



CADDO DISTRICT PTA NEWSLETTER



Affiliated State & National PTA
April 2010

Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #7

2009-2010 Caddo District Board of Directors

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Diana May, *Founders Day Banquet*
Patricia McCann, *Founders Day Banquet*
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Katie Colgin, *Teacher Appreciation*
Sandi Walton, *Teacher Appreciation*
Eppie Adams, *Webmaster*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's not too late to join the fun at the Louisiana PTA Convention, come and register on-site. Business on Friday will be the Member-



ship Award for local units and the nomination

of officers. Our own Amy Failla is running for the office of Secretary. Also on Friday night we will have what is being called a Town Hall Meeting and *Jambalaya (Sponsored by the Crowne Plaza) and Appetizers will be serve*. On Saturday morning we will convene again and the bylaws amendments will be the first business to be on the agenda. If there has to be an election of officers, voting will be done 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 in the room, 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. There will be many vendors at this convention for you to talk to 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. Drawing for the Raffle and Silent Auction items will be at 4:45 pm on Saturday afternoon.

There are four 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 successful organization.

The Awards Banquet is the highlight of local unit awards. Louisiana PTA Scholarship Winners, Educator of Distinction (Caddo District PTA has four winners), 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, **LA PTA Visits Never, Never Land!**

Visit our Website:
www.caddodistrictpta.org

Registration on Site: \$75.00
Date of Convention: April 9-10, 2010

Margie Rayburn, President

FROM THE DESK OF DR. GERALD D. DAWKINS SUPERINTENDENT



Last December, we embarked on a journey to create a strategic plan that would enable us to provide the best learning experience possible for all 43,300 children attending Caddo Parish public schools. Leaving no stone unturned, we are approaching this visioning process in three parts. First, we're undertaking a comprehensive study of the parish's facility needs, followed by a phase for receiving input from the community, and an in-depth look at best practices from other school districts around the country. We believe that these results, along with data from the city's Master Plan, will give us the components needed to define our school system as the flagship district in Louisiana.

We have now entered into phase two of our process and it is our goal to engage parents, students, teachers and the entire community in determining how Caddo Parish schools will be defined for the next 10 to 20 years.

Between April 5 and May 7, community surveys will be made available online at www.caddo.k12.la.us. For those who do not have Internet access, each school in Caddo Parish will host a community meeting during which time you will have access to computers and have the opportunity to hear more about the process from Administration. Hard copies of the surveys will also be made available at these meetings and by mail, if requested. Parents should contact their schools after March 30 for meeting dates and times.

Our top priority is to create world class schools for world class students. A well-performing school system is a vital part of any healthy community. This is a unique opportunity to have your voice heard and to be a part of shaping the future for our most precious of all resources, our children. I sincerely hope that you will take advantage of it.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MAGGIE LEE HENSON CELEBRATION OF CARING



Once again this year Caddo Parish Schools will be participating in the 15th annual Celebration of Caring, renamed this year the **Maggie Lee Henson**

Celebration of Caring in honor of a young lady who inspired many people to actively care for others. This Celebration brings persons and organizations together to celebrate our common bond of caring. Activities include a picnic lunch; clowns and games for children; music provided by jazz bands from local schools; dance lines, and much more! The date is Saturday, April 17 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Barnwell Center on Clyde Fant Parkway in downtown Shreveport.

Performing from Caddo Parish Schools this year are the **Byrd High School and Captain**

Shreve High School jazz bands, and the Herndon Elementary/Middle Magnet and Judson Elementary dance groups. Also represented will be the **Queensborough Elementary and J. S. Clark MicroSociety Academy We Care Chapters.** All Caddo Parish students, faculty, staff and their families are invited to attend this community wide event which is free to the public.

Our Emcees for the day are local television personalities **Bob Griffin and Trish Williford.**

Special thanks to our sponsor - **Red Ball Oxygen.** Come out and join the fun on the Shreveport riverfront! For more information visit our website www.communityrenewal.us.

Tom Watts

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HEALTHY SCHOOLS MEAN BETTER STUDENTS



America is slowly becoming a nation of obese and unhealthy people. As our national wealth has grown so have our waistlines. As our ability to connect to more technologies, primarily television, has improved our ability to connect with meaningful exercise has waned. And sadly this is a trend that can be seen directly in the health and success of our children in our public schools.

In recognition of these trends local school systems were directed in 2006 to put in place a Wellness Policy by 2007 to help improve the health outcomes of all students. The State Department of Education recently renewed this call for all districts to have a Wellness Policy in place as well as a Wellness Coordinator. This matches the national effort that is picking up steam to work to improve the health outcomes and obesity levels of our children. It is an effort being lead on the national level by First Lady Michelle Obama among many others, and it is a message whose time has come.

In Caddo Parish the good news is our district was an early mover in establishing a Wellness Policy. The Caddo Wellness Policy was approved by the Caddo School Board in October 2007 and we are now in year three of the first five-year Strategic Plan. Caddo's plan is built around three key Strategic Goals of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Healthy Behaviors. It builds on a fundamental belief that we can imbed Wellness into all aspects of school activity. And the research from California and Texas studies indicates this type of an approach does lead to better educational outcomes. Locally, Sabine Parish just south of us has made a major commitment to "Healthy Schools" or "Coordinated School Health" as it is often referred to in governmental speak, and it is paying off big time for Sabine.

The key component to date in the Caddo Wellness Plan is the introduction and now expansion to all Caddo schools of the Fit-

ness Gram testing. All children in grades 4-12 should be receiving a pre and post Fitness Gram test. A report of the wellbeing of the student is sent home to parents to help them better understand the health status of their child and the data gained as a school site and district can be used to review and improve the programs in place at the various schools sites. This is a vital process that will help bring focus, accountability and consistency to Caddo wellness programs.

At the Alliance For Education we are very interested in the concept of using wellness to improve educational outcomes. As stated above, the data available indicates healthy children perform better academically. As the District PTA and other community partners of the district we should be asking how we can better support the healthy outcomes for our children. Does your school have a functioning Wellness Team? Is your PTA helping promote healthy activity for your children in terms of physical education, health instruction, and dietary choices? Are you reaching out through health fairs, parent information meetings and other ways to help your parents better understand the data being provided them on the Fitness Gram reports. At the Alliance For Education we are working to revamp many of our projects including the Walk For Education to place more focus on fitness and less on fundraising. We hope to have some exciting announcements soon on the Walk changes and would like to encourage all local PTA's to begin to focus on the wellness of the children of their school as a strategy to improve learning. We would be happy to come speak to any PTA on school wellness or would encourage you to contact the Caddo Wellness Coordinator Kay Cochran directly at the School Board office who is also available to come speak to your PTA. By improving the health and fitness of our children we all win. And the big winners will be the children.

Scott Hughes



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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

Caddo District has almost 16,000 memberships as of March 31, 2010. Keep up the good work!

SPRING INTO MEMBERSHIP

I know spring seems like an odd time to focus on membership. After all, the school year is winding down, so shouldn't our PTA's be doing the same? Actually, April and May are the perfect time to begin outlining your school's PTA membership and overall goals for the next school year. Below are some ways to begin developing new goals.

EVALUATE: take time to evaluate how well your PTA accomplished its overall and membership goals for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Were you able to meet your membership goals? Did you fall short? What worked? What did not work? Were your PTA members involved or were they just "card carrying" members.

The key to a good evaluation is to be honest about your accomplishments and weaknesses. You cannot move forward without an "audit" of previous goals.

BRAINSTORM: Sit down with members of the incoming Executive Board and brainstorm ideas & goals based off of your evaluation.

DEVELOP: Based on the results of the brainstorming session, develop membership and overall goals for the upcoming academic year. Goals should be credible, accountable, and measurable. Without details on how to accomplish the goal, the goal itself will rarely be accomplished.

For example, which of the following goals will more likely be successful?

1. Increase our PTA Membership
2. Increase Membership by 10%. Recruit 5 new parents to serve on the PTA board; each activity or event will be co-chaired by 1 veteran PTA member and 1 new PTA member and will have at least 3 other members serving on the committee.

CREATE: create a Year-Round Campaign based on your goals. Ideas for developing a Marketing Strategy can be found by visiting <http://www.pta.org/1503.htm> and www.caddodistrictpta.org/membership.

GET STARTED: successful goals for next year begin now. Don't hesitate - GET STARTED NOW!

Membership cards are only \$2.75 and now must be ordered from State. If you have any questions or would like helping developing membership goals for the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Eppie Adams (687-0442) or web@caddodistrictpta.org.

MANY THANKS! Thanks to everyone who called or sent emailed during my recent illness. I appreciated the well wishes as they help put a smile on my face during some very difficult days. I am finally doing better and improve with each day.

APPLES TO APPLES: UPDATE ON COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

The draft of the common core state standards for English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12 was released for public comment on March 10. The [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#) is a state-led effort coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. National PTA, as an endorsing partner of this education reform, is mobilizing parents and members to support this effort, thanks to generous funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

PTA leaders can help parents and members learn more about CCSSI and what they can do by visiting the National PTA website at PTA.org/ccssi. Public comments on the draft standards will be received through **Friday, April 2**. PTA leaders and parents are encouraged to write a letter to their chief state school officer urging adoption and implementation of the standards.

CCSSI is a first step to leveling the playing field for the nation's students by increasing rigor in underperforming schools and setting equal expectations for what all students will need to know and be able to do once they graduate from high school.

DISTRICT PTA NEWS

CADDO DISTRICT PTA SPRING FLING LEADERSHIP

You are invited to the Caddo District PTA Spring Fling Leadership Workshop on Tuesday, April 20 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 929-5313 (H).

CADDO DISTRICT PTA NOMINEES

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

Margie Rayburn—President
Eppie Adams—1st Vice President
Vickie C. Medows—Secretary

The election will be held at the General Meeting, April 6, 2010. **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 fourteen (14) days prior to the election.

CONGRATULATIONS!
CADDO MIDDLE MAGNET TEACHER
TRICIA WHITE-BRATLIE
NAMED 2010 REGIONAL MIDDLE
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

CADDO DISTRICT PTA EDUCATORS OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations

The following Educator's of Distinction will be recognized at the Louisiana PTA State Convention on Saturday night, April 10, 2010 at the banquet. PTA units are encouraged to recognize their winners at the local level.

Pam Camp

University Elementary School

Nancy Yoder

C.E. Byrd High School

Keith Burton

South Highlands Elementary Magnet

Tricia White-Bratlief

Caddo Middle Magnet

CADDO DISTRICT APRIL PROGRAM

Keith Bores from JPAMS will provide the program for the April 6, 2010 meeting. He will speak on the new Parent Command Center that all Caddo Schools will begin using next year. This will allow parents to check their child's attendance, grades, and discipline records. Please attend the Caddo District PTA General Meeting to hear about this important and informative program.

CADDO PTA-HOST A VOLUNTEER TEA

The Caddo District PTA cordially invites you to attend a Volunteer Tea being held in your honor.

Caddo District PTA would like to acknowledge your willingness to work with the schools as support for student growth, raising funds for activities and school needs, as well as sharing your expertise and service in the classroom. Volunteers give thousands of hours each year in our schools, which are greatly appreciated.

Volunteer Tea—Friday, April 29, 2010

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Caddo Parish School Board Room
1961 Midway

GEE, LEAP, AND iLEAP TESTING

The GEE and LEAP will be administered in 2 phases this year. It is the same test; however, it is divided into two testing times.

Phase 1 testing was completed on March 23, 2010, with all 4th, 8th, 10th and 11th graders completing the writing section and the mathematics constructive response items.

Phase 2 testing is April 12-15, 2010. All 4th & 8th graders will complete the remaining sections as follows:

- English/Language Arts—April 12, 2010
- Mathematics—April 13, 2010
- Science—April 14, 2010
- Social Studies—April 15, 2010

10th graders will complete the remaining sections as follows:

- English/Language Arts—April 12, 2010
- Mathematics—April 13, 2010

11th graders will complete the remaining sections as follows:

- Science—April 14, 2010
- Social Studies—April 15, 2010

The iLEAP will be administered to grades 3, 5, 6, and 9 on April 12—15, 2010.

PTA FIGHTS CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Renowned chef and TV personality, Jamie Oliver, is determined to start a food revolution to get better food into our schools and change what our kids eat. Nearly one-third of American children are either overweight or obese. ([Ogden, et al. 2010](#)) The obesity epidemic is so great that it may actually reduce the life expectancy of today's generation of children. Jamie Oliver and PTA are proud to release a [toolkit](#) for parents and families to give them the tools and information they need to eat healthy and to be active together. [You can download the toolkit on PTA.org](#). To find out more about Jamie Oliver's work, watch the series premiere of "Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution," on Friday, March 26th at 8 p.m. EDT on ABC. View a sneak peak of his new show on the [ABC website](#).

JUST A REMINDER
PTA/PTSA is a national trademark and does not have periods in it.

Parents and Guardians play a tremendous role in the success of students testing.

Ways Parents and Guardians can Help

1. Make sure your student is at school on time on test dates.
2. Make sure your student gets plenty of rest.
3. Make sure your student eats a good breakfast.
4. Create a calm home environment which will allow your student to "Show what he/she knows" on the test.
5. Homework counts—make sure your student does his/her homework every day.
6. Practice math skills by applying those skills to real-life situations.
7. Practice math facts together to develop speed.
8. Expect your student to expand his/her vocabulary daily by learning a new word.
9. Schedule time for your student to read every day.
10. Encourage your child to do his/her best on the test.

WIN \$1,000 FROM NATIONAL PTA FOR YOUR PTA

What could your PTA do with \$1,000 to support arts education? Each year, National PTA offers a limited number of matching grants of up to \$1,000 to help local units establish or enhance student-centered arts education programs. Applications are now being accepted for the :

[2010 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants](#).

PTAs must match the grant dollar for dollar with PTA or other donated funds and/or in-kind resources. Applications are due by **Monday, 11:59 p.m. EDT, May 3, 2010**.

Special consideration is given to applicants that reach large numbers of at-risk students. "At risk" encompasses a wide range of factors that may make it more difficult for a student or a segment of the student population to succeed in learning. Some factors that make students at risk are financial, familial, health, behavioral, social, and environmental or other community conditions.

114TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PTA CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION



Thursday, June 10–Sunday, June 13, 2010
Memphis Cook Convention Center
Memphis, Tennessee

Your registration fee entitles you to entrance into general meetings, workshops, and the exhibit hall, as well as the delegates welcome reception and exhibit hall reception (if you register by May 14, 2010). Additional fees apply for ticketed events.

Registrations must be submitted online or postmarked by **11:59 p.m. CDT, Friday, May 14, 2010**, to receive the advance registration discount. Any registration postmarked or received online after May 14, 2010, will be returned and registration must then take place on-site. On-site registration begins Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

Questions?

If you have questions about registration, please contact National PTA Registration Services at (847) 375-4722.

If you have general questions about convention, please contact the National PTA Information Center at (800) 307-4PTA (4782) or info@PTA.org.

Registration Rates

Save \$ by becoming a National PTA member today!

PTA and PIRC Member Rates:

215.00 saves \$160.00 Advanced Registration - Online (saves \$10.00)
\$225.00 Save \$159.00 - Advanced Registration via mail
\$295.00 save \$125.00 - On site . Full Registration

There are group rates and Student Registration available, also.

There are three ways to register:

1. Online (by credit card). Save \$10! Click here. (link to AMC reg form) It's quick, easy, and secure. Online registration is open March 31–May 14, 2010. New! In an effort to assist our PIRC and Title 1 funded participants, PO payment options will be available in 2010. Please note: This option is only available online, and registration and payment must be received by May 14 2010 or registration will be cancelled.
2. Mail (by check, money order, or credit card). Complete the registration form (link to form) and mail it, postmarked by May 14, 2010, along with payment to National PTA Registration Services, Attn: Cathy Rickert, 4700 W. Lake Ave., Glenview, IL 60025-1468.

On-site (after May 14, 2010). On-site registration begins Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. at the Memphis Cook Convention Center.

Registration Confirmation

A confirmation packet for your convention registration will be sent to you. Confirmation packets will start being mailed to advance registrants in mid-May. All those preregistering for the convention by May 14, 2010, should receive their confirmation packets no later than June 7, 2010. Your confirmation packet will include your registration receipt and name badge. You must bring this confirmation packet with you to the convention.



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Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols, Editor

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- 2 School Closed—Good Friday
- 6 Caddo District PTA General Meeting—9:30 a.m., CPSB Board Room
Election of Officers—President, 1st Vice President, Secretary (bring a membership card)
- 9-10 Louisiana PTA State Convention—Crown Plaza Hotel—Baton Rouge, LA
- 10-16 Leap/ILeap Test Days
- 20 “Spring Fling” -Teacher Resource Center - 8:15 - 11:30am
- 27 Caddo District Board of Directors Meeting—Room 1—9:30am
- 29 Caddo District PTA Volunteer Tea - CPSB Board Room - 12:30 - 2:00pm



- 4 Caddo District Awards Day – LeI McCullough Auditorium – Caddo Middle Magnet - 9:30 am
- 18 Caddo District Board of Directors Meeting—Room 1—9:30am
- 27 Last Day for Students



- 10-12 National PTA Convention, Memphis Tennessee