



# Swansfield Elementary PTA News

Volume 3

September 26, 2011

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## PTA President, Muditha Allen

We had a wonderful turnout in our first PTA Meeting held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. I want to thank all of our parents who joined us for the meeting. Our roundtable discussion was a success. We value your feedback and look forward to discussing it during our next PTA meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will soon be posting a Q&A page on our PTA website for our parent community. Visit <http://swansfieldpta.org> to stay informed!

**Thank you to all the families and staff** that have participated in the Innisbrook Fundraiser and for supporting your PTA!



## **Come celebrate the Hispanic Heritage Month with a Latin American musical performance by the *Musical Group Cantaré***

On Friday September 30, 2011 at 7pm in the Swansfield Cafeteria



Become part of the celebration in this musical journey to Latin America in an exciting interactive performance. Drawing from the musical heritage of the Caribbean, Central and South America, Cantaré performs songs in Spanish and Portuguese, while sharing the music's cultural and historical background.

Visit their website <http://cantaremusic.com> Cannot make it but you are interested in learning more about Hispanic heritage? Check out <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/Reading/HHM.asp> for a listing of age appropriate children's books relating to Hispanic Heritage Month.

## **Swansfield PTA WINS!!!!** *Awarded Two Arts Grants*

This past week, Swansfield PTA received notification that we have been awarded two grants for poets in residence at the school in the spring. Swansfield 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have the opportunity to work with and learn from professional poets in their classrooms while expressing themselves in writing through their own poetry. The students will be able to present their poetry at a nighttime poetry coffeehouse in early May.

The 1<sup>st</sup> grant will pay for poet Ann Bracken to work with each class of our 4<sup>th</sup> graders to develop and write poetry. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Howard County Arts council, through a grant for Howard County Government, the Maryland State Arts Council, the Columbia Foundation and Target.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> grant will pay half of the cost of a poetry residence with poet Laura Shovan to work with each 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to develop and write poetry. This project was funded in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. If you like to volunteer for these amazing projects, please contact Jennifer Mallo at [jenmallo@verizon.net](mailto:jenmallo@verizon.net) or send a note into school marked for "PTA cultural arts".

## **Volunteers Needed!!**

You want to take charge of the Scholastic Book Fair! We have many parents who have signed up to help out, but we need someone to manage it. If you are organized, interested in kids and books, and can be responsible for keeping track of the book fair operations starting when they are delivered November 17<sup>th</sup>, and culminating on the Family Night, December 2, then you are the right person for this. Please let us know. Do you know someone who would be great at this? Why not sign up as a team! For more information, contact Kathi Battista, 410-730-4683, [ptatreasurer@swansfieldpta.org](mailto:ptatreasurer@swansfieldpta.org)



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## Volunteer Spotlight!

*Irene Bogle* – Great big thanks for auditing the PTA books over the summer.

*Careese Gonzalez* – Hospitality Chair thank you for making our Coffee with Administration, Teacher Breakfast and our PTA meeting a welcoming treat!

## Live Wire String Quartet Rocked the House

On September 7, 2011, the Live Wire String Quartet performed for the students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Whether it was fractions in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade where students made their own musical score for the quartet to play, or the 4<sup>th</sup> graders dancing the *Hora* and listening to Scottish reels, or 5<sup>th</sup> graders exploring the tall tales of John Henry and Wynton Marsalis; the Live Wire String Quartet engaged and delighted the students with beautiful music and more.

These performances, were brought to you by the PTA cultural arts committee and the funds you raise through the Innisbrook Wrapping Paper sales. The professional musicians of the Live Wire String Quartet are based out of Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. Make sure you ask your 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader what they thought or learned from the Live Wire String Quartet.

## Comcast® Internet Essentials

Comcast® Internet Essentials is a program that provides affordable Internet service to households with children who receive free school lunches under the National School Lunch Program. Families who participate in the program will receive the following:

- Affordable Internet at \$9.95/month + tax
- A low cost computer, for \$149.99 + tax
- Free Internet training

Call toll free 1-855-8-846-8376 to get an application mailed to you. For more information, go to <http://InternetEssentials.com>

## Bringing Math and Science to Life

*Author David Schwartz coming to Swansfield for student assemblies*

Your students will have the wonderful opportunity to see math and science come alive when nationally noted author David Schwartz comes to Swansfield on October 7, 2011. Teachers have already been sharing David Schwartz's books and lessons being taught from his books in the classrooms. If your child talks about how far she could hop if she were a frog or your son talks about coming up with their own math alphabet (from *G is for Goog!*), those lessons are originating from one of David Schwartz's wonderful books. Even the media center will be showcasing David's books before the day of the assemblies. Make sure you ask your student how much is a million after school on Friday, October 7. If you like to help with the day, please contact Jennifer Mallo at [jenmallo@verizon.net](mailto:jenmallo@verizon.net) or send a note into school marked "PTA cultural arts".

## Did you know that so far 201 parents/guardians and staff have become members of the PTA? It is not too late to join them!

You can download a PTA membership form directly from our PTA website, [swansfieldpta.org](http://swansfieldpta.org) under Member Registration, Join the PTA and send it to school with your child. Please contact Adrienne England at [ptavicepresident2@swansfieldpta.org](mailto:ptavicepresident2@swansfieldpta.org) with questions regarding PTA membership.

## Upcoming Events

- 9/27 - Parent Volunteer Training in Cafeteria at 9a.m. and in Media Center At 7:00p.m
- 9/28 – Market Day Pick Up at 5:00pm
- 9/29 – Rosh Hashanah - No School
- 9/30 – *Cantaré* – free musical event 7:00 – 8:00pm
- 10/5 – Walk to School Day
- 10/19 – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 11/17 – PTA Meeting, 7pm, childcare provided