

Root Elementary School New Parent Guide Book

We are so proud of our school, our students, our staff, and our VERY active parents. We realize that as a new parent to Root, all the activities and volunteer opportunities can be really overwhelming! The purpose of this booklet is to help new parents feel at home at Root, to help you find a place that you will feel comfortable volunteering, to prevent frustration by helping you understand our systems, and to be sure you don't miss out on anything great!

It is important to remember that, in addition to educating our children, the faculty and staff at Root has the serious responsibility to keep our children safe while out of your care. We must keep in mind that our strict adherence to many of Root's rules is necessary for the safety of all the children here at Root.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Arrival Time- Students may arrive at Root as early as 8:35 am. Please do not bring your children to school before that time. Unexpected children cannot be adequately supervised and could represent a potential security risk. What may amount to a convenience to you could be an inconvenience to teachers or staff who may not be ready to begin caring for them. If you require early morning childcare, you should consider placing your children in our school's organized early arrival program.

Early Arrival Program- The Early Arrival Program provides morning care for students from 7:00-8:35 am. You must register your child in the Media Center on the day that you would like your child to begin the program. The cost is \$61.25 per month per child with a \$10 registration fee per child.

Breakfast- Breakfast is served at the Root cafeteria from 8:35-9:00 am and costs .80.

Commencement Time- The school day begins at 9:05 am. Students arriving after that time must report to the office with their parent to sign in and receive an admittance slip. This requirement allows administrators to follow the route of the tardy student from the moment of his arrival at school.

Announcements and Pledge- Immediately upon the commencement of the school day, students will say a daily pledge of allegiance to the flag and will receive news from administrators during morning announcements. These may notify students of schedule changes, assemblies, student honorees, and special responsibilities.

Dismissal - Students will be dismissed from school at 3:45 p.m. At the beginning of the school year parents will be asked to let the school know how each child will be transported home. Keep in mind throughout the year that releasing almost 500 energetic students from their classes can be a very hectic operation for our teachers. If you plan to make any variance at all in your child's mode of transportation home, it is requested that notice be given well before dismissal time, preferably in the form of a note from home in the morning or a call in to the office before 2:30 p.m. After that time the office staff is very busy with the dismissal process.

Wednesday Dismissal - Students will be dismissed 1 hour early every Wednesday. All dismissal policies will be the same as any other day, but 1 hour earlier. On Wednesdays our teachers will participate in PLC's or Professional Learning Communities.

Signing your child out early - Should you need to pick your children up from school before dismissal time you must do so by signing them out at the office. From there administrators will call the student's teacher and ask that the student be excused. Because this call and the resulting stir represent a disruption both to the teacher and the students, it is requested that parents resort to early pick up only when absolutely necessary.

What constitutes a full school day?- In order for students to be deemed present for the school day they must arrive at school no later than 12:30. Dismissal prior to 12:30 will be deemed an absence.

Car Pool

No school procedure causes more daily ire for both parents and administrators than the car pool line. Here the fine line between releasing the students quickly while keeping them safe is most carefully trod. Keep in mind that every parent in the line is just as eager as you are to see their child and get him or her home (or to an immediate after school activity). While not following the rules exactly may seem perfectly fine, every deviation from the expected procedure could cause confusion for administrators or for the parents behind you in line, which could result in an accident. Even when accidents are avoided, disorderly assertion in the car pool line is not courteous to the other parents who endeavor to follow the rules.

Formation of the line – Carpool line comes up Church at North Hills Street, beside Church of the Apostles. It turns to the right, immediately before the Root campus. Children are dismissed from the side of the school facing away from the beltline. Parents are asked to pull their cars as far up as possible. Teachers and staff will escort children to cars. Once dismissal begins, **do not pass the car ahead of you**. We ask that you please wait until the car ahead of you has pulled away. Cars will circle to the front of the school and exit on Church at North Hills Street.

Student release - Students are released from school in groups based on where their parents are in line. Someone in the office will have a complete roster of all students that traditionally car pool. Mr. Ware (or another responsible person) will communicate the names of the students of each parent in line, beginning with the first car. At approximately 3:40 (2:40 on Wednesdays) the first group of carpool students will be dismissed. When Mr. Ware feels that the first group of students is safely within their vehicles, the second group of students will be dismissed. New parents will be thrilled to see how quickly Mr. Ware will recognize faces and place children without even having to be reminded! Because the students are dismissed according to the order of cars parked in line, it is clear that inserting yourself in front of other cars will do absolutely nothing to get you home faster.

No parking in the carpool line– Please do not park in the fire lane in front of the school (which is the carpool lane in the morning and afternoons). The fire marshal has warned us numerous times to leave this lane open; we must park on the street in front of the school instead. Adhering to this rule is greatly appreciated. It is ok though to park in the carpool lane in the afternoons starting around 3:00 if you heed the following instructions. Parents who tutor or volunteer at school or parents wishing to take a quick walk before school is dismissed may park in the carpool line if you leave a note indicating who you need to pick up. This way your child may be dismissed in order and the carpool line can safely advance. **If you do this you MUST be back in your vehicle by 3:35 before the line begins to move. If you need to visit the school during the dismissal period, DO NOT park in any area of the carpool line.**

Obstructions in the carpool line - On occasion a service vehicle or car will be parked in the carpool line. This is obviously a problem for our system, but parents should carefully go around the obstruction while maintaining the order of the line. “Passing” in the carpool line not only upsets the order of the cars, resulting in confusion for the student looking for their parents, but also creates a potential accident situation.

Stay in your car and keep the line moving - Once the carpool line is moving it is important to stay in your car and do your part to keep the line moving. Carpooling students should be able to enter their car unassisted by staff or parents. If your child requires help entering the car, whether due to opening doors or strapping himself in, you might consider asking that your child be dismissed as a walker. You can then park your car on the street beyond the school, and walk down to get them.

Parking Off Campus- It is extremely important for the safety of our students that parents do not park off campus and have their child meet them there. If you do this and are detained for some reason, your child would be unattended. Whereas if they are at school until you arrive, they are under the care of school staff. A few minutes saved is not worth the safety risk.

Early Release days

On occasion Wake county administrators might plan a faculty training session that requires the early release of students from school. Early release days are now **always system wide events occurring on Wednesdays**. The dates for the 2009 – 2010 school year are as follows: September 23, October 21, December 2, February 3, March 10, and April 21. You and your children will be reminded of planned early release days multiple times (on the calendar, with recorded phone messages, in the Root Word, during morning announcements, etc.). At Root, children are dismissed from school at **1:15** on Early Release Days. Lunch will be served.

Absences

Excused v. unexcused - Student absence will be deemed excused when notice of sickness, or medical appointments is provided in writing upon the student's return to school. Some absences deemed educational by administrators may also be excused if application for excusal is made prior to the absence. Inquire in the office about the procedure for applying for an excused absence.

Telephone announcement - In the event that your child is absent from school you will receive a recorded telephone message at your home number notifying you that your child has been marked absent from school. This is a safety measure.

School Supplies

The School Store – (School Store Committee) Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, between 8:35 and 8:55, your child will have the opportunity to bring his change to shop at the school store after reporting to their classroom. The store will have the basics - pencils and erasers - as well as all sorts of cool grips and mechanical pencils. Students are not required to shop at the student store.

Getting Acquainted

Parent Education – (Parent Education Committee) It can be an overwhelming experience to have your beloved little one enter the huge world of “big school.” It is the responsibility of the parent education committee to help smooth the transition. This committee developed this handbook to introduce you to the wonderfully thick list of activities and committees. The committee will also be responsible for periodic events throughout the school year to help parents learn about their students and the education provided for them.

School Directory – (Directory Committee) Experienced Root parents can't wait for this list every year. Shortly after the beginning of school, you will receive a directory that will serve as your Root phone book. It contains lists of every person in your child's class, as well as each student's phone number and address (unless that information is withheld by parents). This is the way we all catch up on missed homework assignments and address our valentines! In addition to this information, other important information like school calendars, PTA rosters, and enrichment parent's names are included.

Tuesday Folders- Most communication you will receive from the school will come to you every week in your child's Tuesday folder. This folder will be packed at the beginning of the year with calendars, volunteer forms, PTA communications, and news from your child's new teacher. It may also contain much of your child's weekly class work. Looking carefully through this folder each week is the best way to stay “in the know” at Root.

The Root Word – (Root Word Committee) Each week you will find the PTA newsletter called “The Root Word” in your child's Tuesday Folder. All committees submit their announcements to the Root Word Committee, and it is all compiled into one weekly newsletter. If you want to stay involved **READ THE ROOT WORD!** To submit an announcement in the Root Word, email Jennifer Norris at jknorris@nc.rr.com. Submissions must be received by Thursday for inclusion in the following Tuesday's Root Word. The Root Word will also be posted on the PTA link on the Root website. (The Root Word may be emailed to those of you who provide your email address to the Directory. If we get a majority of parent's email addresses, then only a monthly “hard copy” of the Root Word will be in the Tuesday Folder. This will save substantially on copier costs.)

Yahoo Group – In order get out information quicker (and save on paper), the PTA has a Yahoo Group. The Yahoo group will send out reminders of events, notify you about important happenings, etc. You must be a member of the Yahoo Group to get these important messages. Check your Root Word at the beginning of the year for instructions on how to join our Yahoo Group. You may also email Molly Thompson at mh_thompson@yahoo.com.

Lunch

Time allotted for lunch- It's a tough job getting hundreds of kids fed every day and fitting them in our cafeteria for lunch means tight scheduling for administrators. Your child will have 30 minutes for lunch. Each class has an assigned lunch time which your teacher will communicate with you.

Visiting your child at lunch- Parents are welcome for lunch at Root. The cafeteria staff enjoy seeing parents come through the lunch line with their children and children are always thrilled to see mom or dad in the middle of the day. Some teachers may request that parents not visit their children during the first week or two of school though, especially teachers of the youngest children (kindergarten and first grade) as they are trying their best to help their students become adjusted to the school environment. Reconnecting with home in the middle of the day can make that task more difficult. Please sign in at the office if you are visiting for lunch or for any reason.

Prepaying for lunch- Parents are always free to send cash each day with their child who is buying lunch. However, you may prepay for lunch by establishing an account for your child by sending a payment (check or cash) to the cafeteria. Lunch each day (without ice cream or other snacks) costs \$1.75. Our cafeteria manager asks that these payments be submitted in the cafeteria Monday through Friday by 10:00AM. You will also have an opportunity to put money in your child's account at Meet the Teacher day.

The Wake County Public School System also has several options for parents to pay for your children's lunches.

- AutoPay is a recurring payment method to automatically have money deposited into your child's lunch account.
- On-line payment is a prepayment option that allows payment on a secure website.
- The Phone Payment Option allows parents to call in payments by calling 1-877-744-5050 and giving your child's name, your name, school name, and amount to be paid.

For more information about these options and to secure an enrollment form for AutoPay, go to wcpss.net and click on lunch menus and then click on child nutrition. The 2009 – 2010 prices for breakfast and lunch have not changed. Below you will find a list of current prices.

Student Prices

	Breakfast	Lunch
Full	\$.80	\$1.75
Reduced	\$.30	\$.40

Lunch money or snack money?- When you submit a payment you will be asked to designate the money "lunch" money or "snack" money, or to apportion the sum between the two. This designation is designed to allow parents control over the money they send in to school.

No lunch money?- The PTA has a fund set up to loan money to any student who forgets their lunch money. A notification of the loan will be sent home, and the PTA appreciates prompt repayment!!!

Working with special dietary needs- Children with food allergies or special dietary needs are entitled to be treated with special care in the classroom and in the cafeteria. Parents should work in conjunction with the child's teachers, the school nurse, and the cafeteria manager to ensure that unsafe foods are not included on an affected child's lunch tray or as part of an enrichment activity snack. It is best to speak with the cafeteria manager and every employee that could be observing a child's lunch to explain the condition thoroughly and to spell out expectations.

Visiting/volunteering at school

Teacher policies- Just as each child at Root is different and special, each teacher has his or her own way of interacting with students and managing the class and that can only be answered by your child's teacher. Your child's teacher or the class enrichment parent will let you know of volunteer opportunities in the classroom. One of the best ways to find out about volunteer opportunities in your child's classroom is to attend the Open House in September.

There will be sign up sheets with various opportunities to get involved!

Signing In- Even if your child's teacher or Mr. Ware recognizes you, every teacher in the school may not. Every visitor MUST report to the office before entering any other part of the campus. Visitors must sign in, state a reason for being on campus, and receive a visitor badge. Teachers have been asked to deny entrance and report parents who do not have visitor's badges. Please accept this small inconvenience in order that all our children remain safe at Root.

Locked Doors- An additional security measure includes keeping all outside entry doors, except the door to the main office, locked to non-key holding personnel. Should you need to enter a door other than the door to the main office, you must be granted access by a faculty member with keys to the building. Again, remember that this inconvenience is only an effort to keep your children safe at school.

Communicating with your teacher

Teacher mail boxes- Teachers and assistants regularly check the mail boxes located in the office behind the lobby area. You may write notes or leave small packages for your teachers in their boxes. Place your note in the box UNDER your teacher's name.

Calling the school- It is unlikely that teachers will be able to communicate with you by phone during the school day. (They're teaching, after all!) You may call the main number at Root (881-4940) and have a message delivered to your child's teacher. This would be important if plans for transportation home change suddenly.

Email- Most of the teachers at Root are very technologically connected. Some even check their email often during the school day. If you know that your child's teacher likes to communicate via email there is no better way to keep in touch. Email addresses should be provided by your child's teacher, and are also published in the Root Directory

Conferences- Conferences are traditionally scheduled twice a year, once during the first quarter and once during the last. You also have the opportunity to request a conference with your teacher at any time that is convenient to you both. At your conference you will learn of your child's progress and get an idea where his education is progressing compared to system wide expectations for him. Teachers today use all sorts of tools, including timed tests, standardized tests, and work at designated levels, to help track your child's progress and to keep consistent tabs on goals and accomplishments for your child. Ask your teacher if you are not clear about the measurements. It is important that you have an understanding of them so that you can work with your child to keep him on track. Conference time is also the time for you to learn of your child's social life at school. (Is he behaving? Is he adjusting well and getting along with classmates?) Any social or behavioral problems will be brought to light during conference time.

Grading- All students in grades K-5 are graded by Standards Based Reporting. Levels 1-4 are used to indicate the student's level of performance.

Office Staff

Principal – Drew Ware
Assistant Principal - Jennifer Abraham
Sandy Wasserman - Lead Secretary
Connie Garrettson - Data Manager
Eve Navarro - Receptionist

School nurse & medications at school - There is a health room in the office with a day bed and sterile medical supplies. Root has a nurse who comes one day a week and sometimes as needed to address students' particular health concerns. She helps develop an individualized care plan for students. If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, you should meet with the school nurse and fill out the appropriate medical forms, especially if the student needs to take medication during the school day.

Office Volunteers – (School Volunteers Committee) The office staff can really use a hand in the afternoons and appreciate the help of a list of volunteers. These folks learn to help field late calls rearranging kids' rides homes from school, help check out kids who need to leave the school a few minutes early for appointments, and help answer the phones while the hectic task of managing the dismissal process is taking place. If you would like to volunteer in the office on occasion you may do so by calling the School Volunteers Committee Chair.

“The Specials”

There is so much that is special about the classes at Root that it seems odd to refer to only a few as “the specials.” Nevertheless that is the term that has come to be used for the 4 regular special classes that students rotate through during the week. It's good to keep up with which specials your child will be attending in order to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. (No dressy clothes on art days. Sneakers and comfortable clothes on P.E. days.) Here's a bit more about the specials.

Physical Education - Students learn about the importance of exercise for physical fitness and the importance of good sportsmanship. Some fitness oriented programs you may hear about are:

- First in Fitness — County Wide Event
- Track meet — County Wide Event

Music - Our music teacher leads the children in music instruction and uses her time with the children to prepare them for chorus programs that parents are invited to enjoy. Each grade level performs together at a different time of year.

Art- Students learn about and use different art mediums throughout the year. They create various projects that are often displayed around the school and sometimes in other places in the community.

Other Special Teachers and Programs

Counselor- Our school counselor's office is located in the main office area. Beth Tefft is there to help children and parents cope with extraordinary adjustments they may be facing in their lives. If your child has suffered a loss, has undergone a serious medical set back, or is experiencing unusual problems at home or at school, it is a good idea to share that information with the counselor. She will be able to more closely observe the student for signs of maladjustment and help the student through any trauma.

Technology- One of the terrific ways our PTA has been able to support our students is through the addition of lots of technology in our schools. Students are exposed to computers in their classrooms and in our state of the art computer laboratory. David Hooper is our technology teacher and he helps the children learn to type and to utilize the computer for on line research.

Speech Therapist- Lynn Reynolds works with students at Root who need special help with speech and annunciation. Students who benefit from this additional instruction are pulled from their classes at a regular period each week that is deemed to be appropriate by the students' teachers.

Literacy- Reading specialists work with students and teachers to implement literacy instruction.

CCR (Cross Categorical Resource) Teacher- Pull out program for students who need a variety of services.

AG- Our AG teacher, Jane Forde, is at Root two days a week offering differentiated lessons for students whose test scores and class performance indicate they are academically gifted. AG differentiation begins for fourth grade students and is available for reading and for math. Students are identified for differentiation by their performance on CogAT tests, which are usually administered in the late fall. The results of these tests, along with recommendations made by teachers, are considered when students are chosen for AG.

Latin- Mrs. Caralie Brown, a retired public school teacher, volunteers with Aldert Root 3 graders offering them exposure to Latin. As the building block for so many languages (including English!), the students' lessons in language help them with future language education as well as with reading for their entire lives!

Media Center- When we were coming along this may have been referred to as "the library." The addition of audio and video resources to our modern library has caused us to expand the title. Classes go to the media center as arranged by the teachers, and are allowed to check out books on a flexible schedule. Betty Sledge and Lib Upchurch meet with our children on a weekly basis.

School Pictures

Individual pictures- (Photo Sales Committee) Students should dress up and prepare to say cheese when photographers come to Root (October 8th). Prior to that time you will receive promotional materials giving you the opportunity to prepay for a package of photographs of your child.

Classroom pictures- Students will be photographed with their teachers and their entire classes on April 15. Again you will be offered the opportunity to prepay for a group picture before the picture is taken.

Yearbooks- (Yearbook committee) Throughout the year, yearbook committee photographers and shutterbug parents attempt to catch smiling kids and special guests for photos to include in our year book. If you take shots that you think are especially good, or that really capture a significant moment at Root, please print a copy to contribute to our yearbook. You may leave it in the yearbook committee mailbox. These pictures, along with the individual pictures taken in the fall, create a wonderful keepsake for students and parents alike.

The PTA

National Organization- Of course the Parent Teacher Association was around when you were an elementary school student! Once you read this booklet and see the long list of committees you will really appreciate what your mom was doing at those meetings long ago! When you join the PTA here at Root a portion of your membership dues (\$10 per parent per year) will be contributed to the National organization. It is really quite an achievement for a school to boast 90+% membership. Both parents are encouraged to join!

The Executive Committee- The executive committee of the PTA at Root is comprised of all the officers in our PTA. This board meets regularly to organize the huge number of PTA activities and to make PTA decisions that then must be approved by our PTA Board and General Membership. The executive board consists of President, Vice President (or Co-Presidents), Funding Vice President, Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Past President, Past Vice-President.

The Board- A look at the long list of board positions can be intimidating when you are a new parent at Root. There is so much being done! We've done our best to describe the roles of the various board committees in this booklet, but the best way to learn the ropes is to dive right in. If you see something that interests you or if you have an idea about how to improve something at Root you should approach the chair of the committee and start making a difference! The PTA board usually meets monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. To accommodate different parent's schedules, the meetings are sometimes held in the morning at 9:30am in the media center and sometimes at 6pm on Thursday in the media center. Check the Root website or the Root Word to confirm what time the meeting is each month. Even if you do not have a board position this year you are welcome and encouraged to attend the board meetings. You will learn about important school issues (and sometimes not so important things) and have the opportunity to be a part of discussions addressing concerns. Lists of Board members will be distributed more than once, but if you lose a list you can always find one within your Root directory.

PTA Mail Boxes- If you need to communicate with someone on the PTA board and you cannot catch them at school or on the phone (or if you do not know who this person is!), you may leave them a message or materials in the committee's PTA mailbox. The mailboxes are in the back of the main office.

Enrichment Parents

Description- While the PTA board is responsible for implementing school wide programs and events, the enrichment coordinator is the parent that makes things happen in each individual classroom. Perhaps you may have referred to them as “room moms” in the past, these parents are responsible for being the class connection between the PTA and each of the parents in the classroom. Enrichment parents also meet with each teacher to determine when that teacher will want special events and help in his classroom, and what special supplies may be needed. Enrichment parent responsibilities are unique to every teacher.

Selection Of Enrichment Parents- At Root we are so overwhelmed with parents wanting to be involved in our classrooms that there are often more volunteers to serve as enrichment parents than there are slots to fill. When more than two parents per class ask to be enrichment parents, the Enrichment Coordinator Committee will draw names for the positions. If it is your sincere wish to be an enrichment parent and you are not selected - FEAR NOT - there is plenty for everyone to do.

CC1 and CC2 Enrichment Parents- If being an enrichment coordinator is something you are well suited for you should consider volunteering to coordinate activities for the CC1 or CC2 classes at Root.

Enrichment Activities- There are lots of educational enrichment activities that take place in the classroom. These very often coincide with holidays and often include special snacks and treats.

Rootin Tootin

The Event- If you or your kids have any anxiety about your first days at Root it will all fade when you come to Rootin’ Tootin’. Typically held the third Friday in October, Rootin’ Tootin’ is the main event at Root. It’s more fun than the State Fair and a whole lot cheaper! There will be fun games to play, delicious food to eat, prizes to win, rides to ride and even a dunking booth featuring some of our more adventurous faculty. There is a silent auction and raffle as well. This is an opportunity for kids to run around and have fun at school with their new friends, and it is a time for parents to show support of the school by purchasing wonderful items donated to the auction. It is the main fundraising event at Root that raises over 90% of our funds for the year. Mark the date and plan to come and bring your entire extended family.

The Classroom Coordinator - Each class will have a Rootin’ Tootin’ coordinator that will be responsible for recruiting volunteers, and parents to bake items for the bake sale. Rootin’ Tootin’ is a school wide effort, and its success depends on everyone doing their part.

Role in PTA Budget- Not only is Rootin’ Tootin’ the fun school carnival, it’s also the time at Root when we pull out all the stops to raise money for our school. A large percentage of the PTA budget depends on money raised during this very important event. The remaining funds raised are used for “special projects” such as new computers, playground equipment, etc.

The Silent Auction- This year we will auction off class baskets. Each class will come up with a different theme such as gardening, bird watching, family game night, etc. and create a basket around that theme to be in the auction the night of Rootin’ Tootin’. We will also auction off tickets to various sporting events and maybe even some special time with and talents from our fabulous teachers!

The Raffle- You know how these work. Buy a ticket. Win a fabulous prize. Your kids will be asked to sell raffle tickets to family, neighbors and friends for \$1.00 each during the two weeks prior to Rootin’ Tootin’. Please do not allow your children to visit unfamiliar places without the supervision of a responsible adult. They will win prizes for selling tickets (a small prize for selling 25, a larger prize for selling 50, and so on), and the top sellers in the school will win some really great prizes. You may also contribute by donating some of the big prizes for the top sellers.

The Bake Sale- Each class will be asked to provide baked goods and casseroles for our bake sale. Casseroles are especially big sellers! The kids love to buy individually wrapped baked goods like cookies and cup cakes. Bake lots and come early to the bake sale for the best selection.

Sponsorship Opportunities- Because the funds raised at Rootin' Tootin' are absolutely essential to the operation of our school programs, spending money planning the featured rides and promoting the event is largely a leap of faith. For this reason we always seek sponsors who will contribute funds to help offset some of these original costs for Rootin' Tootin'. Sponsors will be recognized for their cash donations or for their gifts of prizes.

Other Fundraising Efforts- While Rootin' Tootin' is the only major fundraising effort we undertake at Root, there are some other easy ways you can help contribute to our school.

Box tops for Education- Save the marked box tops from Betty Crocker and General Mills products (especially cereals, cake mixes, and some snack foods). We'll be collecting the tops and sending them off for cash for our school!

Harris Teeter Link- 2804. Remember that number! Link up when you shop at Harris Teeter and your every day shopping will contribute directly to our school.

Target Credit Card- Sign up for a Target Credit Card and a percentage of your purchase will be given back to Root. See Target for details.

Chick-fil-A- Several nights throughout the year Chick-fil-A restaurant offers a percentage of all their sales to Root families back to the school. These are fun ways for your kids to see their friends, and for you to get out of making dinner!

Domino's at Glenwood Village- Once or twice a year this Domino's will offer a percentage of all sales on a particular night back to Root. Pick up or delivery, everybody wins!

Kroger- Link to Root with the barcode. Root will receive school supplies and other great merchandise when you shop at Kroger!

Food Lion- Link your MVP card on the Food Lion website.

Other Events - In calendar order (*PTA committee responsible in italics*)

Kindergarten Social- (Parent Hospitality Committee) Every year members of the hospitality committee serve up cool treats to rising kindergartners, their teachers and their families. It's a great event for little ones to have a chance to play at their new school and meet some new friends.

Yearlong Teacher Appreciation- (Yearlong Teacher and Staff Appreciation) This committee coordinates special activities throughout the year that show how much parents appreciate the staff. They organize a staff breakfast to welcome everyone back to school and host luncheons on "Meet the Teacher" day and at the end of school. They also provide snacks once a month in the teacher's lounge to show them how much we love them!

Open House- (PTA Presidents and staff) Within the first month of school, you will be invited into your child's classroom one evening to meet her teacher and to learn the "lay of the land." This will include learning about her schedule, her homework expectations, any unique policies, and meet your assigned enrichment parents. You will be asked to sign up for responsibilities at Rootin' Tootin', to volunteer to coordinate other PTA efforts (Fun in the Sun, Teacher Appreciation, etc.) and to participate in enrichment activities.

Family nights- (Family Nights Committee) Once school is underway our PTA makes efforts to allow our kids and their families and or special friends to come together for an event that is nothing but fun. This catered dinner (at a small fee) will be an opportunity for our school community to socialize and for students to show off their classrooms.

Kids Vote- (Kids Vote Committee) Coinciding with our own elections, the Kids Vote committee provides ballots just for kids and allows them to participate in the voting process. This is a lesson in civic responsibility and political empowerment.

Teacher and Staff Gifts-(Teacher and Staff Gift Committee) It is against Wake county school policy to give teachers and staff holiday or end of year gifts, but we want these wonderful people to know how much we appreciate everything they do for our kids! In lieu of giving individual gifts to staff this committee organizes a school wide holiday and end of the year donation program. Money is pooled together and the entire staff gets to decide how they will use this generous donation.

Reflections Art Contest- (Reflections Committee) After the Christmas holidays students will have the opportunity to submit entries for competition in the Reflections art contest. During the fall semester a theme for the contest will be announced, and students can prepare pieces that reflect the theme. Visual entries will be accepted, as well as poetry, original music, and narrative pieces. Winners in our school will advance to compete with other students in the county and the state.

Teacher Appreciation Week- (Teacher Appreciation Committee) Finally, a chance to shower our teachers with the kind of love and attention they deserve! This week is usually in the spring and is particularly designated as a time to appreciate all that our teachers do for us. A Teacher Appreciation Coordinator will be chosen from each class. That coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the events planned by the committee (feel free to appreciate your teacher all year long).

Book Fair- (Book Fair Committee) This is a traditional book sale. Held in the media center each year, the book fair offers a wide selection of books especially chosen to be appropriate and popular for elementary aged children. A portion of the money raised is kept by the PTA and used to purchase new books for our Media Center. There is also a small selection of books for parents. This is a great place to stock up on gifts for birthdays, Easter, mother's day, etc.

Science Day- (Science Day Committee) This is a day when we surround ourselves with some exciting aspects of the world of science. We will be conducting special experiments, hosting excellent scientific speakers, even bringing in animals! This fun day is an effort to make science interesting and accessible for kids. If you have a career or background that involves science you may be able to make a special contribution during this week.

Fun Run- (Family Nights Committee) Another family event held in the spring to have dinner, enjoy relay races, and visit with Root friends

Fun in the Sun- (Fun in the Sun Committee) Who needs field day, when we have Fun in the Sun? This is a non-competitive event where all the kids participate in all the activities (some 20 activities in all!). For one half of the day kids will play games with a buddy on the field, and during the other half they will enjoy some special entertainment. Parents will be invited to a picnic lunch in between the morning and afternoon events. A Fun in the Sun coordinator will be needed in each classroom to recruit volunteers for the outdoor games.

Fifth Grade Promotion- (Fifth Grade Promotion Committee) Being promoted from Root is a momentous occasion. Students completing fifth grade will take part in a formal commencement ceremony and will enjoy a celebratory reception afterwards. Committee members will be seeking volunteers to help prepare food for the celebration. Rising 5th grade parents provide a reception after the graduation ceremony. Current 5th grade parents organize other events during this exciting week.

Ongoing School Programs

Art in the School- (Art in the School Committee)

DARE- Drug Abuse Resistance Education — Taught in fifth grade

Inside Beautification- (Inside Beautification Committee) This committee works all year to make the inside of our school attractive and interesting. They are responsible for the bulletin boards in the school and for being a part of any major decisions involving school decor (new paint, flooring, etc.).

Outside Beautification- (Outside Beautification Committee) This committee will seek your help periodically to help do “yard work”. They will organize a force to clean up after Rootin’ Tootin’. They will be raking and blowing the leaves that fall on our campus. They will be planting perennials in the containers around the school and caring for the plantings on campus. If you enjoy working outdoors, please help this committee keep our school fresh and clean.

Character Education- (Character Education Committee) Teaching children positive character traits is an important part of their development. This ongoing program seeks to emphasize important character traits (integrity, respect, kindness, perseverance, courage, etc.) in programs throughout the year.

Hospitality Activities- (Parent Hospitality Committee) The hospitality committee has a big ongoing job. They are responsible for organizing and staffing the kindergarten social, which takes place after staggered entry is complete, and they also coordinate refreshments during each PTA board meeting, and during the open house.

Lunch Bunch- (Lunch Bunch Committee) Third grade students participate in the Lunch Bunch. Here a small group of students (4 or 5) will gather with a parent volunteer for stories on a particular chosen subject. Parents of third graders will be asked to be lunch bunch volunteers, a commitment that requires their presence reading at lunch every other week. If students find the designated subject to be particularly interesting, the books gathered for lunch bunch will be available to the students in the “bunch” for check out during the subsequent week.

Rooty Retail- (Rooty Retail Committee) What better way to show school spirit than to wear school clothing! The T-Shirt sales committee will periodically give you the opportunity to buy Root clothing and merchandise. Special T-shirts are traditionally made and sold for Rootin’ Tootin’ and Fun in the Sun. Other Root merchandise will also be offered. Look for an order form in your Tuesday folder. There is also an order form available on the Root Website.

Special Needs- (Special Needs Committee) This committee works closely with our guidance counselor, to respond to unique and ongoing needs.

-Extra clothes- Occasionally, due to a spill or accident, there is an emergency need for clean clothing. Sweat pants and shorts with elastic waistbands are handy for fitting students of all different sizes. Parents may be asked to contribute some of these items to our clothes closet. Keep this closet in mind before you toss out extra clothes.

-Lost & Found- Throughout the year items are left on the field during recess and in the cafeteria during lunch. These items are collected in the office lost and found. If your child misplaces a personal item, check in the lost and found before giving up! It is always a good idea to have your child’s name in his clothing.

-Holiday share program- If you are in need during the holidays or you would like to help a family in need, please sign up for this program. Regardless of your faith, if you would like to contribute to the needs of students whose families may be struggling during the holidays you may volunteer to be a “giving family” through our holiday share program. If you and your family are struggling during the holidays you may apply to be a “receiving family.” The program is designed to serve Root students, but donors will also be able to help siblings of students at Root. Needed clothing, books, and school supplies’ are particularly requested. This is an anonymous giving program and delivery of donated items is made through the Guidance office and the committee.

Aldert Root Educational Foundation

The Aldert Root Educational Foundation was incorporated in 2007 and has really taken off. In 2008, through the donations of parents, grandparents and alumni the foundation has raised money to supplement and fund several teaching positions at Root for 2009. Each student will be touched by these additional resources.

This is an ongoing effort and will require a continued effort to solicit funds to provide teaching positions each year. In addition to soliciting money, this past year the Foundation hosted a Gala to celebrate Root’s 50th anniversary. This was a huge event! We had alumni and parents come from all the 50 years of Root’s existence!

Welcome to Root!!!

Hopefully this booklet will be helpful to you and answer some of the questions you have as a new parent. As you see, there are so many areas where parents can get involved. We hope you will volunteer to help on one or many of the committees. This is a great way to meet people and contribute to the success of our school. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact the PTA President.

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