



The DEVON DISPATCH



December 9, 2011

DEVON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 7



From the Principal

This is the time of the year when we all enjoy family traditions that give us a wonderful sense of togetherness, history, and pride. At Devon, we also have traditions and practices that contribute to the nurturing and caring environment we provide for our children. The following is just a sampling of some of those programs:

Our fourth graders take the leadership role in leading school-wide service and outreach projects. This year they include:

Our UNICEF drive, which raised the highest amount ever, \$3,810.66

ConKerr Cancer, which began this week. For \$1, students can purchase "smiles" for our wall of smiles in the DES Lobby and color a "smile" for a child in the hospital. The smiles will be included in pillowcases for children who are hospitalized. All proceeds will benefit ConKerr cancer.

During the second half of the school year, projects to support the Chester County SPCA and Alex's Lemonade Stand are planned.

The Devon PTO's Martin Luther King annual project helps others--- this year we will be providing breakfast foods, blankets, and holiday cards to a community food pantry that provides food to those in need.

Our fourth grade students are year-long "Buddies" with kindergarten students developing a relationship that benefits all children involved.

Our active Devon PTO volunteers continually think, plan, and work hard--- with our children first in their minds--- whether it is for a social and fun event, a school-wide cultural arts assembly, or a fundraiser for our students or program.

The list of Devon "traditions" could go on and on. We enjoy and cherish these traditions, as they make each of us at Devon a part of our "family".

Enjoy your own family's time together during the winter break. Best wishes for a joyous holiday, relaxing vacation, and great 2012!

Tom Tobin

Mark the Date

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011

- Winter Concert
9:15 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011

- Winter Parties

Friday, Dec 23, 2011

- Kindergarten Mother Goose

**December 26, 2011
through January 2, 2012**

- **NO SCHOOL**



January 3rd, 2012

- Classes Resume -
all students report

Morning Arrival

Classes begin each day at 8:45 a.m. If children come to school by car, please arrive close to 8:35 a.m. as this allows time for students to get to class, unpack their schoolbags, and to get ready for the school day. This helps to provide a positive start to the school day for children.

Immunization Guidelines

The **Pennsylvania Department of Health** revised the required immunizations for attendance in all grades starting this 2011-2012 school year. Families were notified at the end of last year if their child did not meet these new requirements. Second notification letters will be mailed at the end of this month to those families who have not responded. Please get this information in to your school nurse as soon as possible.

A Service Project Update from Mrs. Noel, School Counselor:

I would like to extend a big thanks to Mr. Smondrowski's class for their leadership for our first service project for the year for Unicef. I would also like to thank all of the students who participated in this service project. Everyone's hard work paid off because we raised \$3810.66, our largest total ever!!! Way to go DES students!

The second service project for the year will be for ConKerr Cancer. Mrs. Dutkiewicz's class will be leading this project. For \$1, students will be able to purchase "smiles" for our wall of smiles in the DES Lobby and write a "smile" for a child in the hospital. This project will run 12/5-12/16.

Important Phone Numbers

School Office **610-240-1450**
Attendance **610-240-1465**
Emergency Closing **610-240-1970**
School District **www.tesd.net**
PTO **www.devonpto.org**

Devon Elementary PTO Board 2011/2012

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| President | Tricia Jennings |
| Vice President | Amy Susanin |
| Recording Secretary | Lauren Forman |
| Treasurer | Margaret Ruschmann |
| Asst Treasurer | Cindy Krapels |
| 2nd Vice Presidents: | |
| ~Cultural Arts | Chrissy Bennet/Sarah Keyes |
| ~Fundraising | Cecilia Cooleen/Georgeann Bernabeo |
| ~Social Functions | Tricia Petrane/Kelly Walker |
| ~Issues, Affairs and Programs | Carli Younce |
| ~School Services | Lori Piccone |
| Member at Large | Audrey Kese |

From the 'Green Corner'...

Devon Elementary has Recycled **10,000** juice pouches since we started collecting them last year (2010) !!!



Way to Go – Great Job – Keep it going !!!

Have a question, idea or suggestion ? Please e-mail Heather at globularclusters@yahoo.com – thank you !

Please see pages 8 and 9 of the Dispatch for order forms on some great “green” gift ideas. Juice Pouch Bags and much more



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BOOK FAIR!

Thank you to everyone who came to our 2011 Book Fair - it was a HUGE success! We had lots of activity and sold lots of books. We raised almost \$3,000 for the school and saw many happy children with their new books. Our heartfelt thanks to all of the fabulous volunteers who gave their time and talent setting up, helping children find books, filling orders, helping to manage the sometimes long checkout line and so much more. This event could not have happened without YOU, our volunteers!

Special thanks goes out to Dr. Tobin, Mr. Stever, Karen Burns and the rest of the office staff and the custodial staff for their continuing support.

Kristan Burgess, Gina DeFlavia, Chris Kovan
– co-chairs



Devon School Store

Did You Know?

The Devon School Store is operated by 4th graders three mornings per week in the front lobby before the start of school. The store sells small school supplies and provides a great opportunity for 4th-grade students to learn the basics of operating a business while making it fun for all students to do some shopping on a small scale.

Each grade has a designated day to buy from the School Store:

Monday—Kindergarten & 3rd

Wednesday—2nd

Friday—1st & 4th

If you have any questions about the School Store, please contact Brenda Hess or Cindi Overton.

From the Elementary School Counselors:

Children today live in a very stressful world. They often have more pressure, more uncertainty and more exposure to fearful events at an earlier age. Further, families face greater demands and often have fewer supports than in the past. Therefore, it is necessary for us to equip our children with the tools they need to cope with stressful life events. Whether your child is upset about a disagreement with a friend or is facing a life changing loss such as a divorce they can apply these coping skills and live a healthy, happier life.

Encourage the use of relaxation strategies: A child needs to be physically calm in order to cope with stressful life events. Although every child may prefer different relaxation exercises, deep breathing is a fast, effective tool for calming the body. To teach deep breathing ask your child to take a slow, deep breath in through his nose. Encourage your child to pay attention as his tummy pushes out and his lungs fill with air. After a few seconds have your child exhale through his nose and notice that his stomach will go in as the air leaves his lungs. Younger children often enjoy placing a pillow (or favorite stuffed animal) on their tummy and watching the object rise and fall as they breathe. Have your child practice deep breathing on a regular basis, so when stress presents itself, deep breathing becomes an automatic response.

Encourage your child to talk: Everyone needs a time and place to express and release their daily stress. Your child needs to know that someone understands and appreciates their feelings. Allow them to talk about what is bothering them, but do not admire the problem for too long. Instead, focus on possible solutions and offer different ways to think about the situation.

Promote optimism: Your child must learn that although she can not change certain situations, she can change the way she thinks about them. Encourage your child to view a difficult situation as a challenge instead of an impossible defeat.

Self Talk: Teach your child to talk themselves through stressful situations. This skill becomes particularly important when an adult is not available to help them with a problem. Teach your child positive self statements such as “I can handle this.” or “I know am going to be ok.”

Distraction: Your child should not become overly preoccupied with the stressors in her life. If this becomes a problem set aside a time of the day where she can think and talk about the problems. During the other parts of the day, encourage your child to keep herself busy with things that she enjoys.

Unconditional love: Your child will know that the love and care you have for him will always remain a constant despite the adversity he may face in their everyday lives.

Staff Appreciation Lunches November 21 and 22, 2011

It is with sincere gratitude that so many Devon families wanted to participate in providing delicious lunches for our faculty and staff on the conference days before the Thanksgiving Holiday break. We all know that our school and students are well taken care of because of the great staff members at Devon who make our kids their priority each and every day.

We would like to give special thanks to the following families who generously contributed their time, cooking skills and kitchen labor to make these two days an amazing experience for our Devon staff and faculty: Tricia Jennings, Karen Rosan, Emilie Steigerwald, Lara Penny, Nicole Bennyhoff, Allison Hayden, Georgann Barnabeo, Suzanne Kinkel, Sandy Nissenbaum, Yingzi Wu, Dori Dimassimo, Kelly Graver, Amy Holzapel, Stephanie Lantz, Kim Ashman, Bryn Fox, Cindy Sillhart, Brad McLaughlin, Stephanie Thibault, Amy Hewitt, Lindsey Wisch, Stephanie Baumgardner, Kim Carey, Coleen Hillman, Jennifer Collin, Teresa Buttorff Conley, Trish Connell, Kathy Meaney, Diane Hoey, Tracey Sloan, Leena Kolluru, Sameer Gaikwad, Kim Rayer, Liz Denney, Roberta Blazejewski, Preeti Dikshit, Gowri Bandi, Ashley Smith, Tina Verrelli, Liz Ward, Ame Austin, Becky Caldwell, Carolyn King, Dana King-Butler, Susan Stuber, Jen Neely, Wendy Sharkey, Tiffany Hoyt, Ricka Jenkins, Tricia Petrane, Barbara Schiff, Barbara Todd, Becky Doyle, Cat Huang, Carli Younce, Sree Vadlamani, Ernestine Epouhe, Amy Susanin, Rebecca Emory and Lori Piccone.

[In response to the recent increase in the number of confirmed cases of **pertussis**, the nurses have written the note below for elementary and middle school newsletters.](#)

Persistent Coughing – Nuisance or Concern?

A lingering cough is often one of the most annoying symptoms of a cold or the flu. In most cases, it is a result of respiratory tract irritation, but a call to your doctor might be needed if the cough continues for several weeks, or if the cough is characterized by spasms of coughing that leave the individual short of breath or vomiting. In recent years, the incidence of pertussis, often called whooping cough, has increased. This increase is probably a result of under-vaccination in infants, and the waning immunity from childhood vaccination that occurs in adolescents and adults.

Pertussis is a contagious disease of the respiratory tract that is caused by bacteria found in the mouth, nose, and throat of an infected person. It is spread by contact with discharge from the infected individual, usually when that person coughs or sneezes. After exposure, the incubation period is usually 7 -10 days, although it can range from 4 to 21 days before symptoms start. The disease begins with cold symptoms that become worse over 1 -2 weeks. After a week or two, the illness moves to the next stage which is characterized by spasms of coughing. The cough is often worse at night and is usually not relieved by cough medicines.

Protection against pertussis typically wanes about 5 years after the last childhood vaccination. New booster vaccines are now available for adolescent and adult use in the United States. The Chester County Health Department recommends that all children receive 4 doses of DtaP vaccine by 18 months of age and an additional dose before they start school. Please contact your doctor if you have any questions about your child's immunization status or if your child develops any symptoms of Pertussis.



T&E Care Holiday Drive 2011

The mission of T&E Care is to maintain a network of people providing financial and other material assistance to persons in need in and around the Tredyffrin and Easttown township area.

As you may know, T&E Care's Holiday Drive is underway. T&E Care is looking for donations to help make the holidays special for some local families. There are many ways to help: you can sponsor an entire family, chose a specific item from a family's wish, purchase a gift card, or make a general donation. Please visit tecare.org/holidaydrive2011.html for more information. The drive ends December 11.

-Lori Piccone and Stephanie Thibault, T&E Care Representatives

LINGO KIDS

Registration for *LingoKids* is now open until Thursday, December 15 and will be confirmed via e-mail once classes have formed.

LingoKids will offer classes for **grades 1-4** in Spanish, French, Mandarin and German in a fun, convenient and affordable way. For more information about the program please visit www.lingokidslearning.com.

Classes will be scheduled after school, from **3:30 pm – 4:30 pm, on Thursdays** and will run for 10 weeks from **January 12 – March 22**. The cost for the program will be \$150 per session and \$135 for each additional sibling.

Please send the enrollment form (one per child) which can be found on our website, with your payment directly to LingoKids LLC, 560 Conestoga Road, Berwyn, PA 19312.

If you have any questions please contact Helena Malarkey at # 484 318 8334 or Helena.Malarkey@lingokidslearning.com.

REMINDER

Call Attendance Line if Your Child is Absent

Please remember to call the
attendance line at

610-240-1465

when your child is out sick.
or going to be late. This will
save our office staff from
making phone calls to you.
Thank you.

Devon Dispatch

Publication Schedule

| Deadline | Publication |
|----------|-------------|
| 12/23/11 | 01/06/12 |
| 01/13/12 | 01/20/12 |
| 01/27/12 | 02/03/12 |



Devon Dispatch

Editor/Layout

Kathleen Meaney
kmeaney2002@yahoo.com



Produced bi-monthly by
Devon Elementary School,
400 S. Fairfield Road, Devon,
PA 19333, 610-240-1450,
under the direction of Princip-
al Tom Tobin and PTO
President Tricia Jennings.

GUIDELINES FOR A TWO-HOUR**DELAYED OPENING**

The following procedures have been established for operating the elementary schools on a two-hour delayed opening.

BREAKFAST

- No breakfast is served on a day where there is a two-hour delayed opening.

KINDERGARTEN PROCEDURES

AM and PM Kindergarten sessions will follow a modified schedule on days when inclement weather results in a two-hour delayed opening. Each Kindergarten session will be reduced by one hour when there is a delayed opening to provide equal instructional time for both sessions.

AM Kindergarten classes will begin at 10:45 am and will conclude at the modified pick-up time of 12:40 pm. Parents of PM Kindergarten students should drop their children off at the modified start time of 1:25 pm. School dismissal time for PM Kindergarten students remains at 3:20 pm. As a result, AM Kindergarten students who use bus transportation to school will be picked up at their bus stops two hours later than usual and PM Kindergarten students will ride the bus home at their regularly scheduled time.

Parents are asked to make note of the change in the mid-day pick-up and drop-off times on days when there is a two-hour delayed opening.

MODIFIED KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

AM Kindergarten: 10:45 am – 12:40 pm

PM Kindergarten: 1:25 pm – 3:20 pm

PROCEDURES FOR GRADES 1-4

All other classes will follow their revised two-hour delayed opening schedule. Special attention will be given to the scheduling of language arts and mathematics. Dismissal will be at the normal time.

Fair Trade holiday gift ideas made from Juice Pouches

Delivery available in time for holiday break



| <u>Item</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| A. Biz Card & Coin Holder (red, blue or orange multi) | _____ x | <u>\$7.00</u> | = _____ |
| B. Mini Bag (red, red & blue, orange, lime green) | _____ x | <u>\$12.00</u> | = _____ |
| C. Chained to me Clutch (yellow or orange) | _____ x | <u>\$20.00</u> | = _____ |
| D. Small Tie Totes (orange, silver or multi) | _____ x | <u>\$30.00</u> | = _____ |
| E. On The Go (pink or blue) | _____ x | <u>\$30.00</u> | = _____ |
| F. Large Tie Totes (silver, red or multi) | _____ x | <u>\$40.00</u> | = _____ |

<http://rebagz.com>

Grand Total = _____
(all prices include s&h)

Student Name _____
 Homeroom _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Parent Signature _____

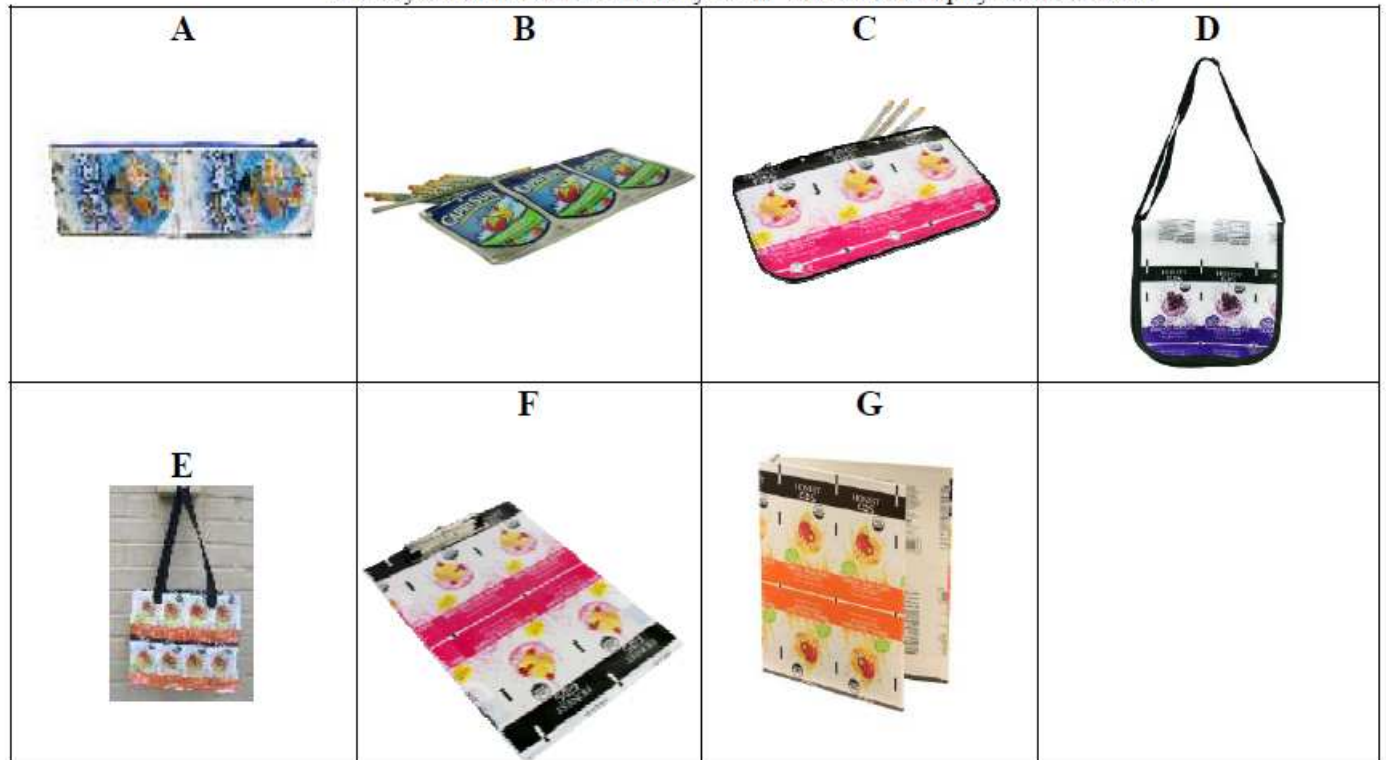
Please return form along with cash or check payable to
 'Devon PTO' in an envelope addressed to Heather Hill

Questions ? Please contact Heather Hill
globularclusters@yahoo.com or (610) 640-3805

Order by December 14th to receive before holiday break.

Looking for a unique holiday gift?

Delivery available in time for holiday break! All items on display in school store!



| <u>Item</u> | <u>Quantity</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| A. Capri Sun Small Pencil Case | _____ x | <u>\$2.85</u> | = _____ |
| B. Kool Aid or Capri Sun (please circle one) Medium Pencil Case | _____ x | <u>\$3.30</u> | = _____ |
| C. Honest Kids 3 Ring Pencil Case (only available in purple) | _____ x | <u>\$3.30</u> | = _____ |
| D. Honest Kids Medium Messenger Bag (only available in purple) Dimensions: 10.5" W x 13.25" T x 4" | _____ x | <u>\$8.80</u> | = _____ |
| E. Honest Kids Small Tote Bag (only available in Orange Mango) The tote is approx. 9.75" high x 11" wide (two by three pouches) | _____ x | <u>\$9.90</u> | = _____ |
| F. Honest Kids Clip Board (only available in Orange Mango) | _____ x | <u>\$8.80</u> | = _____ |
| G. Honest Kids 1" 3 Ring Binder (only available in Orange Mango) | _____ x | <u>\$11.00</u> | = _____ |
| Grand Total | | | = _____ |
| (all prices include s&h) | | | |

Student Name _____
 Homeroom _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Parent Signature _____

Please return form along with cash or check payable to
 'Devon PTO' in an envelope addressed to Heather Hill

Questions ? Please contact Heather Hill
globularclusters@yahoo.com or (610) 640-3805

Order by December 14th to receive before holiday break.

Are you ready for the summer?



Main Line Camp Fair

Celebrating 25 Years!

**Wednesday,
January 25, 2012**

**5:30pm – 8:30 pm
Conestoga High School
200 Irish Road, Berwyn**

(Snow Date – February 1st, 2012)

**Families with children ages preschool
thru 18 are welcome to attend.**

Representatives from approximately 100 day and
overnight camps will be available to answer questions
and discuss their program in detail.

Admission is FREE

Looking for summer employment opportunities?
Stop by to talk to camp representatives,
many of which will be hiring.

Sponsored by the Devon PTO

For more information and a list of camps attending visit: www.mainlinecampfair.org

**FIND YOUR SUMMER
ACTIVITIES HERE!**

DAY & OVERNIGHT CAMPS

PRESCHOOL CAMPS

SPORTS CAMPS

ACADEMIC & ARTS CAMPS

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE



Save the date for Kindergarten Math Night!

When: January 31, 2012

Where: New Eagle Elementary School

What time: 5:30 to 7:30



Plan to join us on Tuesday, January 31 for a fun filled evening of math. You will be able to share in the types of games and activities your child experiences in class, and play some of the exciting computer games designed to help enhance kindergarten math skills.

More information will be coming soon. Look for the invitation in your child's backpack and online.



B.U.I.L.D.

(Better Understanding of Individuals with Learning Differences)

Invites you to its

Monthly Meeting on

Monday, December 12th, 7:00-9:00 pm

on

"What constitutes an appropriate program and meaningful progress?"

Guest Speaker: Dennis McAndrews, McAndrews Law Firm

at

VALLEY FORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUDION

105 West Walker Road, Wayne, PA

Dennis C. McAndrews is the founding shareholder of McAndrews Law Offices, P.C. who has worked for over twenty-five years in the public and private sectors in several roles in the field of disability law. He frequently serves as a consultant to other public and private attorneys with regard to disability and special education issues. Mr. McAndrews is an instructor of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Criminal Justice at Villanova University, where he earned his J.D. He frequently lectures at national conferences, Bar Association Committees and advocacy groups in Pennsylvania on estate planning, special education, and the rights of the disabled and . He has also authored numerous articles regarding these topics. He served for a decade as Chairman of The Disability Law Committee of the Delaware County Bar Association. McAndrews law firm was created in 1982, and employs 12 attorneys in offices throughout Pennsylvania and Delaware. Visit them at <http://www.mcandrewslaw.com>

Please RSVP by December 9, 2011 to any of the following: Wendy Brooks: wenobrooks@aol.com,

Michele Lynch: rlynch610@verizon.net, or Susan Peterman: shpeterman@yahoo.com



CAPCO PRESENTS.....

***BAGEL FACTORY
CERTIFICATES!!!***



***Support CAPCO by purchasing coupons for
BAGEL FACTORY Bagels (a bakers dozen) 61 cents per
bagel same price as in the store!***

*Purchase coupons for \$8.00 each. These certificates will be available
throughout the school year!*

*The proceeds go to the
Conestoga After Prom Celebration Organization (CAPCO)
Coupons can be redeemed at any Bagel Factory store for 13 bagels
of your choice & CAPCO makes \$4.00 on each coupon!*

*Please use the form below to place orders
Questions?? Call or E-mail Dianne Lamina
610-688-5878 or novanova1@comcast.net
Thanks for your Support!!!*

BAGEL COUPON ORDER FORM

(Order as many as you would like, there is no limit!)

**Please mail _____ Bagel certificates for a bakers dozen (61 cents per
bagel) of Bagel Factory bagels at \$8.00 each to:**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ certificates at \$8.00 each.

**Please mail to Dianne Lamina, 169 Sullivan Road, Wayne, PA 19087
Please make checks payable to CAPCO. Thanks you!**



*Are you trying to think of an extra special end of year gift?
Do you want to honor a teacher, counselor or school nurse
who helped your child in a special way?
Think about the individuals who inspire your children to
learn or who provide encouragement when your child
struggled with a difficult subject.*

With a Staff Tribute, you can recognize these special individuals by making a tax-deductible donation to FLITE.



Your honored individual will receive a note card thanking them for their dedication and positive impact they have made on your student and family. This is an important year to make your tribute. The school budget is in crisis and FLITE will be called on to help fill the gaps.

FLITE works in partnership with the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District to help all district students reach their potential. FLITE promotes academic achievement with programs from preschool tuition assistance to college preparation.

Simply fill out the form below. Your chosen recipient(s) will be notified by letter of the honor (but not the dollar amount). Your donation will go a long way toward helping FLITE fulfill its mission.

Thank you!

Please accept this gift of \$_____ for FLITE in honor of the staff member(s) listed below.

| Staff member honored | School | Student's name |
|----------------------|--------|----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Additional names can be attached on a separate page

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

All checks should be made payable to FLITE and mailed to: PO Box 806, Southeastern, PA 19399-0806

Please visit www.FLITE-pa.org to learn more about FLITE.

If you have any questions about Staff Tributes, please call Chris Caine at 610-644-0686 or cdcaine@yahoo.com

FLITE is an IRS recognized non-profit organization under 501(c) (3) of the tax code.