

WOLFTRAP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ORIENTATION BOOK FOR

NEW FAMILIES AND KINDERGARTEN PARENTS

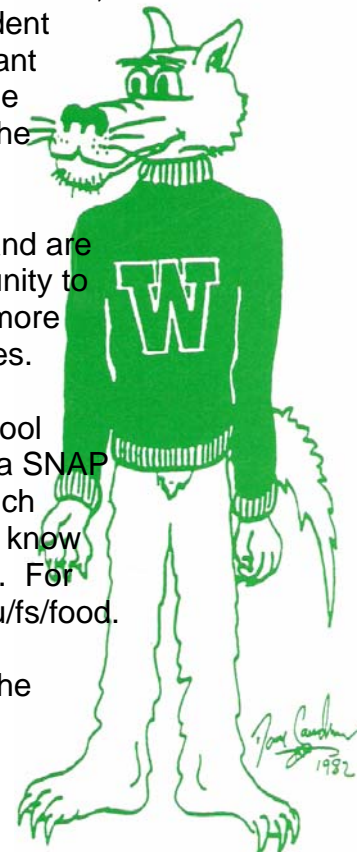
The Wolftrap Elementary Parent Teacher Association offers a hearty welcome to you and your family. The PTA works in partnership with the school and is dedicated to promoting the welfare of children at home, at school, and in the community. Our organization is made up of parents who are committed to securing the best possible education for all of our children. We offer a wealth of information and resources to the new family.

This booklet is intended to help you better understand the Wolftrap school community, and outline events and activities that you and your child will be able to experience here at our school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the PTA who will be glad to help you. Once again, welcome to Wolftrap and we wish success to you and your family.

General Information

Regular School Hours: Monday..... 8:35–12:25
Tuesday-Friday.....8:35–3:15
Kindergarten Hours: Monday (am).....8:35–10:30 (pm)...10:30–12:25
Tuesday-Friday (am)...8:35–11:55 (pm)...11:55–3:15

- The Tuesday Envelope provides weekly communication from the school, the PTA and your child's teacher such as newsletters, notes, student work, PTA notices and other written communication. This important package from the school system is sent home each Tuesday. The contents need to be reviewed and any important forms returned the following day.
- PTA meetings are generally held the first Tuesday of the month and are open to all families. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity to keep informed about school happenings and events, to become more actively involved in your child's education and to meet new families.
- The SNAP card is a prepayment program for the purchase of school lunches for students in grades 1 through 6. Children will receive a SNAP card with a bar-coded ID number to use for meal purchases. Lunch attendants will stamp your child's hand or give a sticker to let you know when the SNAP card balance is low and needs to be replenished. For payment options and more information go online to www.fcps.edu/fs/food.
- Students are encouraged to bring a healthy, nutritious snack for the classroom.



- Wolftrap uses an attendance line (703-319-7373) for absences and tardiness. You must call this number and leave a message if a child is going to be absent or late. Please inform the school clinic (703-319-7310) if your child has a communicable illness.
- Wolftrap has an on-site clinic staffed by a clinician. If your child is using medication that must be taken during the school day, you must contact the clinician and follow the rules established by the Fairfax County School Board. The clinic also provides hearing and eyesight screening for kindergarten and 3rd grade students.
- Parking around Wolftrap is limited, so you will need to park on the streets surrounding the school for some events. Please be respectful of your neighbors by not blocking their driveways and pay close attention to the “No Parking” signs.

Yearly Calendar

August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Open House: Generally held the Friday before school starts in September. Class lists are posted in front of the school. Parents and students have an opportunity to meet with their new classroom teachers. You may also use this time to set up a SNAP card for your child and address bus route questions.
September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gift Wrap Sales: Our most profitable PTA fundraiser. ▪ Back to School Night: An evening event for parents to become more familiar with their child’s class and teacher. School administration and PTA will have a brief introductory video. Teachers will give an overview of the school year. Parents can sign up for conferences, field trips and volunteer opportunities. The evening is divided into two sessions to permit parents with more than one child to meet each of their children’s teachers. ▪ New Family Coffee: A casual opportunity for new families to meet with school administration, PTA officers, and other new families. Information is presented and a question-and-answer period follows. This is highly recommended to become more familiar with the school.
October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pizza Bingo Night: Families preorder pizza and enjoy their meal with other Wolftrap families. Following dinner, a game of bingo is held in the gymnasium. Small prizes can be won. ▪ Clinic Screening: Hearing and vision testing for kindergarten and 3rd grades. ▪ Fall Pictures: A contract photographer will take portraits of the children and offer various packages for sale.

November

- **Parent Teacher Conferences:** Parents have a 15-minute period to meet with their child's teacher to exchange information about the child's progress.
- **Fall Book Fair:** An opportunity for children to preview and purchase books. Money earned from the book fair is used to purchase items for the library.
- **Thanksgiving Lunches and Classroom Open House:** The school offers an open house opportunity for parents to share time with their children in the classroom. Open house begins 45 minutes before your child's scheduled Thanksgiving lunch – the first 30 minutes is in the classroom with a 15-minute transition time for parents to purchase their lunches. Parent lunches are preordered but payment is made the day of the Thanksgiving lunch. This is a unique opportunity for parents to enjoy a special meal with their child. Volunteers are also needed to help serve meals.
- **50/90 Dinner:** An event where 6th grade students serve a meal to the 50/90 club (a seniors club that meets at the Vienna Community Center) that 6th grade parents prepare and donate.

December

- **Colonial Days:** This event recreates colonial life for the 4th grade. Students and parents dress in colonial garb, participate in colonial activities and share a colonial meal.
- **Winter Parties:** Celebrated at each grade level, organized by room parents.
- **Winter Concert:** Opportunity to showcase the talents of our school band, orchestra, and chorus. May take place in December or January.

January

- **Family Skate Night:** Wolftrap families gather for a night at the rink. May take place in January or February.

February

- **Volunteer Tea:** A time to appreciate volunteers and their contributions.

March

- **5K Run/Family Fun Fair:** The 5K Run is a community event that encourages exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The race begins and ends at the school and is generally followed by the Fun Fair. The Fun Fair is a family event with carnival games, prizes, a silent auction, a cakewalk, and bake sale. Carnival-type food is served. Each family typically donates one hour of their time. This event relies heavily on parents to help organize and run games and special events.
- **Ancient Civilizations Day:** Wolftrap's 3rd graders celebrate four ancient cultures with parent participation.
- **Edison Exposition:** Student exposition of original inventions and experimental projects. Information is sent home in February to help students organize their work. Non-competitive, open to all students.

April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spring Book Fair: An opportunity for children to preview and purchase books. Money earned from the book fair is used to purchase items for the library. ▪ Spring Pictures: A contract photographer will take a class photo.
May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spring Concert: Opportunity to showcase the further progress of our school band, orchestra and chorus. ▪ Field Day: Organized by the PE department with fun athletic games promoting sportsmanship and cooperation.
June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renaissance Faire: Day-long event that recreates the Renaissance period for our 5th grade. Parents and students dress in costume and participate in special activities as well as share in a feast. ▪ 6th Grade Breakfast: A special celebration for the 6th grade students and parents hosted by the school and PTA in honor of graduation from elementary school. ▪ End of Year Picnic: Room parents for each grade level organize end of year picnics.

PTA Supported Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enrichment Programs: The PTA offers many after school programs for students. Programs may include foreign language, drama, movie making, strategies games and many others. ▪ Block Parent Program: Participating parents display a special sign in their home window to let children know that their house is a safe place if they get hurt or feel frightened. ▪ Educational Rebate Program: These programs collect Box Tops, Campbells labels, and Tysons A+ labels to provide additional revenue and resources for the PTA. ▪ Chess Club: Provides an opportunity for children to learn how to play chess and compete in the game. ▪ Cultural Arts: Provides musical, artistic, and science-based programs, which enrich the educational curriculum. ▪ Edison Expo: A PTA sponsored science fair ▪ 5K Run: A community event and fundraiser generally held at the school. ▪ Girls on the Run: An after school program that trains girls in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades to run a 5K. The program educates and prepares the girls for a lifetime of self-confidence and healthy living. ▪ GRACE Art: A PTA art program that supplements and enriches Wolftrap's art education. Sponsored by the Greater Reston Arts Center. ▪ Grounds and Improvement: A landscaping program that enhances the visual beauty of our school grounds s well as creates an outdoor learning environment for our children.

- **HOWL Program:** PTA environmental education program that enriches the curriculum.
- **Human Relations:** A community-centered program providing outreach opportunities for Wolftrap students and families. We provide resources for less fortunate Fairfax schools as well as other charities.
- **Koupons for Kids:** A major PTA fundraiser that provides grocery store coupon cards to the community. This program costs families nothing, but provides the PTA with \$4.00 for every \$100 worth of coupon cards sold.
- **Madison Coalition and Marshall Coalition:** Parent representatives from Wolftrap Elementary attend community action group meetings, which are held at the Vienna Community Center and inform Wolftrap parents about programs at Madison High School and Marshall High School.
- **Pizza Bingo:** A fun night of pizza and bingo. This is always a big hit with the kids.
- **Reflections:** A PTA sponsored competition that encourages children to explore their artistic talents. Students may submit works of art in four areas: literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts.
- **Special Education Representative Program:** Provides information and resources to parents interested in special education.
- **School Sportswear Sales:** An opportunity for students to purchase sportswear with our school's logo.
- **Skate Night:** A fun community event held at Skate Quest in Reston.
- **Summer Workbooks:** Opportunity for parents to purchase skill-appropriate workbooks for academic enrichment during the summer.
- **Teacher Appreciation:** Room parents from different grade levels organize a special appreciation lunch for teachers. Parent volunteers provide food donations. In addition, the PTA provides a small gift and a card on teacher and staff birthdays.
- **Used Book Drive:** Books are collected for classroom libraries and/or for community outreach programs.
- **Welcoming Committee:** A resource to new families in the community that pairs new families with mentoring families that can assist in the transition to Wolftrap Elementary.
- **Wolftrap Directory:** A PTA sponsored booklet that includes addresses and phone numbers of Wolftrap families. One free copy is provided to all families that join the PTA.
- **World Heritage Night:** A fun evening that allows our community to celebrate our international diversity.

Opportunities for Children

- **Band:** School sponsored activity organized by the band instructor for 5th and 6th grades.
- **Chess Club:** The chess club offers students after-school instruction at various levels and an opportunity to participate in tournaments. The club has two sessions per year: spring and winter. Open to 2nd – 6th grades.

- **Chorus:** School sponsored activity organized by the music teacher for students 5th and 6th grades.
- **Foreign Languages:** Foreign language classes in many languages are offered before and/or after school.
- **Odyssey of the Mind:** An after school activity for children to develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills, practice cooperation, gain self-respect, and understand and appreciate their peers by working on team projects.
- **Orchestra:** School sponsored activity organized by the orchestra instructor for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades.
- **Reflections Contest:** A yearly PTA sponsored event to promote creativity in the arts (literature, poetry, photography, visual arts, music, etc.) in a contest format.
- **Safety Patrol:** School sponsored activity in conjunction with the Fairfax County Police Department to instruct, direct and support students in a school based traffic safety program. Administered by our PE teachers. Available for 5th & 6th grades students with training at the end of 4th grade.
- **SCA Student Council Association:** School counselors facilitate a yearly election of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and historian. Elections are open to 4th and 5th grade students. Representatives from each class in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades are chosen in the fall.

Direct Education Support Programs Designed For Parent Participation

- **Art Aide:** Parents can assist the art teacher in getting supplies or preparing materials for special projects.
- **Classroom Aide:** Opportunity to work in the classroom under the direction of the teacher and help individual students or a group of students with language arts, math, or computer skills.
- **Clinic Aide:** Clinic aides can assist the school clinician with caring for the needs of individual children.
- **Field Trips or Special Projects:** Parents can volunteer as chaperones or help coordinate trips with the classroom teacher.
- **First Grade Reading Tutor Program:** A program designed to provide intensive reading support to selected 1st grade students.
- **Library Aide:** Parents can assist in the operation of the computerized circulation system, help students and staff check material in and out of the library, do data entry for new material, shelve materials and assist students in finding material.
- **On-Call Aide:** Parents can assist when short-term jobs arise during the school year.
- **Parent Experiences:** Parents can share their career, talent, or unique experiences with Wolftrap students.
- **Room Parent Program:** Room parent can assist their child's teacher with class parties and organizing volunteers for field trips, special class projects, and other activities.
- **Teacher Support Aide:** Parents assist teachers with clerical activities.

Information/Resources

- **Fairfax Public Schools Handbook:** Distributed when students enroll.
- **Family Gram:** Newsletter prepared by Fairfax County Public Schools.
- **The Howler:** Wolftrap PTA newsletter distributed once a month.
- **Principal's Monthly Newsletter**
- **PTA membership**
- **School Lunch Menu**
- **Wolftrap Elementary School Folder:** Distributed when students enroll.
- **Wolftrap Elementary School Directory**
- **Wolftrap Elementary School PTA and Volunteer Handbook**
- **Web Addresses:**
 - www.fcps.edu – Fairfax County Public Schools Website. Sign up at this website to subscribe to **Keep in Touch**, an email service provided by Fairfax County Public Schools to distribute information.
 - www.fcps.edu/WolftrapES - Wolftrap Elementary Website

Wolftrap Elementary School
1903 Beulah Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182
703-319-7300

Attendance Line: 703-319-7373 **Inclement Weather Line:** 703-246-2500
Wolftrap SACC: 703-938-6853 **Broadcast Medium:** Red Apple 21 (Cox Cable)