



Caddo District PTA Newsletter

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Affiliated State and National PTA
September 2008

Margie Rayburn, President
Issue #1

2008-2009 Caddo District Board of Directors

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President's Message

Wonderful, wonderful is the only way to describe our August In-Service with so many schools represented and all the attendees participating in the workshops being presented. The in-service



was the largest Caddo District PTA has ever held (about 150 attendees) and I hope you all went away ready to start the new year with all of the information in hand to make your school year a successful year for all the students that attend your school. I have spent the last several days delivering the Louisiana PTA Resource Guides and National PTA school kits to schools that weren't able to attend.

Caddo District PTA has several special notices we need to make all PTA Presidents aware of. Next year the Reflections Program will be due to the Caddo District PTA on November 11, 2008. They have to be judged at the district level and sent to the Louisiana PTA by January 5, 2009 for judging.

We have placed the information for the Reflections Program on the website for your students to work on these during the early part of the school year. Remember the website forms are interactive (can be typed on and printed out so all of the information needed will be easy to read and complete). There are several changes to the guidelines so please read carefully the section that your students plan on participating in and be sure they meet those new guidelines.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the Caddo District PTA General Meeting for PTA President's and other members on September 9th in the Caddo Parish School Board Room. I am very hopeful that these meetings will only last one hour and they will be very helpful for you to attend. These meetings are where you can ask for information and guidance if you need it to make your work at your school successful.

Membership cards may always be order ahead of these meeting and Eppie Adams (687-0442) will have them printed and ready to deliver to you.

You are encouraged to use the Caddo District PTA website and look at all the information that is up to help you in your schools. The website for the Caddo District PTA is: www.caddodistrictpta.org and the National PTA website is: www.PTA.org and their telephone contact is: (800-307-4PTA (4782).

See you at the district meeting on September 9, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

Margie Rayburn
Caddo District PTA, President



**Dr. Gerald Dawkins,
Superintendent**

From the Superintendent's Desk

Dr. Gerald Dawkins was named Superintendent of Caddo Parish Public Schools on June 27, 2008 by the Caddo Parish School Board. Dr. Dawkins began his official duties on August 11, 2008. Upon his arrival, he announced the district's theme for the 2008-09 school year: ***“Creating World Class Schools for World Class Students.”***

A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Dr. Dawkins spent his entire professional career, prior to coming to Saginaw, in the Grand Rapids Public Schools, serving in a variety of assignments from teacher to central office administration. He ended his career in Grand Rapids as the Deputy Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Dawkins earned high marks for his performance from the *Saginaw News*, parents, students and community groups. He received an excellent evaluation from the Saginaw Board of Education for six consecutive years. He believes that public education is still the great equalizer in America. Our schools are often the first, last and best hope for the children that we serve and to that end, his students are his first and last priority.

Dr. Dawkins, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, is a graduate of Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science. He holds a Master of Arts in Counseling and Personnel from Western Michigan University and received his Doctoral Degree in Administration and Supervision at Wayne State University. Dr. Dawkins and his wife, Gwen, a high school counselor, have two daughters – Kanika and Kamaria.



TREASURERS' CORNER



PTAs in Caddo District are to require two signatures on all checks. Give your PTA Bank information for new check signing signatures. Have the bank *delete* signatures that are no longer authorized for signing checks.

Caddo District requires that all PTA Bank Statements be mailed to the school. The school Principal is to review and initial the statement every month.

Ann Wolf, Treasurer

Dad's Wall of Fame

Samuel B. Jones, Louisiana PTA Diversity Chair

Sending the right signals to fathers is very important, not just in Caddo Parish, but around this nation. Involving males, fathers or mentors sends a clear message that men are welcome to join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Unfortunately PTA and parental involvement in general

is associated with moms. By creating a "Dad's Wall of Fame," in Caddo schools and other parishes in the state of Louisiana, will challenge a change in the mind-set of this great organization. This will reach out to connect with men who are not only involved in the

education of their children, but children in general.

Involvement in a child school has many benefits. It demonstrates that you value education. Joining the PTA gives you connections with staff and other parents. PTA also builds community relations.

WHO CAN JOIN?

FATHERS

UNCLES

GRANDPAS

BROTHERS

STEP-FATHERS

MENTORS

NEIGHBORS

PASTORS

FRIENDS

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

MALE INVOLVEMENT

VALUE EDUCATION

BUILD COMMUNITIES

BETTER PERFORMANCE IN SCHOOL

INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

GOALS FOR UP-COMING YEAR

The Wall of Fame for men will be organized in all schools in an effort to:

- enlist positive male involvement.
- decrease discipline problems in all schools.
- encourage healthy behavior in all students.
- increase academic performance.
- develop relationships with teachers and home.

TOTAL INVOLVEMNT OF FAMILY!

Contact Numbers:

Samuel B. Jones - (318) 518-9213

Bennie Dotie - (318) 207-2081

Needed: New President's Information

If you receive this newsletter at your school and not at you home address this means that we do not have your contact information to be able to mail this to you and Louisiana PTA and the National PTA does not have this information.

I have already received the PTA magazine (Our Children) that National PTA mails to all local unit PTA Presidents. Please mail you contact information (name, address, phone contacts and email) to Margie Rayburn, Caddo District PTA, 8305 Forest Cove Drive, Shreveport, LA 71107 or email to lapta@comcast.net.

UNIT IN GOOD STANDING

Caddo District 1st Awards Deadline - November 11, 2008

Louisiana PTA 1st Awards Deadline – November 1, 2008

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

A local PTA in good standing is one that:

- 1) adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
- 2) remits the national portion of the dues through the state PTA to reach the national office by dates designated by the National PTA;
- 3) has approved bylaws on file in the Louisiana PTA office. Bylaws must be approved by the State Secretary at least once every five (5) years.
- 4) has a current years budget verified by a Local Unit Budget Approval form signed by the local president, treasurer and principal; and submitted to the Louisiana PTA office.
- 5) has been assigned its own Employer Identification Number (EIN/Tax Identification Number) from the I.R.S. A copy of the confirmation letter with the Employer Identification Number (EIN/Tax Identification Number) must be
- 6) forwarded to the Louisiana PTA office.
- 7) must purchase a PTA membership card for every paying member. Each unit must purchase a minimum of thirty (30) cards per year.

To enter programs, apply for awards and send voting delegates to state convention:

- 1) Entries to all recognitions and awards for the Louisiana PTA and National PTA will be ineligible unless the criteria for a unit in good standing has been met by the district and state deadlines, whichever comes first.
- 2) All local PTA units must meet the criteria for a unit in good standing by March 31ST of each year to send voting delegates to the Louisiana PTA state convention.

Schools needing to submit new Bylaws and send in proof of EIN's

Proof of EIN's

Atkins Elementary Technology
Barret Elementary
Booker T. Washington High
Central Elementary
Creswell Elementary
Fair Park High
Green Oaks High
J. S. Clark Middle
Linwood Middle
Midway Professional Development
Mooringsport Elementary
North Caddo Magnet High
Northside Elementary
Oak Park Elementary
Oak Terrace/J. B. Harville
Oil City Elementary
Ridgewood Middle
Werner Park Elementary
Westwood Elementary

Schools Needing New Bylaws

Barret Elementary	Southern Hills Elementary
Blanchard Elementary	Sunset Acres Elementary
Broadmoor Middle Lab	Westwood Elementary
Caddo Magnet High	
Cherokee Park Elementary	
Eden Gardens Fundamental Magnet	
Eighty-First Street ECE	
Green Oaks High	
Hillsdale Elementary	
Huntington High	Please Contact:
Ingersoll Elementary	Margie Rayburn
J. S. Clark Middle	318.929.5313 (H)
Jack P. Timmons Elementary	318.458.4179 (C)
Judson Fundamental Elementary	If you need assistance with
Linwood Middle	completing any of these
Mooringsport Elementary	requirements.
North Highlands Elementary	
Oak Park Elementary	
Shreve Island Elementary	

OMDR Plus is Just Weeks Away

As August comes to a close, changes are right around the corner — the arrival of OMDR Plus, powered by Just Between Friends, is literally a few weeks away. Within the next few weeks, version one of this exciting new software application will be available for all states and units to begin using.

First, OMDR Plus will be all of the communication, directory, and social networking capabilities that already exist in Just Between Friends. Additionally, there will be many new capabilities in this release; although the final set of functionality is still being worked through, the following is an overview of the capabilities that are likely to be there when the final testing has been completed:

1. *Membership Management* — this functionality will allow you to enter all of your member info through the very easy to use JustBetweenFriends interface and have it automatically transferred into National PTA's central database. If your information is already in OMDR, it will automatically be transferred to OMDR Plus, so there will be no need to re-enter it. Most of the functionality currently available in “old” OMDR, such as printing membership cards, will also be in OMDR Plus.
2. *Group Start Up Wizard* — this function will make it very simple for units and other groups to sign themselves through a simple question and answer session. At the end of this process, all of your officers will be set up; complete with the proper permissions and features they need to do their jobs.
3. *Enhanced Communications Capabilities* — there will be functionality for letting leaders know when a member's e-mail address is no longer valid (and letting the member know they need to update it), a newsletter builder, and the ability to put attachments on an e-mail (such as permission slips, etc.).
4. *Volunteer Recruiting* — this functionality will allow units to post specific volunteer needs and give parents the opportunity to sign up for the areas they are particularly interested in.
5. *Customizable Calendar* — Parents will now have a single household calendar that will be automatically populated with all the events for all their children (from all of the groups that are using OMDR Plus/Just Between Friends) in their family in one consolidated view. This will allow conflicts to be immediately spotted. Each child will be color coded, so that it will be easy to see who has to be where and when.
6. *Household Sign Up Wizard* — this capability will make it very easy for individual members and parents to join OMDR Plus/JustBetweenFriends and associate their accounts with all appropriate groups through a simple question and answer session.

All of this, and it's still just version one; there is so much more to come as we unfold our three year plan.

When the availability of OMDR Plus is official, you will be notified. Although every unit and every state will be more than welcome to sign up, requests will be handled on a first come, first served basis. Judging by everyone's reaction and the building anticipation, a backlog could occur. We will do our very best to minimize the wait time.

When you are ready to begin, or even get in line now, simply contact Julia Sheffler of JustBetweenFriends at (412) 561-0500 or at jsheffler@justbetweenfriends.net (preferred method).

(From: National PTA – PTA Partners in Leadership)



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

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
SHREVEPORT LA
PERMIT #288

*Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols, Editor*

Calendar of Events



September

- 1 Labor Day – Schools closed
- 9 Caddo District PTA General Meeting – 9:30 a.m., CPSB Board Room
- 30 Caddo District Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 a.m., Room 1

October

- 7 Caddo District PTA General Meeting – 9:30 a.m., CPSB Board Room
- 23 Principals' Luncheon – 11:30 – 1:30, Location To Be Announced
- 28 Caddo District Board of Directors Meeting – 9:30 a.m., Room 1