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1st Quarter Newsletter

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Hello parents and guardians!

It's hard to believe that we are through the first quarter of the school year! The month of November is a time of reflection and gratitude. As the principal of Ruth Eason, I have much to be thankful for this year. I am surrounded by amazingly special students who make me smile each day, a dedicated staff that goes above and beyond, and a school community of families and friends who truly make our school the best it can be. Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Students and staff throughout the building have been busy with so many different learning activities. I have enjoyed seeing hands-on learning in each department, including The Butterfly Life Cycle, Exploring Biomes, and Outdoor Education at Arlington Echo. Also, our school-wide goal to support communication for every student in every setting is well under way. You will see increased use of picture supports and various communication systems throughout the building. A special thank you to our Speech and Language team for embracing this goal and helping our school staff expand on the great things they are already doing for communication.

The PTA is going strong and always welcoming new members. The PTA meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00. Child care is available as well as digital options for participation in our meeting from your home or workplace. A membership form is included in this newsletter if you are interested. We hope you will join!

I hope you enjoy this quarter's newsletter. This is an opportunity to keep families up to date with the happenings of Ruth Eason, beyond your child's classroom. You will also find updated information and resources that may be helpful in supporting your child at home and school.

As we move into the holiday season, our students will experience many fun and exciting celebrations here at school. I look forward to seeing many families at our school-wide events that are planned. If we do not have the opportunity to connect, I wish you a joyful season and a wonderful start to the new year.

Kind Regards,

Amy 🕹





Welcome to the start of a new school year! We have enjoyed reuniting with all of our students this fall and learning about the wonderful progress, fun, and excitement that you shared with your child over the summer. We are also enjoyed welcoming some new faces to our classrooms and hope to make you feel well acclimated and comfortable while beginning this journey into our preschool family.

We started our school year off by jumping into the develop, Inspire, Grow (DIG) curriculum themes "Who We Are" and "Welcome New Friends." We will also be incorporating some "Back to School" activities into our units as the students' transition into their new classrooms after enjoying a long summer break. Our students will also have opportunities to build on their pre-academic skills (specifically Reading and Math), adapted from the Common Core Curriculum as well as communication and language development and social and functional skills.

September was a busy month in our preschool classrooms! The ECI team has spent the month getting to know the students by observing their preferences, interests, and capabilities. We are all very impressed by how well each and every one of our students has acclimated to the many transitions throughout the day and the learning environment of the classroom! The students especially enjoyed exploring pre-writing and sensory materials to create art, using the Smartboard to "drive their buses to school," counting friends with 1:1 correspondence, and gluing pictures of their classmates/little people on a bus. Throughout the month, we continued to build on skills such as matching by colors and objects, sorting pictures of boys/girls, using materials to expand our pretend play (doll house, play-school, bus with people), and labeling basic vocabulary of body parts as well as their functions ("we catch with our hands," "we stomp with our feet").

Throughout the month of October, our preschool students enjoyed celebrating the new season of fall, as we observe leaves changing, the weather turning cold, and fall crops, such as apples and pumpkins growing in our community. Classes participated in activities derived from the "DIG" unit "Food" and review relevant vocabulary including fruit that grows on trees (apples), crops that grow in the ground (pumpkins), as well as food we see in our community grocery store, and even in our pantries at home! We enjoyed Halloween festivities towards the end of the month including choosing a pumpkin to take home from Papa John's pumpkin patch!

In November, we dived into our "Family" unit and discuss those special people in our lives that make each family unique. We have discussed different people that we may see in our homes including, mother, father, sister, brother, baby, pets, grandparents, aunts/uncles. Each family is unique, and we look forward to celebrating the loved ones of our preschool students! We will make family trees, discuss WHO we see in our homes (vs. school), and WHAT we do in our homes (basic chores, activities, etc.). We will also be identifying relevant vocabulary including WHAT we may see in our homes such as furniture, common rooms, etc. This will hopefully build more communication from your children as they use total communication to request activities and items at home with your family. Towards the end of November, we plan to review Thanksgiving foods as we prepare to celebrate the upcoming holiday. In addition, preschool students will continue to have opportunities to build on their pre-academic

skills (specifically Reading and Math), derived and adapted from the common core curriculum as well as develop communication, language, social/play, and functional skills in the classroom.

As we approach the month of December, we look forward to discussing "Celebrations around the World" specifically focusing on Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanza. If your family celebrates a different holiday, please let us know so that we can include it in our learning activities. Our students will review concepts revolving around families (i.e. house items, family members, etc.) as they will be spending some time with you at home during the upcoming winter break! The preschool department will also be hosting a progressive holiday celebration towards the end of the month which will include sensory and theme-related art activities, delicious treats, holiday music/movement activities, as well as a holiday treasure hunt after a "surprise" visit from Santa! This month the preschool classes will be reading the book, "The Gingerbread Man"

As always, our students will continue to have opportunities to build on pre-academics, communication and language development as well as social and functional skills derived and adapted from the Maryland State Common Core Curriculum.









Elementary News

The Elementary students have been busy learning all about animals, apples, pumpkins, the season Fall, and what we are thankful for. The students wrote thank you letters to send to our veterans. We have also been reading about transportation for personal travel and shipping goods.

We have had many fun events this quarter. We raised monarch caterpillars into beautiful butterflies and released them into our Butterfly garden here at school. The students visited Papa John's Farm where they went on a hayride, saw farm animals, and picked a pumpkin. We also had a "Friendly Firefighter" visit from the local fire department to talk about fire safety.

We also had the Book Character Parade and Thanksgiving Feast. At the feast, we listened to live music courtesy of Old Mill High School. One of our students had an impromptu guest appearance when he stepped on stage to help sing "How Far I'll Go" from Moana. Next month, we look forward to learning about holiday traditions.





News from High School



The High School Team is shining bright this guarter and we have been busy getting to know each! Our students continue to work hard towards achievement in their academic and transition skills in their core content classes. Students are also enjoying going on Community Based Learning trips to practice our skills in the community! This guarter we participated in some really fun and engaging activities such as Arlington Echo and our school's 1st Truck or Treat. This time of year, the students have been making and decorating holiday cards. It is important for us to teach them the theme of giving. Our students gave back to the community several times this year. The students decorated and dedicated rocks to various staff members from AACPS and even helped make boxes and sort food for Harvest for the Hungry. We plan to continue giving thanks to everyone who makes a difference in our community.

We kicked off the holiday season with a delicious and plentiful Thanksgiving feast while enjoying a performance from Old Mill High School students. Our students made awesome placements that added to the décor and celebration. We are all thankful for everyone's efforts, and we all enjoyed it very much.

But it's not all just fun and games in the high school department, we also continue to be extremely busy at community work enclaves; Arlington Echo, Langton Green Farm, AACPS Warehouse, Wal-Mart, and a few local churches. Our students complete a variety of tasks in the community that will assist them as they prepare for their transition into adult services. We even have some new students have joined the community workforce this guarter, and they are doing a fantastic job!



Additional News from Room 17

Our high school class uses Project Based Learning several times each year. Project Based Learning is a method of study directed by a question that has an authentic connection to our community. We started the year off with the question; "How can we participate in the **Day of** Service on September 11th to serve our community?" We decided to send a "thank you" to individuals who serve our school; the underappreciated professionals who work out of the central office at Anne Arundel County Public School Board of Education in Annapolis. The project had many components. Our plan was to send a card, paint a rock, dedicate the rock to the person and place the rock along with their name in our native garden. Each student contributed to the project. Some students made thank you cards, while others made the designs used by all the students in the high school department to paint on the rocks that were donated to us by Maisel Brothers of Glen Burnie. We spent an afternoon painting the rocks and another afternoon cleaning the garden and placing the rocks with their dedication signs. Together we honored those who helped our nation on September 11, 2001 by thanking those who help us every day. Our efforts were rewarded with notes of gratitude, calls to our school expressing appreciation and even a special visit to see the rocks and meet the students who worked on the project.

The next project we began working on was guided by the question, "How can I express myself to others in my work while developing leisure and work skills? " This question has been one that has been ongoing for several years. One answer to the question is to make cards and sell our cards to our community. The students select designs, make the parts, assemble the cards, package the cards and market the cards in the front office. In addition to the exciting learning and relationship building the card making has enriched us with, our efforts have resulted in the card making project as a self –sustaining enterprise and a trip to the theater for all secondary students paid for by the proceeds of our efforts! All the student loved going to the Chesapeake Performing Arts Center to see the play "Around the World in 80 Days." We are now selling holiday cards and will continue to have our all occasion cards for sale throughout the year in the front office. Please consider us when purchasing your holiday cards!



This quarter was quite a blast in Forbush!

We learned about the election, various types of leaders and all about Biomes! We learned how to search for different animal habitats using the search engine Pebble Go. We also got a chance to see certain animals in their habitats when we went to Homestead Gardens and Kinder Farm Park. Our High-school students are becoming more independent when we take our weekly trip to the library. Above all, our favorite outing was definitely when we went to practice our table manners at Mission BBQ! Both the Upper and Lower class had an awesome time. Forbush has many exciting things on the horizon; including some of our high school students going to practice job skills in VTC and a social group with friends from Ruth Eason! We are ready to learn about all the upcoming holidays this quarter. Many adventures await.... stay tuned. We are just getting started!









<u>Ruth Eason Media News</u>

We had a fun and interesting October learning about fire safety, new books and authors, apples, owls and pumpkins. In November, we will be discussing Veteran's Day, the history of Thanksgiving, and kindness. Coming up in December, we will study several themes in preparation for winter. We will be learning about hibernation, The Gingerbread Baby and baking, and the winter holidays.

Each week the students are taught through fiction and non-fiction books, comprehension activities on the Smartboard, and short video clips. By utilizing these activities along with hardcover books, eBooks, and book videos, the students are engaged and more motivated to learn. Each week you should be receiving a "Today in Media" sheet that states what your student learned that day in Media, as well as an extension activity on the back that can be done at home.

Please email me, Lyn McDermott, <u>Imcdermott@aacps.org</u> if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Lyn McDermott - Media Specialist Cheryl McLaurin - Media Paraeducator



Fire Safety week in the Media Center















<u>Book Character Parade</u>



Trick or Treating in Media

Art News

We have been very busy in the Art Room this quarter! Students in the middle school and high

school have been focusing on the Art Element of Line such as curvy, diagonal, horizontal, vertical and zig zag. They have used the element of line to create pieces with their names, spider webs, and fall leaves. In the next quarter, high school students will be introduced to a glue batik style on cloth. They will use their knowledge of line to create spirit animal portraits and utilize an online quiz to find out their personality color and spirit animal.



The middle school classes will be enhancing their knowledge of line by exploring contour line drawing. They will be taking a self-portrait and creating a contour line drawing of their own face. They will then use wire to create a sculpture of the contour line drawing.

Fun Song About Lines: <u>https://scratchgarden.com/videos/lines/</u>

A video about The Element of Lines: <u>https://mpt.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/18bcb5f9-318a-4c51-9831-3c70051dc536/elements-of-art-line/</u>

Elementary classes have to Work Together. art project to create an art special art form that uses The Rangoli is created on friends and family for the was celebrated on



been working on the Theme of Learning Students participated in a collaborative form from India called Rangoli. This is a rotational symmetry to create the design. the entrance floor to a home to welcome Hindu holiday of Diwali. This year Diwali November 7th.

Fun website for Rangoli Diwali and Rangoli activities: <u>https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/rangoli</u>

Elementary students explored further within the theme of working together studying how

people have always had the urge to create. Students looked at early man and Paleolithic cave drawings. They also discussed the type of tools these early artists might have used, and then had the opportunity to make and use natural brushes to paint with! Students loved the experience of using flowers, sticks, rocks, leaves and grasses as paint brushes! In the next quarter elementary students



will be presented with the genre of abstract art using the elements of shape and color, and principles of design such as space and balance.

Video about cave art: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjejoT1gFOc</u>

Make your own natural brushes: https://premeditatedleftovers.com/naturally-frugal-

mom/how-to-make-natural-paint-brushes-for-kids/

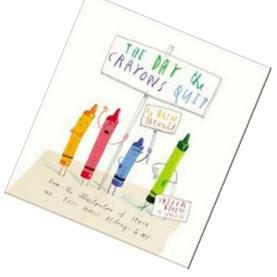
Pre-K classes have been having fun listening to and inspired by literature such as *Pete the Cat Rocking Shoes* by Eric Litwin, and *The Day the Crayons Quit* Daywalt. You can find versions of these stories read



creating art *in my School* by Drew by teachers on

youtube.com. Pre-K has also been creating fall and Thanksgiving inspired art using leaves and their own hands to make turkey feathers!





Happy Thanksgiving!

November/December Music Class News

The students will continue working on reading/ imitating rhythmic patterns during November. We have been practicing our rhythm patterns using different instruments like boom whackers, and hand drums. We will also begin learning to identify music notes by using picture symbols and color coding flashcards. The instruments we will be using in December will be jingle bells, hand bells, cymbals, and maracas.

The chorus is busy getting ready for their Holiday show. This year the show will be held on December 5th at 6:30 in Ruth Eason cafeteria. Pictures with Santa, arts & crafts, and refreshments will also be available.

Some of the thanksgiving songs we are learning are: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpteDzY5iVY</u>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=geFvOfBQNbE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t61ptUMZHhw

Some holiday songs we will be learning in December:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbkSoGMpZVg

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E48dJsivx7s&index=2&list=PLAooOfCyAIcqSWA4ke8JerXzCNTFToW YA

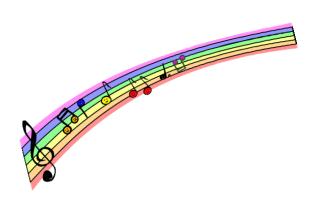
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYIbAeFF530

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvyLzB_sU8U

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Wrc6Q7acME

Janet Timms,

Cultivating Lifelong Learners, Creators, and Consumers of Music



Student Events Committee

The cultural Arts Committee is preparing some fun events for the students to enjoy during November and December.

November 14, 2018: The students enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast. All the students came together in the gym/café to enjoy a tasty feast. Entertainment was provided by the Old Mill Senior High TRI M Honor Society.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6:30 pm.: Come join us for some holiday fun. Pictures with Santa, arts & crafts, refreshments, and Ruth Eason's Chorus.

Wednesday, December 21, 2018: Santa's Workshop. The students will have the opportunity to purchase and wrap a present for a family member using Santa Money. They will also have an opportunity to visit Santa Clause and enjoy a little snack.

Speech-Language Therapy @ Ruth Parker Eason

What a great start to the school year! We are so proud of our students! They have been improving their communication skills by learning and practicing multiple ways to communicate across a variety of activities! We love seeing them grow in their use of verbal speech and assistive technology! Check out the fun we've had this quarter!



ECI students worked on greeting and requesting desired items using picture communication symbols, signs, and voice output devices. Snack time and trick or treating were popular activities to practice their new communication skills!

ECI







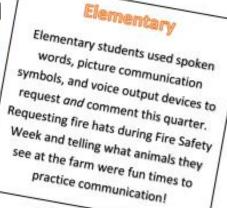
Middle School students practiced using their communication systems with new people and in a variety of settings - the classroom, vocational training, and on community trips such as to the grocery store, a local play and at Arlington Echo!

Friendly Tips from SLPs...

- If your child is bringing a communication system home from school, please send it back to school every day! Don't forget to charge iPads
- Our students need LOTS of practice communicating both at school and at home. Try modeling words that you can use across activities! "My turn, more, finished, help" are words we practice daily!
 - Please reach out to us for help! We can help you program devices or make visuals for any of your child's favorite items or activities so they can better communicate with you at home! Heather Hernandez – <u>hhernandez@aacps.org</u>

Megan Reiter – <u>mreiter@aacps.org</u> Sara Spivak – <u>sspivak@aacps.org</u>







High School

High School students worked on functional communication skills to prepare them for work and life after graduation. They practiced initiating conversations and self-advocating, or asking for help, when working in vocational training tasks and while out on Community Based Instruction!



Two high school students participating in a girl's social group!

Physical Therapy Corner

Everyone loves to move! Some of our students move in different ways or need support to move but we all love to get up and move or at least change our position. Whether your child runs independently or is supported in special seating or other equipment it is good to provide a variety movement or positional breaks throughout their day. If your child likes to move, try hopping like a bunny together or playing red light green light to help reinforce stopping with a verbal prompt. If your student needs more assistance for movement remember to provide positional changes every hour or so. If they are sitting allow them some time to stand or lie down while providing some engaging activities, books or pictures within their view or reach. Look for fun family activities that everyone can participate in such as bubbles, balloon bop games, a parade through the house or treasure hunts. Enjoy moving with your children, it is good for them and for you.

Jennifer Lawing, Physical Therapist



Vision Services Orientation & Mobility

Office of Special Services

Natasha Lewis Teacher of the Visually Impaired

Alice Brown Orientation & Mobility Specialist

Long Term Goals:

-Making the curriculum accessible to all students

-Safe and efficient travel in all settings

First Quarter Achievements:-Collaborating with staff members-Developed relationships with students

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

From Linda Brice, Social Worker

MONEY SAVER NEWS

In these difficult economic times, many families may be eligible for programs of which they are not aware.

Help is available within Anne Arundel County through the following public, non-profit church and community agencies.

First Call for Help- 1-410-685-0525

National Free and Reduced Lunch Program- available through every school for income eligible families. On school website (aacps.org), hit School Meals link, Apply for Free or Reduced Price Meals for online application. If more assistance is needed, contact the school's front office.

Department of Social Services- offers Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, Temporary Cash Assistance and Childcare Subsidy Program for families at poverty level. Generic applications available at marylandsail.org. It is necessary to apply in person. Arrive 8am if possible. Bring all forms of identification including Social Security cards, proof of residency, medical bills, etc.

80 West Street Annapolis, MD 410-269-4500

7500 Ritchie Hwy. Glen Burnie, MD 410-421-8500

There is also an on-line application process for Social Services benefits through <u>www.marylandsail.org</u>

Maryland Children's Health Program (MCHP) - offers full health benefits to children of working families without access to health coverage. (Also available to families in somewhat higher income ranges for a premium payment. For example, a four person family with no coverage can make up to \$63k per year.) School nurses have applications or call Anne Arundel Health Department 410-222-4792 or http://www.aahealth.org/commhlth mchp.asp

REACH- Anne Arundel County Health Department 410-222-4531

Low cost health care and emergency dental services for uninsured adults with low income as well as undocumented residents.

(not an insurance policy). aahealth.org/reach-residents-access-to-a-coalition-of-health

<u>LOW-COST HEALTH CENTERS:</u>

Annapolis Outreach Center – Health clinic for uninsured or underinsured low income families. Call clinic for sliding scale information. Only for Annapolis residents.

Stanton Center 92 West Washington Street Annapolis, MD 21409 443-481-3599

People's Community Health Centers (PCHC)

PCHC Brooklyn Park Center

5517 Ritchie Hwy. Brooklyn, MD 21225 410-467-6040

PCHC Pioneer Drive Center

8341 Pioneer Drive Severn, MD 21144 410-467-6040

NeedyMeds.org- help with the cost of medicine for families who cannot afford them.

Medbank of Maryland, Inc. 410-821-9262

BGE- If you have a turn-off notice, contact BGE's Collection office at 410-685-2200 by the expiration date to arrange for a "personal extension".

Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) 1-800-352-1446

This federally funded program assists customers with their winter heating charges.

Anne Arundel County Community Action Agency

251 West Street Annapolis, MD OR

117 Delaware Avenue Glen Burnie, MD

410-626-1908 aaccaa.org

This is AA County's local MEAP office. It is best to apply in person. Bring turn-off notice, utility bills. Request a "payment plan" that you can commit to each month.

Weatherization Assistance Program

Anne Arundel County 410-879-2283

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FOOD AND UTILITIES:

(PLEASE CALL FIRST!)

NCEON- North County Emergency Outreach Network- helps with food, evictions, fuel, paying for medicines. Only helps those living in Glen Burnie, Pasadena, Millersville or Severn. Call for details: 410-766-1826.

SPAN- Severna Park Assistance Network

400 Benfield Road Severna Park, MD.

Food pantry-Monday-Friday 10-2pm, Monday 5-7pm.

410-647-0889 (only AA County residents)

Salvation Army- 511 S. Crain Highway Glen Burnie, MD.

Food pantry, soup kitchen (Monday-Friday 8am-4pm), BGE, evictions. 410-768-0477**Heritage Church of God**- 8146 Quarterfield Road Severn, MD.

Food pantry-Friday 10am-Noon 410-551-8500

United Methodist Community Church- 200 School Lane Linthicum Heights, MD. Will only help families with children, Will help with \$30.00 towards BGE or eviction. CALL BEFORE VISITING Monday-Friday 10-Noon. 410-859-1123

Harundale Presbyterian Church- 1020 Eastway Glen Burnie, MD. Soup kitchen, pantry (Tuesday 12:30-1:30pm). Picture id required. 410-766-4338

Seveneth Day Adventist Community Services- 510 Aquahart Road Glen Burnie, MD. Photo id and proof of residency. Pantry, soup kitchen (Tuesday 10-1pm), clothing. 410-760-9172

Rock Steward Ministry- 7566 E. Howard Street Glen Burnie, MD - requires proof of federal or state assistance received. Pantry (every Tuesday 11-2pm). 410-760-9172

Praise Center Full Gospel 2622 Annapolis Road Severn, MD.

Non-perishable food distribution Saturday 10-2pm. 410-551-8771

St. Vincent DePaul Society 689 Ritchie Hwy. Severna Park, MD

Food pantry Tuesday/Thursday 10am, 12noon, 2-4pm, Friday 10-12noon. 410-647-4884

Lutheran Mission Society- - Food pantry. 230 West Street Annapolis, MD Monday-Friday 9-4:30pm, Saturday 9-2pm. 410-269-5016

Wilson Memorial UMC- Route 3 North Gambrills, MD Food pantry Mondays 9am-1pm 410-721-1482

First Baptist Church of Eastport- 208 Chesapeake Avenue Annapolis, MD REFERRAL FROM DSS NEEDED

410-268-7378

CONTACT SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER LINDA BRICE, LCSW-C WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR ASSISTANCE. LBrice@aacps.org or 410-222-3815.



Greeting from the Ruth P. Eason Green Team!

As many of you know, some may not, Ruth Eason is a Green School! The administration, staff, ands students are committed to supporting and promoting a clean and healthy environment in which to live and grow!

The regular activities of the school consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

- Recycling paper, plastic, and batteries.
- Lights Out for one hour in March.
- Reminder signs on all water faucets and light switches to conserve our resources.
- Chesapeake Connections Terrapin Release program.
- Chesapeake Performing Arts Center for which our students make cards with sea glass and recycled materials.
- Green Cleaner; a natural cleaner made by our students.
- Earth Day celebrations each April during which Green activities are planned for our students knowledge and enrichment.
- Composting
- Planting and maintaining Maryland Native plants.

This year is our year to recertify our Green School status so we are busy putting together all our artifacts and documentation as well as planning new and exciting activities and programs. A Professional Development is also planned for teachers to learn about the latest in environmental policies and activities, as well as new ways to "be green".

Finally, we are always interested in community partnerships. If you anyone who you may know is associated with a business, agency, etc. that provides or is involved with environmental issues/topics please contact <u>twolanin@aacps.org</u>.

Friendly reminder Green Cleaner is always available at Ruth Eason. \$3.00/bottle and \$2.00/refill.

FUN FACT: We generate 21.5 million tons of food waste each year. If we composted that food, it would reduce the same amount of greenhouse gas as taking 2 million cars off the road. - *DoSomething.org*

Thank you for keepin' it green! The Ruth Eason Green School Committee



Please support the students and staff of Ruth Parker Eason School by joining our PTA! The Parent Teacher Association of Ruth Eason School promotes the growth of our students and school community through a variety of school-wide events, fundraisers, family and community activities, and staff appreciation.

All are welcome to join our PTA and experience what makes Ruth Eason such a special school.

THANK YOU!



Please detach and return the form and payment to Ruth Eason School.

YES! I'd like to join the Ruth Parker Eason School PTA!

Name: _____

Child's name (if applicable):_____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues (*Please make checks payable to Ruth Eason School*):

____ \$5 family membership _____ Donation amount of your choice \$_____