

CouncilConnections

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF PTAs

No. 35 September 15, 2008

ICPT 37

Mission, Vision & Values

As we head into the new school year, let's take a moment to reflect on what it means to be a leader in PTA. Membership is open to anyone who believes in the Mission and Purposes of the National Parent Teacher Association. Individual members may belong to any number of PTAs and pay dues in each. Every person who joins a local PTA automatically becomes a member of both the state and National PTAs.

Together we are a powerful voice for children. With your help, we can continue to work toward:

PTA Goal: A quality education and nurturing environment for every child.

PTA Vision: Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission: The overall purpose of PTA

- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Values: What PTA stands for

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

Article courtesy of www.pta.org.

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STC Web Site – Coming Soon!

Have you ever spent too long trying to find your notes from an STC meeting, or looking for a flyer you wanted to pass around at your local unit meeting? Have you presented information at an STC meeting and then had several people contact you for more information about it? Wouldn't it be great to have a place where all of this information is posted so anyone on STC can access it whenever they need to? That is the intent of our new web site: stcofpta.org.

During this year, when you have information that STC members will want to refer to, such as auction information, Reflections rules and forms, or blood drive information, you can send it in to be posted on the web site.

As soon as the site is uploaded, I'll send out an announcement email. But there's no need to wait for that announcement to provide information – if you have anything to post on the site now, send it to me and it will be included right away at m.brostoff@yahoo.com!

Throughout the year, I would appreciate having your opinions about what else would be helpful to have on the site. Let me know how it can be a useful reference tool for you, and save you some time and effort.

Merydith Brostoff
STC Webmaster

Hoover School

On Friday September 5, Hoover School hosted its annual back to school kick-off party, Hoover Happening. To say the least we were all sweating it out weather wise. However the clouds parted and the sun made an appearance, and so did many of our Hoover families. We sold pizza and icees, and had a wonderful DJ who interacted so well with the kids and families, they were begging for more. The Cub Scouts provided temporary tattoos and the Girl Scouts did face painting. Both were a huge success. The MLS team Chicago Storm was on hand to sign autographs and had games for the kids to play. Mr. Chung played football with many students (I think even a dad or two) and our PTA increased their membership to a total so far of 320 members. Hoffman Estates Trustees Newell and Green stopped by to show their support, as did State Representative Fred Crespo. I also managed to get them to join PTA as well! I have to say, from where I was standing, a good time was had by all.

Donna Boomgarden
Hoover School PTA President

Ann Fox School

A belief system called Kids at Hope was implemented last year at Anne Fox School. The belief is that all children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Starting this year right where we left off, the children walked through the Tunnel of Hope on their way to their first all school assembly. Staff, parents, and the mayor of Hanover Park lined the hall from the front doors to the gym clapping and cheering as each class walked through. The looks on the children's faces were priceless. This belief is supported every day when the children start off with the Pledge of Allegiance, then their Kids at Hope pledge.

Throughout the day children may receive "Aces" as positive reinforcements from teachers, other staff members, lunch supervisors and parent volunteers. These "Aces" are turned into the office for pencils. It's great to have this positive energy at the school and is building a great community environment.

All children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Loretta Engle
Anne Fox PTA President

Dirksen School

Let me say first that I am the new PTA President at Dirksen. This has been a great learning experience for me. I am excited about this year. The PTA is planning a lot of great activities for the school this year. We had our Back to School Block Party, and it was a great success. We are working hard at getting things started again, like school store, treat day and hot lunch. The kids really look forward to these days so we understand how important it is to get them started up again. I am looking forward to a great year and I am going to commit to help make this year a success.

Michelle Parow
Dirksen PTA President

Outdoor Signage Question

A curious PTA president recently asked us to check with the other schools in our district to see who is responsible at each school for maintaining and updating the lettering on the outdoor signs, many of which were originally purchased with funds provided by the PTA.

According to our responses, it is often the custodian's responsibility. That person gathers the information from the calendar in the school office or any notes in their box, then puts up the lettering per the principal's approval.

At Dooley School, the students in Student Council handle the sign, under the direction of the teacher sponsoring that group.

Aldrin PTA has created an Office Assistance Committee to handle the job.

At Armstrong, there is a 2 person PTA committee, made up of volunteers who live nearby. They work with the school schedule and principal to determine when to change the wording and what to include.

We encourage you take a moment to make certain your PTA and school are in accord with who is responsible for the annual upkeep, the storing of the letters, who has access to the key, what is the protocol should repairs become necessary, etc., to avoid any problems down the road.

Thank you to everyone who took a moment to answer our brief question. It is very interesting to see how each school handles the same situation in different ways. There is so much we can learn from each other's experiences.

If you have a question you would like to pose to the members of STC, please contact me at:
mussmanc@hotmail.com.

Remember, this newsletter is written by STC for the benefit of STC members. It can be a fabulous resource if we all participate!