



## Palmetto Elementary School PTA

Dear Palmetto Families:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year at Palmetto Elementary! My name is Carolina Ballas, and after seven beautiful years at this school, I have the privilege of serving this one as your PTA President. Last year was like no other. Together we were able to face the challenges by being #virtuallyunstoppable. This year, we look forward to returning to some of our in-person events and adjusting, as may be required, to ensure the safety of our community.

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 brings excitement and anticipation, along with the promise of learning and growth. 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 whatever uncertainties and challenges still linger from the pandemic as we always do - TOGETHER.

Palmetto Elementary is truly a special place - not just a school, but a community. Everyone works together, from administrators, faculty, and staff, to parents, volunteers, and students, 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.

As a parent, one of the best ways to become involved at Palmetto Elementary is through the PTA. Every effort to participate or volunteer is vital for our school's success. Palmetto's PTA is not a noun. It is a verb. We PTA for our children, for education advocacy and to support our teachers and staff. We PTA to ensure the success of a variety of school-wide events and initiatives, in addition to providing academic resources and enhancements for a variety of enrichment programs such as *Accelerated Readers* and our *Science Enhancement Curriculum*.

Our fundraising efforts have also allowed incredible tangible results in recent years: *water filters*, *new technology*, *new basketball and PE courts*, and a complete overhaul and upgrade to our *Media Center*. Together with the district, our PTA also installed a new *walking track*. Last year, our PTA helped fund the installation of *safety resources* and ran a successful fundraiser to bring *air purifiers and filters* to our classrooms. We also launched and will continue to fund the *Teachers Pay Teachers* Program to provide school access to online and digital enriching resources for teachers to use with our students. We are currently working on bringing new spirit wear and spirit items to our school store, working on the beautification of our pavilion, and improving a rear school area with new trees, foliage, tables and benches with the intention of providing an additional recreational space that can serve as an outdoor classroom to conduct activities in a safe, natural environment. Our PTA does amazing things! Our success is only possible because of how the community comes together and because of its continued support.

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 I invite you to join us in supporting our children, teachers, and staff in continuing Palmetto Elementary's tradition of excellence. Please mark your calendar for our first General PTA Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 25th, at 9:15AM via zoom. I look forward to working with you!

With best wishes for a phenomenal year,

Carolina Ballas  
Palmetto Elementary PTA President 2021-2022  
pesptapres@gmail.com

