



# PTA Freedom Elementary • Communique

September 2007 • Vol. XXVII, No. 1

## Treasurer's Report for Sept. 2007

Balance July 31, 2007	\$9,110.58
Receipts	\$ 797.31
Disbursements	\$ 1,567.52
Balance August 31, 2007	\$8,340.37

**August Receipts:** \$736 (Membership dues 92x\$8), \$0.39 (Interest), \$36.92 (anonymous donation), \$24.00 (replica sale)

**August Disbursements:** \$100.00 (PTA Council dues), \$1,344.00 (Homework books), \$123.52 (Classroom support, magnets for Specials)

The budget for the school year 2007/2008 was approved at the General PTA meeting on August 22, 2007.

## New PTA Website!

We couldn't be more excited to bring you so much information at your fingertips!!!! Please check out the new website. We'd like to thank Kathy Barquin for all the work she has put into bringing this project to life.

[WWW.FREEDOMPTA.ORG](http://WWW.FREEDOMPTA.ORG)

## Faculty Update

Many thanks from the faculty for the back to school luncheon. Thanks for the homework books and magnets with specials listed for each class. The faculty also expresses many thanks for the teacher support money from the PTA.

## Administration Update

- Conferences will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> for students mainly by teacher request.
- The Freedom School ticker board needs repairs as it is currently out of commission due to a summer storm lightning strike. Repairs will range from \$300 - \$600. A request to PTA to split the repair cost was requested by the administration and approved by PTA at the September meeting.
- The new video surveillance equipment has been helpful in leading to the arrests of two thieves.

## Membership

Freedom's PTA membership is at approximately 199 to date. Please join the PTA if you have not already. Show your support for Freedom students, faculty and staff through our organization.

## Freedom Read-a-Thon...coming Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>

The Read-a-Thon will officially kickoff on **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>** with an assembly. Information packets will be sent home on this day. The Read-a-thon will run from Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser will consist of one day devoted to reading. In addition, students can keep running logs of their reading during the 2 week period. Incentives for students will include: prizes, raffles, guest readers.



Continued...



## Save For America Student Banking Begins September 20

The Save For America student banking program encourages kids to begin saving for their future. Students can make weekly, in-school online deposits into a real, no-fee savings account. Susquehanna Bank and Freedom parent volunteers administer the program. A Save For America banking packet was sent home with every child on Sep. 13. If you haven't opened a Save For America account at Susquehanna Bank for your child then please read the packet and fill out the account form. The account form must be returned to the Susquehanna Bank near the Martins store. Once your child has a Save for America savings account at Susquehanna then they can make the weekly deposits at Freedom School on Thursdays before school in the computer lab.

For students who have a Save For America savings account with Susquehanna Bank, the first Save For America banking day at Freedom is Thursday, September 20, before school in the computer lab. Students should check with their teacher before bringing their deposit slip and money to the computer lab. A page of deposit slips was stapled to the back of the Save For America packet sent home on Sep. 13. A deposit receipt is sent home with each child who makes a deposit. Each time a child makes a deposit, she will receive a small prize and her name will be placed in a monthly prize box. At the end of the month a name will be drawn for a special prize.

## Accelerated Reader Store Opens October 1

The Accelerated Reader (AR) program is a reading incentive program used at Freedom. There are currently over 2900 book titles on the Freedom AR list (See Accelerated Reader on Freedom's web page). Students read an AR book and take an on-line reading comprehensive quiz associated with the book. The students get permission from their teachers before taking an AR quiz on a school computer. Adults may read the AR quiz to students in kindergarten, in first grade, or whose teacher has given permission. AR quiz points are awarded based on the student's quiz score. Students can spend their AR points at the AR store the month after the points have been earned. The Accelerated Reader (AR) store is operated by volunteers and opens on Monday, **October 1**, before school in the cafeteria. The store will be open every Monday before school.



## Cultural Program: MatheMagic

Freedom PTA is proud to bring Bradley Field's Math-a-Magic program to your child on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This program will be presented to the whole school. To get a glimpse of this program, check out [www.mathemagic.com](http://www.mathemagic.com). The PTA plans to offer two Cultural programs per year, one in the fall and one in the spring.

## Game Club

Freedom PTA will be sponsoring an after school Game Club for grades 3 – 5 on Friday afternoons starting **October 12<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup>**. The club will be limited to twenty students from each grade 3, 4, and 5. Flyers will be distributed with more information and participants will be accepted in the order their forms are received. Please note that if your child was a participant in last year's Game Club, new participants will be honored first to allow other children an opportunity as well.



In the Spring, the game club will be available for grades 1 and 2 only. Our hope is that we can eventually offer more after school clubs of different types, thus enabling more children to participate.

## Movie Night



Our first Movie Night will be held on **Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>** at Freedom. Look for a flyer to come home with more information. Mark your calendars for this FUN, FREE FAMILY EVENT. Popcorn and drinks are provided. Bring your own comfy blanket and enjoy the show!

Continued...

## HOW CAN YOU HELP FREEDOM ELEMENTARY EARN CASH?

- **Campbell's Labels For Education**

We need to submit the UPC code from canned and bagged products, and the lid from bottled products. Send these UPC codes and lids into the school and Freedom can earn free merchandise. Remember - Campbell's makes more than just soup - Prego sauce, V8 juices and Pepperidge Farm products also earn points for our school. For more details visit [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) or contact Mary Ellen Wagner (410-549-7727 or [mellen617@verizon.net](mailto:mellen617@verizon.net)).

- **Box Tops For Education**

Save Box Tops for Education, send them into school, and Freedom earns cash! The following are some of the many brands of products you will find have box tops on them: General Mills, Pillsbury, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Cottonelle, Scott, Old El Paso, Hamburger Helper, Bisquick, and NOW ALSO ON ZIPLOC AND KLEENEX! Remember to have your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to save theirs for you too! Go to [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) for more information!

- **Martin's, Safeway, Food Lion 7 Giant School Savings Programs**

Our school can earn free cash just by using your grocery store savings cards at any of these merchants. You have to designate Freedom Elementary as the school you want to benefit from your savings card. Mr. Huss oversees the grocery store savings card programs and the funds that they generate. We can save you time and designate your saving cards to Freedom Elementary for you, just fill out the form that was sent home last week or if you want to you can designate your cards by going to the websites listed below. Remember to get card numbers from family, friends, neighbors and co-workers if they don't have a school to support.

Martin's- [www.martinsaplus.com](http://www.martinsaplus.com) School code is 00318. Safeway- [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) School code is 6505716. Food Lion- [www.foodlion.com](http://www.foodlion.com) (don't need a school code) Giant- [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com) School code is 01751.

- **Tyson Foods Project A+!**

Freedom Elementary PTA has registered for a new fundraising program through Tyson Foods. All you have to do is clip and save the entire Project A+ label from participating Tyson products and send them to school with your child or put them in the collection box at the school. Freedom will receive **24 cents** for each label collected. For more information go to <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com> or contact Mary Ellen Wagner (ph: 410-549-7727 or [mellen617@verizon.net](mailto:mellen617@verizon.net))

- **Target Take Charge of Education**

Update your Target REDcard or REDcard Visa to designate Freedom Elementary as the recipient to receive 1% of your REDcard purchases at Target and Target.com and ½% of purchases made elsewhere with the REDcard Visa. Go to [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and click on Redcards to manage your REDcard account.

- **Send in used inkjet cartridges and cell phones**

Send in your used inkjet cartridges and old cell phones to Freedom. Freedom will receive money for these used products to be used for school supplies. A box is set up in the hallway outside of the cafeteria to collect these items.



**Help  
Wanted**

### Volunteers Needed

#### Grounds Committee Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the Freedom grounds beautification. Two or three times a year volunteers and staff remove leaves, weed, mulch, and plant flowers to beautify the school. Two or three hours each time we meet. If interested, please contact Tammy Wikner at [tcwikne@gmail.com](mailto:tcwikne@gmail.com).

#### AR Store Volunteer

Accelerated Reader Store Volunteer needed for Monday mornings. Volunteer is needed Monday mornings from approximately 8:00 to 8:45 to staff the AR Store. This will start on Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the incentive 'market' for the students who take Accelerated Reader Quizzes and earn points. They can cash in their points for prizes at the store. If you are interested, please contact Tammy Wikner at [tcwikne@gmail.com](mailto:tcwikne@gmail.com).

Please come to our next PTA Meeting... October 3rd 7:00 p.m.

