



CADDO DISTRICT PTA NEWSLETTER



Affiliated State & National PTA
Dec/Jan

Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #4

2010-2011 Caddo District Board of Directors

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Tillie Cailleff, *Scholarship Program*
Bonita Crawford, *School Board Rep.*
Angie Wilson, *Teacher Appreciation*
Sandi Walton, *Teacher Appreciation*
Eppie, Adams, *Webmaster*

Visit our Website:
www.caddodistrictpta.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Charlotte Echols, Amy Failla and I attended the Louisiana PTA state board meeting November 12-14, 2010 in Lafayette Louisiana. We are preparing for the convention which will be held on April 16-17, 2011 in Baton Rouge, LA. Caddo District PTA will be in charge of decorations for the Awards Banquet and we will be looking for people who are attending to help us with this process at the convention. Our special guest from the National PTA will be the National PTA President, Chuck Saylor, the first man to serve as National PTA President. A newly held event will be a Town Hall Meeting. We will have a panel of special guests for a question and answer session. This should be a very informative session.

Another item we need to make you aware of is the Louisiana PTA has a concern about receiving personal checks for memberships. The concern is that when Louisiana PTA is audited that these checks could be determined a donation and not a payment for memberships. If at all possible, please have a PTA check for the purchase of membership cards. I do understand there will be exceptions from time to time, maybe it is the first of the year and new check cards haven't been signed yet.

The Caddo District Life Membership committee has now been elected. Remember to honor those in your PTA who have given of their time to you school PTA over and above aboard. Be sure to honor those who work so diligently for the students in Caddo Parish Public Schools. Hope to see all of you at the Founders Day Banquet to be held on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at the Western Hills Baptist Church at 6:30 pm.

The Nomination Committee will soon be able to receive advisory nominations to the Caddo District PTA. The position's to be elected are 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer..

Remember that the next Caddo District PTA General meeting will be held on January 4, 2011 where the Safety Drawing entries will be due. Remember this years theme is **"Give a Cheer, Safety's Here!"**

Caddo District PTA extends a very happy holiday to each and every family in Caddo and hope you and yours enjoy the Holiday season with all of your extended family members and all of your friends during the New Year!

Margie Rayburn, President

FROM THE DESK OF DR. GERALD D. DAWKINS SUPERINTENDENT



"CREATING WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS FOR WORLD CLASS STUDENTS"

During these last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to hear from hundreds of parents, staff and community members who have thoughts, ideas and questions about the Vision 2020 strategic planning process. Our community meetings have been well-attended and I am impressed with the level of involvement. This is exactly the type of feedback needed to shape the future of our schools. Special thanks to the Caddo District PTA for hosting the October 30th meeting at the central office, which was also carried live on our website.

On December 16th, we will present to the Caddo Parish School Board all of the feedback we have received. During a series of January 2011 work sessions, the board will use that information to shape what will ultimately become the final proposal. Rest

assured, what you have seen and heard thus far is only a preliminary draft. While proposed facilities changes have received most of the attention, the primary focus of the strategic plan is Academic Achievement. Everything we do or propose to do is with the goal of helping teachers teach and students learn.

This is an historic opportunity to lay the groundwork for our children's future and the perfect time for those who have not been involved in the school system to become engaged. While we may not always agree on how to get there, we can all agree on the ultimate goal—the best possible education for the students of Caddo Parish Public Schools.

Gerald D. Dawkins, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Caddo Parish Public Schools

NEW GUIDELINES FROM THE IRS FOR FILING 2010 INCOME TAX RETURNS.

<i>2010 Tax Year and later (Filed in 2011 and later)</i>	<i>Form to File (Coming Soon)</i>	<i>Instructions (Coming Soon)</i>
Private foundation	990-PF	Instructions
Gross receipts normally ≤ \$50,000 Note: Organizations eligible to file the <i>e-Postcard</i> may choose to file a full return	990-N	n/a
Gross receipts < \$200,000, and Total assets < \$500,000	990-EZ or 990	Instructions
Gross receipts ≥ \$200,000, or Total assets ≥ \$500,000	990	Instructions

- Organizations with gross receipts normally ≤ \$50,000 must file [Form 990-N](#) (but [may choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ](#)). In prior years only organizations with gross receipts normally ≤ \$25,000 could file the Form 990-N ("e-postcard").
- Organizations with gross receipts > \$50,000 and < \$200,000 and total assets < \$500,000 must file Form 990-EZ or a complete Form 990.
- Organizations with gross receipts ≥ \$200,000 or total assets ≥ \$500,000 must file Form 990.
- Private foundations must file Form 990-PF.

DISTRICT PTA NEWS

CADDO REFLECTIONS THEME SEARCH WINNERS 2010-2011

Caddo District PTA will have 4 out of 5 of the Reflections Theme Search entries forwarded to the National PTA for judging in the Reflections Theme Search for 2012.

The winners and their entries are listed below:

If I would've done, I could've been...	C. E. Byrd High	Jana Hill
The World We "Want" to Live In...	C. E. Byrd High	Taylor Whitaker
The Voice of My Heart...	Caddo Middle Magnet	Meghana. Rao
What if I colored outside the lines?	Caddo Middle Magnet	Blake Bramley

Congratulations to these winners from Caddo District PTA! Great Job!!

IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES TO REMEMBER

Safety Drawing Program – Jan. 4, 2011 (District Deadline), Bring to Jan. 4 General Meeting, Caddo Parish Board Room or contact Child Welfare and Safety Co-Chairs, Amy Failla, or Angie Wilson

Safety Drawing Program Theme Search (LA PTA Program) – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Jessica Wallace Ayala, LA PTA Special Award Chair, 7454 Broad Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817

PTA's Taking Action Award – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Susan Laborde, State President, 70551 Riverside Drive, Covington, LA 70433

Newsletter Award – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Charlotte Echols, Public Relations Chair, 9735 Jade Circle, Shreveport, LA 71106

Outstanding Website – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Charlotte Echols, Public Relations Chair, 9735 Jade Circle, Shreveport, LA 71106

Educator of Distinction – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Jessica Wallace Ayala, LA PTA Special Award Chair, 7454 Broad Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Louisiana PTA Scholarship – Feb. 1, 2011, Send to Jessica Wallace Ayala, LA PTA Special Award Chair, 7454 Broad Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70817

Outstanding Grandparent Award – March 1, 2011 (Caddo District Award), Send to Tillie Cailleff, 868 Southgate Rd., Shreveport, LA 71105

Caddo District PTA Scholarship – March 26, 2011 (Caddo District Award), Send to Tillie Cailleff, 868 Southgate Rd., Shreveport, LA 71105

GIVE A CHEER, SAFETY'S HERE!"

The deadline for the PTA Safety Drawing Program is fast approaching.

School entries are due at the Caddo District General Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 4th at 9:30 a.m. Remember that entries must be judged at the school level and no more than 3 per grade division may be submitted to the district. Guidelines are available on the Caddo District PTA website at www.caddodistrictpta.org. You may also contact the co-chairs, Amy Failla at 655-8030 or Angie Wilson at 465-5957, for more information.

GREAT IDEA BANK

This National PTA sight has great Ideas about Fundraising and just about anything else that will help you have a successful PTA or have fun connecting with PTA's everywhere.

Join discussions on this growing social network. The newest topic is **Membership Incentives Involving Principals**.

Go to this website to check it out:
<http://www.ptagreatideabank.org/groups>



DISTRICT PTA NEWS CONT'D.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE?

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department has shared the following helpful Internet Acronyms so you can read what your children are writing when they facebook, text, blog, myspace, twitter, etc.

- adr** Address
- afk** Away from keyboard
- aml** All my love
- asap** As soon as possible
- asl** **Age Sex Location**
- bbfn** Bye bye for now
- bbl** Be back later
- bcnu** Be seeing you
- bfm** Bye for now
- brb** Be right back
- cya** See you
- f2f or ftf** Face to face
- fya** For your amusement
- fomcl** Falling off my chair laughing
- gbh** Great big hug
- g2g** Got to go
- gr8** Great
- iat** I am tired
- ic** I see
- im** Instant message
- imao** In my arrogant opinion
- imho** In my humble opinion
- ily** I love you
- jt** Just teasing
- k** Okay
- kotc** Kiss on the cheek
- kotl** Kiss on the lips
- l8r** Later
- lol** Laughing out loud
- lmao** Laughing my a** off
- np** No problem
- omg** Oh my God
- pda** Public display of affection
- qt** Cutie
- somy** Sick of me yet
- tic** Tongue in cheek
- tfn** Ta-Ta for now
- ttyl** Talk to you later
- ty** Thank you
- wbs** Write back soon
- wtg** Way to go
- wywh** Wish you were here
- xm** Excuse me



- y** Why
- yw** Your welcome
- zzz** Sleepy, bored or tired



Symbolic Acronyms

- 0:-)** Angelic
- >:-)** Angry
- :-c** Bummed out
- :'-(** Crying
- :-9** Delicious
- :-p** Sticking out tongue
- :-*)** Drunk
- :-)** Frown
- \-/** Full glass
- \/** Empty glass
- ^5** High five
- ((name))** Cyber hug
- :~/** Mixed up
- :-0** Mouth open (surprise)
- ****** Popcorn
- &&&&** Pretzels
- @--)--(--** Rose
- :-@** Screaming
- I-O** Yawning



For more information or if you believe your child or you may be a victim of internet crime please call the **Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office** at (318) 675-2170 or your local law enforcement agency as soon as possible.

Angie Wilson
Child Welfare and Safety

CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS



Page 25

West Central Council
Ball Bobcats PTA LUR#00027707
 89 Camplivingston Road, Ball 71360
 318-640-5394
 Principal: Shirly Ryder
 President: Kelli Murrell
 125 Ranson Drive, Ball 71405
 318-640-7109
 Jkge.murrell@suddenlink.net

FOUNDER'S DAY

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 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.

The National Life Achievement Award:

This is the highest honor that be bestowed upon a PTA member. This is a national award that has to come from the National PTA. To order you can go to the Caddo District PTA website and the information is under forms. Please allow 4 weeks to receive this award.

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.

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 your school PTA's records.

Founders' Day Banquet
February 18, 2010
6:30 PM
Western Hills Baptist Church
Tickets \$20 each, available at the
January 5 General meeting

SCHOOL NEWS

Caddo Parish Magnet High celebrate at the Principal's Luncheon. Pictured (Right to Left) are Robin Weimar- Registrar; Mary Rounds- Principal; and Yolonda Robinson, Principal's Secretary. Their table theme was "30 Years of Magnet".



Caddo Middle Magnet Principal, Louis Cook is surrounded by volunteers (Left to Right) Dixey Robertson, Noreen Dockendorf, Natalie Howell, Christine Tharpe, Vickie Meadows and Lisa Folsom showing their school spirit at the Principal's Luncheon.



CADDO MIDDLE MAGNET THANKS PARENTS

Caddo Middle Magnet parents were treated to a drive-thru appreciation breakfast on Friday, October 29th. Parents were surprised to see student counselors, Mr. Cook and Dr. Ellis delivering hot sausage biscuits and orange juice courtesy of McDonalds to their window as they drove through the carpool line to drop off their children. "Our parents do so much to make our school great. They volunteer countless numbers of hours and donate generously all year long so we thought that they needed to know just how appreciated they are. A school cannot be as great as CMM without parental support – it is the key," Christine Tharpe, CMM PTSA President said.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING BEST OF SHOW IN THE CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST AT THE AMERICAN ROSE CENTER.



SCHOOL NEWS CONT'D.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SOUTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

The Poindexter Foundation, Inc. donated \$20,000 for a Dell Mobile Computing Lab. After extensive investigation, program leaders determined that the Netbooks cart with 25 computers is a cost effective way for an entire class of students to access technology. The portability of the cart means that it can be moved from room to room with fewer scheduling conflicts and can be used every class period every school day.

Founded in 2005, The Community Foundation of Shreveport-Bossier Women's Philanthropy Network is an organization of women aged 16 and older who pool their annual dues to make high-impact gifts in the community. A donation of \$75,000 from the WPN, combined with additional funding from the Bio-medical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana, provided grant funds of \$82,500 for the purchase and training on MOBI Interactive Tablets and Classroom Response System (clickers). Hands-on training took place for one week this past summer with 36 teachers, and each teacher received his or her own MOBI and set of clickers. Both teachers and students are excited about using the interactive and engaging tools in the classroom to promote Differentiated Instruction. The participating schools are Southwood, Ridgewood, and Keithville. This innovative instructional technology will assist with data driven decision making and promote various formats of instructional delivery.

The Rotary Club of Southwest Shreveport awarded the Biotech Magnet Academy a \$2,000 grant to purchase Western Blotting equipment. This equipment will help better prepare the Biotech Academy students for their hands-on internships at LSU Health Sciences Center. Students will be trained during their junior year at Southwood in Western Blotting techniques.

The Southwest Shreveport Rotary club also sponsored a Jambalaya fundraiser where Southwood Biotech Magnet students sold tickets. The Biotech Coordinator is Lisa Nance.

Propelling Southwood's EAST lab into the new millennium is the recent purchase of the Virtual Reality equipment. The new technology is a great asset to the program and the first in the state of Louisiana. Southwood's MST Program houses the only EAST lab within our state and garners many awards. In the 2010 National East Conference, the Southwood EAST lab received the Student Choice Award, the highest honor at the conference. They continue to represent our school with world-class excellence. Our EAST facilitators are Carolyn Laskowski and Lloyd Rushing.

Bill Fegley, Southwood's FIRST robotics coach, is

preparing his teams for the upcoming robotics competitions. The spring months are a whirlwind of activity as the students create and refine their robots for the FIRST Tech Challenge, the FIRST Robotics Competition, and the Mini-Urban Challenge.

It is a pleasure to introduce our new MST Instructional Coordinator, Susan Tompkins, who joined the MST Program in November. Mrs. Tompkins played a major role in this summer's training of new MST teachers and Clicker Grant training. With National Board Certification and a Masters Degree in Educational Technology Leadership, she does an excellent job of showing teachers how to integrate technologies into their students' classroom experiences.

Southwood Band has competed in several competitions this school year. They prepared two different shows for this school year and showcased them at Marching Festivals and Battle of the Bands.

The band earned a superior rating in every competition entered:

(Parkway Marching Festival) Bossier Louisiana--- Superior in General Effect

(Carroll High Battle of the Bands) Monroe Louisiana- Superior in Band, 1st in Drum Major, 1st In Flags, 3rd in Majorettes, and Overall Grand Champs .

(Louisiana Music Educator's Association) Superior Rating / Qualified for State.

(North Forestt High School Battle of the Bands) Houston Texas-- Superior in Band, 1st in Drum Major, 1st In Flags, and Overall Grand Champs.

The PTSA hosted a treat bag giveaway for the students at Southwood High School on Oct. 29, 2010. We asked the parents and staff of candy donations and they did a wonderful job in donating candy and snacks for the high school students. The students were really surprised and enjoyed the treats. That goes to show you that even in high school, they are still young at heart.



COMMUNITY/PTA NEWS

WE CARE ESSAY CONTEST



This year marks the tenth anniversary for the We Care Essay Contest in Caddo Parish Public Schools. Over the next week, Bob Griffin and I will have the privilege and joy of making presentations to the first place winners at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. We made our first presentation this morning at Summerfield Elementary. Second grader Karrington Stewart won first place in competition against all elementary school participants throughout Caddo Parish.

Next Monday we will be at C. E. Byrd High School honoring first place winner Anna Walton, an eleventh grader who competed with all participating high school students in Caddo Parish. And

next Friday we will be at Donnie Bickham Middle School honoring Maddison Benge, a seventh grader who won first place in competition against all participating middle school students in Caddo Parish.

The *Top Ladies of Distinction*, a local professional women's group, evaluates the We Care essays each year. These ladies do an outstanding job with tireless dedication. We give heartfelt thanks to the *Top Ladies of Distinction*, and special thanks to Delories Porter and Stephanie Owens who coordinate the evaluation each year.

Tom Watts, Renewal Team Director
Community Renewal International
425-3222

The complete list of winners of the Caddo Parish Public Schools 2010 We Care Essay Contest follows:

Elementary Winners

1 st Place	Karrington Stewart	2 nd Grade	Summerfield Elementary
2 nd Place	Leah Gould	5 th Grade	Arthur Circle
3 rd Place	Madyson Stewart	5 th Grade	Blanchard Elementary

Middle School Winners

1 st Place	Maddison Benge	7 th Grade	Donnie Bickham Middle
2 nd Place	Robert Sullivan	6 th Grade	Youree Drive
3 rd Place	Haley Tupper	8 th Grade	Herndon Magnet

High School Winners

1 st Place	Anna Walton	11 th Grade	C.E. Byrd High School
2 nd Place	Christopher Lawrence	12 th Grade	Captain Shreve
3 rd Place	Makala Marshall	10 th Grade	Woodlawn Leadership Academy

PROMETHEAN AND NATIONAL PTA - A NEW PROUD NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

Everyone knows that great schools have visionary leaders and committed parents who want their children to have the very best education possible.

Promethean is committed to supporting teaching and learning in classrooms across the world. The ActivClassroom by Promethean includes interactive whiteboards (ActivBoards), and award-winning student assessment devices (ActivExpression, ActiVote) and software (ActivInspire) to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

Promethean recognizes how important parents are to building strong schools. As a **new Proud National Sponsor of PTA**, we are delighted to offer PTA members two unique opportunities to help teachers at your schools.

"Great School Fundraisers" Contest

Share your most successful fundraising programs for a chance to win interactive classroom technology.

"Fund Your Dream ActivClassroom" Matching Funds Promotion

Conduct a PTA sponsored fundraiser during the 2010 – 2011 school year. Promethean will match the amount raised, up to \$3,800 per school, towards the purchase of any combination of qualifying products.

We invite you to visit PrometheanWorld.com/PTA to learn more about Promethean and these exciting new opportunities.



LOUISIANA PTA NEWS

“WILD ABOUT PTA”



The Louisiana PTA wants you “**Wild About PTA**” at the upcoming Louisiana PTA State Convention. The Louisiana PTA State Convention is just around the corner. This year’s convention is being held in Baton Rouge, LA. at the new Crowne Plaza Hotel. The dates for convention are April 15-16, 2011, Friday afternoon and Saturday. You will become Wild About PTA as you learn about PTA with all types of business to handle. Some items on the agenda are Membership Awards, election of officers (President, President-Elect and 1st Vice President), Bylaws Amendments, and Resolutions. At the Children’s Award Luncheon many of our own children will be honored for “Wild About PTA” in the State and National Programs. There will be many workshops for local officers and local members. At the Saturday night banquet will recognize Newsletter, Website, Educators of Distinction and Scholarship winners, and the final event of the convention will be the announcement of Outstanding Unit and Honor Units. After the banquet, a dance for relaxing and partying will conclude the convention.

Registration fee for the convention and workshops is \$50.00. There are additional fees for the Children’s Luncheon, the Saturday night Awards Banquet, and the dance. Please be sure to have this as a budgeted item in your PTA budget so that the newly elected officers and this year’s officers may be able to attend. .

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. Vendors’ door prizes will be given at the Saturday night Banquet.

Caddo District will be in charge of the Decorations for the Saturday night Awards Banquet. Come and help us greet all the delegates from all over the state.

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.” We look forward to seeing you at the Louisiana State PTA Convention April 15-16, 2011.

SAFETY DRAWING THEME SEARCH

Due Date: February 1, 2011

The Louisiana PTA is looking for a theme for its 2011–2012 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 LAPTA Special Awards Chair, Jessica Wallace Ayala, 7454 Board Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70817.

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

“The Purpose of PTA”

**To find fact,
Not to find faults
To raise the standard of the home,
Not to criticize it
To raise the children better,
Not to raise them more easily.
To secure good schools,
Not to operate them.
To give every child a chance,
Not to make each a prodigy.
To make lives,
Not to make money.**

Louisiana PTA will host a **Winter Legislative Conference** on Saturday, January 22, 2011, at First Baptist Church, 529 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. When we think about the many purposes of PTA, one of our most important tasks is to protect the voice of our children through our State and National Legislatures. This conference will be a time when we meet to learn about why we should be legislative advocates, what being an advocate means, how our state PTA leaders can guide the District and local leaders, and what the current state of affairs are in education. We will have representatives from our legislative offices meeting with us to let us know what pressing issues are waiting for our voices. Specific information regarding registration will be forthcoming. Please contact Jean Krieger at 504-957-5326 if you have any questions or concerns.

FOCUS ON INCREASING MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

It's time for the holidays! The holiday season can be a challenging time to increase membership because everyone is busy with family, friends, and celebration preparations. How do you engage members after the initial back-to-school push? How can you grow membership during the holidays?

Take advantage of the holiday spirit! Conduct holiday-themed meetings and informal get-togethers to help attract new parents. Offer an afterschool session for parents coming to pick up their students to learn ways to provide healthy holiday treats and give away a healthy food basket or gift certificate to a winning attendee. Ask a local photographer to take family holiday photos at your school while you host a membership drive. Or ask to join hands with your local school's holiday program and conduct a membership drive.

Each of these holiday-themed ideas is an excellent way to keep parents engaged through the holidays and ready to join!

For more tips and resources on how you can increase membership at your PTA, visit the "[Running a PTA](#)" section on the PTA website.

Membership cards are \$2.75 & 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 District General Meetings or by contacting Eppie Adams (687-0442 or web@caddodistrictpta.org). Make checks payable to LA PTA. With four or five days notice your Unit Name and LUR Number can be printed on your cards!



115th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition

Thursday, June 9–
Sunday, June 12, 2011
Disney Coronado Resort
and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their

skills, connections, and success!

- Education—choose from 50+ workshops
- Exhibits—visit more than 200 exhibits
- Issues—raise your voice on national business and emerging issues
- Resources—gather 100s of ideas, hand-outs, giveaways
- Connections—interact with 1,000s of other PTA & parent engagement leaders from around the country
- Orlando—bring the entire family and enjoy all that Walt Disney World has to offer

REGISTRATION OPENS IN MARCH 2011!

PTA, NICKELODEON PROVIDE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY WITH BIG HELP GRANTS

Through [The Big Help](#), Nickelodeon will award \$1 million in grants to schools and community organizations like PTAs, enabling kids around the country to achieve the goal of a million acts of help. Find out more.

The Big Help Grant Program will support projects that inspire kids to

- take care of the environment,
- lead active, healthy lives,
- engage in community service, or
- improve their educational experience.

As a partner on this effort, local students can team up with their PTAs to apply for a \$2,500 or \$5,000 grant to support a project to improve their communities. For more information, visit the resources section of Nick.com/thebighelp.

JUST A REMINDER

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

ADVICE ON PARTICIPATING IN CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

Many students are afraid to speak in class, but open dialog provides an excellent learning situation. Helping your student, older or younger, learn to participate in class can help ensure his or her success in school. Read on for tips from StudyTips.org to share with your student.

If you have a different opinion from your teacher, go ahead and say it. Make certain that your opinion is based on facts and evidence, not just something you made up.

To take part in a discussion, follow what everyone is saying. When something is said that you feel should be noted or discussed more, write it down. Don't be afraid to ask a question if you do not understand something or follow the thread of the discussion.

It is a good idea to briefly summarize your point

when you enter the discussion. Sometimes restating the idea is a way to start talking. By restating the idea, you have reinforced the statement and possibly provided some clarification.

Refer to your notes if necessary, and don't be afraid to state your position. Just don't ramble and keep talking. Make your point then let somebody else answer you.

People may or may not agree with you. Don't get upset. Keep an open mind. Open dialog is important in the classroom. Remember to respect others opinions and reactions.

If you are aware of class discussion, look over your textbook and notes before coming to class. Think about your opinion and ideas before coming into the classroom. Have an idea of your opinion.

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NATIONAL PTA AND *PARENTING* PARTNER TO HELP YOU GO GREEN!

National PTA® and *Parenting* magazine have teamed up to bring you "Small Steps, Big Difference - Your Guide to Going Green at Home and In School." It is a fun and informative eight-page magazine that offers parents and families tips and information on going green at home and at school. Find out how to order copies for your PTA or school.

The magazine was created to get PTAs, parents, and families alike to start thinking of small steps they can take to go green. Articles include:

- "Practice the Three R's — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,"
- "Take 'Eco-Action,'"
- "Green School Spirit,"
- "Up-Cycling."

A **preview of the magazine** is available online at <http://www.pta.org/3452.htm>. State, district, council or local PTAs can register to receive **FREE copies** of the magazine to distribute at events and to families in their communities. PTAs can share copies of the magazine at state PTA conventions or summer leadership institutes, or distribute them at local community centers, libraries, recreation centers, or other locations. Act fast. Quantities are limited.

Go to <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/> to **place your order for FREE magazines** for your school, state PTA, or your community.

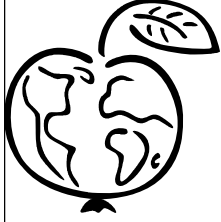
CANDY RECALLS

National PTA and Consumer Reports have partnered to provide you with monthly safety tips and product recalls alerting you of possible dangers in your school or home.

Check your pantry, refrigerator, and recent Halloween candy for recalls the following recalls:

- A limited number of **Mega Pops brand lollipops** were recalled due to traces of foreign particles.
- A single production code of **Nestle Raisinets** which may contain peanuts were recalled.
- The **Pictsweet Company** announced a voluntary recall of certain codes of store brand products after the company learned that some of the packages may contain glass fragments.

To find out the production codes, stores sold, and additional information for these recalled products and many more, go to clickcheckandprotect.org.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December

20-31 Christmas Holidays (School Closed)



January

- 1 New Year's Eve (School Closed)
- 4 Caddo District General Meeting—9:30 a.m., Board Room
Safety Drawing Local Unit Entries District Deadline, Caddo Parish Board Rm.
- 14 Professional Development Day (School Closed)
- 15 Reflections State Deadline
- 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (School Closed)
- 21 Newsletter deadline
- 25 Caddo District PTA Board of Directors Meeting—9:30 a.m., Rm. 1

