

# THE SCOOP



## SEMINOLE PTA'S - APPLY NOW



### FOOD SUSTAINABILITY *Mini Grant*

Apply here for a PTA mini-grant to support your Seminole school's food sustainability programs such as a food pantry, school gardens, and more. This grant is funded by a grant from Papa Johns.

**APPLY NOW**

[forms.gle/Ttj5f8fzGiXAYd5i8](https://forms.gle/Ttj5f8fzGiXAYd5i8)



**APPLY NOW!**

### PROGRAM GRANT

MINI-GRANT TO SUPPORT HEALTH, WELLNESS,  
AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

[forms.gle/DqPiDPotWYKLCzqq8](https://forms.gle/DqPiDPotWYKLCzqq8)



**FUNDED BY THE SEMINOLE  
PREVENTION COALITION**



### Message from the President

Hello Seminole County PTA / PTSA leaders!

Wow! What a great way to wrap up membership month. We have already surpassed last year's number as a county. Keep going to win those membership awards and more. Remember, if you ever need any assistance, our entire team is here to help in any way that we can. Seminole is a small but mighty team, and we show up in every way. Keep it up!

Don't forget to look for and click on Baby Groot in the newsletter for a chance to win a \$20 gift card for your PTA / PTSA. I can't wait to see who wins this month!

Shelly Pedraza

[president@sccpta.com](mailto:president@sccpta.com)

### ALL children in Seminole County...



ALL MEANS ALL

Do you have a little extra time and would consider supporting ALL Seminole County children? Then join one of our Seminole County Council PTA committees. We are run entirely by volunteers, just like our local PTA's, so consider joining in! Click the link to let us know you're interested!

**[SCCPTA Committee Interest Form](#)**

# UPCOMING DATES / DEADLINES

NOVEMBER

1

## SILVER EARLY BIRD

Did you hit your membership goals? Submit for an award!

NOVEMBER

15

## 990 FILED WITH IRS

Contact [treasurer@sccpta.com](mailto:treasurer@sccpta.com) with questions. IRS 990 site.

NOVEMBER

28

## REFLECTIONS WINNERS DUE

Finalists from your PTA must be submitted to advance.

NOVEMBER

30

## COPY OF 990 TO FL PTA

Email to [990@floridapta.org](mailto:990@floridapta.org) as soon as completed.

DECEMBER

1

## BRONZE EARLY BIRD

Did you hit your membership goals? Submit for an award!



[www.sccpta.com/running-your-ptaptsa.html](http://www.sccpta.com/running-your-ptaptsa.html)

### MATERIAL AID TO THE SCHOOL

Many times, it is the expectation of the public and, in some cases, the members, that the PTA functions to provide material aid to the school. **Before approving proposals for material aid to the school, such as equipment, services, and improvements to school district property, a PTA should consider whether the proposal is a public responsibility.** A PTA gift of money or equipment to a school may create or increase inequalities among schools in the district. A PTA renders a greater service by securing public support for education. **The purpose of PTA is to Advocate for all children, NOT to buy equipment and donate it to a school or school district.** If a PTA feels a specific need in their school, it is best to approach the principal or site-based team first and encourage them to include this item in the school or district's budget. Sometimes, a PTA must finance certain services and equipment until the public accepts responsibility for these necessities. When money becomes available from other sources, a PTA should allocate more funds for educational, scientific, and literary programs and projects for the entire charitable class, including PTA leadership training and parent education in the community.

### PLAYGROUNDS/SUNSHADES/WATER FOUNTAINS/ETC.

The PTA's mission and purpose include children's health and welfare; however, that does not mean that the PTA should invest its time in funding the purchase of a sunshade, water fountains, playgrounds, etc. It is not the duty of the PTA to provide things that are the school district's responsibility. PTAs should advocate for the school district and community to provide these items when needed.

### ISSUES WITH PTA FUNDRAISING FOR PLAYGROUNDS/SUNSHADES/WATER FOUNTAINS/ETC.

- All money raised is considered PTA income and must be kept in a separate "Restricted" account.
- If your PTA does not raise the required funds within a single fiscal year, the next year's board is not required to continue to fundraise for additional funds.
- All money raised must be reported annually as income on the 990-EZ and Schedule A filing.

**Example:** If the funds remain in the PTA account for three years, it must be reported as income to the IRS for all three years. Failure to report the income to the IRS could result in your PTA losing its 501(c)(3) nonprofit/tax-exempt status.

- The construction/purchase of such items is considered a high-risk activity (red list) for insurance coverage.



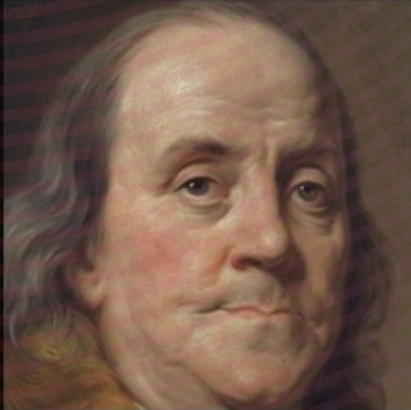
## CAN PTA'S FUND PLAYGROUNDS OR LAPTOPS?

The PTA's mission and purpose include children's health and welfare; however, that does not mean that the PTA should invest its time in funding the purchase of a sunshade, water fountains, playgrounds, etc. It is not the duty of the PTA to provide things that are the school district's responsibility. PTAs should advocate for the school district and community to provide these items when needed. Learn more on page 12 in Section 3 of the Kit of Materials.

# ADVOCACY MATTERS

The latest information on legislative issues  
impacting Seminole County Children.

NEWS ZONE



An investment in education  
always pays the highest returns.

~ Benjamin Franklin

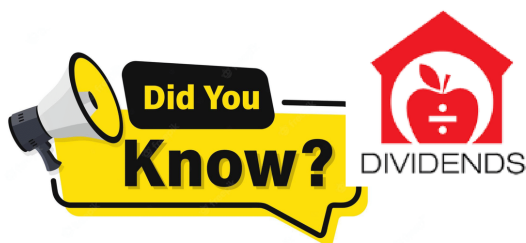
Every Child. One Voice.  
Cada niño. Una voz.  
#ThisIsOurWhy #PTA

## Take Action: Urge Your Representatives to Vote Against Proposed Cuts to Essential Education Programs for Students

- The long-term success of our nation depends on quality federal investments in our education system. And yet, a small group of members of the U.S. House of Representatives have proposed such significant funding cuts that it threatens the quality of education for 49.9 million children across America.
- The FY 2024 Labor-HHS-Education bill proposes cuts of \$22.1 billion in education funding- a devastating 28% of vital educational programs. The bill completely eliminates the Statewide Family Engagement Centers Program (SFEC), negatively harming countless children and families nationwide who are in need of vital family engagement opportunities and services. The bill also reduces 80 percent of Title I funding, significantly risking the quality of education children receive at Title I schools.
- Not only will these funding losses negatively impact children and families across the country for years to come, but will have major impacts now as our nation is still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and our nation's children currently need more academic support than ever before.
- Contact your Representatives TODAY to urge them to VOTE AGAINST the proposed FY 2024 Labor-HHS-Education bill, to ensure we can get adequate funding for our schools to have the proper resources needed to help children learn, grow and succeed.
- [www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action?vvsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F106891%2Frespond](http://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/take-action?vvsrc=%2Fcampaigns%2F106891%2Frespond)



# LOCAL UNIT CORNER



The Dividends Program is the SCPS Volunteer Program for anyone who would like to volunteer with our schools. Every potential volunteer needs to apply and receive their approval prior to volunteering in-person. And, of course, each volunteer must complete a new Dividend application each school year.

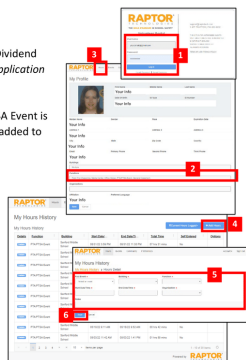
The Dividends Program ensures our students are safe and that volunteers check-in when they are on campus. SCPS keeps a record of volunteer hours that helps with eligibility for grants and other programs.

## And... Did You Know?

Dividends can (and should!) log hours spent volunteering from home. Dividends can log hours spent in PTSA/PTSA meetings, Board meetings, making posters and decorations, prepping budget reports (we see you Treasurers!), and so much more! When we log our off-campus hours, we will increase our eligibility for grants and educational programs for our students.

### Here's how to log volunteer hours completed off campus:

1. Go to [Raptor](#) and Login using the ID and password provided by your Dividend registration. *First time Dividends will set this up once their Dividend application has been processed. If you need assistance with your login, email [misa\\_mills@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:misa_mills@scps.k12.fl.us)*
2. Upon login, you are directed to your Personal Information. If PTA/PTSA Event is not listed under Function, email [misa\\_mills@scps.k12.fl.us](mailto:misa_mills@scps.k12.fl.us) to have it added to your profile.
3. Click on Hours at the top of the screen
4. Click on Add Hours
5. Enter the following:
  - a. Past Event – Event Not Listed Here
  - b. Building – Your School
  - c. Function – PTA/PTSA Event
  - d. Select the Start Date/Time and End Date/Time
  - e. Organization – None
  - f. Notes – optional such as the title of meeting or type of volunteer work.
6. Click Save



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## Awards Applications are now open!

Our PTA's work hard every year to do amazing things. Help us recognize you by applying for awards that are focused around representing the mission of the PTA, membership, volunteerism, and more.

Applying for and winning awards helps show your membership where their money is going, and shows other PTA's ideas of new programs to try.

The deadline is March 18 for SCCPTA awards, so don't delay – apply today!



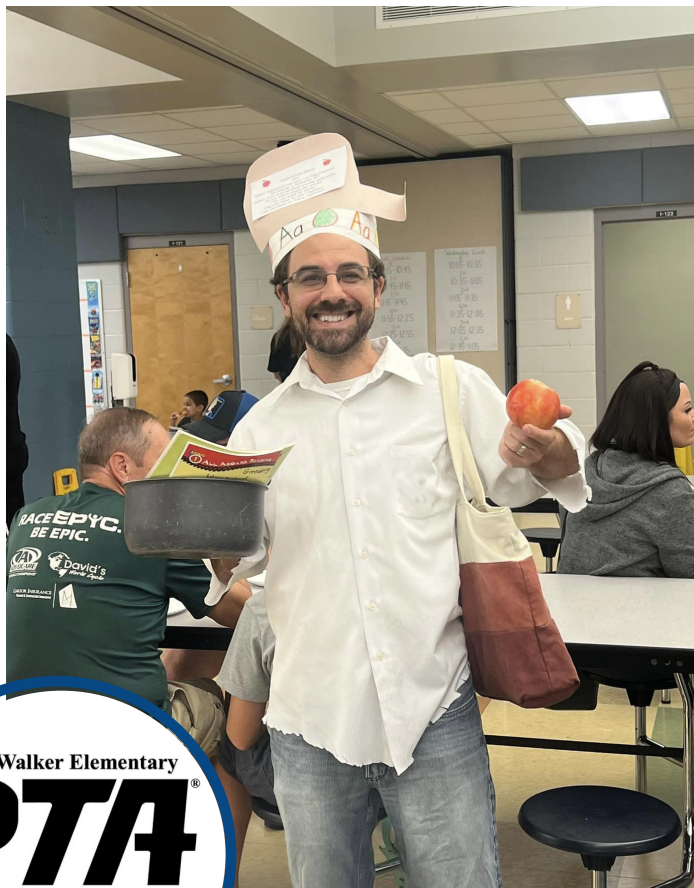
# PTA/PTSA OF THE MONTH

The Walker Elementary School PTA meets monthly to discuss how to include ALL students and engage their parents/caretakers. Many of these members are volunteering daily to make Walker Elementary safe, fun place for education where ALL students feel included.

One big change is the Reflections program entries and their strides to reach every student by setting up informational tables for students and parents, email and print communication and an easy-to-click QR code for entry. This allows more students to participate and have their talents seen and recognized by the community.

An additional effort is the push for the Walker Food Pantry. This year, this PTA has worked tirelessly to encourage donations to the Food Pantry at every event and anytime students or parents come on campus. With a box put in the front of the school and mentioned in the majority of event flyers, families are made aware of how to donate and also how to apply. The Walker PTA want families to feel whole and go home with food for the weeks and weekend by making sign-up and pick-up easy.

This PTA has really stepped up for inclusion, making sure communication is sent home in multiple ways to include all families and students at events, in initiatives, and efforts! The pictures included show our last Family Literacy Night with an overwhelming response from families to come out to the Book Fair, Interactive Story Time, Pizza and Kona Ice.



Joan Walker Elementary  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice

## WALKER ELEMENTARY PTA

Walker Elementary PTA was chartered in 2004 and have already seen an increase of over 50% in their membership from last year (which they beat their goals then too)! This year, they have been supporting their school, teachers, community, and more. Show them some support by becoming a member of this growing PTA. Every voice counts.

Click the link to the right! >

[Join Today!](#)



[@walkerelementarypta](#)



**Our Children Magazine is the  
unique voice for parents,  
published by National PTA.**

**It's created for the parent who's  
always on the go and looking for  
the best info to help their child  
excel at school and in life.**

**Sign up [HERE](#).**



**PTA**  
Parent-Teacher Association

**how can we help you?**

The SCCPTA Seminole Outreach Committee is here to help and connect with your local unit. We want to be a resource for you and your members, and we're here to help in any way we can. We know that planning and executing events can be a lot of work - and we want to take some of

Are you a Seminole County PTA or PTSA and need volunteers for your events? The reach out to [volunteer@sccpta.com](mailto:volunteer@sccpta.com) with the information. Remember all on-campus events during school hours require SCPS Dividend approval. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



RAP-Reading Acceleration Program Volunteers assist first grade students who are reading below grade level. Dividends volunteers tutor one student at a time for 30 minutes once a week. Training events coming up:  
**English Estates October 17, 2023 9:00-10:30**  
**Spring Lake October 23, 8:30-9:30**



Check out the latest [news](#) from Seminole County Public Schools - the School Board of Seminole County and the Seminole Education Association, Inc. are pleased to announce that the parties have tentatively agreed to contract language and compensation

**IN OTHER NEWS**

# COLLEGE AND CAREER



Check out the updated web page for High School Seniors!



Are you looking for graduation requirements, ways to get volunteer hours, information on scholarships, how to fill out the FAFSA? All of that and more is now available at [www.sccpta.com/college-resources.html](http://www.sccpta.com/college-resources.html).

You can also reach out to [scholarships@sccpta.com](mailto:scholarships@sccpta.com) with any questions, and we will be glad to assist.

[www.sccpta.com/college-resources.html](http://www.sccpta.com/college-resources.html)

SCCPTA SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLICATIONS COMING SOON!

## Student Leadership Opportunity!

Did you know that SCCPTA has a student committee? The committee is comprised of middle and high school students from across Seminole County who want to make a difference in their community and build leadership skills. The chair must be a high school senior. The chair applications have been filled, but committee positions are still open. Click [here](#) to apply now.

Donate Today! Please. 🙏



Did you know that Seminole County Council PTA supports all kids in Seminole County? We also provide a scholarship each year to our seniors. Click the image above to [donate](#) general support or directly to the scholarship fund.



Introducing Dear Pat. Looking for advice for your PTA? Email [secretary@sccpta.com](mailto:secretary@sccpta.com) for your question to be featured.



# Dear Pat



**Our board has a Calendar of Events that we voted on at the beginning of the year. If there is a change such as pushing the book fair dates back one week or changing a Spirit Night from a Wednesday to Thursday, does there need to be a motion and vote at the Board meeting?**

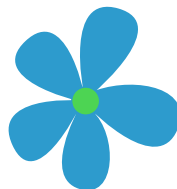
One approach is to focus on the intent of having a calendar of events. Voting on a calendar of the events at the beginning of the year creates commitment and agreement within the board that those items are the priorities and events for the year and results in a calendar that maps out what the board would like to do and try to not run into each other and overbook or burnout volunteers.

As things change, keep the entire board informed at your monthly meeting. A good practice is to include a list of the upcoming dates for the next 1-3 months at the end of the agenda. If a board member wants to discuss a specific change they can raise it in their board report or new business. If you post or share your Calendar of Events, you want to make sure that you keep it up-to-date with any changes.

It may make sense to revisit and vote on the Calendar of Events in January so that any changes can be reviewed with the membership at the Winter General Meeting, particularly if the addition or removal of events will potentially require a membership vote on budget adjustments at the General Meeting.

Interested in volunteering? Check out the opportunities to help out at local Seminole County PTA's / PTSA's.

Remember that all events that are on-campus during school hours required volunteers to be approved Dividends.



[volunteer@sccpta.com](mailto:volunteer@sccpta.com)

**SCCPTA SEMINOLE OUTREACH**  
**Volunteers Needed**  
We are looking for people who have a high dedication to advocate for children and help the community!

**Let's Join Us**  
**OPPORTUNITIES NOW AVAILABLE**

**WE NEED HELP WITH:**

- Fall Festivals
- Trunk-Or-Treats
- Book Fairs
- So Much More!

**SNACKS & BEVERAGES ARE PROVIDED. VOLUNTEERS ALSO GET EVENT T-SHIRTS**

Sign up to be a SCPS Dividend:  
<https://dvd.scps.k12.fl.us>

THANK YOU TO  
**OUR SPONSORS**

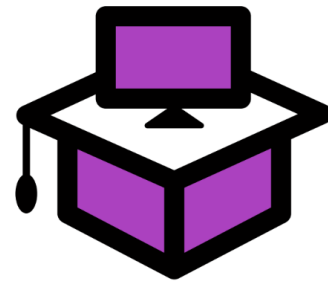
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making merry memories



Where children discover the joy of giving!

# Leonard's

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We are Brighter Together






INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



building • leaders





The Company You Keep