



Lebanon Elementary School - PTA

Phil Johnson, President

www.les-pta.org

March 7, 2008

What is SCRIP??

Have you ever bought a gift card? Have you ever used a gift card? That is what the SCRIP program is about, GIFT CARDS.

This is a year round ongoing fundraiser that was born by hearing the comments "I'm tired of those fundraisers when we buy stuff we don't want or need, but buy to support the school". The program is in it's 3rd year and people still are not sure what it is and how it works. It works like this:

If you go grocery shopping at Stop & Shop and write them a check for \$100, Stop & Shop gets all the profit from your business. Through our SCRIP program, you could get a \$100 gift card to Stop & Shop and still pay \$100, but now the PTA buys the gift card at a discount and that discount we keep as our earnings. Discounts range from 1% to 15%.

The PTA also realized that to be successful, certain cards needed to be made available without waiting. So an inventory of cards is maintained for easy access. Cards in the PTA inventory are Stop & Shop, Shaw's, Shop Rite, Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Mobil\Exxon, Sunoco, Blockbuster, Pizza Hut, Papa Gino's\D'Angelos, Subway, KFC and Domino's. Just call one of the inventory holders to get the cards. The inventory holders are Laurie Shaw (456-9584), Dede Lucey (642-6440) and Phil Johnson (885-1431). Regular ordering is done every other week. Just send an order form into the school with the payment and your cards will be in a week later.

So where do you like to shop? There are over 200 stores, restaurants and businesses that participate

in the program. All are listed at www.unitedscrip.com. This program is meant to be shared with your friends and neighbors, and could replace all other LES PTA fundraisers if enough people participate. If you have questions, contact any PTA member or at our website www.les-pta.org.



Choosing Summer Day Camps Already?

In many parts of the nation, snow is still on the ground and locating matching mittens is the morning norm. But before you know it, it will be time to trade those snowsuits for swimsuits and snowballs for beach balls. Many parents have learned that it's never too early to begin researching summer camp options for their children (especially since some camps begin taking applications as early as February).

Use the below guide, written by early childhood professionals, to ensure that your child's summer experience is educational, safe, but most of all, FUN!

Summer Camp Questions

Application Process

- How do parents apply?

Continued on next page



Upcoming Events:

| Date | Time | Program | Location |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fri, Mar 7th | 3:30 PM | SCRIP Order | LES Office or Phil Johnson |
| Fri, Mar 14th | 3:30 PM | SCRIP Pickup | LES Café or Phil Johnson |
| Fri, Mar 14th | 6:30 PM | Polar Party | LES Gymnasium |
| Fri, Mar 21st | 8:35 AM | No School - Holiday | |
| Fri, Mar 21st | 3:30 PM | SCRIP Order | LES Office or Phil Johnson |
| Thu, Mar 27th | 1:05 PM | 1/2 day of School - Conferences | |
| Fri, Mar 28th | 1:05 PM | 1/2 day of School - Conferences | |
| Fri, Mar 28th | 3:30 PM | SCRIP Pickup | LES Café or Phil Johnson |
| Mon, Mar 31st | 8:35 AM | No School - Professional Day | |
| Fri, Apr 4th | 3:30 PM | SCRIP Order | LES Office or Phil Johnson |
| Mon, Apr 7th | 6:30 PM | LES PTA Regular Meeting | LES Café |

- What is the deadline for submitting applications?
- What are the camp's opening and closing dates?
- What are the hours of operation?
- Does the camp offer flexible schedules?

Tuition and Fees

- What is the tuition and registration fee?
- What is included in the tuition: transportation, meals, insurance, special trips, entrance fees, health services, use of equipment? Ask the camp director to itemize any services for which an additional fee is required.
- Is there a membership fee? Must the parent join the sponsoring organization in order for his or her child to participate?
- How and when is tuition paid? By week, month, session?
- Are scholarships available?

Children

- Are there systems or methods for keeping track of each child and making sure every camper receives attention and care?
- How are children grouped? Tell me about my child's grouping.
- What activities does the camp offer for campers in my child's age group?
- What is the daily routine?
- Are there enough activities to keep children involved, but also opportunities for quiet, down times?
- Do children get to choose activities?
- What happens outdoors?
- Are there field trips, enrichment activities, or sports opportunities?

Parent Involvement

- Are parents welcome at the camp anytime? Are there opportunities for parents to participate?
- How does the camp solicit parents' opinions, ideas, suggestions, and concerns?
- Are there some parents I can call for references?

Staff

- What are their qualifications and experiences?

From the Editor.

We hope you are finding these LES PTA newsletters to be beneficial. Please let us know what you think. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to send an email to AskThePTA@les-pta.org.

- What background checks do they undergo?
- What are the counselors' duties?
- Are counselors hired for short periods or for the entire summer?
- What is the ratio between staff and campers?
- Is the staff knowledgeable, professional, enthusiastic, and caring?
- How are camp counselors and other staff members hired?

Communication

- What are the specific rules campers must follow, and what are the consequences for not following those rules?
- How are parents informed when children break the rules?
- How do parents receive information about what their child is doing?

Environment

- Is the facility and outdoor environment safe and clean?
- Is the environment inviting, exciting, and fun, but also warm and nurturing?
- Are there adequate supplies and equipment?

Meals

- Are lunches provided by the day camp? Ask for a sample menu in advance
- Are snacks provided during the day? What kind?
- Are special meals available?

References

Ask for references. For more information and advice on choosing residential camps, visit:

- The American Camping Association Web site at <http://www.acacamps.org/>. The American Camping Association is a community of camp professionals dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults through the camp experience.
- National Camp Association at <http://www.nationalcampassociation.org>.

Reprinted from "Bright Horizons" (www.brighthorizons.com)

Polar Party!

Don't forget that next Friday, March 14, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM the LES PTA is sponsoring a Polar Party in the LES Gynasium. Contact JoAnne Mackewicz at 423-372 for more information.