

WHY DUES MATTER

Why Do We Have PTA Dues?

Even though we have a first-class facility and staff at Key School, we are still a DC Public School, which means that we are at the mercy of an exceedingly unpredictable and complicated city budget. Due to successful fund raising and the dues and contributions from years past, we have always been able to protect our students from the vagaries of the system. But we can't do it without your help.

We have kept our dues low at Key—after research in 2007 we found that our dues were one of the lowest of Ward 3 public schools. We have tried to request a reasonable amount of money through dues & contributions, while keeping required fundraising to a minimum. This balance has served us well in the past and should continue to allow us to meet our needs – but it only works if everyone contributes.

We ask each family to try to pay from \$200 - \$300 in annual dues, depending on the number of children attending Key. If that is not possible, please contribute what you can. We also ask for \$65 per child to cover the bulk school supplies order (see article below). We want to emphasize that the Key School PTA is an all-inclusive organization. In other words, we consider every Key School parent to be a member of the PTA – regardless of dues payments. However, only dues-paying members (a minimum of \$5 is required) may vote at membership meetings. That said, we are hoping for some kind of contribution from 100% of Key School's families.

Our goal for the 09-10 year is to raise \$45,000 through dues. We were thrilled to receive over 86% parent participation last year.

Did you know that dues and contributions are over 20% of the PTA's income? These funds will be used to hire teachers' aides for classrooms, cover textbook costs, stock our art room, make repairs to our field and playground, provide student field trips, upkeep the computers, and much more. Please help keep Key one of the city's best public elementary schools by supporting the PTA today. Thank you!

Bulk School Supplies Order

Last year, the Green Committee organized a new initiative to order bulk supplies. Instead of parents receiving a list of supplies from teachers, and each family driving around the city to purchase the requested items, the Committee requested the lists from teachers in advance and ordered the supplies for all students to be delivered directly to Key. This effort was extremely popular with both parents and teachers, and at the last General PTA meeting on June 3, 2009, the membership voted to continue the bulk supplies program. Accordingly, the newly-minted Bulk Supplies Committee (Mari Bailey and Norma Ramella) has again placed a bulk school supplies order for 2009-10. Recycled and environmentally safe materials were ordered where possible, and we will all save money, time and gasoline due to the bulk order. There is a line on the PTA Classroom Supplies, Dues & Contributions form for \$65 per student to cover this cost. We hope to get 100% parent participation to cover this essential cost for our students and teachers.