



## Huntley Hills Elementary School Needs Your Support!

Sheila Gillispie PTA President 2014-2015

Since 1964, Huntley Hills Elementary School has been at the center of the Huntley Hills neighborhood. For the 2013-2014 school year, it served about 480 students, from pre-K to Fifth grade, in traditional and Montessori education tracks.

Huntley Hills Elementary is a Title I school—meaning that over two-thirds of its students receive reduced or free lunch. The impact of this is that the school receives special funding from the federal government that can be used for improving the school equipment or programs that fall within the guidelines. For example, the school purchased iPads for the students at the end of the last school year and was able to use Title I money to cover some of that cost. Another of the impacts of this is that parental involvement can be pretty thin—parents who work a second or third shift or who don't speak English find it more difficult to volunteer at the school—so there is always a need for volunteers.

Also, this past school year saw Huntley Hills Elementary begin a STEAM program, providing added opportunities for enrichment in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. STEAM is a major initiative to help kids become interested in careers in science and technology. The current school year will see the school add a Drama Club and a Technology Club to the list of offerings available for students to participate in.

The Huntley Hills PTA supports the teachers and staff of the school, organizing volunteers, fundraising and supporting special programs. DeKalb County provides a basic budget, Title I monies help to supplement that budget and the PTA tries to fill in all the rest. Last year, each teacher received a budget of \$100 from the PTA to go towards classroom supplies that the county can't provide. The PTA also has paid for additional training seminars for a variety of teachers.

As a member of the Huntley Hills community, you can help contribute to the continued success of our neighborhood school in the following ways:

- ⇒ **Donate Box Tops:** Box Tops contributed to Huntley Hills Elementary provide a major source of funding for books and other supplies in our school library. You can drop the Box Tops off at the school, or contact me, and we'll arrange a pick-up/drop-off.
- ⇒ **Donate Coke Rewards:** We use them to buy gym equipment (it is amazing how short a life a playground ball can have at an elementary school).
- ⇒ **Donate Labels for Education:** We use these for a variety of things but it has been mostly gym equipment
- ⇒ **Attend Spirit Nights:** Local restaurants host regular spirit nights, where a portion of sales go to the Huntley Hills PTA. Look out for announcements, and please join us on these nights.
- ⇒ **Volunteer:** If you have a career in science or technology, you may be able to help us with a STEAM day program. Please contact the PTA to find out how. The library is always looking for regular volunteers to help shelve and check out books since there is only one staff person in the library.

Want to talk to someone about other ways that you can help? Contact me, Sheila Gillispie, at 678-547-1604.

