



# Caddo District PTA

## Newsletter

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
everychild.onevoice.®

Affiliated State and National PTA

Mariah Underwood, President

August/September 2006

Volume XXIX Issue #1

### President's Message



Mariah Underwood  
Caddo District PTA President



We are about to embark on a wonderful 2006-2007 school year. As I think back on my years in PTA, I realize that my years as Caddo District PTA president have been my best years in the organization. I am looking forward to the next two years of my presidency being just as wonderful and rewarding.

When I initially joined PTA years ago as a parent, I wanted to be more involved in the education of my children. As I continued to serve I realized that I was not only making a difference for my children, but for all children in the schools in which they attended. PTA gives us the opportunity to get to know the school staff and the school community. As we all work together for the common good of children, we will also receive many personal rewards.

Every child deserves to have people who care about them and see that they are successful in school. I hope that you will **find ways to include ALL children and families in the activities at your school**. Parents need to feel comfortable and connected to the school. Your PTA/PTSA can help create a welcoming environment that encourages parents to be active participants in helping their child. Your school will be enriched as you find ways to let everyone contribute and be involved.

To ensure the maximum impact from your school's PTA, I would like each local unit to do the following:

- Enlist the help of committed individuals. Start right away recruiting parents, community members, and school officials to join PTA. Talk to parents about what volunteer responsibilities they would like to take on and how their personal skills can benefit the PTA.
- Make use of resources and training opportunities. Build your leadership skills by using resources such as National PTA's website, e-learning courses, and conferences and leadership training at the national, state, and district levels.

For years, PTA's in Caddo have worked to improve children's lives and inspire parents to get involved in their children's education. I wish all local Caddo District PTA units the best as you prepare for another year of serving children in your school and throughout the parish. Also, it's exciting to see the work that you all are doing to increase membership. By having more members, it gives us a stronger voice; let's keep working on increasing our memberships.

If I can be of help, please let me know. Thanks for all you do for our children.

## From the Superintendent's Desk...



*Mrs. Ollie S. Tyler*  
**Superintendent**  
**Caddo Parish Public School System**

### *Our Mission*

“In the Caddo Parish Public School System our mission is to improve the academic achievement of students and overall district effectiveness. We have high expectations for everyone – students, teachers, administrators, parents, community volunteers and support groups.”

### **We are responsible for the academic success of each and every student!**

Welcome back to another exciting school year in Caddo. I enjoyed meeting and visiting with many of you at Caddo District's annual summer retreat and workshop. I applaud your desire to see student achievement improve in your child's school and throughout the parish. The energy and commitment that I witnessed during your workshop shall help propel Caddo to greater heights.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of parental involvement in the learning process. The research shows that when parents are involved, students are more successful in many endeavors. As a key to success, parental involvement is associated with higher student achievement outcomes, whether the outcome measures are grades, standardized test scores, or teacher ratings. In Caddo, the involvement of parents, grandparents and guardians has paid off, and we thank you!

During last summer, I had an opportunity to compile a three-year report that showcases the accomplishments of the Caddo team of students, teachers, principals, support employees, parents and community partners. In next month's district PTA meeting, I will detail the report in an oral and visual format. Until then, I am pleased to share highlights of district-wide improvements since I became superintendent in 2003.

Although our school district has faced multiple challenges in recent years, both financial and academic, we have experienced a great deal of success in addressing them. These challenges have been considered as opportunities for growth and have been enthusiastically embraced with on-going progress every year during my tenure as superintendent.

We are in a new era, driven by accountability, and as such, we are responsible for the academic success of *each and every student*. The entire Caddo family takes this responsibility very seriously, because we have been entrusted with the most precious resource in our community—our children.

The School Performance Scores and District Performance Scores, which are based on students' test scores, attendance, and drop-out indicators, tell the *real* story about achievement. The District Performance Score for Caddo Public Schools was 77.0 when I became Superintendent. This score has steadily increased each year since that time and is now 82.3—the highest it has ever been. This increase in *district performance* has moved Caddo from a *1-star* to a *2-star* school district. Currently, there are no school districts in Louisiana with a label higher than *3 stars*. In addition, the composite ACT score for Caddo students has been the highest of all times for the past three years and is currently above the state average. Although our district has 15 schools considered “high priority,” they continue to show academic growth through improved test scores each year.

We are committed to providing the resources necessary for **every** child in **every** school to achieve his/her full potential. I am *confident* we will close this achievement gap.

## PTA Membership Is Important



Today, National PTA is the largest child advocacy organization in the United States. There are 6.5 million members strong, with local organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U. S. Virgin Islands, and in the Department of Defense in Europe and the Pacific. You may ask why PTA membership important? One simple answer is that PTA is a voice for our children. PTA speaks for children like yours and mine, for children who don't speak the language

and for children who may not be fortunate.

Through PTA's legislative action, we get the education and health programs our children need. Every member who joins gives us strength to fulfill the PTA mission. Also, through membership, we are able to provide materials and trainings as well as the National Awards program Reflections.

Your Caddo District PTA membership is valuable. If there are parents at your school who have not joined, have them join TODAY! Remind them that your school would like to be considered for membership awards.

**Contact Karen Black for membership cards and information regarding membership.**

### Treasurer's Corner

*Ann Wolf*  
*Caddo District Treasurer*



Each PTA unit should have a current budget that has been voted on and approved by the PTA membership. This budget will be your guide for PTA expenditures throughout the year.



### Caddo District PTA Newsletter Deadline Dates

Email articles to Beverly Hudson at [bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us](mailto:bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us) or mail to Linwood Middle School, 401 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Shreveport, LA 71106.

October Issue -- September 19, 2006  
November Issue -- October 24, 2006  
December/January Issue -- November 14, 2006  
February Issue -- January 23, 2007  
March Issue -- February 20, 2007  
April Issue -- March 20, 2007  
May Issue -- April 17, 2007

### Caddo District Website

Visit our new local website to gain instant access to local, state, and national PTA news at [www.caddodistrictpta.org](http://www.caddodistrictpta.org).



# Local PTA's in Caddo

## Sunset Acres PTA

PTA members of Sunset Acres Elementary have made plans that promise to make September a fantastic month. The activities will be fun for the students and faculty and help to motivate students.

Activities planned are as follows:

- 9-15-06 Pizza Slice Sale
- 9-22-06 Dress Down Day  
(Wear jeans with school uniform top!)
- 9-22-06 Sock Hop 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

All parents and students are urged to join the PTA. The first class with 100% participation will win a pizza party

Dawn Phillips  
PTA President



## Northwood High School

On behalf of the faculty and staff at Northwood High School, the PTA and principal is pleased to share with you the following highlights and accomplishments.

### AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

We now have 4 National Board Certified teachers on staff:

- Donna Lonadier
- Kay Johnson
- Annie Cherry
- Tammy Harville

We also have 1 National Board Certified counselor on staff:

- Connie Kidd

Teacher of the Year:

Susan Tompkins was named Teacher of the Year and has also been selected as a CPSB Teacher of the Year finalist.

### SCHOOL UPGRADES:

Northwood recently purchased a LED marquee sign from the Sign Company in Houston, Texas. To keep contractual deadlines, the Sign Company provided Northwood with a free \$8,700 upgrade to the sign, bringing the total value of the marquee to \$27,100. Northwood is also extremely grateful to Tri-State Signs & Neon who installed the sign, going above and beyond in order to have the sign installed for the first day of school.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The majority of our faculty and staff devoted much of their time off this summer to receiving valuable training to bring back to the classroom. While too much to mention, we do wish to showcase the following teachers and the professional development they received.

Sheri Pate traveled to Lowell, Massachusetts for a week seminar on the Industrial Revolution. She also spent a week in Honolulu, Hawaii attending a seminar on Pearl Harbor. Ms. Pate received a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities to fund both trips.

James Haltom devoted 26 hours to distance learning training.

Michael Spurlock spent the entire month of June attending the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute.

Daniel Turnbow attended the LHSAA Coaches Clinic. John Oswalt taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade summer school at North Highlands Elementary.

Sylvia Powers attended Read 180 Virtual Tour training and Read 180 SRI training.

Kimberly Handrop attended the AP Summer Institute for English Language and Composition and also attended the JAVITS Summer Conference.

Cathy Wilbanks completed the Concord Consortium "Designing and Teaching Online

**Send your school's PTA  
information to Beverly J. Hudson  
at [bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us](mailto:bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us).**

Tamara Harville  
PTA President

# Caddo District PTA Annual Back-to-School Inservice



**Mrs. Underwood listens attentively to member concerns.**

**Local and state vendors displayed fundraising activities.**



**Carol Fullilove discussed the role of the PTA president.**



**Community and school support was fantastic on our August 12<sup>th</sup> inservice. We extend a special thanks to Mrs. Ollie Tyler and other central office personnel for their attendance on this day.**

**Caddo District PTA Board of Directors  
Mariah Underwood, PTA President**

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## Directory Available September 12

**The Caddo District PTA Directory listing all the PTA presidents, State PTA officials, school board administrators and district board members will be distributed at the September 12 general meeting. This book is a compact "who to contact" book that will be given to school principals, PTA presidents, Caddo District PTA committee chairs and Caddo Parish School Board officials. We encourage all PTA and PTSA presidents to come to receive your book at this first general meeting of the new school year.**



**Diana May  
Directory Chair  
Mariah Underwood, President  
Beverly Hudson, Editor**

***Caddo District PTA***  
***401 West 70<sup>th</sup> Street***  
***Shreveport, LA 71106***

## *Calendar of Events*

### **September**

|             |                                    |   |                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| <b>12</b>   | <b>PTA General Meeting</b>         | <b>Board Room – 1961 Midway</b>   | <b>9:30</b>      |
| <b>a.m.</b> |                                    |   |                  |
| <b>19</b>   | <b>October Newsletter Deadline</b> | <b>email <a href="mailto:bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us">bfhudson@caddo.k12.la.us</a></b> |                  |
| <b>26</b>   | <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>  | <b>Room 1 – 1961 Midway</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b> |

### **October**

|             |                                       |   |                   |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>3</b>    | <b>PTA General Meeting</b>            | <b>Board Room – 1961 Midway</b>                       | <b>9:30</b>       |
| <b>a.m.</b> |                                       |   |                   |
| <b>19</b>   | <b>Caddo PTA Principal’s Luncheon</b> | <b>Gallilee Baptist Church<br/>1500 Pierre Avenue</b> | <b>11:30 a.m.</b> |
| <b>31</b>   | <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>     | <b>Room 1 – 1961 Midway</b>                           | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  |



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