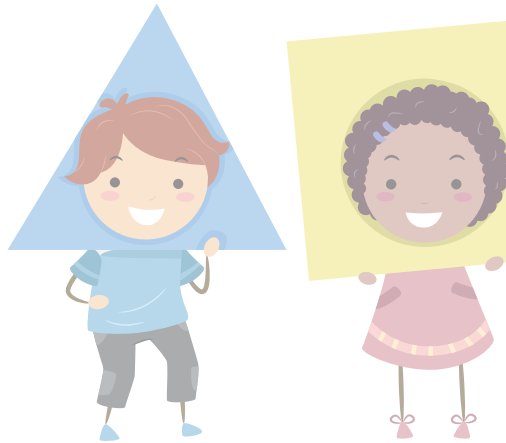
## Save the Dates!

Girls Social - Feb 23  
PARP (Pick a Reading  
Partner) - Feb 6-17  
PTA Meeting - Feb 7  
PTA Meeting - Mar 7  
Reflections Ceremony -  
Mar 21  
PTA Meeting - Apr 4  
Boys Social - Apr 17  
Plant Sale - May 12  
PTA Meeting - May 16  
Adventureland Family  
Fun Event - May 19  
PTA Meeting - June 6  
Field Day - June 9  
Ducks Game - June 10

## Join the PTA

The East Lake PTA  
has been working hard  
behind the scenes -  
and we need your help!

Scan the below QR  
code and become a  
PTA member today



# Kindergarten Welcome Committee

Our Kindergarten Welcome Committee was busy before the start of the school year distributing "Welcome to East Lake" signs to our newest students! The Kindergarten welcome signs were a big hit and helped transition our littlest members of East Lake to their new school. This tradition is a favorite of both parents and students and our Kindergartners look fabulous with their special signs!

## Check out these excited smiles!

