



Caddo District PTA Newsletter

PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.®

Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #7

Affiliated State and National PTA
April 2009

2008-2009 Caddo District Board of Directors

Officers

Margie Rayburn, *President*
Eppie Adams, *1st Vice President*
Lloyd Thompson, *2nd Vice President*
Tillie Caileff, *Secretary*
Kay Robinson, *Corresponding Secretary*
Ann Wolf, *Treasurer*

Committee Chairs

Ann Wolf, *Budget and Finance*
Margie Rayburn, *Bylaws and Standing Rep.*
Burnadine Anderson, *Central Office Rep.*
Angie Wilson, *Child Welfare & Safety*
Pat Ellis, *Communication*
Elnora Corner, *Crisis Closet*
Diana May, *Directory*
Charlotte Echols, *Founders Day*
Ann Wolf, *Founders Day*
Diana May, *Founders Day*
Tillie Caileff, *Grandparent Award*
Parlee Young, *Hospitality*
Letha Banks, *Hospitality*
Kim FitzGerald, *IRS Assistance*
Bonita Crawford, *Legislation*
Mariah Underwood, *Liaison Coordinator*
Bennie Dotie, *Elementary Liaison*
Earnestine Coleman, *Elementary Liaison*
Vera Jones, *Middle Liaison*
Parlee Young, *Middle Liaison*
Samuel B. Jones, *High Liaison*
Carol Fullilove, *Life Service Awards*
Kathleen Barbarousse, *Member scrolls*
Charlotte Echols, *Newsletter*
Louis Cook, *Program*
John Patterson, *Publicity*
Darlene Rossum, *Principals Luncheon*
Evelyn Mosley, *Principals Luncheon*
Karen Black, *Reflections Program*
Sandi Walton, *Reflections Program*
Stephanie Hyatt, *Registration*
Tammy Phelps, *School Board Rep*
Maria Casten, *Spring Fling*
Katie Colgin, *Teacher Appreciation*
Eppie Adams, *Webmaster*



President's Message

On the 2nd weekend of Spring Break we will be hosting the Louisiana PTA State Convention at the Shreveport Convention Center - Hilton

Hotel on April 17-18, 2009. Be sure you are registered and

bring your membership card and a credential card signed by your local unit president to be a voting delegate. Some of the business that will be taken care of is the election of a President, President-Elect and Secretary. There will be bylaws amendments to the Louisiana PTA Bylaws and other business to be handled. Awards for membership achievement will take place on Friday in the general meeting with the nomination of officers. After this meeting is adjourned there will be a "Meet Your Vendors and PTA Friends".

On Saturday morning we will convene again and the bylaws amendments will be the first business to be on the agenda. The election of the officers will take place at the end of business in the Saturday morning meeting when all other business is finished. Be sure you are in the Saturday morning meeting when the doors are closed for voting. If you are not, you will not be able to cast your vote for your candidate. You must show your voting card to receive a ballot. After voting we will be adjourned to the Children's Luncheon.

At the Children's Luncheon all of the state award winners in Reflection and Safety Programs will receive their awards. When the luncheon is over, students, parents and convention delegates will be able to view a "Sneak Preview of Art Break", an upcoming art show held in Shreveport every year. There will be many vendors at this convention for you to talk with and sign up for the upcoming next year and also be sure to sign up for their door prizes,

There will be a PTA Boutique where you may purchase PTA items for a minimal cost to share with PTA friends and members. There is also a "Silent Auction and Raffle" for you to participate in to see if you may win one of the Auction or Raffle items. Drawing for the Raffle and Silent Auction items will be at 5:45 pm on Saturday afternoon.

There are three sets of workshops to attend. Unit members will want to divide up and attend the workshops to be able to bring this information back to your local unit. Workshops are given on information that will help PTA members help their PTA units become a greater success.

The Awards Banquet is the highlight of local unit awards. Louisiana PTA Scholarship Winners, Educator of Distinction, Honor and Outstanding Unit awards, Newsletter and Website awards will be presented. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. The convention will end Saturday evening with a dance, "Walking on the Wild Side."

Registration on Site: \$75.00

Date of Convention: April 17-18, 2009

Deadline to Register: March 27, 2009

Margie Rayburn, Caddo District PTA, President





From the Superintendent's Desk

**Dr. Gerald Dawkins,
Superintendent
Caddo Parish Public Schools**

Dear PTA Presidents and District Leaders:

With well over half of this school year behind us, summer is fast approaching and we are in the final implementation stages for summer school and summer enrichment programs for our students. Staff has been diligent in designing summer opportunities to meet the needs of students in Caddo. The LEAP/GEE Summer Remediation, Fee Summer School for 5th, 6th and 7th graders, and a high school fee program will be offered. Please share this information with other parents in your local unit. The eligibility requirements, summer school dates, times and fees are listed below:

2009 LEAP/GEE SUMMER REMEDIATION

(Eligibility: Students who did not meet the required proficiency levels on the 4th, 8th, and GEE spring tests are eligible to attend Summer Remediation.)

June 3 - 30 Summer Remediation for 4th, 8th and GEE
(16 days Monday - Thursday)
8:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL FEE PROGRAM

Site: Huntington High School

First Semester Session

May 30 and June 1-2 Student Registration (Huntington) 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
June 3 - July 2 Instructional Days (18 Days/Mon-Thurs) 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Second Semester Session

July 3 and July 6 Student Registration (Huntington) 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
July 7 - August 5 Instructional Days (18 Days/Mon-Thurs) 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Cost of Summer Fee School for High School Fee Program

\$225 per 1/2 credit/one semester
\$250 per 1/2 credit/one semester (out-of-parish students)
No refunds

2009 SUMMER FEE SCHOOL

5th, 6th and 7th Grades Fee Program

Site: Turner Elementary/Middle School

June 8, 2009 – June 30, 2009 (14 days)

Monday – Thursday

7:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Cost of 5th, 6th and 7th Grades Fee Program

\$225 - Caddo Parish Students

\$250 - Out-of-Parish students (if space is available)



Message from your Caddo Parish School Board President



Many exciting things are going to happen in Caddo schools. Dr. Dawkins, staff and the board are working to put new programs into the 8 schools that are under the preview of the state. Unfortunately, we lost Linwood and Linear to charter schools. We want to encourage students from these schools to attend other Caddo schools. Dr. Dawkins is also introducing new technology to the parish. He is proposing to bring classrooms up to modern standards (we are about 5 years behind). Be sure to attend board meetings or look for information in the newspaper for all these changes for next year.

Please make a commitment to join PTA next year to make your school even better. Parental involvement is so important to the success of your child's school. Study after study shows if parents are involved and seen at the schools, students do better! In today's atmosphere where schools are being taken over by the state everyone needs to be involved.

Thank you for all you do in our schools. Every little bit helps and adds up. So whether you help a little or a lot everything counts.

Bonita Crawford
President, CPSB



Membership Matters

Eppie Adams, 1st V.P. Caddo District PTA/Membership

Caddo District PTA has almost 16,000 memberships as of March 15, 2009. Keep up the good work!

Still looking for ways to increase membership and/or member participation! Try implementing some of the following events (if not this year, next year!).

1. Muffins For Mom / Donuts For Dad: Both are great ways to bring parents to the school, honor them and provide some time for PTA members to interact with one another.
2. PTA Movie Night Live: Offered for the first time last fall, this event sponsored by the National PTA brings families together in a fun, relaxing atmosphere. Visit PTAMovieNightLive.com for more information.
3. Day of Service: As a PTA choose a school or community project in which to participate. Ideas are numerous: Plant a school/community garden, plant flowers on school grounds, make lap quilts for a local nursing home, paint houses, do yard work.
4. Celebrate Earth Day: Schedule Earth Day events at your school: assemblies, an eco-fair featuring green technologies, introduce a school-wide recycling program.
5. Talent Show: Our schools abound with talented students. Sponsor an evening to showcase these talents. Don't hesitate to "think outside the box too" (ie. A readers theatre, an art gallery opening, kick boxing exposition, etc).
6. Safety Day: Sponsor an event that covers bike safety & maintenance; basic first aide; self-defense seminar & course. Again, the list goes on and on. Develop an event that meets the needs of your student population and their families.

Membership cards are only \$2.75 and must be issued to every paying member. Each card comes with the added bonus of membership in Caddo District, Louisiana and National PTA. Cards are available at any District General Meeting or by contacting Eppie Adams (687-0442 or web@caddodistrictpta.org). Please make checks payable to LA PTA.

PARTNERS IN CARING

This year marks our 8th year in partnership with the Caddo Parish School System through We Care, a Community Renewal strategy designed to raise the visibility of caring and connect us through our caring acts. In 2002 we launched the We Care Essay contest, an annual event where students at the elementary school, middle school, and high school level compete by submitting essays on **"Why and how I care for others."** One has to read some of the essays submitted by students to gain an appreciation of just how caring our children and youth are. In 2007 and 2008 we also held We Care Team contests in the middle and high schools. Over 12,000 students joined the We Care Team. These students exemplify their caring nature by serving others.

Last month Dr. Dawkins and the Executive staff of Caddo Parish Schools took a tour with CRI staff through our target neighborhoods. We were all reminded of our common mission—**every child should be able to grow up safe and loved, and with the opportunity for a good education.** A couple of days after the tour, Bob Griffin and I met with Assistant Superintendent Gunn to discuss an idea we feel can help achieve this common mission.

Our vision is to establish We Care Chapters at the school level. This partnership would involve the school, their local PTA chapter, and perhaps a local business that sponsors the school. The benefits of such a partnership are to champion caring among students, parents, school faculty and staff, and the local school business sponsor. We can also work together to promote pro social behavior to the students.

We are excited about the possibilities of this partnership and will share more as collectively we turn this vision into a model—one that can serve school districts all over the country.

Tom Watts
Renewal Team Director
Community Renewal International
tomwatts@communityrenewal.us, 425-3222



National PTA News



2009 PTA National Convention

113th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition

Friday, June 26 – Monday, June 29, 2009

Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL



Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success! Registration and hotel information will be available in March 2009 at www.pta.org. There will be over 50+ workshops, over 200 exhibitors at this event. The best way to register in online by May 22, 2009 for the early fee of \$170.00, the convention will be in the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center. The host hotel is Ft. Lauderdale Grande Hotel, 1881 SE 17th Street, Ft. Lauderdale Florida 22216. This hotel is 10 minutes away from the Ft. Lauderdale's Hollywood International Airport. The hotel is \$136.00 a night for single/double with an 11% state and local tax. All hotel room must be reserved by May 22, 2009 with the PTA Housing Form found of the National PTA website at: www.pta.org/nationalconvention.

Caddo District PTA Spring Fling Leadership Workshop April 30, 2009



You are invited to the Caddo District PTA Spring Fling Leadership Workshop on Thursday, April 30 in the Professional Development Teacher Resource Center, located behind Central Office at 3908 Joplin Street, from 9:00 – 11:30am. Current PTA Presidents, Principals and emerging Leaders are invited to this special Workshop designed to ensure a smooth transition of Leadership and to provide new presidents with important information in getting ready for their year! Information on appointing your Board, developing a budget and facts about membership and fundraising will be addressed.

To register for this free workshop, you may email Margie Rayburn at lapta@comcast.net or call her at 929-5313 (H).



Teacher Appreciation Week

Thank you to all the local PTA/PTSA units for all you did to honor your teachers during their week, March 23 – 27. Teacher Appreciation Week was very successful thanks to the efforts of the many parents, businesses and PTA/PTSA boards for their donations of gifts, food and beverages and the volunteer hours spent during this very important week to honor our teachers.

Katie Colgin, Teacher Appreciation Chair
Caddo District PTA

Caddo District PTA Nominees

The nominating committee reports the following nominees for election for a two year term from 2009-2011:

Lloyd Thompson - 2nd Vice President
Kim FitzGerald - Treasurer
Ann Wolf - Corresponding Secretary

The election will be held at the General Meeting, April 7, 2009. **Members must bring their membership card to be eligible to vote.** Remember the new bylaws amendment that was approved by the general membership states that: If a member wishes to run for office from the floor after the slate of nominees has been announced, they must give notice by submitting their qualifications statement to the Caddo District PTA Nominations chair seven (7) days prior to the election.

A Message from the Alliance For Education



There is an old story about Rip Van Winkle waking up after a 100-year snooze and being utterly bewildered by what he sees in the modern world. Men and women walk around talking into small metal devices attached to their ears and belts. Children stay inside on the couch moving miniature athletes around on electronic screens while playgrounds remain idle. Older citizens defy death and disability through the use of plastic and metal parts implanted into their bodies. Everywhere Van Winkle goes he is fascinated by modern shopping malls, hospitals, high tech manufacturing facilities and many other wonderful new inventions. But finally when the old man wanders into a school he knows exactly where he is at last. This, he exclaims, is a school. We had these back in 1908, only the chalkboards were black.

A funny story, but one that helps to place the current environment for public education into better context. Things are changing. Change has landed in Caddo Parish in a major and somewhat confusing manner. And not all change is bad.

The first major change in Caddo was that of our new Superintendent Gerald Dawkins. Arriving from Michigan, he has hit the ground running and has shown the courage and leadership to tackle the much needed change in Caddo Schools head on. He quickly partnered with the Alliance For Education, the Community Foundation, the Learning to Finish Campaign, the new Caddo District Attorney Charles Scott, the Juvenile Courts, and the many service providers in the truancy system to help formulate a better process to address our truancy issues in Caddo Parish. He understands that a child who is not in school cannot learn. Major changes are being made both internal and external to address truant children in our community. Hopefully this fall we will be able to reduce the number of children who achieve 10 or more absences in the first semester from the current 9,000 to below 5,000. And while we have already shown great reductions from the estimated 12,000 who had 10 or more absences in the fall of 2007, we still have a long way to go to help children.

Change is also coming in the form of help for low performing schools. Dr. Dawkins' Caddo Plan is a solid educational plan that deserves community support. Through the use of technology, extended days, new faculty and leadership teams and project based learning models he hopes to correct what has been years of underperforming results at many area schools. The introduction of foreign languages will also help strengthen all schools.

From the District PTA perspective I ask the question, "What can we do to help"? How can we as the PTA help build a strong parental and community base at these schools, many of whom are completely lacking an active PTA at this moment? Those who understand PTA know it can be a foundational building block that often signals the success of a school. Perhaps it is time we change our thinking about PTA and not only work to help our own school, but find a way to help support these struggling schools form and run an active PTA. Perhaps the time has come for extremely active PTAs to adopt a struggling brother or sister school and help develop that leadership team so they can move into the 21st century in terms of PTA involvement. In the end it may not matter if we have 110% participation at some schools, and 0% at others. Maybe it is time to ask how can our PTA help form and support another PTA. If you are at a quality school with an active PTA, the odds are good that someone came before you and laid the groundwork. At our struggling schools no one is there to help lay the groundwork. Maybe the time has come to change that. I think Rip Van Winkle would be pleased with that change.

D. Scott Hughes, Executive Director
Alliance For Education

GEE/LEAP 21 State Testing

April 1-3 & 6-7, 2009

Parents: Important information to help your child/children with testing:

- Get plenty of rest the night before testing!
- Eat a good breakfast.
- Allow plenty of time, so you don't have to rush.
- Try to make the morning a pleasant one.
- Get to school ON TIME!
- Reassure your child.
- Remind your child to listen carefully and to read directions carefully.**
- Encourage your child to stay focused.

Congratulations

Caddo District PTA **2008-2009 Educator of Distinction Winners**

The following Educator's of Distinction will be recognized at the Louisiana PTA State Convention on Saturday night, April 18, 2009 at the banquet. PTA units are encouraged to recognize their winners at the local level.

Bert Algood	C. E. Byrd High
Chris Dunn	Caddo Middle Magnet
Jackie Arthur	University Elementary
Darryl Gates	Youree Drive Middle School

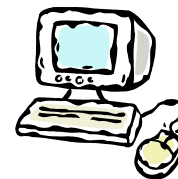
Linwood Middle Math, Science and Technology Magnet School Family and Community Involvement

The parent involvement policy at Linwood Middle Magnet School “seeks to promote those activities and concepts that strengthen the partnership between the home, school and community.” Therefore with the leadership of parent resource program and parent involvement at Linwood, we have utilized creative means to involve all families in the educational development of our children. Here is an overview of our accomplishments this school year:

1. formation of an active PTSA by working with faculty, staff and students
2. encourage parent involvement with Donuts for Dads, Muffins for Moms, Back-to-School Night, Pizza Slice; T-shirts and recognition receptions
3. provided incentives for parental involvement
4. networked with other schools, educational groups and organizations to get information and/or resources that would promote parental involvement endeavors at Linwood and maintained communications with school administration regarding the program
5. attended Title 1 meetings as they related to parental involvement

Submitted by Mrs. Vera H. Jones,
Linwood Middle School Parent Involvement Coordinator

Guiding Your Family's Internet Use



Although the Internet may seem to have, along with its own lingo, its own set of rules, the codes of conduct we establish for our children offline apply to life online too. Teaching your children respect for others and to come to you when they are having problems will help prevent [cyber bullying](#) the same way it helps prevent traditional [bullying](#). Helping your children understand the implications of copying another student's work in school will help them understand why they shouldn't steal information they find online. Check out these tips for making your family's Internet use safer and more valuable.

Be sure to develop at least a working knowledge of your children's online activities so you can ask probing questions and monitor their activities the same way you do when they come home from school or are going out with friends. Your children can be your best teachers. When you don't understand something, ask them. This can start a conversation about their online activities and also show that you are interested and paying attention.

Here are some more tips to help you make sure your family stays safe while making the most of the Internet as a learning resource and networking tool:

- Periodically review with your children their list of online contacts.
- Search the Web for information about your family.
- Install blocking or monitoring software on your family's computer.
- Establish a media use contract with each child in your family.

Go to pta.org/internettipsheet/ to learn more.

Source: PTA Parent Newsletter – National PTA

Help for Parents with Kids Struggling in School



Is your child a 'shut-down' learner?

Many children who grow discouraged with school, struggle with basic skills, or refuse to do homework might not be learning in the way that's best for them. Dr. Richard Selznick, a school psychologist and director of the Cooper Learning Center in Voorhees, New Jersey, coined the term "shut-down learner" to describe these children, who often appear disconnected and unmotivated ("shut down").

Selznick says as many as 40 percent of all children in America experience problems learning to read and write and many of them are "spatial learners"—in other words, they learn most effectively through hands-on tasks and utilize images, pictures, colors, and maps to learn. But these spatial learners will often struggle to learn through reading and writing.

Identifying shut-down learners and modifying their learning environments can lead to academic success, Selznick says. Read more for warning signs and strategies for overcoming the challenges.

Selznick says the shut-down learner style becomes apparent in upper elementary grades, though warning signs appear in pre-school and kindergarten. They include:

- Difficulty with learning letters
- Trouble with playing rhyming games
- Difficulty following directions
- Resistance to early reading activities and instruction

Signals in older children include:

- Weak reading, writing, and spelling skills, which lead to lowered self-esteem
- Increased avoidance of school tasks such as homework
- Strong dislike of reading and writing Little to no gratification from school
- Increasing anger toward school

Shut-down learners often possess incredible talents and succeed in a variety of different professions, Selznick says. Parents can employ several strategies to aid their shut-down learner:

1. **Identify the “cracks in the foundation” as early as possible.** Address skill weaknesses early.
2. **If the cracks are widening, seek outside help.** Don't be passive and wait for the schools to intervene.
3. **Know what you are targeting.** There are essentially two types of reading problems, Selznick says. In the first type, the child has trouble decoding the words and reading fluently. In the second type, the child can read fluently, but has great trouble understanding what he or she has read. Get clear on what you are targeting. Don't scattershot remediation.
4. **Take the heat out of the interaction.** For most of the struggling kids, the daily ritual of yelling about school is a constant. Nagging and yelling are not working. Why continue?
5. **Find the child's true strength and help him or her embrace it.** Shut-down learners often do not feel very good about themselves and do not see their strengths. Most of these kids are very solid in the visual spatial dimension of ability. While this trait is not often valued in school, they need to learn to value this trait and see its potential.

Dr. Selznick is author of *The Shut-Down Learner: Helping Your Academically Discouraged Child*. For more information, go to <http://www.shutdownlearner.com/>.

Source: PTA Parent Newsletter – National PTA



*Caddo District PTA
P. O. Box 32000
Shreveport, LA 71130-2000*

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SHREVEPORT LA
PERMIT #288

*Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols*

Calendar of Events



1-3 & 6-7

GEE/LEAP 21 State Testing

7

Caddo District PTA General Meeting – Caddo Parish School Board Room, 9:30 am

10

Good Friday (**School Closed**)

13-17

Spring Break & Easter Holidays (**School Closed**)

17-18

Louisiana PTA State Convention – Shreveport Convention Center, Shreveport, LA

18

Children’s Award Luncheon for state winners - 11:30 am - Louisiana PTA State Convention

28

Caddo District PTA Board Meeting – Room 1 - 9:30 am

30

New President’s “Spring Fling” – Professional Development Teacher Resource Center (behind the school board)



7

Caddo District Awards Day – LeI McCullough Auditorium – Caddo Middle Magnet - 9:30 am

14

Last Day for Seniors

19

Caddo District PTA Board Meeting - Room 1 - 9:30 am

25

Memorial Day Holiday (**School Closed**)

29

Last Day for All Students



27-29

113th National PTA Convention – Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

