



# CADDO DISTRICT PTA NEWSLETTER



Affiliated State & National PTA  
Nov 2010

Margie Rayburn, President  
Issue #3

## 2010-2011 Caddo District Board of Directors

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Eppie, Adams, *Webmaster*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Caddo District PTA was so pleased to see all of you at the Principal's Luncheon on October 28th. There was a lot of school spirit as well as some Halloween spirit shown with all of the great decorations

from your various schools. We had about 180 people in attendance and I hope fun was had by all who attended. Caddo District PTA thoroughly enjoys hosting the luncheon for the Principal's of Caddo Schools.

We hope that all of you have now filed your 990N-Epostcard with the IRS. It is very important that all PTA units who make less than \$25,000 do this. This will have to be done **every year or you will lose you non-profit status with the IRS.** Your unit has 5 1/2 month's after your PTA's year end to file your 990N-Epostcard. I have filed your 990N-Epostcard this year if you have not filed it. We had about 17 schools that had not filed and were in jeopardy of losing their tax exempt status.

We are preparing for the convention which will be held on April 15-16, 2011. Caddo District PTA will be in charge of decorations for the banquet and I hope that those attending from Caddo District PTA will help us decorate on Saturday afternoon in the banquet room.

Another item we need to make you aware of is the concern Louisiana PTA has 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 the exceptions from time to time, maybe it is the first of the year and new check cards haven't been signed yet.

A special thanks goes out to Cedric Glover, Mayor of the City of Shreveport, for joining every PTA in Caddo Parish, This is the fourth year he has joined all PTA's and we thank him for his generosity.

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

Remember that the next Caddo District PTA General meeting will be held on **November 16, 2010** due to the Caddo Parish School Board giving students Election Day off and having a Teacher Staff Development Day.

Visit our Website:  
[www.caddodistrictpta.org](http://www.caddodistrictpta.org)

# FROM THE DESK OF DR. GERALD D. DAWKINS SUPERINTENDENT



*"CREATING WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS FOR WORLD CLASS STUDENTS"*



Earlier this year, Caddo Parish Public Schools introduced the first draft of its Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Based on feedback from the community, Vision 2020 was designed with the goal of creating equity among our public schools and the belief that all students can achieve academic success. Under the proposed plan draft, there is literally something for everyone. We invite you to participate in any one of our upcoming community meetings to hear about the positive improvements and changes being discussed and to ask any questions you may have.

See you there!

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

## October

- 26- Huntington High School, 6801 Raspberry Lane
- 28- Herndon Magnet School, 11845 Gamm Road, Belcher, LA
- 30- Central Office board room, sponsored by PTA, 1961 Midway \*

## BULLYING

Hundreds of thousands of children dread going to school each day to face the taunts, jeers, and humiliation inflicted by bullies. Bullies are children who intentionally and repeatedly inflict psychological or physical damage on other, less-powerful children in order to inflate their own sense of self-worth.

National PTA provides information on identifying and stopping bullying in your community. All children deserve to go to school free of intimidation. Help make your schools and neighborhoods bully-free.

Please check out these timely informational Parent Guides established by National PTA at: [www.pta.org/bullying.asp](http://www.pta.org/bullying.asp).

## JUST A REMINDER

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

## November

- 1-Woodlawn Leadership Academy, 7340 Wyngate
- 3- Bethune Math/Science Technology, 4331 Henry St.
- 4- Donnie Bickham Middle School, 7240 Old Mooringsport Rd.
- 8- Fair Park College Preparatory Academy, 3222 Greenwood Rd.
- 9- J.S. Clark Microsociety, 351 Hearne
- 15- Youree Drive Middle School, 6008 Youree Dr.
- 29- Southwood High School, 9000 Walker Rd.
- 30- C.E. Byrd High School, 3201 Line Ave.

## December

- 2- Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy, 2550 Thomas E. Howard

All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

\*9:00 a.m. This meeting will be carried live on our website, [www.caddo.k12.la.us](http://www.caddo.k12.la.us)

Mayor Cedric Glover knows how important parental involvement is in the education of our young people so he has again made the commitment to join the PTA at every school in Caddo Parish. Mayor Glover attended the Caddo District General Meeting on October 5, 2010 to receive his membership cards from Caddo District President, Margie Rayburn and present her with his personal check for 63 membership cards.





# Membership Matters

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

## Increasing Male Membership

Fathers and Male Mentors make a difference in a child's life. Yet, most males still believe that the PTA/PTSA is a woman's domain. That's so 1950. In 2010, PTA/PTSA is **EVERONE's domain** - men, women, children, faculty, staff, student and parents. We all need to work together to ensure our students have the best, high quality education that we can provide for them. Male Membership is essential to making that difference for our children.

The National PTA is currently emphasizing their "Million Hours of Power" campaign. This campaign emphasizes Male involvement - 350,000 + 3 volunteer hours each = 1 Million Hours of Power. You can help the National PTA fund this campaign by visiting [www.refresheverything.com/millionhoursofpower](http://www.refresheverything.com/millionhoursofpower) and voting everyday.

**Question:** How can our PTA increase male participation? (Fathers, Grandfathers, Male Mentors, & students)

**Answer:** Meaningful Involvement. Most men WANT to fix, to participate, to build, to be involved. They just need direction, motivation, & concrete results.

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](mailto: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!

## Ideas For Meaningful Male Involvement

- ★ Have Dads help students build & plant a School Garden
- ★ During the day, retired Male Mentors help watch entrances & hallways, monitor recess, mentor students & other assignments
- ★ Read to a classroom. Judson Fundamental Magnet Elementary does this in conjunction with Jump Starts "Read for the Record" and it's a well attended event.
- ★ Hold a sports workshop event for fathers & their children: featuring motivational talks, training tips, & interactive sports and games.
- ★ Sponsor a "Real Men Cook" tasters table event or a "Chili Cook Off".
- ★ Help with a Bike Rodeo day with tune-ups, skills tests, safety workshops and games
- ★ Hold a father/daughter dance
- ★ Fewer meetings; bulleted agendas: clear communication, and results

## EARLY BIRD 100% Membership

(Several PTAs are close to achieving 100% Membership. The deadline for the Early Bird award is December 15, 2010)

**28 PTA/PTSA** Units still need to place orders.

**30 Cards** need to be ordered to be a "Unit in Good Standing"

## BUDGET FORMS

Thank you to the following units for sending their Budget Forms in October. You must have updated bylaws; purchased membership cards and sent me your budget form before your unit can enter programs.

A. C. Steere Elementary  
 Blanchard Elementary  
 Caddo District PTA  
 Captain Shreve High  
 Fairfield Elementary Magnet

Forest Hill Elementary  
 Green Oaks Performing Arts Academy  
 J. S. Clark MicroSociety Academy  
 Oak Park MicroSociety Elementary  
 Oil City Magnet  
 Pine Grove Elementary  
 Riverside Elementary  
 South Highlands Elementary Magnet  
 Sunset Acres Elementary  
 Turner Elementary/Middle

## DISTRICT PTA NEWS

### SUPPORT CADDO DISTRICT PTA S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

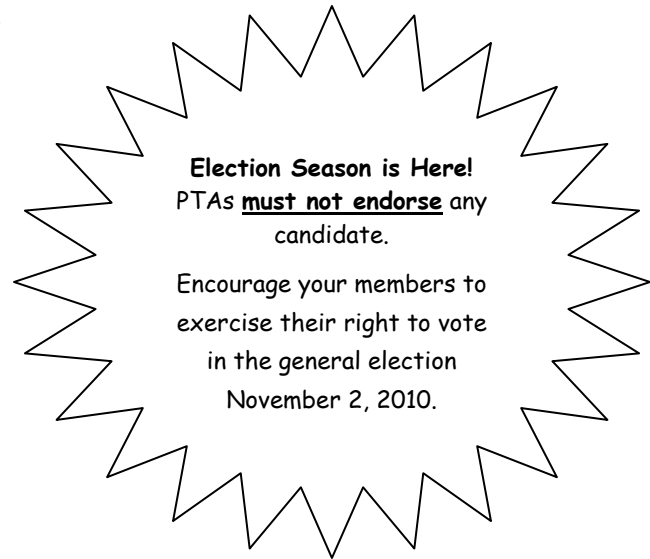
As the parent of a college student, I know first-hand how expensive college can be.....tuition, books, dorms, food....and more! The Caddo District PTA has a wonderful scholarship program for students who are attending Louisiana colleges. We award at least three and sometimes as many as seven scholarships to graduating seniors in the amount of \$500 each!! This can be a huge help towards college expenses for the students and their families.

However, we cannot help these students without help from our local PTA units. The Caddo District PTA asks each local unit to donate at least \$20 annually toward the scholarship fund. Many schools elect to donate more than this and we even have schools that donate \$100 annually. These generous donations allow us to help even more of our Caddo students.

Please consider a donation to the Scholarship Fund this year. You may make your donation in honor of or memory of a special person and we will send acknowledgment to them or their family.

Send donations to Kim FitzGerald, Treasurer, 10141 Thornwood Dr., Shreveport, LA 71106 or bring them to any PTA General Meeting. Thanks!

**Scholarship Donation Form can be found on next page.**



### IDENTITY THEFT: YOUR PHONE MAY POSE A BIGGER THREAT THAN YOUR COMPUTER.

With an increasing number of Americans storing personal and financial data on wireless mobile devices, there is growing concern that this could be the next big wave of identity fraud.

"Data on smartphones is less secure than on a PC, just because there's not enough awareness about security," says Ondrej Krehel, information security officer at Identity Theft 911. McAfee, the company best known for its antivirus products for personal computers, says you're 15 times more likely to lose your cellphone than your laptop computer.

Take these steps to protect your data:

**Prevent access.** Secure your iPhone, BlackBerry or Android phone or PDA (personal digital assistant) by encrypting passwords and locking the keypad when it's not in use. Turn off Bluetooth and Wi-Fi when you're not using it. Consider a phone tracking application like Microsoft's free My Phone for Windows Mobile, Apple's Find My iPhone app (\$99 annual subscription) or TheftAware for Android (\$15).

**Avoid unsecured Wi-Fi.** A Wi-Fi connection could expose your transactions to anyone else with a Wi-Fi-enabled device. Sign up for e-mail and SMS text-message alerts: "If you're notified when transactions are happening, you can stop it right away," says Javelin Strategy & Research president James Van Dyke. Javelin's study found 43% of all reported identity fraud cases are spotted by consumers monitoring their own accounts. Opt for new-user and address-change alerts first; adding new registered users and changing addresses are the most common methods hackers use to take over accounts.

**Wipe your phone clean.** Remove phone books, call lists, voice mail, e-mail, texts, search histories and photos before you toss your phone. Check the owner's manual or go to your provider's website to find out how to permanently delete information.

Find out more at [protectyouridnow.org](http://protectyouridnow.org).

By Sharon Epperson • October 3, 2010  
Borrowed from USA Weekend

## Caddo District PTA Scholarship Donation

Caddo District PTA gives at least three scholarships to deserving seniors in the Caddo Parish School System. We ask each local unit PTA to make a donation of at least \$20.00 to this fund to help us continue this endeavor. If you wish to make your contribution in honor or memory of a special person, please complete the applicable information below and an acknowledgement will be sent to them or their family. Thank you for your support of our Caddo students!

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

We are sending a donation to the Caddo District PTA in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This donation is \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: Kim FitzGerald, Treasurer  
10141 Thornwood Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71106

## DISTRICT PTA NEWS CONT'D.

### HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

*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*

[www.caddosheriff.org](http://www.caddosheriff.org) – this site offers information about the many services provided by the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office.

Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office Sex Crime Screening Section – (318) 226-5909. DA's Office investigators assist with computer/internet investigation and prosecution

[www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) – 1 (800) 843-5678. The CyberTipline provides a means to report inappropriate material & solicitations and is partnered with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) – Links to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and provides numerous helpful links to internet safety and instruction

[www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com) – Provides tips and newsletters for parents on internet safety for children

[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org) – An interactive site that is useful and fun for young children, teens & parents

<http://xblock.isafe.org> – An interactive site mainly for teens which is fun and educational.

[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org) – A site directed at teaching adults about computer & cyber-crimes

[www.powerofparentsonline.com](http://www.powerofparentsonline.com) – Has child photo ID kit, safety tips, how to teach your child about internet safety and links to other helpful sites.

[www.2smrt4u.com](http://www.2smrt4u.com) – A great site for teens and parents with many do's and don'ts as well as some interactive videos. It also links to the Cyber Tip-line and NCMEC.

[www.incredibleinternet.com](http://www.incredibleinternet.com) – A new website that discusses wireless (cell phone, etc) safety. Also has current survey stats from teens who use wireless devices.

Angie Wilson  
Child Welfare & Safety

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE OFFERS SEX OFFENDER ALERT SYSTEM

Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator is urging citizens to take advantage of a sex offender community notification program offered by his department.

Citizens can look up addresses and review a list of registered sex offenders living in their neighborhood by going to [www.caddosheriff.org](http://www.caddosheriff.org) and clicking on the "Sex Offender Registry" link. Simply follow the directions to search for offenders in your area or receive future e-mail alerts when a registered sex offender moves into your neighborhood.

The alert service called OffenderWatch has been offered by the Caddo Sheriff's Office since 2006. A mapping and address feature found on the website pinpoints exactly where an offender lives, educating citizens on which houses to avoid if you plan to trick-or-treat at Halloween or participate in any activity that takes you into the neighborhoods.

OffenderWatch allows citizens to register multiple addresses for future notifications. "If you aren't in your own neighborhood, enter another address beforehand so you know which houses to avoid. You can register any address where your children spend a lot of time, for example, those of friends, grandparents, or babysitters," Prator said.

The alerts are in real-time and sent out via e-mail as soon as a new offender has registered with the Caddo Sheriff's Office. "Registering for this confidential e-mail alert service allows us to monitor your important addresses for you, keeping you up to date of newly registered offenders and making it unnecessary for you to have to check your important addresses daily or even weekly," Prator said.

Prator said there are also Halloween safety tips available on the website. These tips were also listed in the October Newsletter. Knowledge is power and knowing where the registered sex offenders reside in your area can help you make the best choices for safe and enjoyable activities.

Angie Wilson  
Child Welfare & Safety

## DISTRICT/SCHOOL NEWS

### "DISCOVERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS" AWARD PRESENTED BY CHESAPEAKE ENERGY

**Mrs. Eddie Jones West Shreveport Elementary** student, Jayla Williams, second from right, is actively involved in Girl Scouts, and volunteers with Shreveport Green and the Caddo Council on Aging Helping Hands Program. She was nominated for exhibiting great drive and determination in all of her endeavors. Also pictured are Jayla's parents, Ms. Ruby C. Scroggins, Principal, Dr. Sara Ebarb, Caddo Public Schools Academic Services Director and Jennifer Voisin from Chesapeake Energy. Congratulations, Jayla, on this great accomplishment.



### BYLAWS BY THE DATE PRINTED LOCAL UNIT BUDGET APPROVAL FORMS

The following schools need to submit bylaws by the following dates:

#### CADDO

Barret Paideia Academy	Past Due
Bethune Math/Science Tech.	10/12/10
Broadmoor Middle Lab	Past Due
Central Elementary	02/28/10
Claiborne Fundamental Elem.	06/17/11
Fair Park College Prep.Aca.	03/21/11
Keithville Elementary/Middle	03/15/11
Midway Elem. Prof. Dev.	10/28/10
Northside Elementary	03/15/11
Northwood High	12/19/10
Oil City Magnet	Past Due
Werner Park Elementary	03/21/11
Westwood Elementary	Past Due

#### WEST CENTRAL

Logansport Elementary needs to do bylaws.

All schools must send me your proof of budget approval by faxing your Local Unit Budget Approval Form which was included with your resource guide signed by your President, Treasurer and by the Principal.

Send to Margie Rayburn, President at fax #: 866-865-5302 and I will fax to the state office.

## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE DIRECTORY

<p>Page 13. Barret Paideia Academy Correct spelling of Academy</p> <p>Page 14. Booker T. Washington New Technology PTA President Debra Bell 3942 Huston Street Shreveport, Louisiana 71109 318-465-1037 (c) Debra.Bell@CenturyLink.com</p> <p>Page 20. Northside Elementary PTA President Sharon Jones 2045 Addition Street Shreveport, Louisiana 71107</p>	<p>Page 24. Highland Elementary Heather Finley 318-397-0802 (h) 318-248-0807 (w) 318-235-3139 (c)</p> <p>Page 25. North DeSoto Elementary PK-2 Physical Address 2623 Highway 171 Stonewall, Louisiana 71078</p> <p>Page 29. Peggy Seeley Correct Phone Number: 985-863-9099 (h)</p>
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# SCHOOL NEWS

## HEALTHY RIVALRY BENEFITS GINGERBREAD HOUSE

"Spirit links, spirit links, spirit links," was the only thing Captain Shreve and Byrd heard about for three weeks before the Byrd-Shreve football game. The idea came about through the two student councils of both schools and made it official at a meeting with the sponsors and executive boards. Weeks of cutting, stapling, and everyone's time went into the project to make a great impact on the community. By the time the chains were finished, everyone was amazed at how much money we had all raised. Captain Shreve wrapped their chain around the circle of their school over seven times. When a bell rang in between classes, students eyes widened as they saw student council members holding the chain. Byrd student council members walked into the Lee Hedges stadium with dozens of bags full of their spirit links. At half time of the Byrd-Shreve game, the councils stapled their chains together to signify the schools coming together to do this project and support the Gingerbread House. A check was presented at half time by the President of Captain Shreve, Katie Frierson, and President of Byrd, Josh Turner to the Gingerbread House for \$25,199. Shreve raised \$9,640 and Byrd raised \$15,599, but together really made a huge impact. Through this healthy rivalry, a generous donation was made to the Gingerbread House and a good feeling of giving back was given to all.

Katie Frierson,  
Captain Shreve Student Council President



**Top Left:**  
Kaitlyn Blohm, Katie Frierson, President, and Mary Anna Billingsley are loading the spirit links to transport to Lee Hedges Stadium for the Byrd vs. Captain Shreve football game Sept. 30, 2010.



**Bottom Left:**  
Ellington Dias is lending a helping hand.

Ever since I attended LASC (Louisiana Association of Student Councils) Workshop the summer after sophomore year it was a goal of mine to do a fundraiser with Captain Shreve. The idea became a reality with the support of Ms. Kerr, the officers, and the student council members. We knew if we decided to make it a competition then both schools would obviously want to win. Schools spirit is huge, and can be used to do great things. Byrd and Shreve have a huge rivalry, and by doing this I would hope we took a lot of the negative aspects and turned them into something positive. Everyone can learn a lot from the pieces of construction paper that each student council member worked hard to assemble everyday; because every dollar we raised, we added a link to our chain. Although it was a competition to see who could raise the most money, none of that mattered in the end. What did matter is that two student councils from rival schools worked hard to raise \$25,199 in two weeks for the Gingerbread House.

This wouldn't have been possible without the excitement in the community and generous donations from families, businesses, faculty members, and of course the students.

I'm proud of our student body that sacrificially bought the spirit links everyday, and for being our top donor.

Josh Turner  
C.E. Byrd Student Council President  
2010-2011



Josh Turner (President) and Ellen Booras (Vice President) are getting ready to present the spirit links at the half time of the Byrd vs. Shreve game on September 30, 2010.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### “CHIKIN” & PEPSI FOR BREAKFAST



Having worked with Caddo Parish Public Schools for the past several years, I know first hand what a caring family they are...and that includes good people from every school and department in the System. When caring people get connected to one another, we experience *sunago*, where the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. That is the way love and caring works—unless you give it away, you lose it.

During the month of September, the employees of Caddo Parish Public Schools accepted the challenge to show just how much they care. Over 2700 employees from the schools and central office locations joined the We Care Team during the month of September. The message they sent throughout the school system is that we really do care about others, and it is important to spread the good news. And this message is reverberating throughout our community. We Care decals, lapel pins, and yard signs are all reminders of the power of caring and the good things about our community.

Eight schools signed up 100% of their employees—Summerfield, Fairfield, Blanchard, Atkins, Sunset Acres, South Highlands, E. B. Williams Stoner Hill and Claiborne. All eight schools qualified for the “Victory Breakfast” so we did a random drawing and Summerfield was the lucky pick. I want to reiterate a special thanks and congratulations to all eight of our 100% schools.

Congratulations are in order also to Byrd, Fair Park, Walnut Hill, and Turner who all enlisted over 100 employees.

And thank you for each and every school that participated—you are making a huge difference in our community and becoming an example to other communities.

Non school departments also participated with the Warehouse edging out the Central Office and Transportation Departments. Mrs. Grayson is planning a special treat for the Warehouse.

Thank you, thank you, thank you Jessica Jordan, Marketing Director for the Youree Drive location of Chick-fil-A, and Debbie Owen, Senior Food Service Representative for Pepsi. Through Jessica's leadership Chick-fil-A is providing a delicious breakfast on site at Summerfield Elementary. And through Debbie's leadership Pepsi is providing the beverages. Thank you to two beautiful caring ladies!

Thanks you again all participating Caddo Parish Public Schools and your Central Office leadership team, especially Mrs. Wanda Gunn, Executive Area Director of School Performance; Mrs. Tricia Grayson, Director of Communications and Marketing; Henry Price, Supervisor of Art; and Dr. Gerald Dawkins, Superintendent.

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

### DONUTS WITH DAD

North DeSoto Elementary School PK-2 in Stonewall, LA held their annual Donuts with Dad on Wednesday September 29th sponsored by the PTA. With approximately 500 attending, this was the largest turnout for this event ever! Doors opened at 6:45 but dads and kids had been lining up since 6:30 to take part in the festivities. Everyone enjoyed the glazed, chocolate and sprinkle donuts from Southern Maid on Mansfield Road and the dads appreciated the fresh pot of coffee set up for them. PTA also collected donations in memory of the father of one of the kindergarten students, Emma Ammons. Her father, Rodney Ammons, passed away on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Donations in the amount of \$189.00 were given to the family's church at their request.

Jessica Smith, President  
North DeSoto PK-2 PTA  
2623 Highway 171  
Stonewall, LA 71078



## APPLY FOR TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO SCHOOL WEEK GRANTS

PTA will celebrate **Take Your Family to School Week during February 13-19, 2011** with the purpose of expanding and enhancing family engagement in schools across the country. Thanks to the generosity of AXA Foundation, the sponsor of PTA's Take Your Family to School Week Grant Program, PTA will offer grants of \$1,897 for PTAs to start programs, host events, and implement activities that welcome and engage families into the school community.

PTA's Take Your Family to School Week is celebrated each February to honor PTA's legacy of building family-school partnerships. These grants will be used to build positive partnerships with teachers and families, connect parents to their children's school experiences, and give children fun ways to share what they are learning and doing in class. PTAs in good standing are eligible to apply. Applications are due by **5 p.m. EDT, Friday, November 5, 2010**. Go to the web address below:  
[http://www.pta.org/take\\_your\\_family\\_to\\_school\\_awards.asp](http://www.pta.org/take_your_family_to_school_awards.asp)

## NATIONAL PTA & 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. 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 [www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B7KRBYC78](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B7KRBYC78) to **place your order for FREE magazines** for your school, state PTA, or your community.

## TIPS FOR EVALUATING YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM

Most schools offer an open house or Back-to-School Night for families after school begins. Any opportunity for families to get into the school provides a chance for them to learn about their child's school and classroom. Reading Rockets provides these tips for identifying signs that your child is in a place where good reading instruction can take place. As your child's teacher and principal are talking, listen for information about:

- ◆ **The classroom schedule.** Effective classrooms offer a 90-120 minute uninterrupted block of time for language arts instruction.
- ◆ **Assessments.** Good teachers use the information they gather from assessments to plan instruction. As the teacher describes the assessments, it should be clear how that information is used to plan lessons just right for your child.
- ◆ **Home-school communication.** Teachers and families need to be in touch throughout the year. Whether it's through a folder, notebook or daily learning log, you should hear something about the system the teacher uses to keep in touch.

When you're in the classroom, look for:

- ◆ **A classroom library.** Literacy-rich classrooms have lots of books for kids to read. Ideally, there would be books written on several different reading levels, and it would contain lots of different kinds of books.
- ◆ **Evidence of kid writing.** Look for a journal, a writing folder, or something that provides practice putting letter-sound knowledge to work.
- ◆ **A place for the teacher to work in small groups.** Instruction about learning to read is targeted to small groups with similar needs. Most teachers try to work with groups of 3-5 students at a table somewhere in the room. While some instruction takes place with the whole group, other instruction should be delivered to small, skill-based groups.

Back-to-school night may be early for some of these things to be in place. If you don't hear or see these important pieces for literacy learning in your child's classroom, talk with your child's teacher. For more information, go to [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org).

Margie Robinson, President

# "Together We Can"



The opportunity to showcase your students' talents deadline is fast approaching! All entries may be turned in at the November 16, 2010 general meeting or are due by Thursday, November 18, 2010. Tillie Cailleff and Patricia McCann will accept entries in the Caddo Parish School Board Meeting Room from 9:00 - 11:00am (this is not a general meeting date). We encourage you to bring your entries in a portfolio. You can make a simple one by taking two pieces of poster board and taping them on three sides using a strong tape i.e., duck tape. Please mark the outside of the portfolio with your school name and contact information.

The theme for 2010-2011 is "Together We can". Each entry should be inspired by and reflect this theme. Students, kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, may submit original works in the six art area.



Literature  
Musical Composition  
Photography  
Visual Arts  
Dance Choreography  
Film Production



It is important to note that each category has **specific rules** as well as general participation rules that **must** be followed. It is very important that the students adhere to these rules. If they do not, the entry will be disqualified. This information is available by visiting the Caddo District PTA website at [www.caddodistrictpta.org](http://www.caddodistrictpta.org), in the Presidents Handbook or Reflection information packet provided at the summer workshop. New this year is the **Parent/Guardian Consent Form which must be completed and signed**. It can be found on page 40 of the Resource Guide. The **Student Entry Form, found on page 42, must also be completed and signed**. Also, the **Local PTA Participation Form must be completed**.

### Important information to remember or check before submitting entries:

- Must be a unit in Good Standing
- Each entry must include a **signed** 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
- Entrants list required for each category

### Essential points

- ◆ A limit of **FOUR (4)** entries per grade division per category
- ◆ Entries must be the **ORIGINAL** work of student
- ◆ All entries will be judged on interpretation of the theme
- ◆ All entries **MUST BE** accompanied by an **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**
- ◆ Each entry form **MUST BE completed** in its **ENTIRETY**
- ◆ New Parent/Guardian Consent Form must be completed and signed
- ◆ Program deadline for submission of entries **MUST** be adhered to
- ◆ The local unit **MUST BE** in **GOOD STANDING** in order to submit entries for judging



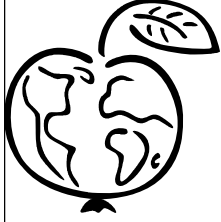
If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.



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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### November

- 2 Teacher Staff Development Day (School Closed)
- Election Day
- 7 Day Light Saving Time Ends
- 12 Newsletter deadline
- 16 Caddo District General Meeting—9:30 a.m., Board Room
- 18 Reflections Local Unit Entries District Deadline, Caddo Parish Board Rm., 9—11a.m.
- 22-26 Thanksgiving Holidays—School Closed



#### 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

