



PTA Newsletter

January 4, 2012

Resolve to be involved!

Happy New Year! I hope each of you enjoyed the holidays with your loved ones and all is well. Most are now working on making or following their new year's resolution. What was yours? If you couldn't come up with one, then why not resolve to be involved with your child. One way is to join the PTA. Decades of research shows that when parents are involved, students perform better in school. They receive higher grades and test scores, have better school attendance and lower rates of suspension, are more likely to graduate high school and are more likely to pursue post-secondary

education. Children of involved parents also exhibit increased motivation, better self-esteem, less drug and alcohol use, and fewer instances of violent behavior. Don't have the time you say? It only takes a moment to join. It is not the amount of time you can contribute that's most important, but rather your commitment to help PTA make a difference in the lives of children. Anyone who cares about children belongs in the PTA. On a state and national level, the PTA has been instrumental in many initiatives from which all children have benefited (visit PTA.org/advocacy). CCSD 168 PTA needs

time, funds, and good will from people like you to keep them happening. Join us and help us do even more. Visit www.d168.org and click on the PTA tab to print out a membership form and mail in or drop your dues and form at your child's school office.



A family that supports each other is a step towards a peaceful world.

Volume 1, Issue 2

Upcoming Events:

- ✓ McCare Night at McDonald's
- ✓ Afty Tapple Fund-raiser
- ✓ Volunteer Parent Trainings
- ✓ Movie Night
- ✓ Parent/Teacher Conferences

CCSD 168 PTA Board Members:

Susan Fox
President
752-6141

Chemia Byrd-Jones
Vice President
847-828-3377

Eddie Macklin
Treasurer
323-6758

Tiffany Daniel-Cole
Secretary
548-5290

Reach the goal!

This is my second year as PTA President for CCSD 168. I myself was a parent that said many of the objections I've heard in the last two years, "I don't have the time!", "I don't agree with the PTA", or "I haven't

seen anything being done by the PTA." When push came to shove though, I decided to just do it and try to make a difference by joining the PTA. I must say I didn't think I would be so excited to see the improve-

ments that I've witnessed. Last year we had a membership total of 61 members which granted us to receive the Power of 11 recognition at the Illinois PTA Annual Convention. What a success! (continued on pg 2)

Reach the goal! (cont.)

To date for this school year we have 47 members. This is nice but we are shy of matching last year. My hope is that we work together to pass the 61 that was set last year and reach a goal of 100! CAN YOU IMAGINE if 100 parents joined the PTA this year. We could really have a nice second half of the school year and provide our children with some fun and some educational items to assist the teachers. There has been open involvement with the administration and many ideas have been talked about and some are being worked on right now. Please resolve to be involved



Is your child worth 100?

and help us reach 100!

PTA done? (cont.)

DVD sets of Martin Luther King to assist the schools in teaching this topic. We have parents that volunteered to help at the Rickover basketball games to sell tickets or to just keep the crowd in order. We plan to have t-shirts for the PTA that will be available for purchase and are preparing for the upcoming Affy Tapple fundraiser at the end of this month. At our last meeting we developed a list of more events we want to accomplish this school year but would need support from you. Please visit the PTA tab on the school's website and check your emails to stay updated about

So What has the PTA done?

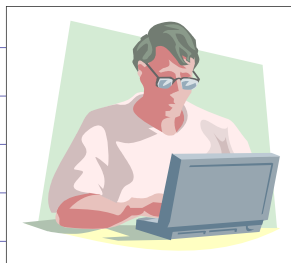
Last school year was the rebuilding of the PTA. When I took the seat of president I was informed that at the beginning of the school year the PTA's budget was approximately \$93 and by winter break we were down to about \$3. We held an Affy Tapple fundraiser and the budget grew to well over \$1200 and currently remains at this amount. Last year the PTA had a fall dance in November for 7th and 8th grade students at the

community center, we gave treats and small gifts to students at Strassburg and Wagoner for the winter holiday, we provided donuts for all staff at each school during Teacher Appreciation week, we provided a breakfast for Wagoner staff for having the most staff join our PTA, and we sold waters each day the LIFE Fitness program was in session at Rickover. This school year we purchased two

these events. You can also find the minutes from the past PTA meetings posted on the school's website to review what has been discussed to date. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10th starting at 6 p.m. in the Rickover library. The meeting will be to present and review the PTA's By-Law document for approval. Please plan on attending.

Just Between Friends

During our membership drives we asked parents and staff to leave their contact information so we can keep them in the loop about PTA. Coming this month we will be utilizing a communication site provided free by Illinois PTA called Just Between Friends



An informed parent is a positive parent!

(JBF). This site will help organize all our PTA contacts and make it much easier to send out information and keep everyone posted. It will also provide another opportunity to increase our membership by allowing people to join online

and allowing them to print out their own membership cards. Please keep an eye out for the email that will ask you to join our group at this site so you can continue to stay in the loop about all our activities.