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**THE ABC’S OF WEST MAPLE’S PTA**

**A**

**Assemblies –** PTA funds various educational assemblies for the entire school.

**Accelerated Reader -** AR is a Web-based extra-curricular program for 2nd-5th graders who read independently. AR provides added incentive to read, tests reading comprehension. Funds used for rewards. Educational program purchased by PTA.

**B**

**Bingo Night for 2nd/3rd/4th** – A fun family night in the winter, sponsored by the PTA and run with PTA volunteers.

**Box Tops For Education –** [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) - Along with cutting and submitting the boxtops labels, go on-line and shop through their amazing Marketplace portal. West Maple gets a % of all sales. Access stores like Barnes and Noble, Nordstrom, NorthFace, Lands End, Target, Old Navy, Oriental Trading, and many more. No additional out-of-pocket expense.

**Scholastic Book Fair –** Run by the Media Center team, supported by parent volunteers. This educational fundraising event is twice a year during conferences.

**Boo Bash for Pre-K, K-1 –** A great community event to get the little ones together for a social evening at the beginning of the year. This is organized and run by the PTA.

**BEF – Birmingham Education Foundation –** ANon-profit organization for the BPS school district. The mission of the Birmingham Education Foundation is to identify projects, together with the Birmingham Public School district, that will enhance learning for all students and which cannot be funded without private support. Tax-deductible donations accepted.

**Bulletin Board –** PTA Bulletin Board located at the entrance of the school to the left of the office. Look here for updates, minutes, suggestion box and helpful parent information.

**Battle of the Books -** A competition for BPS 4th and 5th graders who have a passion for reading and who crave a challenge!

**C**

**Community Education –** A department within the Birmingham School District. Responsible for Kinderplus, after school programs, before and after-care, Share and Care.

**Charity –** Share and Care program run by Community Ed. Helps organizations within our community. Each grade typically picks a charity and organizes a fundraising event. These events teach our children how to be good citizens within in their community. K – Human Society, 1 – Seedlings, 2 – Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund, 3- Friends of the Rouge, 4- Orchards Children’s Services, 5 – Lighthouse of Oakland County.

**Classroom Dues –** Collected at the beginning of the year to support classroom activities.

**Communication –** There are many ways to communicate back and forth with the PTA. [www.Westmaplepta.com](http://www.Westmaplepta.com), email, phone, facebook, suggestion box, West Maple website: [http://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Schools/Elementary/West+Maple/](http://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Schools/Elementary/West%2BMaple/), Weekly email updates from West Maple, Monthly newsletter from West Maple, student backpacks and room parents.

**5th Grade Camp –** PTA provides scholarships for those who cannot afford camp. The PTA also provides the bus transportation.

**D**

**Dad’s Club –** A different way for dad’s to get involved. Typically sponsor dad’s day breakfast, Eat and Run Lunch, movie nights. Events are scheduled conveniently throughout the year. <http://westmaplepta.weebly.com/dads-club.html>

**Donations –** Donations for the PTA accepted. **Tax deductible.**

**Directory –** All PTA members receive a free school Directory with membership. Directory includes annual calendar, PTA, Staff and student contacts.

**Dues for PTA –** $35 dues payable to West Maple PTA. Joining the PTA is one of the most important things you can do for your child's education. Membership dues support the mission of your local West Maple PTA, Michigan PTA and the National PTA.

**Disability Awareness Workshop -** Is a hands-on, activity-based workshop for 4th graders, whose main emphasis is to help students understand how difficult and complex daily living can be for individuals with disabilities. This is organized and run by PTA volunteers.

**E**

**Executive Board of the PTA –**

President - Heidi Ruud – hruud1@yahoo.com

Asst. President: Ashley Oleshansky – aoleshansky@yahoo.com

Vice-President: Susan DeMarco – sdemarco@att.net

Asst. Vice Presidents: Audrey Bartholemew - kidaudie@aol.com

Second Vice President: Caryn Weitzman - cdweitzman@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sharon Spilkin - spilkin@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer: Stephanie Rankin - spiehl@umich.edu

Secretary: Susan Abraham - robert.abraham@sbcglobal.net

Membership: Marci Shienbaum - onfire23@comcast.net

**F**

**Facebook –** A new way to communicate with the PTA and stay connected with events at school. LIKE West Maple (non-Profit Organization) <http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Maple-PTA/189786531069632?ref=ts>

**School Fair –** End of the year event that is planned, run, and sponsored by PTA volunteers. Games, prizes, food and fun for the whole family. This June event is our largest social fundraiser of the year.

**Family Sports Night –** A social and wellness evening for children and their parents. Exercise, nutrition and wellness are the focus.

**Feedback –** There is a suggestion box, email, and phone numbers for you to voice your opinion and ideas to the PTA.

**Field Day** – Event run by Physical Education department. Fun filled day of recreational activities in June for all grades. Supported by PTA volunteers.

**Flower Day –** For National Teacher Appreciation Week children bring in flowers that are collected at every doorway. Flowers are then arranged and distributed to every teacher.

**Friends of Different Learners –** Friends of Different Learners is a district-wide, independent organization of parents, students, staff, and community members of the Birmingham Public Schools working together to enhance the education of BPS students who have different learning styles, strengths, abilities, and opportunities.

**Fundraising –** The PTA provides funds for educational programs outside the school budget, grants to teachers, keeping our kids healthy and safe.

**Fun Run –** West Maple Fun Run scheduled for the fall of 2011. Planned, run and sponsored by the PTA. Gets our kids focused on a common goal with health and fitness in mind. Raised funds for laptops in 2010 and purchased 12 laptops. Raised funds for iPads in 2011.

**G**

**Grants –** The PTA provides money from our fundraising efforts for teacher grants.

 **5th Grade Graduation –** The party is a fun-filled, 1/2 day for the 5th graders starting with a breakfast for students and their families before the graduation ceremony.

**H**

**Health and Wellness Committee –** Newly created committee in 2009. This team focuses on health and wellness related issues such as nutrition and fitness. This team works with Sodexco, our cafeteria vendor, to ensure healthy choices.

**I**

**Interest –** PTA funds are deposited in an interest bearing account.

**J**

**Jump Rope for Heart –** National fundraiser for the American Heart Association in February. Run by the physical education department and supported with PTA volunteers.

**L**

**Legislative** – Chair position focuses on keeping the PTA and the school aware of legislative activity in the state and at the national level. Encourages parents to get involved with education legislation.

**LINKS –** Students have the opportunity to participate in the LINKS program, which builds bonds between special needs and general education students.

**Lunch Box Math –** Same as math pentathalon. See below.

 **Library Volunteers** – Volunteers assist Media Specialist by checking books in and out, shelving books, and helping students with various library projects. (Work a 3-hour shift)

**M**

**Math Pentathalon –** A “lunch box math” program run by parent volunteers. Goal is to teach strategic thinking through games. There is a state-wide event that culminates the program in April.

**Meals for Conferences –** PTA provides lunches and dinners for the West Maple staff during conferences twice a year. These will be pot-luck in 2011.

**Media Center** – The Media Center needs volunteers throughout the year. This allows our Media Specialists to have more time to spend with our children.

**Membership –** Provides opportunities for you to vote. Supports the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation. Shows support for your student.

**Milers Club –** New in Spring of 2010. An organized activity during recess for all grades. All students can run or walk and log their progress. Rewards are provided for success. Supported through the PTA Health and wellness committee. Supported by PTA volunteers.

**Mission -** The mission of the (PTA) is to provide parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child and the best tools to help their children be safe, healthy, and successful - in school and in life.

**N**

**National Reading Month** – March. Teachers and staff decorate entire school with a theme.

 **New Neighbor Team** – Volunteer to communicate with new families in our community and our school so they feel

 welcome and included.

**O**

**On-going Fundraisers –** Target, Kroger, Box Tops, Campbell’s, Tyson Foods, Plum Market, Hillers. These programs require no additional out-of-pocket expenses. Our school either gets a % of sales or school supplies depending on the program.

**Office Helpers** – Parents can volunteer on an as need basis to help in the office with mail sort, school message board and other administrative functions. (2-hr shifts once per month).

**P**

**Promethean Boards -** These boards are state of the art equipment to engage our children in learning through fun, interactive and progressive technology. The PTA purchased 4 in early 2010. As of Fall 2010 all 3rd-5th grade classrooms have them.

**R**

**Reflections -** The National Reflections PTA Program promotes creativity and encourages students to produce their own masterpiece in Visual Arts, Literature, Music, Photography, Film and Dance**.** Submissions compete at local, State and national levels. Submissions due in January, 2011 theme “Diversity is….”

**Reimbursement –** If you spend money and need to get reimbursed by the PTA, there are forms available in the office and on the PTA website.

**Room Parents –** Room parents for 2011-2012 are asked to not only collect classroom dues and organize classroom events, but they are also responsible for being a liaison to the PTA, communicating back to your classroom parents as well as bring ideas, thoughts from the parents.

**S**

**Science Olympiad -** Is a one-day BPS Science competition for 4th and 5th graders.

**Secretary’s Week** – Week in April where we recognize our outstanding secretary’s.

**Snacks** – Parents are encouraged to provide healthy snacks for children. Some of the rooms are designated at peanut free.

**Social Events –** Social events are an important part of building community with our parents, students, and teachers. There are various social events planned throughout the year. Some events are for specific grades. These events are planned and run by the PTA volunteers.

**Spirit Wear –** West Maple logo wear for students and staff. Products will be sold again next year (2012-2013). Product to build school spirit.

**Suggestion Box –** Located by the PTA bulletin board. Constructive ideas, suggestions and feedback are always welcome.

**T**

**Tax –** PTA donations are tax deductible. If purchasing items on behalf of the PTA, be sure to get our tax id so that you don’t have to pay tax. PTA pays sales tax on all non-consumable items it sells.

**Teacher Appreciation Week –** National PTA program in May. We ask parents to provide a pot-luck lunch on Wednesday of that week.

**Teacher Interaction –** Teachers are welcome and included in all PTA events. Teachers are PTA members too. Teachers are part of PTA committees as well. Teachers also attend PTA meetings to share important learning techniques or propose their grants.

**V**

**5th Grade Valentines Dance –** An evening of dancing and fun for father/daughter and mother/son combinations for the 5th grade.

**Variety Show –** 2010 was our first West Maple Variety Show. Sponsored and supported by the PTA, 3rd-5th graders show off their various talents to the peers, parents and staff at this social event. Event is March 13, 2012.

**Volunteer –** We need your help for many of the social events**.** Volunteer of the year is chosen by the members and recognized at a district level. Sign-up to volunteer at www.westmaplepta.com.

**Vote –** Show your opinion and speak your voice. Participate in voting on issues that arise for the PTA.

**W**

**Waldo –** Waldo is our schoolmascot. He is a wolf.

**Waldo’s Wacky Week –** Fun fundraising event in the Fall. Parents provide gifts to the PTA and students purchase prize tickets. At lunch times, the students put prize tickets in a bag for gift they want to win. At the end of the week winners for each gift are announced.

**Website –** Westmaplepta.com. The only place to sign-up to volunteer for PTA events. This system has been made available to streamline the registration process. It keeps all volunteer information centralized and easily accessible as well as allows us to email volunteers directly. Please use the system to volunteer throughout the year.

**Welcome Back Breakfast –** An opportunity for parents to meet other parents on the first day of school. Also an opportunity to learn about the PTA and sign-up to get involved.

**Y**

**Yearbook –** A beautiful collection of pictures and memories of the year. Pictures are collected from each room towards the end of the year. Professionally made by an outsource company. Reserve your book in the Fall.

**You – We need YOU in order to be successful**

