



SPARKY'S SCOOP

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

- Tie-Day Day is on Thursday, September 12!
- Bike Bus and Walking School Bus are starting next Wednesday and Thursday!
- [Passport Club](#) is starting back up! Deadline to sign-up is Monday, September 9, and first quiz is Friday, September 20.
- Jog-a-Thon is coming up at the end of this month! Set your personal fundraising goals and get started now by signing up on the Sexton Mountain [Pledgestar](#) website.
- Volunteer Orientation is on Tuesday, September 10 from 9-9:30am in the school office.
- Volunteer Sign-ups are now available in ParentSquare! Follow instructions [here](#) to sign-up.
- PTC Volunteer Survey – Help us know what you are interested in helping with by completing the [survey](#).
- BSD Volunteer Application – All those wishing to volunteer must apply! Get started [here](#).
- Add upcoming PTC Events to your calendar – Visit the [PTC Calendar](#) to find out more!



TIE-DYE DAY

Tie-dye day is Thursday, September 12. Students will tie-dye shirts to wear at performances, on field trips, and just for fun. Volunteers will be on hand to help students with this colorful SME tradition.

K/1/2 Students: please tie your shirts at home and bring them to school in a Ziploc bag by Wednesday, September 11.

3/4/5 Students: bring a white shirt to tie in class. Bring your shirt by Tuesday, September 10.

We have extra shirts, rubber bands, and plastic bags in the office - just let us know if you need supplies!

If you need inspiration, check out some fun ideas here [tie-dye techniques](#).

Can you volunteer?

- Find volunteer shifts on ParentSquare here <https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/36288863>
- Our schedule is very fluid, so particular shifts will not necessarily cover specific grades/classes. But all our students would love your help!

Get Ready to Run with Sparky's Jog-a-Thon!

We are so excited to share that Sparky's Jog-a-Thon will be on **Friday, September 27th**!

Look for more detailed information to follow – here are some early highlights:

Our **BIGGEST** fundraiser of the year requires help from our entire SME community: Families, Staff, Volunteers and the Community. We couldn't do it without YOU! All funds raised go directly to benefit students at SME with programs like music, PE, technology and resources.

Pledgestar is the online platform we use to collect and track donations for the Jog-a-Thon.

Please sign up at [Family Login Page | Pledgestar](#)

As in years past, we are offering **PRIZES** to students for participating and at the different levels noted below, based on the donations they raise (specific prize details to come):

- Every participant will receive a Dairy Queen treat coupon
- Students who raise at least \$25
- Students who raise at least \$100
- Students who raise at least \$250
- Students who raise over \$500

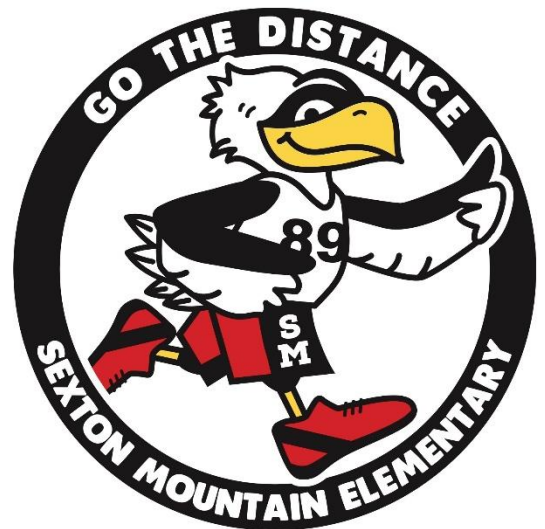
We will also have prizes for:

- Top 3 fundraising students
- Top fundraising class
- Top earning class in each grade
- Top earning grade
- A special all school prize for hitting the fundraising target of \$31,000 (net)

Plus all student fundraisers will be entered into a drawing for a special raffle prize.

All donations must be received by October 15, 2024 to count toward prizes.

Look for volunteer opportunities coming soon and more info on the Jog-a-Thon over the next few weeks!



Full Calendar of 2023-2024 Events on PTC Website

Looking forward to the Carnival? Love Bingo night? Get them added now so you can squeeze in playdates and sports confidently.

This year we've put together a list of all scheduled events so you can mark your calendars months in advance. Check out the [PTC Calendar](#) for event dates. Additional events that have not yet been scheduled will be added as more information is available.

VOLUNTEER



Complete your Volunteer Application

We love our volunteers at Sexton Mountain! If you plan to volunteer at Sexton Mountain, whether in the classroom or for specific activities, you **MUST** have an approved volunteer application.

Visit the [Volunteer webpage](#) on the School District website to get started. The entire process — including the review of the Child Abuse Prevention & Reporting and Adult Sexual Misconduct training materials — should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Our first major event will be Jog-a-thon near the end of September, but we will also be looking for volunteers to help with Art Lit, Tie-Dye day, office work-room tasks, Sparky's Running Club, and Passport Club to get the year started!

Volunteer Interest Survey – We want to hear from you!

The PTC is hoping to hold as many events as possible this year. Some events will remain the same, and some may be new... but we can't do this without YOU!

Please take 2 minutes to fill out our [Volunteer Interest Survey](#) to indicate which scheduled events and volunteer opportunities you might be willing to help with.

Note: this does not commit you to helping at that event. Official sign-ups will be made through the volunteer system.

Volunteer Orientation

September 10th from 9-9:30am

New to volunteering, need a refresher, or have questions? The Volunteer Coordinator will be holding a Volunteer Orientation Session, and we hope to see you there!

You can also send your volunteering questions to volunteer@sextonmountainptc.org

Volunteer Sign-ups are in ParentSquare

When you want to sign up for a volunteer shift you will now go to ParentSquare. **You must also already be approved in Raptor.** Please don't sign up for shifts if you haven't gotten your Raptor approval first. We will be checking to make sure all volunteers who signed up for shifts have completed their Raptor background check. If you sign up and have not been approved in Raptor first, you will NOT be allowed to volunteer.

Please be patient with us as we transition to this new system and get our normal activities up and running.

For information on how to sign up for volunteer shifts go to <https://sextonmountainptc.org/volunteering>

Upcoming Events

Sep 10 9-9:30am	Volunteer Orientation
Sep 12	Tie-Dye Day
Sep 24 6:30pm	PTC Quarterly Meeting
Sep 27	Jog-A-Thon
Oct 4-10	Book Fair
Oct 9	Int'l Walk & Roll to School Day
Oct 10 5:30-7pm	Bingo Night
Oct 11	Staff Dev Day – No School
Oct 14	Picture Day

Sexton Mountain PTC Meeting

The first PTC Quarterly Meeting for the 2024-2025 school year is on **September 24th at 6:30pm**. Look for an agenda and more information in the next Scoop.

To participate in voting, you must join the PTC each year by going to our website and [filling out the membership form](#) prior to the meeting. All parents and guardians of current SME students are encouraged to join, as are all SME teachers and staff. Members are invited to attend general membership meetings and vote on PTC business such as officer elections and annual budgets. Membership is free and open throughout the year.

Art-Lit Program

Art Literacy is a vibrant program that gets volunteers into the classroom, teaching kids about famous artists, techniques and their own potential to express themselves through a wide range of art forms. A different artist (or group of artists) is explored each month.

If you are interested in volunteering with art literacy, please contact Sara Fantl at sara.s.fantl@gmail.com as soon as possible to get on the volunteer mailing list!



Bingo Night is October 10th

Mark your calendars for SME's Family Bingo Night on October 10th! This is a super fun event for the whole family to participate in.

More details to come soon!

Sparky's Walking School Bus and Bike Bus are making a grand comeback!

Get ready to jump on board for a lively journey to school every Wednesday and Thursday morning. Kids who get active on their way to school get a double dose of fun and benefits: more exercise, a happy brain, and arrive at school with laser focus and ready to conquer the day. Plus, it's an absolute blast!

JOIN THE SEXTON MOUNTAIN BIKE BUS!

Every Wednesday!
 Carolwood Park @ 7:30 am
 2.1 miles = 15 min. ride

Helmets required!

WHAT'S A BIKE BUS?

tinycl.com/mr2ejpd9

BEAVERTON
 Safe Routes to School

Map Key:
 School
 Starting Location
 Bike Bus Route

TOGETHER WE GROW

Check out the [website](#) to see a great new video about the Walking School Bus.

Bike Bus starts Wednesday, September 11th

Walking Bus starts Thursday, September 12th

Parents, you're invited to walk or pedal alongside us, or simply drop & go.

Wednesdays are all about biking with buddies and teachers, while Thursdays are for strolling! Rain or shine, these programs are here to stay all year long. Let the adventures begin!

JOIN THE WALKING SCHOOL BUS
 Every Thursday - Rain or Shine!

Walking School Bus

Why walk to school?

- Get exercise
- Reduce pollution
- Meet new friends
- Make school routes safer for all students

DETAILS
 Walmart Parking Lot
 9055 SW Murray Blvd.
 Thursdays @ 7:30am
 .9 miles = 20 min. walk

Map Key:
 School
 Starting Location
 Walking School Bus Route

BEAVERTON
 Safe Routes to School

BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Metro

Beaverton

Oregon Department of Transportation

TOGETHER WE GROW

Walk, Bike, Bus... It's the Way to Go!

The [Beaverton Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) program](#) is all about creating safe, convenient and fun opportunities for students to walk and roll (skateboard, bike, scooter and bus) to and from school.



This is important for the health and safety of our kids and to foster the creation of livable, vibrant communities. The SRTS program aims to increase physical activity and improve unsafe walking and bicycling conditions.

Be Safe. Be Smart.

The new school year is the perfect time for students and families to start creating healthy (and safe!) habits. Safety is everyone's responsibility! Here are some reminders when you are traveling in your neighborhood:



- Keep your eyes and ears open for traffic all around.
- Wear a helmet whenever you travel by bike, skateboard, scooter, or roller skates.
- If driving, slow down to 20 mph or less in school zones and neighborhood streets.
- Check for safety at all intersections and in bike lanes.

Remember to be alert and mindful of all road users (no texting!).

School Bus Safety

Everyone can help keep kids safe around the school bus.

Here's how you can help:

- Motorists must stop up to 25 feet from the school bus when the stop arm is out, and the flashing red lights are on.
- It is illegal to pass a school bus within the roadway as it drops off or picks up passengers regardless of the direction of approach unless there is a barrier or unpaved median separating the directional lanes of traffic.
- Parents should supervise young children at the bus stop and review safe loading and unloading procedures.
- Students should stay three giant steps away from the road until the school bus stops and the doors are open.
- Students should always cross in front of the bus, stay five giant steps away, make eye contact with the bus driver and ALWAYS check for passing vehicles before entering the roadway.





Remember Your Helmet!

Don't forget to make sure your child is wearing a properly fitted helmet on their ride to school this year. All students riding bikes and scooters should wear a helmet, regardless of their ability. Studies have shown that wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85% in the event of a bicycle accident.

Not only do they protect our brains, but it is also against the law in the state of Oregon for a child under the age of 16 to ride a bike without a helmet. In addition, according to state law, all e-scooter riders must also wear a helmet regardless of their age.

Visit the SRTS [website](#) to learn how to fit your helmet.

Be Mindful in the School Parking Lot

When dropping off your student on school grounds, be sure to follow the school's arrival/departure procedure to help ensure safety and efficiency for all. [Find our school's map here.](#)

- Know the plan, follow directional arrows and volunteers
- Pull forward as far as possible before dropping off
- Students MUST enter/exit vehicle onto/from the sidewalk
- Students must cross at intersections: DO NOT wave students across travel lanes
- 5 mph/maximum speed on school property
- When dropping students off, driver must stay at the wheel

Please park your car if you need to:

- walk your student to the door
- watch your student enter the building
- get supplies from the trunk
- help with a coat or backpack
- send your student off with anything more than a wave or good-bye

Thank you for keeping the parking lot flow smoothly so everyone can stay safe and be where they need to be in a timely fashion.



Sexton Mountain Passport Club

Sexton Mountain Families,

We would like to introduce you to a great opportunity that your child can participate in at our school: **Passport Club**.

Every child can participate as long as they are curious about and would like to learn the geography of our world. By the end of the school year, they can know all the continents and the oceans and seas, all the countries in the world, and capitals of about 20% of the countries. They will also be familiar with all the states and capitals of the United States.



What we offer is an extracurricular program provided by the Sexton Mountain PTC, where studying takes place at home, and a monthly quiz is taken before school, usually on the first Friday of the month. Testing only takes a few minutes, and the kids are off to start their day.

Every month Passport Club members will receive a map to take home. The map contains the names of about 25 countries and 5 capitals of 5 of these countries. This is divided up into 5 levels. Each child can choose how many levels he or she is comfortable studying.

Students who learn all 5 levels correctly every month this year will obtain Passport Ninja status and will be given the opportunity to help the parent volunteers with testing next year. To be able to obtain Ninja status gives the kids a goal, a sense of ownership, and in the end a sense of pride.

So, what is so good about this program?

- 1) Children will feel a great sense of accomplishment. They receive a passport, and they collect stamps for every level they pass throughout the year.
- 2) They will grow up to know where the places are that they hear about in the news or where some of their classmates have come from.
- 3) World geography is not emphasized as much in school these days, and this will give your kids the opportunity to learn this important information here at our school.

All in all, Passport Club is a great opportunity for every child that is curious about all the different countries in the world.

The **cost is only \$5 per student** for the whole year, and you can [**sign up today**](#).

Sign up by Monday September 9, 2024. The first quiz will be Friday September 20 at 7:45 am!

We could always use more volunteers! If you study a little bit with your child for each monthly quiz, you are qualified. It's easy, quick (30 minutes), and fun! Just be sure to [**sign up to be a volunteer**](#) on the BSD website if you haven't already, the sooner the better.

We hope you can join us in exploring the world with Passport Club!

Questions? Check the FAQs on the following page, or email [**smespassport@sextonmountainptc.org**](mailto:smespassport@sextonmountainptc.org)

SME PASSPORT CLUB FAQ

What is Passport Club?

Passport club is a volunteer run geography enrichment program offered at Sexton Mountain Elementary. It is designed to encourage students to learn the names and locations of the world's countries and the fifty states over the school year. This is an optional program for your student brought to you by the Sexton Mountain PTC and Passport Club Volunteers.

How Does Passport Club Work?

The program is based on a monthly geography quiz led by parent volunteers. Every month, students are given a study map with 25 countries or geographic features of the world. Then at the quiz they will be asked to identify the location of those countries or features on a world map. The study maps are divided into five levels, and **students may study as many levels as they choose.**

- **Level 1:** 5 countries
- **Level 2:** 5 countries (10 total)
- **Level 3:** 5 countries (15 total)
- **Level 4:** 10 countries (25 total)
- **Level 5:** the 5 capitals of the Level 1 countries
- **Bonus:** 10 states & state capitals (November – March)

If students successfully locate all five levels of countries each month, **they will learn more than 200 countries by the end of the school year!**

Your student and family can decide how much they wish to learn. Some kids ALWAYS want to master all five levels; others learn more or less depending on interest and/or other activities they have. A good start is for students to learn at least to the level of their current grade number.

Kids who get a perfect score all year (Level 5 each month, and mastery of the United States) will get Geography Ninja t-shirts, will be called "The Ninjas", and will be invited to help with the club next year.

Think of it as the Mountain Guides of Geography! Awards will be given at the end of year to all participants, along with their stamped passport where they have been tracking their progress!

All grade levels K-5 are welcome to participate, usually students try to learn as many levels as they can, but any level of participation in any grade is welcomed and encouraged!

SME PASSPORT CLUB FAQ (continued)

When are students quizzed?

Tests are **once per month** (usually the first Friday of the month) **before school from 7:45 – 8:10** in one of the portable classrooms. Testing Dates are scheduled for the mornings of:

Friday September 20, 2024

Friday October 4, 2024

Friday November 1, 2024

Friday December 6, 2024

Friday January 10, 2025

Friday February 7, 2025

Friday March 7, 2025

Friday April 4, 2025

Friday May 2, 2025

Make up tests will be arranged as needed, and student progress will be sent monthly to the email address you sign up with.

How do we study for the monthly quiz?

Paper Study Map: Every student receives a study map for each month, and they can **study on their own** at home, or **with help from their family**. When you are practicing with your student, you can name the country and ask them to point to it on the blank world map, just like they will do in the monthly quiz at school.

Online Map Quiz Game: For those learning all 25 countries each month (Levels 4 & 5), there is a fun map game for each month which you can access from the passportclubonline.com (under Free Resources > For your Classroom > Online Map Quizzes > Purpose Games). Students challenge themselves to get a higher and faster score until they have learned all of the countries for that quiz.

How do we sign up? **Sign-up by 9/9/2024**

The link to the sign-up form can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/sextonmountainptc.org/passport>

The cost is \$5 per student.

You can view more info on the Sexton Mountain Passport Club website:

<https://sites.google.com/sextonmountainptc.org/passport>

Questions?

Email passportclub@sextonmountainptc.org

