



CADDO DISTRICT PTA NEWSLETTER



Affiliated State & National PTA
Oct 2010

Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #2

2010-2011 Caddo District Board of Directors

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Visit our Website:
www.caddodistrictpta.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"Together We Can" is our theme and we are off to a great start with membership. If you want to keep up with the membership for Caddo District PTA you can always go to the website and check out the membership totals. Let's all keep working toward the goals set for your school's membership.

We have a concern that we need to bring to your attention. A school has used the Caddo District PTA mailing permit and did not send a copy of their newsletter to the Caddo District PTA President. If you are going to use the permit that Caddo District pays for, you **MUST** receive permission in advance from the Caddo District PTA President. The post office has very strict guideline that you no doubt noticed on this newsletter mailing. Sorting has changed and the way you secure newsletters for mailing has also changed. Please notify Margie if you used this permit.

Bring decorations for your table with your school theme in mind for the Principals Luncheon. We have had many schools calling wanting to be sure their information for the Principals' Luncheon is sent to them. The luncheon is going to be held at East Ridge Country Club again this year. There is an article in this newsletter with an order form. I will be e-mailing the order form to all the principals and PTA presidents. Watch for it in your e-mail at your school!

Be sure that all of the students in you school are working on their Reflections Program art entries. The Reflection chairs will be at the Caddo Parish School Board Room on November 18, 2010 to receive these entries. Be sure that your school includes all of the paperwork that is needed with proper signatures. You will be able to drop them off between 9:00 - 11:00 am. See you there!

We have a few schools that need to send in their PTA President's information so that they will receive their mailings from the Caddo District PTA, Louisiana PTA and National PTA. .

We are looking for some school news to be placed in our newsletter. If you have news worthy events going on in your school please e-mail to: mechols318@comcast.net. We know that there are wonderful news events happening in your schools that you would love to showcase.

I have had a lot of calls about logging onto the website. Remember the password is on the back of your 2010-2011 PTA membership card. Be sure to attend the next Caddo District PTA General Meeting on October 5, 2010 in the Caddo Parish School Boardroom, the Caddo PTA Directory's and Calendars will be available.

Margie Rayburn, President

FROM THE DESK OF DR. GERALD D. DAWKINS SUPERINTENDENT



"CREATING WORLD CLASS SCHOOLS FOR WORLD CLASS STUDENTS"



The 2010-2011 school year is off to a great start and more parents are choosing to send their children to Caddo's public schools. Our student population grew this year by more than 350 students, resulting in a student count of more than 42,400. I am thrilled to see more children coming into Caddo's public schools. This is a testament to the hard work that is taking place in our district each and every day and the faith that parents are placing in us.

The district experienced dramatic growth in several schools. For example, Youree Drive Middle School principal Victor Mainiero said his school has about 60 more students than he anticipated this year. Many of Mr. Mainiero's new students are coming from private and parochial schools.

Because school districts are funded based on student population, an increased student population also means an increase in funding for our district. Like many businesses and school districts, we were hit hard by the economy this year. Our district saw de-

creased funding from the state as well as increased costs in other areas, such as health care and retirement. An increase in funding for our district could go a long way toward helping us to bolster some of those departments and programs that have been impacted.

As we move into the last few months of the calendar year, we are gearing up to take the district's vision for the future into the community. Beginning October 28th, we will host several Vision 20/20 meetings throughout the parish, providing an opportunity for community members, parents and students to hear the preliminary strategic plan for the future of Caddo's public schools and to provide vital feedback. Be on the lookout for more information. I urge everyone to come out, support our public schools and help shape the future of education for the children of our parish.

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

PTA HEALTHY LIFESTYLES: WORKING HARD NOW FOR A GREAT CELEBRATION IN NOVEMBER

The National PTA® office has been flooded with applications for the 2010 PTA Healthy Lifestyles Awards. As we read about all the creative ways local units will be celebrating PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November, we ask that you continue to encourage all PTAs in your state to promote healthier habits among families through participation in PTA's Healthy Lifestyles program.

Whether or not they applied for an award, all PTAs can participate in PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month by promoting nutrition and physical activity in some way.

PTA.org/HealthyLifestyles provides resources to help plan a PTA Healthy Lifestyles event. Share the link with local leaders or use the tools and tips to plan something yourself. Also be sure to visit PTA.org/GoodChoices for information on health topics to include in your newsletters or website.

Stay tuned for the announcement of this year's PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award winners in October and be ready to help us spread the word about the great activities the winners and participants have planned.



Membership Matters

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

Developing Student Membership

This is a continuation of last months article. Students at every age & grade level should be participating in their local unit PTA/PTSAs. After all, the work we do ultimately benefits them & they should have a voice.

Helpful Hints

Ask for help. Most students are willing to help if asked.

Stress PTA/PTSA results. Students need a mental picture of how things in their schools & communities will be improved by their participation.

Publicize all PTA/PTSA achievements, benefits, & upcoming activities through media, flyers, newsletters, email and more.

Have a student be on the Membership Committee and help with the membership drive by recruiting peers.

Use Logos, T-shirts, music & drama to spark interest in the PTA/PTSA

Hold "each one reach one" recruitment drives in which every student member agrees to bring another student to PTA/PTSA.

Conduct a specific, meaningful, short-term, school-wide project, the success of which will garner interest in a more intensive PTA/PTSA experience.

Advocate the needs that can be met. For example, provide information about violence prevention, arts education programs, health fairs, and legislative initiatives.

Use "Star Endorsers". These "stars" might include school leaders or teachers who participate in PTA/PTSA activities

Provide public awards for student involvement via news media, announcements in student newspapers, assemblies, etc.

Stress how students can learn new skills, be with friends, & benefit the school & community.

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!

30 Members

In Every PTA
In Every School
In Caddo District
By October 31, 2010
(Extended Goal)

DISTRICT PTA NEWS

Halloween Safety!



The excitement of Halloween can make children forget some of the safety rules they have learned.

- Long costumes can be a tripping hazard for children. Add reflective tape to the costume to increase visibility.
- Improper masks can interfere with a child's vision or breathing. Make sure they carry a flash light.
- Swords, knives and other accessories should always be made of flexible material.
- Flimsy materials, flowing skirts and baggy sleeves can all be hazards around candles or flames. "Flame-Resistant" does not mean fire-proof.
- Children who are not accompanied by an adult are vulnerable to injury, bullying of older children or predators. Make sure they know never to go inside homes or cars.
- Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only.
- Follow traffic signals and rules of the road.
- Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets.
- Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well known neighborhoods.

Angie Wilson
Child Welfare & Safety Chair

Budget Forms

Thank you to the following units for sending their Budget Forms in:

Arthur Circle Elementary
C. E. Byrd High
Caddo Parish Magnet High
Caddo Middle Magnet
Herndon Elementary/Middle Magnet
Hillsdale Elementary
Eden Gardens Fundamental Elementary
Mooringsport Elementary
Southwood High
Southern Hills Elementary
Walnut Hills Elementary/Middle
University Elementary
Youree Drive Advanced Placement Magnet
North DeSoto Elementary PK-2



REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The theme this year is - "Together We Can"

Due to the District - November 18

Grade Divisions - Primary: Preschool-Grade 2
Intermediate: Grades 3-5
Middle/Junior: Grades 6-8
Senior: Grades 9-12



Categories - Dance/Choreography
Film/Video
Literature
Musical Composition
Photography
Visual Arts



General information and rules start on page 19 of your state handbook. The forms are also on the Caddo District PTA website - caddodistrictpta.org.

You may enter four (4) entries per grade division in each category.

The Parent/Guardian Consent Form must be completed and signed. (New this year) page 40.
Student Entry Form must be completed and signed. page 42
Local PTA Participation Form must be completed.

Please turn in all these forms when you turn in your entries. The entries will be judged at the District level and then the winners will be sent to state.

To participate your PTA must be a Unit in Good Standing, purchase your membership cards, bylaws current, current budget form on file and an EIN (Tax ID number from the IRS on file in the state office)

We will be at the School Board meeting room on November 18 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to receive your entries. If you have them completed on November 2, you may bring them to the General Meeting.



Tillie Cailleff and Patricia McCann
Reflections Program Co-Chairs



COMMUNITY/PTA NEWS

LOWE'S TOOLBOX FOR EDUCATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL PROJECTS

Applications are being accepted for the Fall 2010 cycle of the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation Toolbox for Education grant program.

Through the program, Lowe's will donate a total of \$5 million to U.S. public schools and public school parent teacher groups at more than one thousand public schools. For the 2010-11 program, the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation will focus on basic, one-time project needs.

Any individual nonprofit public K-12 school or parent group associated with a nonprofit public K-12 school is eligible to apply. Parent groups (PTO, PTA, etc.) that are applying must have an independent tax ID number and official 501 (c)(3) status from the IRS. Groups that do not have 501(c)(3) status should apply through their school. Applicant schools must be at least two years old. Preschools are not eligible.

The program prioritizes funding requests that have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement (both indoor and outdoor) as well as landscaping/cleanup-type projects. Projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit will be favored.

Grants may be requested for amounts between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

The deadline for submitting applications for this grant cycle is October 15, 2010. If 1,500 applications are received before the application deadline, however, the application process will be closed.

Visit the Toolbox for Education Web site for complete application guidelines.

Go to the website listed below to fill out an application:

<http://www.toolboxforeducation.com/hta.html>

STEP UP! FIGHT THE FLU!

For the 2010 flu season, National PTA® urges you as a local PTA leader to partner with **Flu Busters*** and **LEAD THE CHARGE** in the fight against the spread of the flu among our school children!

As we learned last season, H1N1 created heightened awareness of how the flu can affect an entire community, especially among children. You are the best resource to get children protected against this serious virus.

Create a healthier community this school year by actively encouraging your PTA to schedule their flu vaccination clinics now. Flu season is here so don't wait!

Encourage your colleagues to visit the Flu Busters website at flubusters.com/pta or call toll-free at **(866) 782-3014** to schedule your clinic today.

* Flu Busters is the exclusive flu vaccination administrator for the National PTA.

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Using Just Between Friends, you can easily print member-specific PTA cards or blank cards with only PTA unit information. Visit LearnJBF.com to begin.

First, scroll down the page and you'll see, "*Here are some important instructions for working in the Next Generation of Just Between Friends.*" Click on the 3rd item, "Printing PTA Cards without Member Names." This is a PDF with step-by-step directions for printing blank membership cards, or, click on the 4th item, "Printing PTA Cards with Member Names." This PDF provides step-by-step instructions for printing membership cards with member names. If you still have questions, just click on "Contact."

2010-2011 SAFETY PROGRAM THEME
GIVE A CHEER, SAFETY'S HERE!

2010-2011 REFLECTIONS THEME
"TOGETHER WE CAN"

PTA PARENT: GETTING KIDS EXCITED ABOUT SCHOOL

5 Easy Tips to Get Your Children Excited About School

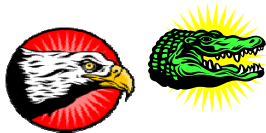
As responsible and caring parents you want to paint a colorful picture of school for your children. Show them that school is a great place to be and encourage them to enjoy the learning process. If you promote this attitude from their early years, your kids will feel that school is interesting and will be excited about learning new things. You can teach your children to look forward to Monday mornings, and to going back to school at the end of summer and Christmas break. If your children love to learn, your job as a parent will be that much easier.

Here are some simple tips to make these things happen, according to Terri Khonsari, author of "Raising A Superstar: Simple Strategies to Bring Out the Brilliance in Every Child":

1. The rule of the house should be "Homework First." If they are hungry when they get home a small snack is in order, and homework should be the top priority right after that. Talk to them about the importance of homework, and explain the necessity for getting it done in their own terms. Remind your children of the consequences if they fail to complete it promptly: they could be reprimanded by the teacher for not having completed it or have a low grade because they waited to work on it until they were too tired to concentrate properly. On the other hand, homework done well is cause for recognition and a reason to look forward to school.
2. Ask your children about their day. Encourage them to talk about how they are feeling about certain classes or teachers. Learn about their interactions with other kids and keep up to date on happenings at the school itself. You cannot help your children
- to like or enjoy school if you don't know what goes on there. Be proactive so your children know that you care. That way, they will bring you their problems if any arise. No one ever regretted being TOO involved with their child's school experience.
3. Teach your kids not to hurt others' feelings when they joke around. Make sure they understand the line between being funny and making fun of others. Start with your own home and people around you; don't allow anyone make fun of your kids and don't allow your children to make fun of others. Raise children who respect others and their feelings, and they will be respected in turn.
4. Teach your children confidence, but stop them when they cross the line and become arrogant. When you observe others showing signs of arrogance, talk to your kids about it so they can see how un-pleasant such behavior can be, and warn them not to do the same. Explain that a fine line exists between confidence and arrogance. Point out the difference so they can become pleasant and confident in school and later on as adults.
5. Encourage your children to join extracurricular activities and after-class clubs offered at their school. It may seem like more work, but it really isn't. They will have something to look forward to when school is over, and they will get to meet other active children. They will constantly learn new things and be exposed to activities that may help them choose their career later in life.

Taken from National PTA

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



CADDO DISTRICT PTA PRINCIPALS' LUNCHEON INVITATION AND TICKET ORDER FORM



The annual Principals' Luncheon is set for Thursday, October 28, 2010 at East Ridge Country Club, 9206 Ellerbe Road in Shreveport from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Local PTAs are encouraged to invite as many volunteers as they wish to attend. Each PTA normally invites their principal and president and purchases their tickets. Any school that purchases six or more tickets will have a reserved table. Schools that purchase fewer tickets will have to share with another school.

Schools are asked to decorate their table with something connected with their school such as mascots, pompoms, etc. Tables have limited decorating space. Please do not decorate with anything taller than 12 inches.

Each PTA is asked to bring a gift (\$15-\$20) to present to their principal.



Principal's Luncheon Ticket Order Form
Must be received by Friday, October 22
No tickets will be available at the door.



School _____

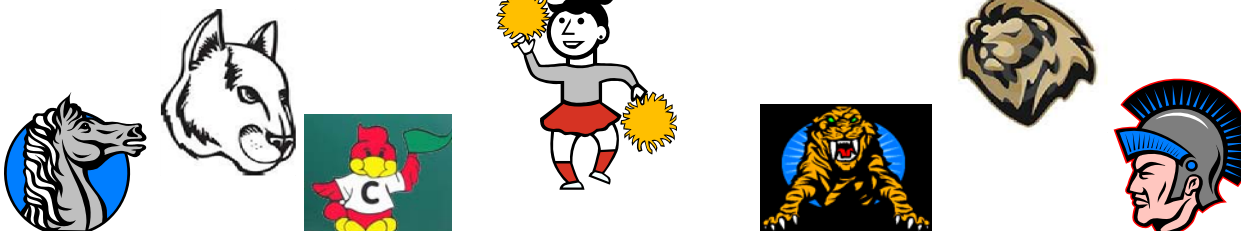
Number of Tickets @ \$20 each _____ **Tickets are non-refundable**

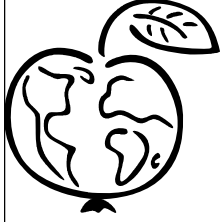
Total Payment (Checks payable to Caddo District PTA) _____

Send this order form, payment and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for tickets to:
Carol Fullilove, 418 Kenshire Court, Shreveport, LA 71115 (797-0148 (h)/861-3537(w))

Tickets may be purchased at the October General Meeting.

Any ticket purchased or reserved after the published deadline will be charged the published price plus a \$10.00 late fee per ticket.





Caddo District PTA
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Shreveport, LA 71130-2000

Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols, Editor

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 5 Caddo District PTA General Meeting—9:30 a.m., Board Room
- 18-22 GEE Retest Dates
- 22 Newsletter deadline
- 25 Fall Break
- 26 Caddo District PTA Board of Directors Meeting—9:30 a.m., Rm. 1
- 28 Principals Luncheon—East Ridge Country Club, - 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.



November

- 2 Caddo District PTA General Meeting—9:30 a.m., Board Room
- Election Day
- 7 Day Light Saving Time Ends
- 12 Newsletter deadline
- 16 Caddo District PTA Board of Directors Meeting—9:30 a.m., Rm. 1
- 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

