



Caddo District PTA Newsletter



Volume I, Issue I

September 2011

President's Message



We had over 100 PTA officers attend and participate in the workshops at our August In-Service. Workshops presented were, Membership Presidents and Treasures. The in-service was a coordinated effort to serve Caddo District PTA, Bossier Council, Northeast Council and West Central Council. I have been asked by the Louisiana PTA to help the schools in Bossier, Northeast and West Central coordinate their effort in becoming successful councils. I hope you all went away ready to start a new school year and wish you a successful year for the students that attend your schools.

I want to give a special thank you to the following members of my Board of Directors, because without them I could not have held the In-Service: Tillie Cailleff, Letha Banks, Carol Fullilove, Eppie Adams, Charlotte Echols and Mike Echols, Amy Failla, Kim Smith, Patricia McCann and sons, Kami Leone, Allison May from the Caddo School System who helped with the Treasures Workshop and the custodial staff for their help.

Caddo District PTA has several special notices we need to make all PTA Presidents aware of. This year the Reflections Program will be due to the Caddo District PTA on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 which is a general meeting date. Be sure that you read the instructions and follow the guidelines for packaging the entries and how to place special information at the bottom of each page. They must be judged at the district level and sent to the Louisiana PTA by January 15, 2012 for state judging. Bossier, Northeast and West Central need to send their entries directly to the state Reflection chair by the due date.

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 completed). There are several changes to the guidelines (Guardian and Parent consent form) so please read carefully the section that your students plan on participating in and be sure they meet those new guidelines.

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.

You will find in the newsletter the information about ordering your Official PTA Kit (only a few schools have ordered theirs) and you will find a list of schools that need to do Bylaws this year.

I have only received three Local Unit Budget Forms and this is a requirement of a "Unit in Good Standing" which is required for participations in All Louisiana and Caddo District PTA programs.

This is one of the most informative newsletter and all PTA President need to take a special look at the information in it about the IRS revocations, filing taxes for this past year with the IRS by September 15, 2011, and a request from National PTA about Choreography and Dance and Music on new formatting requirements.

Please send us school news that you would like placed in our newsletter to showcase you school and it's student achievements.

Margie Rayburn, President

2011-2012 Caddo District Executive Board

*Margie Rayburn, President
Eppie Adams, 1st VP
Patricia McCann, 2nd VP
Tillie Cailleff, Secretary
Carol Fullilove, Treasurer*

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**From the Desk of
Dr. Gerald D. Dawkins
Superintendent**



PTA Message
September 2011

We opened the school year “anew” with Phase I of Vision 20/20 and I am very proud of our outstanding school leaders, teachers, support staffs, parents and community partners who entrusted and supported the new ventures.

As I have visited the campuses and met with various groups, the excitement for the new grade configurations, new technologies, refreshed emphasis on teaching and learning seem contagious. I am confident that this begins a banner year for all of us.

Challenges, however, still exists. School budgets are a major concern. Tough decisions had to be made this summer that impacted staffing allocations. School districts all over the nation were forced to “do more with less.” Fortunately, a number of persons impacted by the reduction in force have been returned to gainful employment with the district. Our commitment is consistent; to educate all children to world class levels.

Plans are being made to initiate Phase II of Vision 20/20. The focus remains Academic Achievement, Fiscal Health, Communications, Employee Development, Facilities and Resources. Again I remind you, while I strongly believe we have the right plan based on the most comprehensive data, change will continue to be difficult to receive and accept. Our students’ futures are dependent on how we respond to change at the local, state and national level.

Change and challenges, however, present numerous opportunities. I sincerely look forward to our continued conversations as we work together to create the very best educational opportunities for the students of Caddo Parish Public Schools. Together we can create world class schools for world class students.

Welcome back to the new school year!
Gerald D. Dawkins, Ed. D.
Superintendent, Caddo Parish Public Schools

“Creating World Class Schools for World Class Students”

**Local Unit Budget Approval Forms
Local Unit Bylaws Needed**

Thank you to the following schools that have sent me their Budget Approval Form:

- Caddo Middle Magnet
- Fairfield Elementary Magnet
- Herndon Magnet
- Walnut Hill Elementary/Middle

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

CADDO

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Broadmoor Middle Lab | Past Due |
| Central Elementary | Past Due |
| Claiborne Fundamental Elem. | Past Due |
| EI B. Williams/Stonerhill Lab | 10/12/11 |

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Fair Park College Prep.Aca. | Past Due |
| Keithville Elementary/Middle | Past Due |
| Midway Elem. Prof. Dev. | Past Due |
| Northside Elementary | Past Due |
| Northwood High | Past Due |
| Oil City Magnet | Past Due |
| Queensborough Elem | 11/16/11 |
| Werner Park Elementary | Past Due |
| Westwood Elementary | Past Due |

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 #: 866-865-5203 and I will fax to the state office.

2011-2012 Safety Program Theme

“At Work, at Play, Let Safety Lead the Way” (District Deadline: January 10, 2012)

2011—2012 Reflections Theme

“Diversity Means...” (District Deadline: November 8, 2011)



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

Hi, I'm Eppie Adams, the Membership Chair for the Caddo District PTA. I'm excited for the new school year & our efforts to ensure that every student in Caddo Parish has PTA representation. One of the ways we can do this is by involving the students themselves in their local PTA's.

Students can & should be a vital part of any PTA/PTSA. Invite students to lend their voices to your PTA Board. They can co-chair committees and provide valuable manpower to PTA activities. What students get in return is leadership training, community service hours for graduation & college applications, and the knowledge that they can make a difference at their school.

The Value of Student Members

Provide fresh ideas & perspectives on PTA & programs

Help students & adults better relate to one Another

Teach students useful skills & give them the opportunity to serve

Incite on student interests & problems

There are over 40,000 public students in the Caddo Parish Schools. They each deserve representation whether it's themselves or a family member or two.

**Help Students Help Themselves
Involve Them In PTA
Develop The Leaders of Tomorrow
By Becoming A PTA Member Today!**

Right: These Membership Workshop participants listened as Eppie Adams gave them important information on how to have a successful membership campaign at Caddo District PTAs Summer In-Service, August 13, 2011.

Membership Goal 30 Members In Every Unit

We are working very hard this year to ensure that the students, parents & teachers in each school in the District have an Active, "Unit in Good Standing" PTA. Study after study has shown that when parents and students are active in their school community, student's test scores, academic achievement's improve. When everyone works together the school improves in every measurable aspect.

**"Together, We Can
Make A Difference"**

Membership cards are \$3.25 and must be issued to every paying member. Each card comes with the added bonus of membership in the Caddo District, Louisiana & National PTA's.

Cards are available at Caddo District PTA General Meetings or by contacting Eppie Adams (687-0442 or web@caddodistrictpta.org). Make checks payable to the Louisiana PTA. With 2-3 days notice your Unit Name and LUR Number can be printed on your cards.



Community Renewal News

RED APPLE AWARD

Community Renewal International is proud to partner with Caddo Parish Public Schools once again this year in the promotion and recognition of caring acts. 2011 marks over a decade in our partnership to help raise the visibility of caring and connect caring persons within the Caddo Parish Public Schools, and beyond to family and friends.

Children and youth at the elementary, middle, and high school levels have participated in the annual We Care Essay contest since 2001. All of us continue to be inspired with the caring nature of the students. The contest kicks off October 3 this year, and I am certain we will be blessed again this year with heart felt confessions from students who share "Why and how they care for others."

Over 1,000 students joined the We Care Team in previous years; and last fall (2010) almost 3,000 faculty and staff also joined the We Care

Team. The commitment of spreading the word that Caddo Parish Public Schools cares is exemplified in the We Care banner that adorns the front of the Central Office on Midway.

This year your Central Office Leadership Team has initiated the Red Apple Award. This is an opportunity to recognize employees who do caring acts and make a positive difference. We (CRI) appreciate the opportunity to participate in this initiative, and anticipate the Red Apple Award will become a tradition in Caddo Parish Schools. To learn how the Red Apple Award works just visit the Caddo Parish Public Schools website (www.caddo.k12.la.us), click on the Communications tab, and then click on the Red Apple Award tab.

Employees receiving a Red Apple Award will have their names listed on the district website, receive a token of appreciation from the Superinten-

dent and Community Renewal and be entered into a quarterly drawing for a special prize.

The greater joy for all of us is seeing caring people doing caring acts for others to make our community a better place to live and work. Caring acts by themselves do not change a community—we have to become connected in caring. And by doing so we tend to live into the praise we receive, as we acknowledge one another as caring persons.

Caddo Parish Public Schools has become a model for other institutions and organizations in showing how we renew our community through caring for one another.

Tom Watts
Renewal Team Director
Community Renewal International
425-3222



Caddo Sheriff's Office Joins Facebook

Sheriff Steve Prator said today the Caddo sheriff's Office is joining other government organizations in utilizing social networking services to provide information to the media and public.

Prator said the department will use Facebook to release information on events, programs, announcements, arrests, crime trends, and traffic information.

"Facebook will help us communicate more immediately with the public as events are unfolding,"

Prator said. The department will be using social media in addition to traditional media including newspapers, radio and television.

To receive updates from the CPSO, search Facebook for the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and "like" the profile. The site is identified by the Sheriff's Office logo. A separate profile has been established for Sheriff's Safety Town in Caddo Parish. "Like" it also to receive updates on events at SST.

Top Back to School Safety Tips



Here are some simple reminders for drivers:

- Slow down and be especially alert in the residential neighborhoods and school zones
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Watch for children on and near the road in the morning and after school hours
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and

your surroundings. Put down your phone and don't talk or text while driving

Reminder for your kids:

- They should cross the street with an adult until they are at least 10 years old
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars
- Make sure they always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them



Looking for Science Fair Project Ideas?

Visit [Kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov) for a list of great resources from across government filled with ideas for projects.

Need help writing a book report?

Check out our articles for both kids and parents on how to write a book report. You may also need to know [how to cite electronic sources](#).

- For Kids: <http://www.kids.gov/articles/bookreport.shtml>
- For Parents: http://www.kids.gov/articles/bookreport_parents.shtml

Also check out our latest [Kids.gov Career Spotlight Video – Peace Corp Volunteer](#)

Tenth Anniversary of September 11, 2001

Get information about memorials, exhibits, and other means of remembering those who were killed or injured on September 11, 2001.

9/11 Commemorations and Information:

- <http://1.usa.gov/oobbtW>
- <http://911digitalarchive.org/>
- <http://pentagon.afis.osd.mil/september11.html>
- <http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp>
- <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2011/07/new-webinar-offers-teachers-tools-to-teach-911/>
- <http://smithsonianconference.org/september11/resources/k-12-lessons-and-activities/http://www.911memorial.org/teaching-guides-0>

[The Federal Citizen Information Center](#) connects people with government benefits, services and information through its family of websites, including [Pueblo.gsa.gov](#), [USA.gov](#), [GobiernoUSA.gov](#) and [ConsumerAction.gov](#); by phone at 1 (800) FED-INFO (that's 1 (800) 333-4636) and with publications by mail from Pueblo, Colorado. FCIC is part of the U.S. General Services Administration's Office of Citizen Services.

For up-to-date consumer information, follow us on [Twitter \(twitter.com/pueblo81009\)](#), [Facebook \(facebook.com/pueblo81009\)](#) or our blog, [Govgab.gov](#).

Kids.gov, the government's official source for kids to find all kinds of free and safe government information.



2011-2012 Grant Application Update

For more than 60 years, Lowe's has supported the communities we call home. At a time when schools and community groups are struggling to make ends meet, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation recognizes that we must increase our focus on basic, one-time project needs.

Again, this year, we challenge ourselves to seek ways to provide the tools that help our educators and parent groups through these challenging times efficiently and with the greatest impact. In 2011-2012, basic needs will take priority. Please keep this focus in mind as you apply for a Toolbox for Education grant in the 2011-2012 academic year. Thank you.

Now in its 6th year of helping build better schools and communities, the Lowe's Toolbox for Education program has provided nearly \$25 million to more than 5,000 schools across the country.

3 Simple Steps to Application Success:

Step 1: Print out and review the [Pre-Application Checklist](#) (PDF file). Note: You will need Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer to read this file. Get the current version of Adobe Acrobat [here](#).

Use the Pre-Application as a guide to collect and compile a Word document that contains your group's application information. The pre-application checklist includes all of the details you will need to supply as part of your application. When you are ready to submit the application online, you can copy and paste the data from the Word document into the online application.

Step 2: Develop a project that you would like to complete using funds from a Toolbox for Education grant. Visit the [Sample Projects](#) page for ideas and inspiration.

Step 3: Submit your application. **Go to www.toolboxforeducation.com/hta.html and click on How to Apply* or Call our customer service team at 1-800-644-3561 X 208 or [email us](#).**

*The online application form has a 25-minute time limit, so we recommend that you follow the method described under Step 1 for compiling and submitting the application information. Also, we cannot provide you with a copy of your application once it has been submitted online. Compiling your application data in a Word document will allow you to retain a copy of the application data on your computer.

Visit our website: caddodistrictpta.org

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE AT SOUTHERN HILLS!

There are new and exciting things happening at Southern Hills Elementary School this school year! Mr. Jesse Scott is the new principal and he hit the ground running on his first day on the job! There is a spirit of enthusiasm around the campus. Many exciting changes are being put in place to compliment the total instructional program. Mr. Scott stated that he appreciates the opportu-

nity to work with a dedicated TEAM! As principal, his primary goal embraces improving the academic performance of all students. The 2011 – 2012 theme for this school year is "Stepping Up To The Plate." The faculty, staff, students, and the Southern Hills community are stepping in a new direction with pride!

Louisiana PTA State Convention

SAVE THE DATE!



Louisiana PTA Convention
April 27th - 28th, 2012
Hilton Hotel—Lafayette, Louisiana

990 N e-Postcard Filings

As a PTA/PTSA you may have questions regarding 990 N e-Postcard filings with the IRS. We hope that the information provided below will help clear up any questions regarding this filing.

All PTA/PTSA units making less than \$50,000 a year must file this form online for the past two years. The filings must be made at the end of the PTA physical year, which is **NOW**. Failure to file will result in a loss of the unit's tax income status with the IRS

and have to pay Federal taxes. Please use the information below to help you in preparing and filing the 990 N e-Postcard form.

[990N Information & Instructions](#)

The form is simple and straightforward. You will need the following information before filing:

- Organization's legal name
- Any other names the organization uses
- Organization's mailing address

- Organization's Website address, if one
 - Organization's employer identification number (also referred to as a taxpayer' identification number) EIN
 - Organization's annual tax year
 - Answers to the following questions:
 1. Are your gross receipts normally \$25,000 or less?
 2. Has your organization terminated or gone out of business?
- If you need assistance

filing for this, please contact Margie at 929-5313 or by email: lapta@comcast.net for help. Any local PTA/PTSA unit making more than \$50,000 must file an 990EZ form. Please contact Margie Rayburn (929-5313) or Eppie Adams (687-0442) if you need your PTA/PTSA Unit's EIN Number.



A Note from your Hospitality Chair

We need refreshments donated for the General Meetings. Contact Letha Banks at 635-1233 or justkidding@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Thank you,
Letha Banks



Needed: New President's Information

If you receive this newsletter at your school and not at your home address this means that we do not have your contact information to be able to mail this to you nor does Louisiana PTA or National PTA have this information.

Please mail your 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

National PTA News



Worldwide Day of Play—September 24, 2011

National PTA® and Nickelodeon are also collaborating on [Worldwide Day of Play](#), an initiative that encourages kids to go outside and play. On September 24, Nickelodeon will suspend all programming and go dark all afternoon. On this day, thousands of schools and community organizations will be hosting events engaging kids in physical fitness around the world. In 2010, more than 100 PTAs held events and activities to encourage families to be active together.

Nickelodeon is also helping kids kick-off their efforts this summer by participating in the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition's PALA Challenge. To complete the Challenge, kids need to be active 60 minutes a day, five days a week, for six out of eight weeks. Log onto [Nick.com/thebighelp](#) to take the PALA Challenge, log fitness efforts, access resources and receive a signed

certificate of accomplishment from the President upon completion.

National PTA and Nickelodeon have partnered to create resources for you: free posters, an activity guide and grants to support your projects. Visit [TheBigHelp.com](#) to register your event and be a part of the success story for the PTA, Nickelodeon, and families everywhere. Questions, contact [PublicAffairs@Nick.com](#).

Download the Playbook to plan your event: [Worldwide Day of Play Playbook](#).

Spread the word about your Worldwide Day of Play event with an [E-vite](#).

Keep track of your PALA Challenge: [PALA Challenge Log](#)

Beyond the Backpack

[Beyond the Backpack](#) is a new pro-social initiative from Nickelodeon's [Dora the Explorer](#) that champions overall school readiness for preschoolers on their biggest adventure yet--going to school. Just as Backpack helps Dora prepare for new adventures, Beyond the Backpack provides parents with tools and resources to help kids prepare for a well-rounded, positive experience as they enter kindergarten.

The campaign is designed to call attention to the emotional, physical, experiential, and actual competencies that preschoolers need for those first, crucial steps into school, including: social skills and emotional intelligence; early literacy and math skills; in-school involvement and resources like school supplies; and health and wellness basics.

Through the initiative, National PTA and Nickelodeon have created a [kindergarten readiness quiz](#), a toolkit for parents and families that will give them the tools they need to help their child be ready for kindergarten (see

below), a public service announcement, and joint outreach efforts that will impact thousands of families nationwide. For more information, visit [BeyondtheBackpack.com](#).

[Take the Kindergarten Readiness Quiz](#)

Download the [Beyond the Backpack Toolkit](#)

Download the [Beyond the Backpack Overview](#)

National PTA and Nickelodeon are partnering with iTunes for Dora's Beyond the Backpack! **During the back-to-school season, all proceeds from episodes purchased from the Dora The Explorer Beyond The Backpack collection will be donated to National PTA to support the educational success of children.** Get involved with the five festive episodes in which you can lend a hand for the big Backpack Parade, help your team win the Super Adventure Race, and celebrate friends helping friends!



Through [The Big Help](#), Nickelodeon will award \$1M in grants to schools and community organizations enabling kids around the country to achieve the goal of a million acts of help. The Big Help Grant Program will support projects that inspire kids to (1) take care of the environment; (2) lead active, healthy lives; (3) engage in community service; or (4) improve their educational experience. As a partner on this effort, local students can team up with their PTAs to apply for funding to support a project to improve their communities. For more information, visit the resources section of [Nick.com/thebighelp](#).

[Download the Big Help Activity Guide](#)

[Apply for a \\$2,500 or \\$5,000 grant](#)

Dues Increase

Dear PTA Presidents and Leaders,

For over 100 years, the PTA has been the organization that our nation's families rely on to represent public education and children. PTA is the bedrock of most school communities, providing a place for parents and teachers to belong to a greater organization designed to improve their schools and children's lives.

As PTA members, we belong to a group that promotes better choices for our children. A group that utilizes its' collective power to achieve the goals of improving the health and welfare of all children.

Over the past ten years, National PTA has wrestled with continuing to leverage our collective power while

still providing the services that are needed at the local level. The past ten years have been marked by increasing costs and further demand on all of National PTAs resources. National PTA has instituted various cost cutting measures over the years to attempt to keep pace with these rising costs. With consideration of the rising costs, the expense reductions already implemented and increased demand for services, the National PTA Executive Board decided it should recommend the first fee increase in ten years.

At the National PTA Convention recently, delegates took these many struggles into account and vigorously discussed the issues facing our organization. It was after much debate

that delegates voted to raise National PTA's portion of the member fees from \$1.75 to \$2.25. With this change, the member fee for the combined Louisiana PTA and National PTA will increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25 beginning July 1, 2011.

Although we all know that this is a difficult time to be implementing a fee increase, PTA remains an incredible value.

Thank you for your service to your PTA/PTSA, your community and, most importantly, our children. It takes leaders to make an organization great. Thank you for being a leader.

Sharon Pender
Louisiana State PTA President

Million Hours of Power

Tracking Tool: [Log in to this survey to record volunteer hours toward the Million Hours of Power at website:](http://support.fathers.com/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=6140)

http://support.fathers.com/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=6140

Log in your hours in the survey. To combat historically low male participation in parent involvement groups, National PTA's More Men Organized to Raise Engagement) Alliance and the National Fatherhood Leaders Group have teamed up to launch **A Million Hours of Power**, an initiative to inspire 350,000 American men to dedicate three hours of service to the education, health and well-being of children.

Three hours of service—truly a small amount of time to invest—from 350,000 men totals more than 1 million hours of true power to the lives of children, resulting in educational, social and physical benefits to kids across the nation.

Million Hours of Power

"Give a little, change a lot" will be the rallying call to action for the

Million Hours of Power grassroots campaign. Research proves that parent involvement leads to student success in school and life. Children perform better in school when both the mother and the father or a male role model are both involved in the education of their children.

The Million Hours of Power campaign will encourage men to dedicate three hours of their time to the health, education and well-being of children in their families and communities during the 2010-2011 school year. Working with the [National Center for Fathering](#), PTA has provided a tracking tool so you can log your hours and watch the campaign's progress toward 1 million hours (see link below).

The hope is that once men see how much reward they get for so little effort, then they will develop greater habits of engagement and responsibility to children and families. Use the resources below to contribute your three hours of power.

Schools Who have ordered their Official Kit from National PTA

Blanchard Elementary PTA—Caddo
Caddo Parish Magnet PTA—Caddo
Forest Hill Elementary PTA—Caddo
Herndon Magnet PTA—Caddo
Southwood High PTSA—Caddo
Youree Drive Advanced Placement Magnet—Caddo
Barksdale PTA—Bossier Council
George W. Welch Elementary PTA—Northeast Council
North DeSoto Elementary PTA—West Central

All kits must be ordered by September 15, 2011, Please order yours today.

Just a reminder

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

Family-School Partnerships: National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated learning opportunities that fairly and have access to

will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Note from your Newsletter Editor

We are interested in what's happening in your schools, so e-mail an article and/or send pictures to mehols318@comcast.net and we will share the news with all our PTAs.

2011-2012 Newsletter Deadlines:

Oct Issue—Sept 28, 2011

Nov Issue—Oct 27, 2011

Dec/Jan Issue—Nov 17, 2011

Feb Issue—Jan 26, 2012

March Issue—Feb 29, 2012

April Issue—March 22, 2012

May Issue—April 26, 2012



Here are some pictures from the Caddo District PTA In-Service held August 13, 2011, at the Caddo Parish Schools Boardroom on Midway.

Left: Margie Rayburn presented the President's Workshop to these eager new presidents.

Bottom Left: Blanchard PTA show off their PTA shirts and the bags of fundraising information they received from the Vendors.

Bottom Right: The Treasurer's Workshop was presented by Carol Fullilove and assisted by Allison May, Caddo Schools Auditor, who explained fundraising forms that PTAs have to fill out.



Special Notice about Reflections Dance Choreography & Film Production Entries

As you are all aware, National PTA Reflections is working diligently to improve efficiencies within the Reflections Program and to streamline processes involved with the administration and adjudication of the hundreds of thousands of entries received each year. Our primary purpose in doing so is to free all of our Reflections leaders across the country and abroad from time consuming, expensive, and often inefficient administrative work so that, together, we can serve more children. As part of this process, and at the recommendation of PTA Reflections leadership, we want to leverage existing and free technological advancements that will allow leaders to reallocate their time and resources to children and to program activities that are at the core of successfully growing Reflections participation.

One step that will save us many hours, expenses and resources is requesting that digital submissions be submitted in the same format. This year, we ask that dance choreography and film production entries be saved to CD or DVD in **.flv format**, which is the only format that will upload to the PTA Reflections online gallery. Free software exists that easily converts a file of almost any kind to the **.flv format**. To familiarize our leadership with the process of saving files in the **.flv format**, National PTA will develop a webinar training module to be available in August. The module will provide a link to the software that is available at no charge for both PC and MAC computers. It will also include a step by step demonstration on how to save a video file in **.flv format**. We will provide a link to the module as soon as it

is completed, and we encourage you to use it and to share it with all area and local PTA units, as well as families who may be interested in this resource. Even though our preference is to receive all dance composition and film production entries in the **.flv format**, the National PTA Board wants us to assure you that we will accept these submissions in other file formats this year if a file cannot be converted. National PTA will support all children who want to participate in the Reflections Program and will stand ready to assist those who need special consideration.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to make this Reflections year our best ever. The arts and our children are worth it!

Sincerely,
Jane Coyne
[mailto:jcoyne@pta.org]

Units need to file for reinstatement with the IRS.

If the unit **grossed \$25,000 or less** averaged over the last three years, let the unit know it is eligible for a one-time-only reinstatement process that requires the unit to file the Form 1023 and pay \$100 by December 31, 2011. Reinstatement is "close to automatic," per the National PTA Controller, and will be retroactive. It would be a pity to lose any unit—but to lose a unit we could have helped back into the fold that would be awful. The quicker we identify the units involved and help them through the process, the better the odds that they will be back on track as PTAs.

If you have received a letter saying that you have been revoked by the IRS please let me know.

Margie Rayburn, Caddo District PTA President
929-5313 (H) or 458-4179 (C)

The National PTA Official Back to School Kit Online



All local, council, district, and region PTAs must register to receive their Official PTA® Kit. The incoming 2011–2012 PTA president or other authorized PTA leader must fill out the registration form to select the preferred shipping address and date for the kit. The order form will be available through September 16 and kits will start shipping weekly in late June. **The National PTA® Official Back to School Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.**

Please note: The address units provide on the kit registration form will be used one time only, for the specific purpose of shipping the National PTA Official Back to School kit. Units still must complete all change-of-officer/address paperwork for the state PTA.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail soon after registering. If you do not receive a confirmation, please check your spam filters or junk mailboxes. If you still don't have a confirmation please e-mail info@pta.org.

[Register for kit delivery](http://redirect.pta.org/ptakit/register/)

<http://redirect.pta.org/ptakit/register/>

PTA Take Your Family to School Week Awards

Save the Date
PTA Take Your Family to School Week
February 12-18, 2012

[PTA® Take Your Family to School Week®](#) is celebrated each February to pay tribute to PTA's legacy of building family-school partnerships. PTA Take Your Family to School Week will be held **February 12-18, 2012** with the purpose of expanding and enhancing family engagement in schools across the country.

National PTA® offers grants to PTAs to implement programs that engage families in the school community. These grants can 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 with their families.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week is sponsored by the AXA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AXA Equitable. The [AXA Foundation](#) is a Proud National Sponsor of PTA. The AXA Foundation provides more than \$1.3 million a year in scholarships to make college a reality for students across the country.

AXA offers free seminars to PTA units on how to apply

for college and on other financial issues facing families. Consider having AXA provide a seminar during your Take Your Family to School Week activities. Learn more at [AXA-Achievement.com/PTA](http://www.achievement.com/PTA).

How to Apply go to website:

http://www.pta.org/take_your_family_to_school_awards.asp

Your application should be submitted in two steps:

Step 1: Please complete the [grant application](#) and save it as a Word or PDF document. Please use your PTA's name as your document's file name (e.g. your final document is called "SpringfieldPTA.doc"). You will submit your grant application online in Step 2.

Step 2: Submit your demographic information online and [upload](#) your grant application.

Contact

Questions about the grant, the application, or funding decisions should be directed to National PTA at ehart@pta.org or (800) 307-4PTA Ext. 3333.

UNIT IN GOOD STANDING

Caddo District 1st Awards Deadline – Nov.8, 2011

Louisiana PTA 1st Awards Deadline – Nov.1, 2011

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:

- adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
- remits the national portion of the dues through the state PTA to reach the national office by dates designated by the National PTA;
- 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.
- has a current year's budget verified by a Local Unit Budget Approval form signed by the local president, treasurer and principal; and submitted to the Louisiana PTA office. In the instance that the unit is a community or non-traditional PTA, another member may sign in place of the principal.

- 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 forwarded to the Louisiana PTA office.

- must purchase a PTA membership card for every paying member. Each unit must purchase a minimum of thirty (30) cards per year.

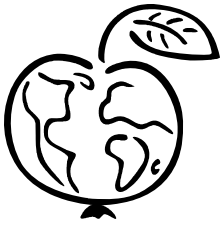
To enter programs, apply for awards and send voting delegates to state convention:

- 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.

"Please save this date for the Annual **Principals' Luncheon**, Thursday, October 27th, 11:30 a.m., East Ridge Country Club, Tickets - \$20.00 each. PTA Presidents and Principals are encouraged to attend."

Thanks!
Carol

Watch for more information in the next newsletter!



Caddo District PTA
P. O. Box 32000
Shreveport, LA 71130-2000

Margie Rayburn, President
Charlotte Echols, Editor




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Calendar of Events











September



- 5 Labor Day
- 11 Patriot's Day
- 13 Board Meeting (8:30) Rm. 1, **General Meeting (9:30), CPSB Room, SEE YOU THERE!**
- 16  Citizenship Day
- 20 International Day of Peace 
- 23  Native American Day
Autumn Begins

October



- 3  Child Health Day
- 8  Custodian Workers Day
- 8 National Children's Day
- 10  Columbus Day (Observed)
- 11 Board Meeting (8:30) Rm. 1, **General Meeting (9:30), CPSB Room, SEE YOU THERE!**
- 12 Original Columbus Day
- 14 National Bosses Day 
- 20 *Fall* First Reporting Period Ends 
- 21 *Fall* Fall Break
- 22 *Fall* Make a Difference Day
- 23 *Fall* United Nation's Day 
- 24-28 *Fall* GEE Retesting Days
- 27  Principals Luncheon
- 31  Halloween