

Central Elementary PTA



Working together for the good of our family

November 6, 2018

National PTA Reflections Contest Encourages Young Artists

Is your child a talented dancer, creative story writer, musician, photographer, illustrator, or painter? Then, he or she should enter the PTA Reflections art contest! The National PTA Reflections program encourages students of all ages and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the program! Since it was founded in 1969 by Mary Lou Anderson, millions of students have benefited from this program. This year's theme is "**Heroes Around Me,**" and Central Elementary students in pre-K through fifth grade can submit their original works of art in the categories of:



- Dance choreography
- Film production
- Literature
- Music composition
- Photography
- Visual arts

Central students' entries will be judged by local artists, and students who win first place awards will progress to the Virginia PTA state Reflections contest. Last year, nine Central students participated in our school contest, and two of them – Jessica Camper and Haylie Hite – received awards at the state contest. We encourage more young artists to enter the contest this year.

Students should bring their contest entries to the school office **by Friday, December 7, 2018**. A completed entry form, which includes the "Title of Artwork" and "Artist Statement," must accompany each student's contest submission. Please refer to the PTA Reflections handout for entry forms and official rules, or visit <https://www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections>.

Central students who participate in the Reflections contest will be entered in a drawing to win a \$20 gift card to Walmart! If you have any questions or need art materials, please contact Alex Slaydon at stenegreer@outlook.com or Gaye Johnson at gaye_johnson@outlook.com.

Time Together Tuesday begins

TODAY

We hope to see students and parents or guardians on the playground, beginning at 3:30pm.

PTA Meeting

Please join us for this month's meeting Wednesday, November 14th, at 5:30 pm in the Central Elementary Library. (This is one week earlier than our usual meeting day due to the Thanksgiving holiday.) We will review PTA activities to date, discuss plans for future activities and answer your questions. We are grateful for your support and hope to see you on Wednesday.

Central Elementary
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What is Central's House Color System all About?

In 2013, Central Elementary leadership team made changes to improve our school environment. The goal was to develop students as enthusiastic learners AND good citizens. Then Principal Ryan Barber sent two teachers—Catie Brown and Melanie Hickman—to the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, GA. Ron Clark is an award winning educator and author. Since Mr. Clark opened the Academy in 2007, thousands of teachers, administrators, and support personnel have been trained in his teaching style and education philosophy. It is estimated that more than 10 million students worldwide have benefited from training their teachers and administrators received at Ron Clark Academy.

While at the Ron Clark Academy, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hickman learned about the House System of organizing students, faculty and staff. Houses within our school build a network of support and cultivate a sense of belonging among the student body, faculty, and staff. Houses remove grade level barriers, by including students from all grades, Pre-K through 5th. Houses also mix faculty and staff with students they might not otherwise encounter.

Kindergarteners pick their House assignment on the first day of school. Colored cubes are placed in a bag. The bag contains 20 cubes; 5 of each color—blue, green, red, and yellow. Each student makes a blind draw from the bag. Students, faculty, and staff keep their House assignment for life.

Each House is represented by a color and motto, a catch word to inspire.

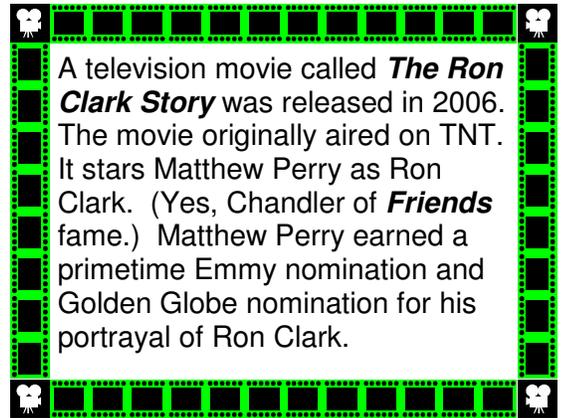
- Blue House motto “Rêver”, French for to dream
- Green House motto “Isibindi”, Zulu for courage
- Red House motto “Amistad”, Spanish for friendship
- Yellow House motto “Altruismo”, Portuguese for give to others

Each student receives a new house shirt on the first day of school. PTA fundraising efforts support the purchase of these t-shirts. The design is changed periodically—about every 2 years—by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hickman, with support from Mrs. Parker.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hickman also returned to Lexington armed with training in Mr. Clark's “The Essential 55”, which Central's leadership team tailored into BEAR Essentials: A Code of Conduct for Classroom and Community. BEAR Essential #1 is We are family; #2 is Respond properly to adults; Bear Essential #25 is Be the best YOU, to name a few. The BEAR Essentials are prominently displayed in the main lobby of the school. You can also find a Quick Link on Central Elementary website. Students receive regular instruction in the BEAR Essentials from Mrs. Garner, our Guidance Counselor.

Houses earn points for following the Bear Essentials—answering an adult politely, holding a door, lending a hand, earning a good test grade, demonstrating academic improvement, performing random acts of kindness, etc. Houses can also earn bonus points for other reasons, like turning in the most Box Tops for Education, or wearing House shirts on designated days. Earning points are the motivator. Prizes come in the form of mini celebrations organized by Mrs. Parker.

“**Wonderful Wednesdays**” are a way to show our House family spirit. Students, teachers, and staff are encouraged to wear their House shirts. At lunchtime, students eat with their House mates, which is different from the other days when students eat with their classmates. For the first four weeks of school Mrs. Parker and Mr. Owens rewarded the House that was best represented (i.e., had the most people wearing their shirt) with 10 bonus points. The winning House gathered for a group picture on the stage and the photographs were posted on the Central's Facebook Page. In recent weeks, the Wonderful Wednesday competition has been to see which grade level wore the most House shirts.

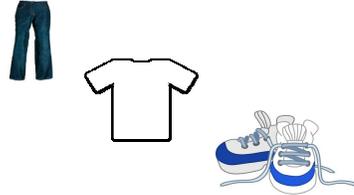


Clothes Closet Appreciates Donations

Thank you to those who have donated to the Central PTA Clothes Closet! We appreciate the generosity in our community.

The Clothes Closet inventory is currently low on the following items:

- Boys pants, size 8
- Boys athletic shoes, size 4
- Girls pants or leggings, sizes 7, 8, 14, 16
- Girls short sleeve shirts, sizes 8-16
- Girls athletic shoes, sizes 1-4



If you can donate these items (new or gently used), please send them to Central labeled “Clothes Closet”. If you have questions, please contact Lindsay Perry at lindsayperry@hotmail.com. Thank you for your help!

Thank you, Central Families and Area Businesses, for your Generous Support!

This fall, thanks to Central families and area businesses, the Central PTA has raised funds to support valuable programs for students, families, and teachers. Some of the results of our activities are as follows:

Dine-Out Nights

- Pink Cadillac Diner, September 20 -- \$500
- Domino's, October 4 -- \$400
- McDonald's "McTeacher's Night," October 16 -- \$1,420

Box Tops for Education

- Our first fall submission of Box Tops earned \$700 for Central!
- The Green House collected 726 Box Tops, and earned 50 house bonus points for their efforts.
- We greatly appreciate your Box Tops submissions, so keep on clipping . **Please include the student's name, teacher, and house color on your baggie or envelope, so we can reward top-collecting classes and house colors.** Details about the next Box Tops contest are coming soon.

Important Dates

- **Tuesday, November 6**—Time Together Tuesday starts at 3:30pm on the playground
- **Friday, November 9**—CES hosts the Veteran's Breakfast
- **Wednesday, November 14**—Central PTA meeting begins at 5:30pm in the Library
- **Thursday, November 15**—Student Paint Night (prior registration required)
- **Wednesday, November 21**—Thanksgiving Break begins, NO SCHOOL for students and teachers
- **Monday, November 26**—Back to school for students and teachers

Check our website at www.centralelementarypta.com for up-to-date PTA information.

2018 Walkathon Keep those donations coming—we're only \$2500 short of our goal!

Students, teachers, and staff had a great time at Central's annual fall festival and walkathon on October 31. Walkathon donations are still coming in and adding up. As of Friday, November 2, the PTA has collected more than \$7,500 in walkathon donations. If you didn't get your donations turned in yet, please submit them **by Friday, November 9**, so they can count toward the walkathon. Of course, the PTA also accepts donations anytime. Supporters may submit cash or check (payable to Central Elementary PTA) or donate online at **www.centralelementarypta/donate**. Students who collect walkathon donations will be entered into a drawing for chances to win prizes and gift cards from area businesses, the top-collecting classes will win a pizza or ice cream party, and the top-collecting house color will receive 50 bonus points. Every donation – any amount – helps!



Paws for A Cause!



Fourth graders enjoy the outdoors.



Students earn a colored bracelet for every lap they walk.



We love our teachers.
