



# PTA NEWS

Upper Freehold Regional Elementary & Middle School  
PTA Newsletter - Back-to-School 2009

## Mark Your Calendars!

### September

- 21 – PTA Reflections Begins
- 22- PTA Meeting – 7pm, Media Center
- 25- MS Powder Puff Game
- TBD- School Photos

### October

- 1- Six Flags Read to Succeed
- 2- ES Walk-a-thon;
- 2- MS -Bricks-R-Us
- 20- PTA/EQUITY Meeting – 7pm, Media Center
- 31- ES Halloween Fest –1pm

### November

- 1- Box Tops for Education Due
- 4- Reflections Due
- 10- Clothing Drive
- 17- PTA/RISE Meeting – 7pm
- 20- ES International Night
- 20 – Wishing Tree

### December

- 3-9 – Scholastic Book Fair
- TBD - Holiday Boutique

## *A Letter From the PTA President*

Welcome back students, parents and teachers!! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer. I am very excited to return this year as your PTA President and inform you about many new and exciting programs and incentives we are offering the students and families of UFRE/MS for the 2009-2010 school year.

The first major announcement is the launch of our newly designed website. One of our lofty goals this year is to "GO GREEN" as Redbirds!! It is our hope to conserve natural resources and utilize the incredible innovative options the internet offers us on a daily basis. All updates, information, program offerings, and PTA happenings will be yours at the touch of a button. Whether you are an avid emailer, a Facebook user and/or on Twitter, you can connect with us directly to stay current with what's new. We've made it simple to communicate with our community. And for those who haven't "crossed over" yet, we have a hard copy option to stay connected with you, too! Otherwise, all our flyers, membership forms, fundraisers will be sent electronically. Hopefully, this will be the only handout for the year!! Simply visit our website at [www.ufrpta.org](http://www.ufrpta.org) and click the "SIGN UP" button to submit membership information, volunteer sign-ups, etc...The only catch is that you still have to submit membership payment to school in an envelope! We haven't enabled online payments yet!! "Baby steps" as they say...

The second improvement calls for a more balanced PTA for both the ES and MS students. Each school will receive the same number of programs and family fun events that are age appropriate and fun for all to participate in. We have created special Executive Board positions at the ES and MS for programs and fundraising specifically to address the needs of each student from pre-kindergarten through 8th grade.

The third improvement is more specific to the grade levels where we have planned programs during the school day that align with the curriculum for each grade unit rather than the school as a whole. Each grade unit - K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 - will attend various assembly programs and participate in special funded programs to meet their grade level needs.

Please take the time to read through this Newsletter to see how you can become or continue to be an integral part of our PTA. There are so many opportunities for you to get involved to become a part of the process in making a difference in the lives of each student at UFRE/MS. Remember, our PTA's motto is **Partners Together Achieve**, and we can't build the pathway to tomorrow for the benefit of all UFRE/MS students without your help and support. Once again, I look forward to another exciting and fun-filled year with each of you and your children.

Fondly,

*Andrea Reynolds, UFRE/MS PTA President*



Thanks for your support  
of our PTA!  
Please send any feedback  
via:

[www.ufrpta.org](http://www.ufrpta.org)




## UFRE/MS PTA Sponsored Assembly Programs: 2009-2010

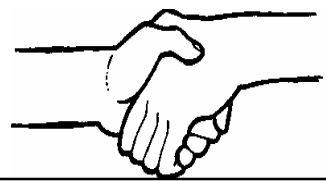
The UFRE/MS PTA once again is happy to announce our sponsorship of the following assembly programs for the 2009-2010 school year. We have refined the process as one of our goals this year to select age appropriate programs designed specifically for each grade unit. We continue to support character education programs, enhance unit curriculum, promote arts appreciation, and fund special programs for each grade level. Below is an outline charting the different programs the students will experience this year. All assembly programs are reviewed and presented by Young Audiences New Jersey who partner with many reputable companies as Surflight Theatre, George Street Playhouse, Paper Mill Playhouse and many more.

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Character Ed</u>   | <u>Curriculum</u>  | <u>Arts</u>                                      | <u>Special Funded Programs or Artist-in-Residence</u>                                   |
|--------------|---|--|--|---|
| K, 1 & 2     | Surflight Theatre:<br>Little Red Riding Hood-<br>Who Is A Stranger?<br>10/22/09 | Billy B.-<br>The Rainforest Chorus<br>5/28/10                  | Jump, Frog, Jump<br>1/28/10                      | Meet the Artist (K-2)<br>Storyteller - TBD (K)<br>Author-David Adler (1-2)<br>3/22/10   |
| 3 & 4        | George Street Playhouse:<br>Peacemaker<br>10/30/09                              | Surflight Theatre:<br>Schoolhouse Rock Live,<br>Too<br>1/29/10 | Thunderbird Native<br>American Dancers<br>6/4/10 | Buehler Space Center (3)<br>-----<br>Author- David Adler (4)                            |
| 5 & 6        | Surflight Theatre-<br>Project America<br>11/23/09                               | Washington Productions:<br>A Seat for Rosa<br>2/26/10          | Japanese Festival Drums<br>5/27/10               | DARE (5)<br>-----<br>Author- David Adler (6)  |
| 7 & 8        | George Street Playhouse-<br>In Between<br>11/24/09                              | Ball in the House-<br>Totally Vocally<br>3/11/10               | Japanese Festival Drums<br>5/27/10               | Elizabeth Rollins - Writer (7)<br>-----<br>Graduation (8)<br>Dance<br>Community Project |



 See firsthand the impact of your involvement as a PTA volunteer and three hours is all we need. Research shows when parents are more involved, they are better able to support their children's learning, and their children do better in school. Three for Me creates opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education, both in and

outside of the school. Remember to sign your Three For Me Promise Card and make a difference for each child and to make our PTA even better than before. **Sign up at [www.ufrpta.org](http://www.ufrpta.org).**





“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”

~Sally Koch



**UFRE/MS SPIRIT WEAR IS BACK--- ORDER YOURS TODAY!!!**





# **FAMILY FUN FOR ALL UFR STUDENTS**

One of our goals for this school year, as mentioned in the Letter from the President, our PTA wants to create a more equal opportunity for the ES and MS students at UFR. Most of the programs and family nights weighed more favorably toward the ES. That never seemed quite fair to the students at the MS. So we have taken a new approach to bridge that gap by creating new experiences just for the MS students to participate in. The entire student body and PTA community is always welcome to share in the fun, but it's time that the MS gets their chance to shine, too!



## **Elementary School Family Programs**

This year the ES students will have the opportunity to continue to participate in

the following family fun programs : Halloween Fest, International Night, BINGO Night, and Science Night Live. All four events have proved to be educational, entertaining, and exciting fun for all. Please mark your calendars and make plans to bring your kids and their friends to these great PTA nights.

## **Middle School Family Fun Programs**

New this year are special family fun nights for the Middle School. We will have the return of the remarkable Redbird Rally for its third season. But we are adding three new programs specifically geared for the middle schooler. The first new fun night will be the Powder Puff Football game held this September hoping to ignite school spirit. Then we will host the first MS variety show in January to encourage those with talent to share their special gifts. Lastly, in May, we will be able to see "Who's Smarter Than a...???" who knows what!! You'll have to stay tuned for that one!!

Save those dates as we look forward to seeing you at the PTA family fun nights throughout the year!

*~Programs Committee*



# "Fun"-raising : A Bang For Your Buck

Fundraising is the PTA's primary source of revenue and provides the means to conduct its numerous programs such as school assemblies, ES and MS family fun programs, and special Artist-in-residence programs for each grade level.

This year the ES and MS will each have 1 major **fun-raiser**. The ES students will host the Third Annual Walk-A-Thon. Students will be encouraged to participate and obtain sponsors to help support our programs. We are hoping to set aside a percentage of the money raised this year to help support the purchase of new

safer playground equipment for the ES playground.

The MS students will be selling engraved Bricks to adorn the entrance at the new middle school. What a great way to beautify our new Middle School and leave a legacy to our children all at the same time!! Be a part of the history of our schools forever.

We will continue to host the Scholastic Book Fairs in the Fall and Spring seasons as well as the Holiday Boutique for student shoppers. We will also sell Redbird Spirit Wear for both the ES and MS so that the kids can be dressed in

school colors for each of the Spirit Days throughout the school year.

For those families who prefer to take the simpler approach to financially support the programs our PTA provides the students at UFRE/MS, there is an option to forego participating in any of the fun-raisers just by writing 1 check. It would simply cost \$40 per student to fully cover the costs of all our programs and business costs for the year. So for \$40 per child for the entire year of fun-filled programs and events, that's a real bang for your buck!! If

you prefer this option to support our PTA programs by **JUST WRITING A CHECK**, please select the **Membership Plus** benefit on the Membership Form E-Form found at [www.ufrpta.org](http://www.ufrpta.org).

We strongly encourage all members to get involved any way possible to support our fundraising efforts because in the end, it's all for the kids!!

*~The Fundraising Team*





### CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRODUCT UPDATES FROM THE BOX TOPS and CAMPBELL'S TEAM

Have you been saving your Box Tops this summer? If so, you are on your way to winning our first contest of the school year! This

year our students will again have three chances to win the **Battle of the Box Tops**, including the grand prize pizza party. As in the past the class which submits the most Box Tops will win a special treat and prize. **However, this year we will also reward one class at each grade level with a special little thank you prize for all three contests!** The names of all winning classes will be posted on the Box Tops bulletin board that is located near the gym as well as listed in the PTA newsletter. Keep an eye out for our **Battle Plans Chart** to see how your class is doing throughout the year. The first contest ends **November 1<sup>st</sup>**; so send in those Box Tops!

We are looking forward to the best year ever!

The Box Tops Team

## "Beauty Is..."

The arts are a vital part of a complete education and they help students succeed in school and in life. National PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual Reflections Program. This year's PTA Reflections Program theme is "Beauty Is..."



Students in kindergarten through grade 8 are encouraged to submit works of art in six arts areas: literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts (which includes, but is not limited to, art forms such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage).

Look for more information to come along...our contest begins September 21st. We'd love to know what "Beauty Is..." to your kids!!



The EQUITY/PTA Chess Club, now in its 5th year, needs volunteers. If you are a chess player - please consider teaching a short lesson, or playing a game with some of our children. If you don't play - you can still help by supervising in one of the classrooms, coordinating snack schedules, scheduling volunteers or working on the newsletter. While Chess Club meets weekly, volunteers can commit to just a few hours, or specific days. Please email EQUITY at [ufrpta@yahoo.com](mailto:ufrpta@yahoo.com) to the attention of Chess Club Coordinator and someone will get back to you ASAP.

Donna Huryan,  
EQUITY Chair



# UFRE/MS is Going Green



Visit us at [www.ufrpta.org](http://www.ufrpta.org) and sign up to be a member today. Sign up for the events you would like to help out with to earn your Three For Me hours. Sign up to become part of our mailing list so we can continue to keep the lines of communication open to all while saving resources. **Deadline for Fall Membership Drive is October 1, 2009!!** Members will receive a copy of the PTA Student Directory along with their membership card(s).

**\*\*If you do not have access to a computer and cannot communicate with us electronically, please cut and return the be-**