

CouncilConnections

A PUBLICATION OF THE SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF PTAs

No. 44 September 15, 2009

ICPT 37

Message from the STC President

Welcome back to PTA. I hope your year has gotten off to a great start. As the Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs gets our programs going, we hope you will take time to look through the newsletter and share it with others in your PTAs and schools. The newsletter is a great source of information and inspiration for the amazing work being done on behalf of kids throughout our school district.

This year, STC is going to focus efforts on increasing parent involvement all over the school district. Many PTAs have already introduced the National PTA program, Three for Me, in an effort to get parents to pledge just three hours of involvement with their children's school and their children's education. STC's Parent Enrichment Committee, together with School District 54 will present ***Ensuring Your Child's Success***, a program for ALL parents on September 22nd at Frost Junior High. Mark your calendar to come out to this informative program by Dr. Sonya Whitaker, the District's Director of Academic Improvement. Dr. Whitaker will give parents specific tools to be sure our children are achieving at their highest levels. Watch this newsletter as well as local unit newsletters for more tips and ideas about growing parent involvement both in your PTA and at your school.

New school years bring shiny new tennies and school supplies and our best new clothes. Even shiny apples for our new favorite teachers. Let's come up with shiny new ideas to draw parents in. Let's dust off old attitudes and complacent expectations. As we begin to program for this new PTA year, let's make brand new opportunities to involve new faces in the important work we are doing on behalf of all children.

Mary Kay Prusnick
President, Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs

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STC Directory

The STC Directory provides District 54 PTA Presidents, Principals, Board of Education members and Administration as well as IL PTA District 37 Board Members with information regarding the Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs. Its purpose for STC is simple, it is so we as a PTA we can stay connected. It is a booklet filled with endless resources – all of us and our boards.

The directory includes:

- Privacy Statement
- PTA Conference and Convention Information
- PTA Websites and Other Contact Information
- STC Executive Board
- STC Important Dates
- STC Hospitality Assignments
- STC Council Newsletter Assignments
- STC Unit Presidents and School Principals
- STC Past Presidents
- STC Calling Tree
- ICPT District 37 Executive Board
- ICPT District 37 Calendar
- School District #54 Board of Education
- School District #54 Administration
- Schaumburg Township Elementary School Foundation Representatives
- School District #54 Schools and Facilities/Map
- District #54 Calendar
- PTA Committee Listings and Contact Information by School
- STC Bylaws
- STC Standing Rules

This information is compiled over the summer and distributed at the first STC meeting of the year in September. Even in this high tech age, we have found that we still need each other's addresses at times so we include the addresses of all the executive committees of each of our units. Hopefully, this document helps us feel closer to one another even though we are spread out serving the 14,000 students in our Council.

Once you receive your directory treat it like a membership list. It is a confidential listing that is only to be used for PTA business. This is not a personal document to be used for solicitations or chain mail. Thank you in advance for your help in creating such a useful resource of resources for our PTA. I look forward to receiving your unit's information to include in our directory.

Nicole Fentem
STC Directory Chairperson

Webmaster

Over the past year, our STC web site (www.stcofpta.org) held information about Auction, Scholarships, Newsletter, and Reflections so that you and your committee chairs and parents could access it at any time. What else should we add to the site that would make things easier for you? If you have requests for content for the STC of PTA web site, or if you have information to provide, please email me at m.brostoff@yahoo.com.

This year, there is a link to the District's Virtual Backpack on the right side bar on each page. If you (or the person who updates your web site) need any help posting a link from your PTA web site to the Virtual Backpack, let me know. I am happy to help.

Finally, I am looking for someone who is interested in helping to make updates to this site. HTML/web development skills are desirable but not necessary.

Feel free to contact me at any time with any questions about, or suggestions for, the web site!

Merydith Brostoff
STC Webmaster

STC Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the STC Newsletter for the 2009-2010 School Year! This newsletter is written by STC members, for the benefit of STC members. It will only be as useful as the information we put into it and the time we take to read it.

Each month a selection of PTA Presidents and STC Chairs are scheduled to submit articles that simply tell our community about what is going on in their position or school this year. You may choose to write about any topic, such as; a particular concern your PTA is working to solve, or maybe a new project you have initiated, your goal for this year, or an annual program you are particularly proud of. This is a great opportunity for Presidents to find out that many schools face the same struggles or to get new ideas to refresh a regular event. You are welcome to write a brief article yourself, or you may request one of your own chairs, elected positions or even your principal to submit an article on your behalf if you choose. I will remind those scheduled to write at the STC meeting and via email. All articles are due the following Wednesday, so one week after the monthly meeting.

We also like to host a question and answer section at the end of most newsletters. Each month a question will be presented to the presidents and chairs and everyone is asked to email back a quick comment. This type of Dear Abby format is a great way to share ideas between PTAs. Past questions have included; *How many people regularly attend your monthly meeting? What role do other PTAs have in Celebrate Reading and Writing night? Has your school ever produced a cookbook?* Please watch next month for a question to arrive in your email and take a quick moment to share your experience. If you have any

questions you would like to post, please send them to me at any time. All questions are posted anonymously, so do not be shy!

I look forward to another great year of idea sharing and to reading each of your articles!

Michelle Mussman
STC Newsletter Chairperson

4 PHASES TO GO THROUGH TO HELP YOU CREATE AN EXTRAORDINARY PTA

Phase one is Discovery

What are your passions? What attracted you to PTA and what are the things you love most about your parental involvement work? What are the times you feel most passionate about your work, the most ALIVE? What is one moment or story that stands out as a high point for you, a time when you felt most engaged, on fire, and learning new things? Has there been a time of innovation in your past experiences with PTA or other parental involvement? What made it exciting, how did it happen? Write it down and discuss it as PTA leaders. Now figure out how to re-create those high points, those innovative times by using the other phases.

Phase two is Dream

On a scale of 1-10, with “10” representing the kind of PTA in your community that you would most like to see, rate where you feel your PTA is today. _____ Now, more importantly, what does your “10” PTA look like? What is happening in your PTA in the year 2016? What is new, changed or better? Can you describe the vision of what you see and what you want? What is happening in your PTA, the other local schools, and districts and across the state, the country, the world?

Phase three is Design

Now meet as a board and define the vision you see in the Dream phase. Design the PTA you envision. Decide how to construct your dream. What will be included, what steps can you take? How will it be organized? Think architecture, construction. This phase includes goal setting (short term and long-range) and strategic planning.

Phase four is Destiny

Ask: What is the smallest first step YOU can take that might have the largest impact in moving your PTA in the direction of your future vision? Is there a bolder step we might take together - a possibility that exists that we have not yet thought about? What COMMITMENTS to ACTION can we make? This phase is personal commitment to the goals set.

From the Utah PTA

Schaumburg Township Council of PTAs and School District 54 present



Ensuring Your Child's Success

Tuesday, September 22, 2009
6:30 pm
Frost Junior High School
320 W. Wise Road in Schaumburg

Start this school year off right! Don't miss the chance to learn the critical tools to help your child succeed. Dr. Sonya Whitaker, District 54's Director of Academic Improvement, will conduct a parent presentation that will accomplish the following goals:

- Introduce the top five questions for engaging in collaborative conversations with your child's teacher
- Provide suggestions for increasing the academic achievement levels of your child
- Explain how to determine your child's greatest strength as well as opportunities for growth
- Reinforce the benefits of parental involvement and the direct impact on student achievement



Membership Dues

Your PTAs first membership dues payment must be postmarked and sent to IL PTA by October 1st.

**Questions? Please contact
Mucia Burke, STC Membership
Chair maburke71@comcast.net**