

country parkway elementary school  
 “our children, our future”

Welcome to the first edition of Country Parkway’s PTA newsletter for the 2017-18 school year. The start of this year has seen many changes for the PTA. We have a new board working hard to meet your needs and expectations. With the help of our new VP of Technology, Joseph Zimolong, we started this year with the launch of a new website as well as an effort to streamline information. We now have migrated all our emails to come directly from the PTA website. Our website address is <http://countryparkwaypta.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=0> and it is now available in multiple languages! We also invite you to follow us on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/CountryparkwayPTA/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CountryparkwayPTA/photos/?ref=page_internal) There you can keep up to date on what is happening at our school and within our community.

Our first quarter membership drive finished strong, with over 325 members. Our budget is healthy, and funding is being met. As we look ahead we encourage you to visit our site and our meetings. There you will find more information about opportunities that the PTA supports in our school community. Soon we will have more information regarding two new opportunities provided by the PTA. One is Reflections and the other is PARP.

One of our goals this year includes limiting fundraising activities to events, and to practical and helpful activities. Fundraising is an essential part of the PTA. We are nonprofit and without fundraising we could not exist. Our fundraising efforts are determined in part by the board and the membership. None of the campaigns are mandatory. We hope by reading our communications, attending our meetings, and events you can see how hard your donations and dollars work!

As you can see it’s been a very busy start to our year and we hope you appreciate our efforts to build a wonderful community at our school. **Our next meeting will be January 10 at 7PM in the Commons.** We will have a guest speaker and **babysitting will be provided** with activities for your little ones. We hope to see you there!

Finally, as 2017 comes to a close, and on behalf of the PTA, I would like to wish everyone safe, and happy holidays! We look forward to working with you in 2018!

Warm regards,  
 Lynne Hales  
 PTA President  
 716.431.6569 • [L.hales95@gmail.com](mailto:L.hales95@gmail.com)

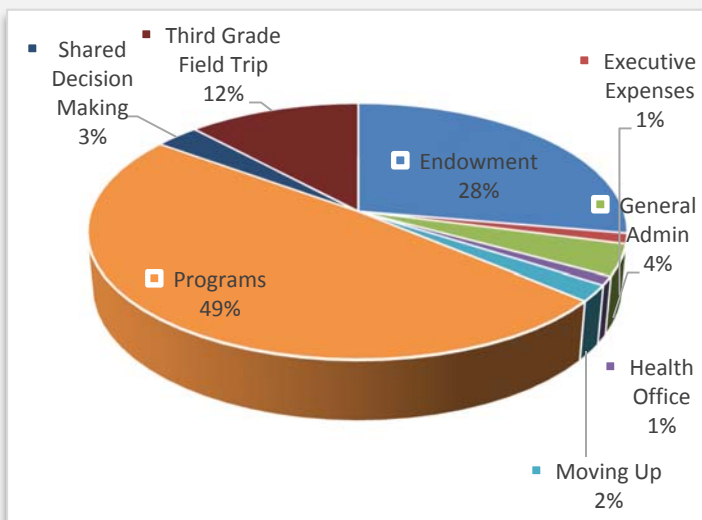


## december calendar

<i>event</i>	<i>date/time</i>
Grade 3 Concert .....	Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> @ 7PM GYM
SCRIP Orders due.....	December 6 <sup>th</sup>
SEPTSA Meeting.....	Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:45 PM District Office
Sign & Wine Event.....	Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM Raymour & Flanigan
Board of Ed Mtg .....	Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00PM District Office
Winter Break.....	Dec 25 <sup>st</sup> – Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>

treasurer's report  
thomas mahoney

Expenses Year-to-Date:



2017-18 reflections contest  
jessica murphy

All students are invited to participate in the **2017-18 PTA Reflections Contest**. This is an optional enrichment opportunity for any students who enjoy expressing themselves through the arts. The theme for this year's Reflection Contest is **"Within Reach"**. Students are challenged to interpret this concept of "Within Reach" through the creation of an artistic piece in one of the following categories:

- Dance Choreography**
- Film Production**
- Literature**
- Music Composition**
- Photography**

**Visual Arts (drawing, painting, model, ceramics, collage)**

**Please check back on the Country Parkway PTA website and watch for a flier** to come home with your child for additional information regarding rules and guidelines.

If your student/child decides to participate, **entries are due to Jessica Murphy in Room 117 by February 26. Be certain an Entry Form (attached) is fully completed**, including a thoughtful artist statement at the bottom or on a separate sheet of paper, and handed in with the project. Once handed in, entries will be judged by objective teachers and staff.

service-to-youth  
sudha moparthy

Please consider nominating someone for the Service-to-Youth Award. Each year **the Service-to-Youth Awards recognize Professional Staff, Support Staff and Volunteers** for all the amazing things they do for our schools! Anyone in Country Parkway can nominate someone from our school. **More information and forms can be found at [www.williamsvillesepts.org](http://www.williamsvillesepts.org). Don't wait! The deadline is February 15, 2018** to submit your nomination. **Please contact Sudha Moparthy at [sudhamoparthy@gmail.com](mailto:sudhamoparthy@gmail.com) with any questions., or to turn in completed forms.**

diversity committee  
preethi govindaraj



The Diversity Committee is excited for **"Family Heritage Research"**, an initiative to help learn about cultural traditions as they occur throughout the year. Survey coming soon - share your traditions, your grandparents, or great-grandparents taught you, as we learn about the world.

(The Diversity Committee was newly formed under the PTA this year. It is made up of parents from different cultures, working toward creating a welcoming environment for all families within the Country Parkway community.)

# principal's perspective

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
This month is filled with excitement, wonderment, and anticipation for children. With everyone's busy schedule, it is easy to get wrapped up in all the activity that surrounds us. Be sure to keep learning and school a priority in your home. Have a designated time for homework and reading. Also, make sure that your child is getting enough rest. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children between the ages of 6-12 should sleep 9-12 hours per night on a regular basis to promote optimal health. Getting enough sleep improves attention, memory, general well-being, and ultimately learning! In the classroom we can see a significant difference between students who are overly tired versus students who are engaged and in tune with their teacher's instruction. Getting enough sleep is critical for student performance.

.... I am often asked, "What can I do as a parent to get my child to succeed?" I think most people who ask me that question are expecting me to answer with a grand gesture that will sky rocket their academics. (By the way, that does not even exist.) I suggest reading to your child nightly, monitoring the take-home folder and homework nightly, having dinner time as a family, getting to bed on time, and **GETTING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL! What better way to get involved than to be part of the PTA.** This does not entail volunteering countless hours or sending in baked goods on a regular basis. Being part of the PTA involves staying up to date with what is happening in our school and participating when you can. Email is the easiest and most simple form of communication. Our PTA has streamed lined communication and sends once-a-week emails to keep everyone informed and updated. In order to receive these emails, you need to register your email on our PTA website. **The link is:** <http://countryparkwaypta.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=10> **You do not need to have paid your PTA membership dues to receive these emails. Stay updated and stay involved! Be sure to follow us on Twitter! @CountryPkwyWCSD** I post some of the small and big moments happening at CP about once a day!

**Proudly Your Principal,  
Andrew Bowen**

The complete article can be found at  
<http://www.williamsvillek12.org/countrypark/Newsletter%20Dec%2017-Jan%2018.pdf>

*"Getting enough sleep improves attention, memory, general well-being, and ultimately learning!"*

*-Andrew Bowen, CP Principal*

**CP Parent Handbook is available at**

<http://cms5.revize.com/revize/williamsvilleschools/countrypark/Parent%20Handbook%2017-18.pdf>

## Parents! Need Help Getting



**onto WITS?**

**If a parent needs assistance with WITS (parent portal), please call the IT Department at 626-8058 or you can register on-line at**

**<https://wits.williamsvillek12.org/register>**

Mr. Bowen gets dunked by a student at the annual summer reading rally! Dunk tank funded by the PTA.



## PTSA NEWS

*"..The Town of Amherst and County of Erie have told the **Library Director of Clearfield**, that they will take over the funding of Sunday hours to keep the Library open for the entire 2018 calendar year! The extra money from our PTA's will take care of January, and after that Amherst and the County will assume the obligation"*

**- Ronald S. Shubert  
PTSA Council President**

## september snip-its

The first day of school was kicked off with a **Kindergarten Boo-Hoo Breakfast in the Commons**. Over 60 people attended and enjoyed dishes donated from families at the school.

We also launched a **Diversity Committee** to work with all the families within the school to create a welcoming environment for all.

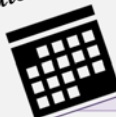
**Kevin McCarthy** performed at the school teaching the kids about respecting themselves and each other!

At our **September General Membership** **Dr. Scott Martzloff** updated us on what is happening in the district, including the removal of class rankings. He was followed up by **School Nurse Marueen Holme** who updated us on what signs to look for regarding lice and Strep Throat.

We finished September with a **cleanup** of the school atriums.



Mark  
your  
calendar!



**NEXT PTA MEETING IS JANUARY 10 @ 7PM in Commons!!  
BABY SITTING PROVIDED!**

## october outtakes

In early October the CP PTA held a **Book Drive** in conjunction with **our Book Fair**. We donated over **150 books** to **Buffalo Public School B.E.S.T #6**. Our **Book Fair, Ice Cream Social and Fall Fest** were all well attended events. Thank you to all our chairs and volunteers who helped make these events so great!

At our **October General Membership meeting** **Reading Specialist Shannon Lembke & School Librarian Beth Roy** gave a reading presentation. They shared ways to encourage reading, including lists of titles they recommend as well as helpful tips for parents.



## november nuggets

In November, we ran a second **SCRIP fundraiser** to help make shopping easier for families and raise money for our PTA! **You can continue to purchase gift cards via SCRIP online at**

**<http://countryparkwaypta.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=3>**

New this fall we also signed with a local apparel company and expanded our offerings to include jackets, vests, and hats with quality, comfort, and adult options in mind.

**Online options will now be available year-round! The apparel store can be found at <https://mygnpstore-com.myshopify.com/collections/CP>** . In December every **Friday at Rocky's will give 10% back to the PTA**. More information can be found at

**<http://countryparkwaypta.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=3>**

**SOAR Awards** and assemblies started! **First Friday of every month is Spirit Day!** In conjunction to wearing school colors and apparel, a short assembly takes place where award winners are honored for being good citizens.

At our **November General Membership Meeting**, **Mrs. Lacki** presented ways to **get our kids moving!** She even suggested local places to take our kids throughout the year!

*all new apparel store*

**ALL NEW APPAREL STORE -- ALL NEW STYLES!**  
NEW Country Parkway apparel items available for purchase

New Items Include:

- Youth AND Adult options
- New Era beanies
- Zip-up fleece jackets, puffy vests and more!
- Embroidered Products

ONLSTORE AVAILABLE WITH MORE PRODUCTS & AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND! <http://mygnpstore.com.myshopify.com/collections/CP>

Questions email Julie Gauley ([juliegauley@gmail.com](mailto:juliegauley@gmail.com))

Short Sleeve Tee	Long Sleeve Tee	Performance Tee	Hooded Sweatshirt
Printed logo on Front	Printed logo on Front	Printed logo on Front	Printed logo on Front
<b>\$12</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>\$30</b>
YS YM YL YXL GREY	YS YM YL YXL GREY	YS YM YL YXL GREY	YS YM YL YXL GREY
S M L XL 2X 3X	S M L XL 2X 3X	S M L XL 2X 3X	S M L XL 2X
Performance Shorts	NewEra PomPom Beanie	Full Zip Fleece	Sweatpants
Embroidered logo on Front	Embroidered logo on Front	Embroidered logo on Front	Embroidered logo on Front
<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<b>\$33</b>	<b>\$23</b>
YS YM YL YXL SILVER	QTY	YS YM YL YXL BLACK	YS YM YL YXL GREY
S M L XL 2X 3X		S M L XL 2X 3X	XS S M L XL 2X

**First Friday of every month is Spirit Day! Get your spirit wear here! Now offering more adult options!**

Number of Items Ordered

Total Amount Due

Make checks payable to:  
**Country Parkway PTA**  
\*\*returned checks subject to processing fee

*wine & sign night*



Country Parkway PTA presents a...

**Make & Take Sign and Wine Party!**

Come enjoy an adult night out and craft with us to raise money for Child and Family Services Holiday Drive!

**Thursday, December 7th 6:00-9:00pm**

Raymour & Flanigan 1459 Niagara Falls Blvd

Julie Keck, Independent Creator with Life Expressions Décor, will teach guests how to create their own unique sign.

\*Choose from over 60 vinyl expressions and 48 paint colors! Here are a few samples:

**24" board: \$25 each (\$10 donated)**

**4" x 12" board: \$15 each (\$5 donated)**

Decorate your home and make another for a gift!

Don't forget to invite friends and family!

Wine and Appetizers included!

Questions? [jkeck@lifeexpressionsdecor.com](mailto:jkeck@lifeexpressionsdecor.com) | [www.facebook.com/DecorByJulie](http://www.facebook.com/DecorByJulie)

**Signup for Sign & Wine Fundraiser by December**



**Need help remembering dates?** Join us on **Remind!** Download the Remind App and join the "Country Parkway PTA" Group! We will send you regular reminders so you don't forget!

**EVERY FRIDAY IN DECEMBER ROCKY'S @ Eastern Hills Mall, is giving the PTA 10% back!!!!** Meet friends to play, eat, and have fun! 10% of all food bills and gameplay goes back to the Country Parkway PTA. Show the flyer [http://www.countryparkwaypta.my-pta.org/Content/22\\_581/Files//RockysFlyer.pdf](http://www.countryparkwaypta.my-pta.org/Content/22_581/Files//RockysFlyer.pdf) and mention you are supporting the Country Parkway PTA to your waiter when purchasing food. Please go the front desk when recharging or purchasing new gameplay cards.



## The Power of PTA: PTA Makes a Difference

The following is an excerpt from an article comparing PTAs to other unaffiliated parent organizations in schools, an article that serves to underscore the value of our PTA here at Country Parkway, as well as that of our nationwide affiliation.

The PTA Difference Founded in 1897, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a nationwide network of 4 million families, students, educators and community leaders working at the school building, district, state and national levels to improve education, health and safety conditions for our children. National PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Over the past 120 years, PTA has helped solve some of the biggest issues facing America's children. Many of the structures all children benefit from today—child labor laws, universal kindergarten, the National School Lunch Program and the juvenile justice system—were accomplished as a result of PTA members' advocacy. And it's not just at the national level. Our state and local PTAs change lives too. Florida PTA members helped to defeat a piece of state legislation that would allow for-profit management companies and other corporate interests to take over public schools, keeping children's educations from effectively being bought and sold. Washington State PTA worked to secure the passage of several major state education reforms, improving the day-to-day lives of children across the state. The impact of PTA is felt far and wide across our country. Why PTA Matters It's important to know that many of the decisions that impact children's education are not made by educators at their schools. These decisions frequently come from district, state or federal officials. According to the 2012 U.S. census, there are 114,991,725 households in the United States, but only 33,763,140 contain children of school age (age 3-18). This means that less than 30% of U.S. households have children in school—and over 70% do not. So, when issues affecting children and schools are discussed, families with children need to join forces with teachers and school administrators to be heard, because there is a good chance that the people making the decisions (politicians, school board members, community leaders, etc.) do not live with children. PTA has the ability to use our collective voice to share real-life experiences about what it is like to raise a family today—or go to school—with the critical decision-makers who may not have that perspective. If they don't live with or know about today's challenges, how can they clearly see tomorrow's solutions? PTA gives parents a united and powerful voice, a seat at the decision making table and the tools to influence change that will better the lives of all children. Unaffiliated parent groups by design do not have this type of influence on their community, region, state or at the federal level. The ability to speak for every child with one voice is the Power of PTA.

## WHY THE PTA?

The Power of PTA: PTA Makes a Difference

*"National PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."*

To read the full article, go to:  
<http://s3.amazonaws.com/rdcms-ptas/files/production/public/PTAsUPG-Brochure.pdf>

To join the Country Parkway PTA please first register with our website at <http://countryparkwaypta.ch2v.com/content.asp?PageID=6>. Then proceed to purchase a \$10 membership or a \$50 business membership, through our store tab. We accept debit and credit cards!



### An Exciting Opportunity!

In December, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students learn about Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker" in their music classes. Recently, an opportunity opened up that will allow our students to see this masterpiece live on November 30th! It was not on the original calendar as this came up very last minute. The cost of the trip will be funded through the classroom endowment that is generously given by the Country Parkway PTA! Please read, fill out, and return the permission slip as soon as possible.

Please make sure you support our fabulous PTA! Thank you!

## fundraising & volunteer



### BOX TOP\$ FOR EDUCATION CONTEST

This contest will run from November 15- December 15.

The class that collects the most Box Tops will win a Winter-themed Bingo party!

Every child that turns their Box Tops in on a collection sheet will be entered in a contest to win a Barnes and Nobel gift card.

Please clip and send in your Box Tops

Also please check out the Box Top App, you can earn extra Box Tops on purchases you make, its a really easy way to earn more for the school.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me,

THANK YOU ALL FOR AN OUTSTANDING BOX TOP YEAR!

**SCRIP Fundraiser Part II—DEADLINE FOR PAPER ORDER FORMS IS 12/6** Order all your holiday (tangible) **GIFT CARDS** via SCRIP and support our school! You will receive your gift card orders in time for the holidays! Instant online option also available for an electronic gift card at **Scrip Online Fundraising! To sign up go to: <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/> PRESToPAY online to get your gift cards instantly via e-mail!**

**Use Enrollment Code: B41257AL56443**

### a note of thanks...

“The Country Parkway Faculty would like to thank the PTA for their continued support and efforts. We have enjoyed being part of events such as the Ice Cream Social and Fall Fun Night, and look forward to what is to come. The PTA is a huge help in many of our classroom and learning endeavors. It is very much appreciated!”



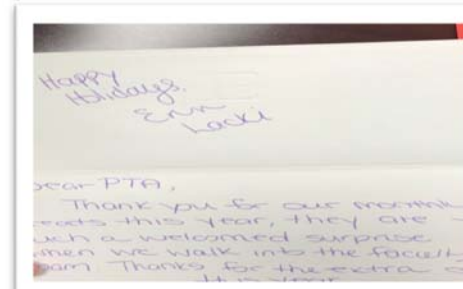
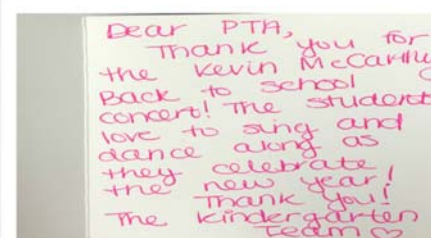
### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

**ARTFEST:** We are looking for a few volunteers to join our team!! Artfest is a fun, hands-on event taking place in April. We will be coming up with crafts and various art projects centered around a theme. It is **Not** necessary to be artistic to join our team!!! We will be **meeting about twice a month after school starting December 5th. (\*Volunteers for working the actual event will not be until March\*)** If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Robyn LaCotte at [robynrehl@hotmail.com](mailto:robynrehl@hotmail.com)

**GREEN TEAM: Committee Chairs: Lynne Hales and Karen Holtz**

We are looking for a few volunteers that are interested in various projects throughout the school to help us go "green". A few ideas that have been mentioned are rain barrels and increased recycling in the building. If you are interested, please contact Lynne Hales at [l.hales95@gmail.com](mailto:l.hales95@gmail.com)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** In October the PTA voted to keep the newsletter. We are looking for a volunteer to be the newsletter editor. You must have some computer skills. Newsletter should be sent bi-monthly or monthly. **If interested contact Lynne Hales at [l.hales95@gmail.com](mailto:l.hales95@gmail.com)**




Volunteering is part of the PTA that not only benefits the school, but it also benefits your child. When your child sees your involvement in the school, your child will also see the importance you place in education. We are looking for parents who want to be more involved and make a difference in their child's school.

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

When you purchase a PTA business membership we will advertise your business here! To purchase a business membership, copy and paste the following link into your web browser. Register with the site and then purchase a membership via the “store” tab.

<http://www.countryparkwaypta.my-pta.org/content.asp?PageID=10>



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*eagle's wings*

*The Eagles Wings  
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National and NYS PTA.*

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Elementary School.

To submit articles, photos, or ideas to the Country Parkway PTA & newsletter, please contact **Lynne Hales** [l.hales95@gmail.com](mailto:l.hales95@gmail.com)