

PTA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Welcome to all of our new and returning families! Here are some answers to commonly asked questions. If you have additional questions, please contact Karen Duncan, Welch PTA President, at duncmank@aol.com.

1. What is the PTA?

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is the nation's largest child advocacy organization. It is a non-profit organization that is organized at the National, State and Local level and run entirely by volunteers. Our local PTA provides many educational and social programs to benefit students and families as well as to support teachers in the classroom.

2. If I join the PTA, do I have to volunteer?

No. While we depend on volunteers to run our programs and we greatly appreciate their time, we understand that not all families have this flexibility. By joining, your membership dues help support our programs and help give the State and National PTA's a stronger voice when they support legislation that benefits children.

3. Why should both parents join the PTA?

We encourage both moms and dads to join the PTA and we encourage both to attend our meetings and volunteer for activities. As mentioned above, your membership dues help support our programs and help give the State and National PTA's a stronger voice when they support legislation that benefits children. This is also the only way to get a second copy of the directory which comes in handy for working parents to keep at the office or to take with them when they travel.

4. How many PTAs can I join and do I have to pay dues to each one?

You may join as many PTAs as you like (e.g. preschool, elementary school, middle school, high school, and district wide PTAs--Indian Prairie Special Needs PTA and Project Arrow PTA). You have to pay full dues to each organization you join.

5. I do not like fundraisers but I would like to support the PTA. What can I do?

You may make a tax-deductible contribution to the PTA anytime during the year. Since the PTA is a 501(c)3 organization you may also request a matching donation from your employer.

6. What is the best way to receive information from the PTA and to find out what is happening?

Aside from attending monthly PTA meetings, the best way to receive PTA information is to sign up for listserv messages which are emailed once each week. The monthly PTA newsletter is posted on the Welch website and notes and registration forms will occasionally be sent home in backpacks.

7. How do I get a Welch directory so I can schedule playdates, send party invitations, etc.?

The only way to get a Welch directory is to join the PTA. Directories are published in Oct./Nov. Room Parents may choose to request contact information from the parents and compile a class list prior to distribution of the directories.

8. What is Welch White Tiger Wednesday?

Welch White Tiger Wednesday is the first Wednesday of each month and is an opportunity to show our school spirit. Students, staff and parent volunteers are encouraged to wear Welch spirit wear and/or school colors (green & white). The PTA provides a special popcorn treat on these days.

9. When can I purchase spirit wear (Welch t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, etc.)?

Spirit wear order forms will be available at Meet & Greet and Curriculum Night. Order forms will also be sent home in backpacks at the beginning of school.

10. How do I become a Room Parent?

The PTA will post a sign-up sheet outside each classroom on Curriculum Night. A lottery system is used to select two Room Parents for each classroom.

11. How do I become a Party Volunteer?

The PTA will post a sign-up sheet outside each classroom on Curriculum Night for the Halloween Party, Winter Party and Valentine's Party. You may sign up for as many parties as you like and a lottery system will be used to select four Party Volunteers per classroom for each party.

12. Can I sign up to be both a Room Parent and a Party Volunteer?

Yes.

13. Do I need to know anything about art to volunteer for Art Awareness?

No. Packets of information will be provided. You will give a short presentation on the artist and painting and then have the kids do a simple art project. Total time needed is 30 minutes.

14. How do I become an LMC volunteer?

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the LMC at Meet & Greet and Curriculum Night or you can indicate your interest on the PTA Volunteer Form.

15. How do I sign up to volunteer in my child's classroom?

There are opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom outside of the PTA and volunteer opportunities will vary by classroom. Some teachers will post volunteer sheets at Curriculum Night, some will post sheets at Parent Teacher Conferences, some teachers will send notes home, etc. Please contact your classroom teacher if you have questions.

16. What if I have an idea for a new PTA activity or program?

Please contact any of the PTA officers. We welcome new ideas!