

2011-2012

JUST GIVE!



In the past we've sold everything from gift wrap to cookie dough to chicken fingers.

You name it, we've sold it. This year, we are completely revamping our fundraising efforts to focus on one thing — *keeping 100 percent of our money at Blount Elementary School.* In the past, 40 to 50 percent of the money we have raised in product fundraisers went back to the supplier. Not this year!! The **JUST GIVE CAMPAIGN** will help us keep ALL of our money here at the school where it belongs! Instead of selling door-to-door we are asking you **JUST GIVE** \$65 per student at the beginning of the year. Please let those faithful family members (grandparents, godparents and/or family friends) who have always supported our school know that they are welcome to contribute on behalf of your student(s) too! If all of Blount's families participate, the entire PTA budget will be funded with just this one fundraiser.

And — the best part — if we meet our goal, we promise NOT to have ANY product fundraisers for the rest of the school year!

How can you participate?

The campaign starts **NOW** and will run until **NOVEMBER 1.**

You may pay all at once, or split your pledge into two payments - just indicate on the form below what you want to do. **Want to sponsor an extra child?** Feel free! Want to contribute more than \$65? Go ahead! On the following pages there is a breakdown of our budget showing where our PTA money is spent and why we need your help.

YES! I want to Just Give!

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Student's Name

Grade/Teacher

Email address

Address

City, State & Zip

How much would you like to donate? \$ _____

(\$65 per student will fund our PTA budget for 2011-2012)

- My FULL payment by cash or check is enclosed.
- I would like to **SPLIT** my contribution into two payments - one now and one payable by **NOV. 1.**
- My donation includes money to sponsor an additional student who is not mine.**

How does the PTA spend your money?

A detailed budget is included in this packet for your review.

We do, however, want to give an explanation for some of the areas that we fund that encompass the bulk of our budget or areas that might be confusing on the spreadsheet.

How do we as a PTA come up with our funding priorities? The PTA board does not arbitrarily pick projects to focus on and fund. We ask Mrs. Green what she needs for the school, and we do our best to find the money to fund it.

Teacher Allowances for Classroom Supplies (\$300 per teacher)

Years ago before the economy took its downturn, Alabama provided money for our teachers to buy supplies to start the school year. In many cases, our teachers end up spending far more on our students and pay for supplies with their own money. Until the state returns to funding teacher allowances, the PTA has made a commitment to make this our first priority in terms of spending. This is the biggest area we fund and cost up to \$12,000 for this year. Thanks to the success of last year's Boosterthon fundraiser we have enough money in the account to reimburse our teachers at the beginning of the year. In previous years we have had to stagger when we can give our teachers their allowances.

Technology

Let's face it, our kids are more technically-advanced than many of us could ever hope to be. Technology funding from the state and district is at an all time low because of tight budgets. This is our second biggest priority in terms of funding. Over the next few years we hope to provide our school with the latest devices to help ensure our students stay competitive with students in the magnet and private schools. Our teachers are already by far the best in the city, we feel it's our job to be sure they have the tools they need to give our children the best education!

The Math Store

If you are new to Blount you may not know about the Math Store. Students (first through fifth grade) earn "Blount Bucks" reaching different levels on a program called Math Facts in a Flash. Each month students redeem their "Blount Bucks" for items in the math store. Our math teachers came up with this concept a few years ago to help students get excited about math...and it works!

Copier Expense

Worksheets, tests, you name it. Schools go through A LOT of copies and couldn't function without a copy machine – and they are expensive to maintain!

Field Trip Money

We set aside money each year to pay the transportation costs of those students who otherwise could not afford to go on field trips with the entire class.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Blount Elementary has excellent teachers and staff. They all work tirelessly to teach our children and prepare them for the next grade. In May, we spend a week celebrating our teachers and staff. This money is used toward the teacher and staff luncheon to show them our appreciation.

Hospitality

Our hospitality committee organizes three Teacher Treat Days per year in addition to the teacher appreciation luncheon. We also have two other traditions here at Blount – *Muffins for Moms* and *Doughnuts for Dads*. In February and March students bring their parents in before school to the cafeteria to share a treat before school. Students love to show off their parents to their friends. What may seem like a small thing for us is a big deal for them!