



# MES PTA Ways & Means 2011-2012

Dear MutualParents/Guardians:

Welcome to another great year at Mutual Elementary School! As the PTA Ways and Means co-chairs, we would like you to know how you can help our students by participating in several simple programs that benefit our school. Through your participation, Mutual PTA earns money at no cost to you! We use these earnings to help fund our Cultural Arts assemblies & artists programs, student programs, field trip transportation costs, family activities, classroom support, and so much more. Your participation and support are appreciated!!

Sincerely,  
Linda Ward & Kristin Halstead

## Ways & Means Program Highlights

**Grocery Card Programs:** Did you know that Mutual Elementary can earn **thousands of dollars** with your store club cards and your regular grocery shopping? You save money with store discounts and our school earns money at the same time with no extra out of pocket costs to you. **A Win-Win situation!** Please register your **Safeway Club Card**(eScrip), **Giant Bonus Bucks Card**, or **Food Lion MVP Card** during our Grocery Card Collection Contest in September! We will continue to renew your Safeway grocery cards every year or you may change your donation recipient at any time by going to [escrip.com](http://escrip.com). Giant & Food Lion cards must be re-registered every year, so please send in your card numbers soon.

**10% Goes Back to Schools program:** When you buy participating products at Safeway, marked with the schoolbus saving symbol from August 10<sup>th</sup> - September 13<sup>th</sup>, 10% will be awarded back to Mutual Elementary! In order for the cash to be awarded to Mutual, your club card must be registered with [escrip](http://escrip.com) or you must send us the bottom portion of your receipt from Safeway before October 12th!



**Box Tops:** The Box Tops for Education (BTFE) program offers 3 ways we can earn cash for our school:

- Box Tops coupons:** Clip Box Tops coupons from hundreds of Box Tops products and send them to school! Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them. A little bit from all of us can equal A LOT!
- Shop Box Tops marketplace:** Shop your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace <sup>SM</sup> ([btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace)). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to you and many exclusive deals & discounts can be found!
- Buy books:** Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading Room<sup>SM</sup>. Our school will receive 6% of your new book purchases and 3% of all other online purchases.

**Labels for Education (LFE):** Save your UPC & Beverage caps from participating Campbell's (and more) products. We collect points from these labels (1 ~ 5 ~10 point) & redeem for merchandise from the Labels for Education catalog!

**Tyson's Project A+:** Clip & save Tyson labels from over 50 participating Tyson Project A+ products and turn them in throughout the year. We need the ENTIRE top portion of the bag/ box for redemption! Each label is worth 24¢ for our school!



**GoodSearch:** Every time you search the Internet using **GoodSearch**, Mutual Elementary earns money. To sign up to benefit Mutual Elementary, use the **GoodSearch** link under the fundraising menu on our website [www.mutualpta.com](http://www.mutualpta.com) or visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to learn more. If just 100 of us made only TWO GoodSearches each day we could earn about \$730!! AND....there is no limit on how much money can be earned on GoodSearch by charities as long as the searches are not fraudulent. For more on that, go to [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com) and read the FAQ section.

**GoodShop:** Every time you make online purchases using **GoodShop**, Mutual Elementary earns money. To sign up to benefit Mutual Elementary, use the **GoodSearch** link under the fundraising menu on our website [www.mutualpta.com](http://www.mutualpta.com) or visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). This truly is the fundraising wave of the future since studies indicate that over 66% of Americans now shop online. Please consider making your online purchases at 2000+ retailers at the GoodShop online mall to benefit our children's education!

**Office Depot:** Office Depot awards 5% of your purchases back to Mutual Elementary which the PTA then uses to purchase office supplies throughout the year. Be sure to let the cashier know to credit Mutual Elementary School at the register. If you shop online at Office Depot, you can still receive this 5% award on purchases by including our **Office Depot Mutual account # 1663552360** during online checkout.

## Ways & Means and Recycling Earnings & Goals

Ways & Means	Earned 2010-2011	Goal for 2011-2012
Safeway Club Card(eScrip)	\$4971.41* 399 registered club cards	\$5000 100+ NEW registered club cards
Giant Bonus Bucks Card	\$2498.10 111 registered club cards	\$2500 100+ NEW registered club cards
Food Lion MVP Card	\$300.06 117 registered club cards	\$500 100+ NEW registered club cards
Box Tops for Education	\$2247.60 22,476 box tops collected	\$2,500 25,000 box tops
Tyson's Project A+	\$34.32* 135 labels collected	\$60 250 labels
Labels for Education	15,131 points	15000 points
GoodSearch/GoodShop (Aug-July)	\$26.21/\$563.57*purchases 2621 searches	\$30/\$650 3000+ searches
<b>TOTAL EARNINGS/GOALS</b>	<b>\$9,400.00*</b>	<b>\$11,240</b>

\* Earnings may not match disbursements made to date

**Your PARTICIPATION will help us reach our GOALS this year!**

- There are many ways to participate – pick all the ones that fit your family lifestyle.
- Get the kids involved – kids can glue/tape labels onto collection sheets or put them into baggies.
- Check for products in your pantry or freezer that may provide cash for Mutual.
- Ask friends if they support any school....if not, ask if they'll save labels for Mutual.
- Send grandparents, aunts & uncles, and other close relatives a reminder to check/save labels, too!

### ***A True Story: Crazy for Collecting***

We visited a friend in Arizona this summer & while I helped prepare a typical kids' chicken nuggets meal for our combined 7 kids, I pulled off the Tyson's Project A+ label & ask where I should put it to save for their school. My friend, Stephanie, replied that their school doesn't collect them. A bit giddy (remember, I'm a bit crazy for collecting), I asked if I could have it for Mutual & she readily agreed.

A bit more brazenly, I asked if she would mind if I cut off the other Tyson's chicken nugget label from the box that remained in the freezer. I reminded Stephanie that the nuggets are still sealed in the 'keep fresh' inner bag & again she agreed! We both laughed at how ridiculous it seemed to stuff two labels in my purse to take home. But those two labels are worth \$.48 to Mutual....and when combined with all the other labels I hope other families are collecting, it all adds up to FREE MONEY for MUTUAL!!

Well, I didn't stop with Tyson's. I asked about box tops and she said (rather protectively, I thought) "No, you can't have those because our school collects them." I said I was glad to hear that and I meant it because I hate to see box tops thrown out when they could be supporting education. Finally, I asked about all the Campbell's soups and Pepperidge Farms goldfish in her pantry that had a variety of 1 and 5 point Labels for Education on them. Again, Stephanie said that her school doesn't collect them. "Hurray for Mutual!", I thought. I spent the next few minutes removing the small rectangular point labels from each can since she still needed to be able to identify the type of soup in each can & one empty goldfish bag (ok, so I had to eat a handful or 2!). Point total in AZ? 37 points! Feeling of accomplishment? Priceless!

As I flew out at the end of our visit, my only regret is that I didn't ask her aunts, who we visited briefly, if they had any labels in their pantry that would be thrown out. Ah, well, next visit! And the take away from this true tale – DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR LABELS (even if you look a little crazy)!!