



Caddo District PTA Newsletter



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Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #4

Affiliated State and National PTA
December 2008

2008-2009 Caddo District Board of Directors

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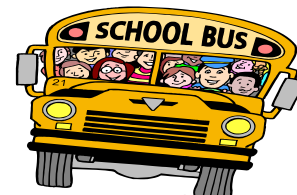
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President's Message

Oh what an awesome organization we are! When I am asked to describe the Caddo District PTA, I say we are a great organization with our major focus on helping students succeed. Parental



involvement is a key to student and school success and we definitely encourage parents to become involved in their school with all children.

I would also like to extend many thanks and much appreciation to our new superintendent, Dr. Gerald Dawkins, as he works to help all school succeed. I would like to thank principals, teachers, parents, community and business leaders, and the Caddo Parish School Board for all of their help and support of PTA in its many endeavors to make parental involvement more visible in school. We are very happy to have your continued support for the events and programs that Caddo District PTA sponsors.

As the 2009 year approaches, we must be mindful to remember the goals we have reached in 2008 as well as set new ones for the next year. Membership, of course, should always be a priority for all local PTA units. We must strive to increase our numbers. The New Year is a new opportunity for membership recruitment.

Remember that Safety Drawing entries are due at the next general meeting, January 6, 2009. Our meeting will be held the Tuesday after the holidays when the students return to school. Be sure to mark your calendars of this important date.

We would like to wish all of our PTA Family a very safe and heartfelt holiday with your students as they celebrate the holidays. We hope you have a restful time with your families and extended families.

See you next year refreshed and ready to honor your PTA Family with awards and thanks at the February 19, 2009 Founders Day Celebration at Broadmoor Baptist Church, at 6:30 pm as we celebrate the founding of PTA.

Margie Rayburn

Caddo District PTA, President





Membership Matters

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

Caddo District PTA is pleased to have 13, 200 memberships as November 11, 2008.
Keep up the good work!

Are you trying to reach 100% membership by December 15th? Here are a list of reasons to encourage parents, students, faculty & staff to join the PTA.

Get Connected. There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.

Discover Great Resources. The PTA offers a variety of programs designed for parents as well as students.

Tap into a Network. Parenting is not easy—it helps to share ideas, concerns and experiences with other parents and educators in the community. PTA functions are opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, building rapport and discussing issues that are on your mind.

Watch Yourself Grow. By volunteering with your PTA, you gain valuable experiences. It's an opportunity to put your skills and hobbies to good use for a good cause—your child and all children in the community.

Speak Up. Because the PTA is a forum for exchanging ideas, you are encouraged to make suggestions. PTA can be a way for you to more effectively suggest change at your child's school.

Witness Improvement. By getting involved at your child's school you'll be part of the solution, helping make positive changes. Local PTAs play an important role in fundraising to provide building improvements, curriculum-based programs, and social events—all vital to a school's success.

Be a Role Model. By becoming a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education.

Enjoy Substantial Benefits. Individuals and local units can take advantage of a host of benefits from PTA membership including discounts and offers from member benefits providers and sponsors, magazine subscriptions, leadership training, e-newsletters and much more.

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. With three to four days notice your Unit Name and LUR Number can be printed on your cards.

TREASURERS' CORNER



The Caddo Parish School Board requires that all school organizations use Caddo School Board Pink Fundraising Form (IA-82-rev.8/05) for all fundraising - PTA or other school related groups. These forms can usually be obtained from the School Bookkeeper. The Principal must sign the top portion of this form PRIOR to beginning the fundraising. After the fundraiser, you will need to complete this form and submit the finalized portion to the school. This information goes to CPSB Central Office. It is recommended that you make a copy of this completed form to keep with the PTA's records.

Ann Wolf, Treasurer

UNITS IN GOOD STANDING

Unit in Good Standing must be met prior to deadlines for entries to be eligible for Programs/Awards participation.

The following schools have met all of the criteria for “Units is Good Standing”:

A. C. Steere Elementary
Arthur Circle Elementary
Blanchard Elementary
C. E. Byrd High
Caddo Middle Magnet
Caddo Parish Magnet High
Captain Shreve High
Claiborne Fundamental Elementary
Donnie Bickham Middle
E. B. Williams/Stoner Hill Lab
Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary
Eighty-First Street ECE
Fairfield Elementary Magnet
Forest Hill Elementary
Herndon Elementary /Middle Magnet
Judson Elementary Fundamental Magnet

Linwood Middle
Midway Elementary Prof. Development
North Caddo Magnet High
Northwood High
Oil City Elementary
Riverside Elementary
Shreve Island Elementary
South Highland Elementary Magnet
Southern Hills Elementary
Summer Grove Elementary
Sunset Acres Elementary
University Elementary
Walnut Hill Elementary/Middle
Youree Drive Middle

West Central: North Desoto Middle

A list will be placed in every newsletter with the names of the schools that are in “Good Standing”. These schools are printed in the newsletter as of November 14, 2008. These schools may participate in the Safety Drawing Program.

There are several schools that we do not have president’s name and contact information. We need this contact information to send out newsletters and other PTA information, add to the Caddo District PTA Directory, share with the Louisiana PTA and National PTA’s so that you may receive their mailings. These schools are: Barret Elementary, Bethune Middle, Creswell Elementary, J. S. Clark Middle, Oak Park Elementary, Pine Grove Elementary, Vivian Elementary/Middle, and Westwood Elementary. If you have a president please send me their contact information so they can be added to the mailing list at the Louisiana PTA and National PTA.

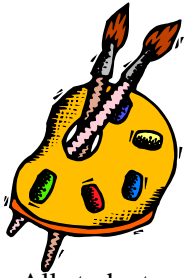


Run-off Election December 6

PTAs **must not endorse** any candidate.

Encourage your members to exercise their right to vote in the **open** election!

Reminder: No General Meeting in December.
See you Jan 6, 2009.



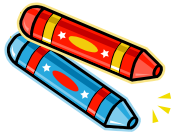
Safety Drawing Be Safe, Think Smart” Due January 6, 2009

Students must participate in the safety contest through a PTA/PTSA “unit in good standing”. All students who enter must be affiliated with a PTA/PTSA school.

- Students may enter in the appropriate grade division: Schools may submit one entry per division.
 - PRIMARY: Preschool - Grade 2
 - INTERMEDIATE: Grades 3 - 5
 - MIDDLE/JUNIOR: Grades 6 - 8
 - SENIOR: Grades 9 – 12
- The **drawing theme** is “**Be Safe, Think Smart.**”
- **Size:** Drawings may not exceed 18 inches by 12 inches (including a mat if using). You may use regular paper, art paper, or poster board.
- The drawing mediums include pencil, crayon, colored pencil, and markers.
- **Design:** Lettering should be done by hand and should be neat and simple, with a minimum of words. Do not use stencils, magazine clippings or any kind of machine cut-outs. Only original artwork is accepted.



Important information to remember or check before submitting entries:



- Must be a unit in Good Standing
- Each entry must include a **signed by the student** entry form filled out in its **entirety**
- Local Unit information at bottom of student form **must** be filled out on each entry
- Local PTA Participation Form
- Safety poster entrants list is required with students names listed.

Submission

All entries must be judged at the local unit level before submission to the district for judging.

Entries are due January 6, 2009 General Meeting to Angie Wilson, Health and Safety chair.

If you need any other information please contact me at 797-3092 (h) or 465-5957 (c).



Safety Drawing Theme Search Due Date: February 2, 2009

The Louisiana PTA is looking for a theme for its 2009–2010 Safety Drawing Program. The theme may include any subject pertaining to safety that will appeal to students in preschool through grade 12.

Students submitting theme ideas must be enrolled full time in a PTA/PTSA school whose “unit is in good standing”.

The winning student will receive \$25 and recognition at the Louisiana PTA Convention.

Form to be submitted to the state Health and Safety Chair, Peggy Seeley, 39208 Oak Street, Pearl River LA, 70452.

(visit our website at caddodistrictpta.org for interactive forms for all programs)

PTA
Discovering
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
Live the Adventure..... Louisiana PTA!

***PTA Discovering Endless Possibilities, Live the adventure.....Louisiana PTA!
Louisiana PTA State Convention***

The Louisiana PTA wants you to discover endless possibilities at the upcoming Louisiana PTA State Convention. The Louisiana PTA State Convention is just around the corner. The state convention is being held in Shreveport, at the new Shreveport Convention Center connected to the Hilton Hotel. The dates for convention are April 17-18, 2009, Friday afternoon and Saturday. This contract had to be signed 1½ years ago, before the school calendar had to be adjusted. This is at the end of Spring Break but we hope all of you will be able to attend. You will discover endless possibilities as you learn about PTA with all types of business to handle at this convention. Some items on the agenda are Membership Awards, election of officers (President, President Elect and others), Bylaws Amendments, and Resolutions. At the Children's Award Luncheon many of our own children will be honored for achieving endless possibilities in the State and National Programs. There will be many workshops for local officers and local members. The Saturday night banquet, where the schools' winning entries will be recognized for Newsletter, Outstanding Unit, Website, and Educators of Distinction will be the final business event of the convention. After the convention closes, a dance for relaxing and partying will conclude the convention. If you have never attended a state convention this will be an economical experience because you will not have to travel and have the expense of a hotel room. However, you might want to stay at the hotel to have the full experience of convention.

Registration fee for the convention and workshops is \$50.00. There are additional fees for the Children's Luncheon and the Saturday night Awards Banquet, and the dance. All reservations are due by April 1, 2009. Please be sure to have this as a budgeted item in your PTA budget so that all that want to go may be able to attend. Let's work to have the largest delegation from Caddo District.

There will be many vendors attending this convention to showcase the items they have for schools to use as fundraisers. They are very generous with items that they give to attendees. Be sure to stop by all the vendors' booths and sign up because vendors' door prizes will be given at the Saturday night Banquet. You must be at the banquet in order to win the vendors' doorprizes.

Caddo District will be in charge of the hospitality room where on Friday night there will be a *meet and greet* wine tasting. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be served. The hospitality room will be open again Saturday morning for a light breakfast, snacks between workshops and a final opening from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Come and help us greet all the delegates from all over the state.

Come join the fun and excitement and have your camera ready for all the new friends from across the state that you will meet. "PTA Friends are some of the Best Friends". Explore the endless possibilities as you attend the Louisiana State PTA Convention April 17-18, 2009.



Please update Your Directory:

Bethune 6th Grade Academy:
President: Tara Moore
3035 Fulton Street, Shreveport, 71109
h) 635-9888 c) 458-4039

Jack P. Timmons Elementary:
President: Sherry Durfee

Founders' Day Banquet
February 19, 2009
6:30 PM
Broadmoor Baptist Church
"Caddo District Takes Mardi Gras
World Class"
Tickets \$20 each, available at the
January 6 meeting

The We Care Team...What's That?



The We Care Team is the biggest gang in town—an Army of men, women, youth, and children who care about one another. We go about our daily lives making our community a better place to live, work, and play.

We are a diverse community, young and old, male and female, rich and poor, educated and uneducated, of different race, color, creed, religion, and political orientation. Though different, we all share the capacity to care for one another and most of us really do care for others. We are just not visible to each other, and not connected to each other. Our goal as a community is to connect all caring persons through the We Care Team. Caring persons in isolation can't change a community—they must be connected. The We Care Team is the way to become connected.

Today over 40,000 persons in the Shreveport-Bossier area, including 15,000 youth have already joined the We Care Team, and our numbers are growing daily. We will become the **first American community in history where people are concretely connected together through our conscious decision and commitment to care for one another.**

The **Caddo District Parent Teacher Association is a key vehicle** through which we will connect caring persons throughout our community. Through the PTA, parents and youth alike become part of a family that changes our community from an ordinary community to an extraordinary community.

After presenting We Care to the Caddo District PTA meeting November 11, 2008, we visited Judson Elementary School at the invitation of PTA President Eppie Adams. The meeting was packed with parents, children, and dedicated staff members. Parents and staff alike signed up for the We Care Team with great enthusiasm.

Bob Griffin, Eve Goins, and Tom Watts are committed to visiting every PTA organization in every Caddo Parish School to share the vision with you and help our community become the **“light on the hill”** as an example to every community in our nation.

Call Tom Watts at 425-3222 or email Tom at tomwatts@communityrenewal.us and invite us to your next monthly meeting. You will be glad you did and so will our community.

Community Renewal International sponsors We Care Essay Contest. Congratulations to the following winners from Caddo Public Schools.

Elementary School

1st Place, Hanna Laing, Herndon Elementary/Middle Magnet

2nd Place, Erin Defee, Riverside Elementary

3rd Place (tie), Abby Byford, Herndon Elementary/Middle Magnet and Danielle Jenkins, Summerfield Elementary

Middle School

1st Place, Sarah Vickers, Caddo Middle Magnet

2nd Place, Antoine' Hollis, Caddo Middle Magnet

3rd Place, Hunter Bryant, Caddo Middle Magnet

High School

1st Place, Catherine Coley, Booker T Washington

2nd Place, Chasity Porter, Booker T Washington

3rd Place (tie), Chad Scott, C. E. Byrd and Veronique Wynn, Booker T Washington

A Message from National PTA about the Survey

We sincerely apologize for the numerous e-mails you have been receiving as people hit “reply” to the survey e-mail we sent to you yesterday, November 10, 2008. This e-mail was intended for Local Unit Presidents and Officers. Unfortunately, due to a computer glitch, anyone who hit reply to this e-mail was sending their response to the entire list, rather than just to our Information Center. This was corrected as of yesterday evening, November 11, 2008. Some people are receiving delayed e-mails, but that should also stop soon. Please know that this e-mail did come from the National PTA National Headquarters and not from an outside vendor. We do not sell or share our e-mail lists and your e-mail address is not being given to others. It is only used for PTA purposes, in this case, for this important online survey that we only send to our leaders every two years.

Your responses to this survey are extremely important to PTA and we encourage you to use the link in the original e-mail or this one to take the survey. If you already took the survey, we thank you. You will not need to take it again. If you did not participate, we ask that you do so as your ideas and opinions will truly help this organization. The survey link does work and your responses will remain anonymous.

Again, we apologize for this huge inconvenience and ask you to delete the subsequent responses that have the subject “Help Improve PTA; Take the Online Survey Today”. We are very grateful for your understanding and for all that you do for our children and families.

Founders Day Trivia

The National Congress of Mothers was founded by Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst in Washington, DC, February 17, 1897. These women knew there was no stronger bond than that between mother and child. When they called for action, more than 2,000 mothers, fathers, teachers, laborers and legislators responded.

The Founders Day celebration was created in 1910 by Mrs. David O Mears, a charter member of the first organization as a way to honor our Founders. The Founders Day observance has continued through the change of organization names in 1925 to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the uniting in 1970 with the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, founded in 1926 by Selena Sloan Butler, to become the National PTA.

Through consistent hard work and years of perseverance we can thank our original Founders and others like them for the creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, a public health service, hot lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and mandatory immunization. We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to our Founders as well as all of the volunteers that have followed in their footsteps.

Founders Day remains a perfect time to renew the dedication to the Purposes of the PTA that were defined by PTAs Founders over a century ago as well as pay tribute to our local volunteers for all they do for our children.

Carole Levine, Deputy Executive Director

Founders Day Recognitions

It’s not too early to start thinking about which of your PTA volunteers to honor at the Founders Day Banquet in February.

There are two ways to honor volunteers and support Caddo District Scholarships: Order forms for both of these are available on the website – caddodistrictpta.org

1. Caddo District Member Scroll – For a \$10 donation, your volunteer will receive a pin and certificate. This award is available from Mrs. Kathleen Barberousse at Fairfield Elementary Magnet.



2. Caddo District Honorary Life Service Award: For a \$30 donation, your volunteer receives the highest honor awarded by our district with a custom made pin and certificate. This award is available from Carol Fullilove, who chair’s the life service committee.



Louisiana PTA Life Service Award:

This is the highest award that can be given by a local unit. It is purchased from the State PTA office at a cost of \$40, and includes a pin and certificate. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

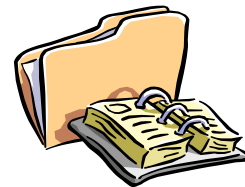


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*Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols, Editor*

Calendar of Events



November

- 18 Caddo District Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 am, CPSB Board Room
- 24 – 28 Thanksgiving Holidays, **Schools Closed**



December

- 15 Deadline for 100% Early Bird Award
- 22 – Jan 2 Christmas Holidays, **Schools Closed**



January

- 6 Caddo District PTA General Meeting – 9:30 am, CPSB Board Room
Safety Drawing Entries Due
- 16 **No school for Students**/All School Professional Development Day
- 19 **School Closed** - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday