



McMullen Booth Elementary PTA Newsletter
The MANATEE MESSAGE

A TWO-TIME PCCPTA AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

McMullen-Booth
 Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.

McMullen Booth Elementary PTA, 3025 Union Street, Clearwater, FL 33759

January 2008

Volume VIII - Issue III

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President

Dear MBES Families,

Happy New Year! 2008 is off to a wonderful start. Your PTA continues to advocate for all of our children. One of the ways we do this is by staying informed of any legislative issues that will affect our children. Linda Kearshner has included information in this issue that I encourage you to read. You can also visit the PCCPTA website, or the State PTA website for local and state information.

Also, the teachers have organized a fundraiser in an effort to fund our media assistant position for next year. This is very important because I want not only my children, but yours as well to be able to access the library when they need to. If we do not have this position, the library will be closed if Mrs. Polgar is called away to assist in another area of the school.

One final thought I would like to leave you with is that we need some NEW volunteers to be a part of our PTA for the next school year. Our current board is AWESOME!!, but I know that a few people will not be able to participate at the level they are currently maintaining. Think about how you may be able to bring your talents to our PTA. We need you!

Finally, Thank you to Carol Poelker and for all who are participating to make "Reading Under the Stars" possible. It will be fabulous as always!

Thank for reading!

Laurie Dobler, PTA President

Mark Your Calendar...

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 25 | Reading Under the Stars /
Used Book Sale |
| Feb. 6 | Dynamic Dads Meeting,
7:00 pm, Media Center |
| Feb. 7 | Pizza / Market Day Pickup,
2-3:30 pm, Cafeteria |
| Feb. 8 | Class Picture Day |
| Feb. 10 | Valentine Dance |
| Feb. 11 | SAC Meeting, 7:00 pm,
Media Center |
| Feb. 22 | Astro Skate Party, 2:00-5:00 pm |
| Feb. 29 | Volunteer Appreciation
Breakfast, 8:00am, Cafeteria |

Need to Reach Us?

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the officers below:

President:

Laurie Dobler
Laurie.Dobler@baycare.org

Vice President, Leadership:

Dorene Duttry
doreduttry@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs:

Carol Poelker - carolpfl@tampabay.rr.com
 Susanne Mushaben - smushaben@tampabay.rr.com

Vice President, Organization:

Stacey Brinson
stabrin@msn.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Ways & Means:

Maureen Gallagher - mlgallagherfl@hotmail.com
 Michelle Marcatos - mmarcatos@tampabay.rr.com

Vice President, Communications:

Kristen Sellas
ksellas@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Dawn Schultz
DawnC21@tampabay.rr.com

Recording Secretary:

Beth Berman
bermanbeth@aol.com

Time Is Running Out!



If you have not yet sent in the registration for the Dynamic Dad's Valentine Dance, time is running out! Your form and payment must be received by February 1st to be a part of the magic! The form is included in this newsletter.

♥ ♥ **Dynamic Dad's** ♥ ♥
Valentine's Day Dance Party

Sunday, February 10th, 2008

♥ **3:00pm—7:00pm** ♥

Dinner, Dancing, Contests & Fun!

www.mbes.com/pta

Principal's Corner



Thank you to everyone who helped us prepare for Reading Under the Stars. To make an event like this successful, we need many helpers and as always our MBES family rose to the occasion. I would also like to thank you for supporting our efforts to fund our Media Assistant position. We all know how important reading is and being able to keep our media center open at all times is a priority here at MBES.

We are looking forward to our Valentine's Dance on February 10 that is sponsored by our Dynamic Dads. Specific information is included in the newsletter on a separate flyer. I heard that this was the social event of the season last year, so I am looking forward to seeing many of you at this spectacular event.

FCAT testing will be here soon and we know our kids will be prepared to show all of the good work they have been doing at McMullen-Booth. You can help your child do their best by making sure they have enough sleep the night before each test, eat a healthy breakfast the day of each test and have some time to release excess energy when they get home the day of each test. Encourage your child to do their best and if they finish early; use that extra time to recheck their answers. When our parents, teachers and students work together we get a true sense of our motto "Together We are Better."

~ Kathy Wickett , Principal

Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

Happy 2008! I hope that all the classroom celebrations for the Winter Holidays were fun and exciting. We heard great comments from Moms, Dads and Teachers! We are glad that everyone is enjoying the year.

Now that we are settled back into school, it is a great time to have your second planning session with your teacher, to plan activities for the rest of the year. With Valentine's Day coming up, we are sure that you all are getting fun ideas together for your classes. Don't forget about www.familyfun.com as a great source for ideas.

Room Representative Committee Co-Chairpersons

Kim Dickman

725-9404

markld55@yahoo.com

Anece Hughes

724-3164

anece@tampabay.rr.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The **Pinellas County Council of PTA's (PCCPTA)** General Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month and **EVERYONE** is invited. There is always a great program agenda with a very brief business meeting. They work hard to get some wonderful speakers to these meetings, so please try to attend if you can. Hospitality starts at 6:15pm with the meetings starting at 7:00pm. Please go to www.pccpta.org to find out more. You can make a difference and be involved when the decisions are being made...how cool is that?

www.mbes.com/pta

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3025 Union Street

Clearwater, FL 33759

PTA President....Laurie Dobler (727) 799-8287

MBES Principal....Kathy Wickett (727) 669-1800

Editor.....Paula Keyser (727) 415-7339

The Manatee Message publication dates:

Deadline:

Thursday, March 13

Thursday, May 15

Publication:

Friday, March 21

Friday, May 23

**To submit an article or information, please contact
Paula Keyser mbesweb@gmail.com**

Secret Pal Ideas For February



How about sending your pal a bouquet of flowers from their pal for an early Valentine's Day surprise? Or how about a large Hershey kiss or bag of kisses that says 'you've been kissed by the secret pal fairy!'

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the Secret Pals program at school You are helping to bring a smile to many faces and we appreciate your help.

If you would like to get involved, please contact me.

Kristen Siegel
swak.km@verizon.net
Home 727.797.4398



Reflections Winners

Congratulations to the following students who submitted artwork that was selected to represent MBES at the County level for the annual PTA Reflections Art Show:

Visual Arts - Intermediate
Kelsey Johnson
Ashlyn Frahn



Photography - Primary
Sara Preston Davidson
William Guerrera



Photography - Intermediate
Dani Davidson
Stephanie Letts

Musical Composition - Intermediate
Jennifer Stalas



Dance Choreography - Primary
Sara Preston Davidson

Their artwork was on display at Pinellas Park High School on January 23, 2008. Two of the students were selected to have their entry go on to State Competition. **Jenny Stalas** and **Sara Preston Davidson** both won in their category. Congratulations!

A special thank you goes to Ruth Eckerd Hall, Dunedin Fine Art Center, and the Francis Wilson Playhouse for their support in providing prizes for our students.



Recreational Reading

Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and donated toys/books to the Recreational Reading program. We have just had another successful Manatee Marketplace where the students spent their hard earned books bucks. Our next and final Marketplace will be held in March. If you would like to volunteer, please look for the sign up sheet in the front office. You may also continue to donate toys and books at the front office. Thanks again for your support and participation with our Recreational Reading Program.



**For The Latest News
& Events Visit Us Online**

www.mbes.com/pta

Citizens for Pinellas Schools

REFERENDUM on the APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF ONE-HALF MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES

The School Board is requesting a four-year continuation of the one-half mill property tax approved by voters in November 2004. This is not a new tax. In 2004 the voters approved this funding through 2009. To continue, the voters would have to approve funding for another four years. We are only allowed to approve these kinds of millage increases for four years at a time.

The renewal will be voted on January 29th, 2008. This is the same election date as the Presidential Preference Primary and the constitutional amendment regarding property taxes being proposed by the State Legislature.

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one-half mill per year be continued beginning July 1, 2009 and ending four fiscal years later on June 30, 2013, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain quality teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

The Pinellas County Council of PTAs supports the continuation of the one-half mill ad valorem tax for school district operating expenses. This Referendum offers our community the opportunity to demonstrate its continuing commitment to public education in Pinellas County, and the outcome will have a direct impact on our classrooms and our students.

Every dollar raised from this Referendum remains in Pinellas County to be spent directly in the classroom. This money is used for operating expenses in our schools. On average, an additional \$35 million dollars each year goes to our schools for teacher pay, improved technology, additional textbooks, reading programs and arts and music programs. Some of the ways the money has been used include:

- Recruiting and retaining quality teachers
- Preserving reading programs
- Preserving music and art classes
- Providing up-to-date textbooks and technology

Please be sure to cast your vote on January 29, 2008.

For more information on this issue please visit: Citizens for Pinellas Schools www.citizensforpinellaschools.com

Pinellas County Schools
www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/board/referendum2.htm

Pinellas County Council of PTAs www.pccpta.org

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!



everychild.onevoice.

PTA Is Seeking Interested Members for the 2008-2009 Nominating Committee

Our PTA needs volunteers to join the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee. This committee helps identify and recruit our school's 2008-2009 PTA Board and the Committee Chairs. It does not take experience—just a few hours of your time. Please choose to get involved and call Dorene Duttry at 441-8517 if you are interested or have any questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS INTERESTED MEMBERS TO SERVE ON NEXT YEAR'S PTA BOARD

If you are interested in serving our children and keeping our school strong, please consider getting involved as a PTA officer or committee chairperson for next year's school year. Just fill out the form below. A nominating committee member will contact you to learn more about your interests and how you might like to serve our school community through PTA.

I am interested in serving on next year's PTA board or chairing a committee (2008-2009 school year):

First and Last Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Child's Name, Grade, and Teacher: _____



FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Many thanks to our McMullen Booth students and families for supporting this year's Sally Foster Fundraiser! Our school will earn over \$6000 to help fund a number of PTA sponsored programs. Our top sellers and gift card winners were as follows:

Top Seller: Cameron Frahn (Sony PSP)
2nd Place: Brandon Hartwick
 (\$75 ToysRUs gift card)
3rd Place: Reid Bigelow (\$50 ToysRUs gift card)

Our AMC \$25 gift card winners were:

Jared Reeves
Christopher Norman
Alec Latzke
Sierra Kennedy
Mason Rahman

Congratulations to Mrs. Arfaras and Mrs. Frazier too! Their classes had the highest percentage of student participation. Their teachers were both awarded with \$60.00 Sally Foster gift certificates.



everychild.onevoice.

Having Trouble Fitting in a Healthy Breakfast in the Morning?

Here are some tips from FamilyEducation.com for a fast, healthy breakfast that will get your child started right.

1. Split a bagel. Layer each half with peanut butter and raisins. Bring along a carton of milk.
2. Warm up leftover pizza; serve with fruit juice.
3. Combine a soft pretzel, string cheese, and fresh fruit.
4. Pair up a container of yogurt, half a bagel, and fruit juice.
5. Microwave a frozen pancake, spread with peanut butter, top with sliced bananas, and roll it up.
6. Layer one or two slices of turkey breast and one slice of cheese on a tortilla. Serve with fruit juice or a piece of fruit.
7. Concoct a breakfast parfait with layers of fruit yogurt, sliced fresh fruit, and crunchy cereal.
8. Swirl applesauce and raisins into a packet of hot oatmeal. Serve with a cup of milk.
9. Combine in blender until frothy: 1/2 cup lemon yogurt, 1/2 cup milk, a dash of vanilla extract, and two ice cubes. Complement with a piece of whole grain toast.

Log On To Our Website: www.mbes.com/pta



Resolve to Be More Involved - And Help Others Get Involved Too!

Did you make any resolutions for 2008? According to a Kaiser Permanente survey, almost 60 percent of Americans make at least one New Year's resolution. Most resolutions are broken by the end of February, but there is one resolution you can make that is easy to keep - and that can make a powerful difference for children. That resolution is to join PTA, or if you are already a member, to encourage others to do so.

Through PTA, you and others can

- Raise student achievement.
- Access great parenting resources.
- Stay informed about our #1 community resource - schools.
- Improve schools for the benefit of children and the community.
- Connect with parents, teachers, school staff, and other concerned citizens.

If you are not a PTA member, contact your local PTA and join today. PTA's "New Year... New Opportunities" membership campaign runs through the month of January. For more information on the campaign, visit www.pta.org/newyear.

Advocacy in Action

Florida's Presidential Primary Election will be held on January 29, 2008. On the same ballot voters will decide whether or not to approve a proposal to amend the state constitution to change the way property taxes are levied.

Florida PTA opposes this amendment out of concern that this proposal will negatively impact the ability of local governments to meet the needs of the children of Florida. To ensure that Florida has a bright future with a thriving economy, it is essential that today's children receive the very best education and are assured a healthy and safe environment. Currently, Florida stands at the bottom of the ladder in funding education and children's services. As the largest child advocacy organization in this state, we want to ensure a stable source of funding to meet the budget needs of Florida's children. Florida PTA opposes the proposed constitutional amendment based on the following positions:

TAX LIMITATION (1984) The Florida PTA opposes any tax limitation by constitutional amendment which would limit the progress being made in attaining the state's goal for education and for programs that promote the welfare of children and youth.

FLORIDA TAX STRUCTURE (1997) The Florida PTA urges the legislature to increase tax revenue through tax structure reform and order to adequately fund services necessary to meet the educational, health, safety, recreational and other basic needs of Florida's children. The Florida PTA urges immediate reform of Florida's system of sales and use taxes. Exemptions for products and services should be retained only where they meet an overriding public policy interest. The Florida PTA

(continued) supports amendments to the Florida Constitution that enhance the ability of the state to fully fund services to meet the needs of Florida's children.

TAXES — COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE RESTRUCTURING (1991) The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to implement a comprehensive restructuring of Florida's tax system with the goals of guaranteeing stable and adequate funding of public schools and necessary services for children

FUNDING (1989) The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to place priority on the basic education programs and ensure that the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) be adequately funded to guarantee an equal educational opportunity for all children. Funding formulas must assure equalization of funding for all school districts.

FUNDING CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS (1991) The Florida PTA urges the Legislature to take whatever action is necessary to fully fund strategies and programs that ensure the health, safety and education of the children of Florida.

According to the Legislature's own calculations, passage of this amendment will result in the loss of over \$9 BILLION in property tax revenues over the next five years. Despite earlier promises to "hold education harmless", if passed this amendment will result in an estimated reduction in education revenues of over \$1.5 BILLION over the next five years. There is no clear plan on how the state will replace this lost revenue; and at a time when the state is facing its own budget cuts, no resources are available to counterbalance local budget deficits.

Local revenue for school support is derived almost entirely from property tax levies, and these local property taxes generate more than half of all funding for K-12 public schools. These revenues represent the primary mechanism for funding the day-to-day operating costs of all public schools in our state, including teachers' salaries, classroom materials, curriculum and instruction, transportation, health services, guidance services, staff development, general operation and maintenance, as well as capital outlay for new construction and renovations of existing facilities

In addition to the impact on education, if implemented, this amendment will eliminate millions of dollars in local dollars affecting the ability to maintain essential programs and services that benefit our children and families. The local tax base funds many community services and programs as varied and unique as the communities themselves. Local government funding can include additional support for our schools by funding crossing guards, school resource officers, after school programs and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten. County and municipal budgets may also fund other programs essential to the health and well-being of our children and families, such as juvenile justice, programs for at risk kids, healthcare coverage for the uninsured, medical assistance and mental health services, social services, summer lunch programs, affordable housing, aid to the homeless, libraries, parks and recreation, arts programs and many other valuable community services.

Florida PTA has long advocated for comprehensive tax restructuring that will increase tax revenues through tax reform in order to adequately fund services necessary to meet the educational, health, safety, recreational and other basic needs of Florida's children. Florida PTA does not oppose tax cuts; we oppose tax cuts without tax reform.

For more information about this amendment and its impact, please visit: Pinellas County Council PTA www.pccpta.org

**3rd Annual McMullen Booth Elementary
Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance Party**

Your child will be proud to escort you to this semi-formal event, and the memories will last a lifetime!

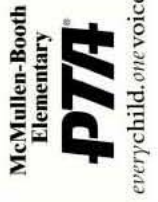
Included in the price are:
 Tickets to the Dance
 Catered Dinner
 Professional Photograph
 Prizes for Dance Contest Winners

Name of MBES Student	Teacher/Grade
Names of Parents/Guests	Phone #

Amount enclosed
 \$48 per couple, \$24 per additional person

Make check payable to "MBES PTA." Place completed form in an envelope marked "Valentine's Dance" and return to school with your child. Cut off for registration is Feb 1st, 2008. Event limited to first 400 guests and was full last year. Your confirmation and invitation will be sent home the week of Feb 3rd.

For more information, you can contact the MBES Dynamic Dads at: dynamicdads@gmail.com



MBES Dynamic Dads Present

**The Valentine's Day
Dance Party**

DJ Country
Pop Dinner
Hip Disco
Rock Hop Dance

**Harborview Center
 Sunday Feb 10, 2008
 3:00 to 7:00 PM**

\$48 per couple
 Boys ask your Mothers
 Girls invite your Fathers

dynamicdads@gmail.com