

## 1) What does the PTA do?

The PTA works closely with ECC administrators and educators to bolster our community and enhance each member's sense of belonging. For example, the PTA coordinates efforts to provide support, such as meal delivery, transportation, visits and calls, to those who could benefit from community assistance due to the birth of a new baby, illness or other circumstance; organizes Sunday playdates so families can get to know one another outside of the drop-off and pick-up rush; provides parent education opportunities, such as lectures and webinars; distributes *Monday Matters*, a weekly email containing important school announcement and information about activities going on at the school and at the synagogue; among other activities designed to strengthen the ECC community.

In addition, the PTA supports the ECC by recruiting and coordinating volunteers to help with holiday celebrations and other ECC programs and by raising money to provide supplemental funds for special events; education and training opportunities for ECC staff; educator appreciation gifts; and items that enhance the school experience. Whether you can give ten hours or ten minutes, please consider volunteering to make these events a success! To sign up to volunteer to help at ECC and PTA events, please visit the [OKECC PTA Volunteer Sign-Up page](#).

The PTA board meets several times a year to discuss plans and determine how to use PTA resources to best benefit our school. The PTA is always open to suggestions and welcomes feedback from all members of the ECC community - parents, educators and administrators.

## 2) What do PTA dues cover? And what is the difference between PTA dues and class dues?

Each year, the PTA requests an activity fee of \$30/child. PTA dues can be paid when families submit their application for the upcoming school year or directly to the PTA treasurer in the fall (appeal letters will be sent in September). PTA dues help support many ECC events, such as the ECC Family Picnic, Back-to-School Night, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon and other staff appreciation efforts, tzedakah projects, Truck Day, ECC holiday celebrations, Sunday playdates, and parent education lectures.

The PTA also collects an additional \$10/child to help offset the cost of the annual fundraiser. For example, during the 2013-2014 school year, the PTA sponsored a fundraising concert with the popular kids' band Rocknoceros. Funds collected from parents were used to defray the cost of the band's fees. In the past, this money was included in the class funds collected by room parents, who then wrote a check to the PTA. From now on, the PTA will skip this extra step and collect these funds directly.

Class dues, which are collected at the beginning of the school year, cover a Hanukkah gift for the class (such as a toy, supplies for a special project, etc.) and teacher appreciation gifts that are

presented to each educator at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon in May. Each family is asked to contribute \$10/child toward the classroom Hanukkah gift and \$5/teacher toward teacher appreciation gifts (total class dues vary based on the number of teachers in each class).

3) Where do proceeds from the PTA annual fundraising event go? ,

Each year, the PTA sponsors a major fundraising event, such as a silent auction or a concert. The PTA board, along with ECC parents and staff, determine the best use of the funds collected from this event. Funds from the 2013-14 event are providing financial support for a Reggio-inspired art curriculum for the 2014-15 school year. This pilot program, which will launch this fall, includes an art studio where our children can gather to work with all different materials. Kim Freedman, an ECC teacher with over 30 years of experience in the field of art, will lead our children in this adventure. Further, to kick off this initiative, the PTA is funding a presentation by Jennifer Azzarati, a seasoned art studio teacher from a Reggio-inspired school in DC, to come and speak with ECC educators during the August orientation. In the past, proceeds from PTA fundraising events have gone toward new playground equipment and new technology provided to all ECC classrooms and administrators in the form of iPads and Dropbox accounts.

4) How can I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved, and we need *all* families to join us in making this another successful year for the PTA and the ECC. Throughout the year, the PTA will request volunteers for PTA and ECC events, such as holiday celebrations and Sunday playdates. While some volunteer tasks require parents to be present at events, such as helping with set-up/clean-up, others can be done at home in the evening, such as making decorations, or ahead of time, such as purchasing and delivering supplies. We encourage each family to assist with *at least* one event each school year. Whether you can give ten hours or ten minutes, please consider volunteering to make these events a success! To sign up to volunteer to help at ECC and PTA events, please visit the [OKECC PTA Volunteer Sign-Up page](#).

In addition, we urge you to think about volunteering your time as a room parent. Room parents play a critical role in building strong classroom communities and facilitating connections between the school and its families. Room parents organize class socials outside of school, such as meet-ups at a local park; honor teachers' birthdays with small tokens of appreciations, such as homemade cards; help to rally support for various school-wide events; organize the purchase of a classroom Chanukah gift and end-of-year teacher appreciation gifts.