



## Welcome to Hearst: Notes and Tips from the PTA

Congratulations on joining the Hearst community! We're excited to get to know you. Here is some information that we hope will make your child's and your family's transition to the school easier.

1. To stay in the loop with what is happening at Hearst, sign up for the Hearst listserv.

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hearst\\_elementary/?tab=s](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hearst_elementary/?tab=s). Most PTA-related announcements come through the listserv, which is also used for other communications among Hearst families.

2. Other ways to find out about what is happening at the school include the Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/HearstElementary?fref=ts>), the website (<http://www.hearstes.org/>), and the google calendar (which you can subscribe to: <http://www.hearstes.org/calendar2>).

3. PTA meetings happen the second Wednesday of each month (starting in September), 6-7:30pm. The October meeting will be October 19<sup>th</sup> (the third Wednesday). Join us to meet other families and learn more about what the PTA is doing (and how to get involved)! Please note that childcare and food for the kids is provided by the PTA during each meeting.

4. Principal Thomas also sends out weekly updates by email. The list for those is generated by DCPS and you should be on it automatically if you included an email address on your enrollment form, but see the main office if you don't start getting them in the fall.

5. If you would like your child to have the option of school lunch, enroll at <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>. You will need your child's student number to enroll and you can get this from your enrollment paperwork once that is completed. Applications for free or reduced price school meals can be found at the main office (and in the enrollment paperwork).

6. Before and aftercare are run by INNIS Enterprise Learning. You can get more information on Innis (including enrollment forms) here: [http://www.hearstes.org/innis\\_after\\_care](http://www.hearstes.org/innis_after_care)

Mr. Fred is the coordinator of aftercare at Hearst. His contact information is on the page above.

**Smart Tip:** Even if you plan for your child to be picked up at 3:15 every day, it's a great idea to register with Innis just in case you can't pick up your child on time. Innis has drop-in care for this purpose. If you are ever running late, please inform the office or your child's teacher directly via email or text so they know to drop them off with Innis. It may also be a good idea to prepare your child for this possibility by introducing him/her to the Innis staff at some point. Your child will be dropped off in the main office if they aren't picked up by 3:30 and the very kind staff in the front office will keep an eye on them but this isn't a practice we encourage, so please be mindful and have Innis as your "just in case" plan. As an alternative, feel free to make friends with another 3:15 parent/nanny/babysitter that you can also ask to watch your child if you're running late.

7. The PTA also coordinates after school enrichment classes for three, 8 week sessions during the school year (fall (starting mid-September), winter (starting mid-January), and spring (starting mid-March)). These classes, which are offered from 3:30pm-4:30pm or 4:30pm-5:30pm, are intended as a supplement to aftercare for interested families but are not a replacement for full time aftercare. Some classes are provided by private vendors (for a fee), while others are PTA-sponsored at a reduced cost (\$25 per class with each child receiving one free class per academic year). Registration for PTA-sponsored classes is done by lottery while the private vendor classes are first-come, first-served. Most classes for the 2015-2016 fall session begin September 19th, with registration opening on August 20th. Please check the Hearst website ([http://www.hearstes.org/enrichment\\_programs](http://www.hearstes.org/enrichment_programs)) for more information or email the Enrichment Committee at [enrichment@hearstes.org](mailto:enrichment@hearstes.org) with specific questions.
8. You can find contact information for the PTA board members at this website; feel free to reach out to any of us with questions! [http://www.hearstes.org/pta\\_executive\\_board\\_members](http://www.hearstes.org/pta_executive_board_members)
9. Each classroom also has at least one room parent (sometimes more) who serves as a liaison with the PTA and can serve as a general resource and point of contact for families. Please feel free to use your room parent as a resource for any random questions you might have about the school, or any issues that arise. If you don't know who your room parent is, email [rp@hearstes.org](mailto:rp@hearstes.org) or ask your child(ren)'s classroom teacher for the room parent's contact information.
10. The PTA board also has periodic "PTA on the playground" gatherings where you can bring questions or concerns; see the google calendar and the listserv for details on when those will be. Or feel free to email or contact any board member with any questions or issues (see #8 above).
11. Each teacher will provide contact information at the beginning of the year. Find out how he or she prefers to communicate and the best times to reach him or her. Regarding larger academic or school-wide matters, Principal Thomas is also responsive to email: [jen.thomas@dc.gov](mailto:jen.thomas@dc.gov)
12. Please remember to label your kids' gear and clothes! That will make returning lost items to them easier.
13. Please contact the school nurse with any medical concerns as well as to fill out forms for medication authorization, etc. Her name is Juliette Oguledo and her contact information is 202-282-0258 or [joguledo@cnmc.org](mailto:joguledo@cnmc.org).