



Caddo District PTA

Newsletter

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Affiliated State and National PTA

Mariah Underwood, President

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President's Message

Mariah Underwood
Caddo District PTA President



Once again a new year opens before us. The passage of every year provides us with the opportunity to reflect on how we weathered the challenges that life brought, to resolve for the collective renewal of our common aspirations, and to brace ourselves for new things that lie ahead.

I would like to thank all of the dedicated individuals who are working with PTA at their schools. I applaud your willingness to volunteer your time and efforts to the PTA team.

The building of a PTA team and the success of an organization relies on its teamwork, energy, and commitment. Teamwork is essential and the best kept secret to an organization's success. If a PTA team is successful, the team becomes a strong organization which will bring new ideas and new resources to the organization.

In order to successfully work within a team, members must learn the skills of listening, questioning, persuading, respecting, helping each other, and participating. By doing these things, we will use our many talents to benefit the boys and girls in Caddo Parish.

Our Founders' Day Banquet will be held February 22, 2007 at Broadmoor Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m. I know it is early, but save the date on your calendar and plan to be in attendance. We will have more information about the founder's day celebration in a later edition of the PTA Newsletter.

Please keep in mind that recruiting members for PTA is an ongoing process. Our membership is growing because of dedicated presidents and members. If you need assistance at the local level in any way, please call me or your district liaison.

Have a safe and prosperous new year.

Mariah C. Underwood, President

From the Superintendent's Desk...



Mrs. Ollie S. Tyler, Superintendent
Caddo Parish School System

Honors and Awards by Students and Employees Bring Caddo Acclaim

As we embark upon a new calendar year and the second semester of the 2006-07 school year, I'd like to share with you some good news. Weekly, I continue to be excited about the updates I receive concerning regional, state and national honors and awards that are earned by our students and members of our staff. Caddo is truly an outstanding school system and we have the proof to back up that statement.

Employees at every level contribute to the achievements of students. Parents, the role you play is vital in academic and school success, and I thank you for your commitment. The district's honors are too numerous to list in this month's column, however, I take pride in highlighting some of our successes during the first semester.

The first group, although honored as high school students, have been taught and influenced over the past 12 to 13 years by many educators. These 25 students were recently recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program:

National Merit Semifinalists

C. E. Byrd: Jamie Burke, Kathryn Gayle and Elizabeth Haynie

Caddo Magnet: Claire E. Allison, Gregory S. Angle, Madison P. Beasley, Clara E. Caruthers, Jack R. Delo, Brittany L. Holt, Matthew J. Howell, Huang Huang, Katie R. Johnston, Kelsey C. Odom and Dorothy E. Vaughn

Captain Shreve: Jared Williams

National Achievement Semifinalist

C. E. Byrd: Anthony Mitchell, II

National Merit Commended

C. E. Byrd: Noah Baker, Creighton Boggs and Emily Slack

Caddo Magnet: Steven R. Bailey, Earl D. Cummings, Lela D. Durci, Michael Payne and George M. Smith.

Staff honors: Summer Grove Elementary 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Mary Harris, received the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award. Given this year to only two teachers in Louisiana, the Milken Foundation family presented Mrs. Harris with a \$25,000 cash award.

Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School journalism teacher, Mr. Randy Smith, was named the 2006-07 Regional Winner in the Louisiana Teacher of the Year program, after being chosen as Caddo's Middle School Teacher of the Year. In addition to Mr. Smith, the district winners at the elementary and high school levels are Ms. Kendra Renae Pullen, Riverside Elementary and Mrs. Misty Davis, Southwood High School.

Classroom makeovers were won by two Caddo teachers. Youree Drive band teacher Ms. Krista Fanning won the *In Tune Magazine* makeover. "Our winner does it all. From free private lessons in her home to brining in her family's instruments to buying reeds and strings with her own money, we found one great person," the magazine article concluded. Caddo Middle Magnet teacher Ms. Kristi Wolf received a colorful classroom makeover. Thanks to Ms. Wolf's colorful way of teaching and thanks to 8th grade student Ella Wolfe's winning essay submitted to the EXPO Classroom Makeover Contest. The learning environment received a makeover worth \$25,000 and Ella received a \$1,600 U. S. Savings Bonds.

Three outstanding Caddo principals represented Caddo in the Louisiana Principal of the Year Program. All three are proven leaders who use challenging instructional strategies to improve student achievement. Congratulations to regional winner, Mr. Mike Irvin, Oil City Environmental Science Magnet Elementary School; Mrs. Jamie Tolbert, Vivian Elementary/Middle School; and regional winner, Mr. Ken Wood, Southwood High School.

I am proud of the featured students and employees and their accomplishments. I will periodically use this column to share other staff and student honors.



Membership Matters

Karen Black, 1st V.P. Caddo District PTA/Membership

Caddo District PTA is pleased to report as of December 1, 15,304 members with 50 schools reporting.

What a way to start the New Year! Congratulations!

Please start your New Year by making the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and guardians feel welcome and wanted at your school. Now is a good time to plan your grandparent membership drive. Ask your principal to designate a Grandparent Day at your school. Remember to record the names of those that join. This is the only membership information list that is requested by the state office. This information must be sent directly to state office by March 1.

Be sure to express your appreciation to your principal for supporting PTSA. If you have not achieved 100% Faculty and Staff ask him/her to support you in this area. The result will be a big boost for your membership.

Membership cards continue to be available at any District General Meeting or by contacting Karen Black (861-7555 or karenanneblack@aol.com). Please make checks payable to LA PTA. With one to two days notice your unit name and number can be printed on your cards!

It is not too late to get your budget form in if you have not done so. Remember to send me a copy.

Congratulations!

100% Faculty

100% Faculty and staff

Bethune Middle School
Caddo Middle Magnet
Jack P Timmons Elementary
Judson Fundamental Magnet
Captain Shreve High School
Youree Drive Middle School

100% Faculty

C. E. Byrd High School
Eden Gardens Elementary Magnet
Northwood High School

100% Membership

Arthur Circle
Caddo Middle Magnet
Eden Gardens Elementary



PTA Units Around the Parish

Turner Elementary/Middle School Announces 2006-2007 Officers

President: Lisa Williams

1st Vice President: Lillian Burks

2nd Vice President: Dr. G. Buckingham

Secretary: Penny Hogan

Treasurer: Nancy Sullivan

Parliamentarian: Mable Tueil

Consultant: Sheila Wimberly

Bethune Middle School



Bethune Middle Academy School's PTSA at Laurel Street started the school year with a commitment of establishing a PTA. They have 100 % PTSA membership for faculty and staff and recently hosted a Christmas Musical in the school's auditorium. They are currently in the process of a can food drive and expect to help at least 5 families during the holiday season.



Directory Update



If there are corrections that need to be made for your school, please contact Diana May. Her email address is dianamay@bellsouth.net.

You may also reach her by telephone at 687-3472.

Treasure's Corner

Ann Wolf

Caddo District PTA Treasurer



Treasurer's records should be kept for a period of seven years. These records should be well marked with the PTA year and include check stubs, bank statement, receipts, treasurer's reports, budget, and other financial records and audit.



*Caddo District PTA
401 West 70th Street
Shreveport, LA 71106*

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*Mariah Underwood, President
Beverly J. Hudson, Editor*

Calendar of Events

December

- 20 2nd Reporting Period Ends
- 21 Christmas Holidays Begins

January

- 4 Students Report to School from Holiday Break
- 9 Caddo District PTA General Meeting
- 23 Newsletter Articles due to Beverly Hudson
- 30 Caddo District Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m. – Room 1