

Dear Palmetto Families:

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Palmetto Elementary! My name is Brooke Lam and I have the privilege of serving as your PTA President for the coming year. While this will certainly be a year unlike any other, I know that together, we are #virtuallyunstoppable.

Whether this is your first year as a Palmetto Elementary parent, or you are a long-standing member of this family, we are so glad that you are here. Each new school year typically brings excitement and anticipation, along with the promise of learning and growth. This year, though, we have the challenge of staying safe and connected, while helping our children succeed through a pandemic. Your school and PTA have been hard at work throughout the summer to prepare for this year, and I know our Palmetto family will get through the upcoming challenges as we always do--together.

Palmetto Elementary is truly a special place--not just a school, but a community. Everyone—from administrators, faculty, and staff, to parents, volunteers, and students--work together to ensure an enhanced, challenging, and rewarding academic experience for ALL students. Everywhere you turn, you will find people going out of their way to make our school a better place. This summer has been all about reinventing the wheel and adapting to change. While there are a lot of unknowns ahead, our children are looking to us to guide them. Together, we can show them how a community that works together, can overcome unimaginable obstacles.

As a parent, one of the best ways to become involved at Palmetto Elementary is through the PTA. Palmetto's PTA is not a noun. It is not just a group, or something that takes place "at" school. Palmetto's PTA is a verb. We PTA for our children. We PTA for education advocacy. We PTA to support our teachers and staff. We PTA to support a wide variety of school-wide events and initiatives, in addition to providing academic resources and enhancements for programs like *Accelerated Readers* and our *Science Enhancement Curriculum*. In recent years, our impact has also been seen in very tangible ways, ranging from technology to our school's new *basketball and PE courts*. This past year, our PTA fully funded a complete overhaul and *upgrade to our Media Center*. Together with the district, our PTA also installed a new *walking track*. Just this summer, our PTA helped fund *safety resources* installed in the office and around school for the anticipated return of our staff and students. Our PTA also launched a new program with *Teachers Pay Teachers* to provide school access to online and digital enriching resources for teachers to use with our students. Our PTA does amazing things, but we can't do it without the support of our Palmetto families, and we need your support now more than ever.

Palmetto Elementary, a National PTA School of Excellence, is home to so many things – not just some of the top academics in the county, but also an award-winning performing arts department, and many extra-curricular activities and clubs. It is your home, too, and even if we are not there yet physically, I invite you to join us in supporting our children, teachers, and staff in continuing Palmetto Elementary's tradition of excellence. I look forward to working with you!

With best wishes for a successful year,

Brooke Lam Palmetto Elementary PTA President 2020-2021 Email: <u>pesptapres@gmail.com</u> <u>www.palmettopta.org</u> Follow us on Facebook for News and Updates: <u>https://www.facebook.com/PalmettoElementaryPTA</u> Please download our school App for notifications and updates throughout the year.

