



The

MANATEE MESSAGE

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

January 2007

Volume VII - Issue III

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President

Happy New Year! PTA had many successful events last year. We ended the year with a fantastic Reading Under the Stars event. It was a warm evening, but Floridians will drink hot chocolate when it is 75 degrees, because they think it is nippy! Thanks to Carol Poelker, our teachers and everyone that made the evening magical.

If you want to accomplish a small goal for 2007, I urge you to get more involved in PTA and make your child's school years something they will always remember and cherish. It is not too late to join PTA and get involved.

I am looking forward to our next event which is the Dynamic Dads Valentines Dinner Dance on Sunday, February 11th at 3:30 PM. It is a festive event with commemorative photos, corsages, dance contests and dinner catered by Carrabbas. Last year the food was excellent! Volunteers are needed to help with decorating; contact Debra Witting at 254-4665 if you can help.

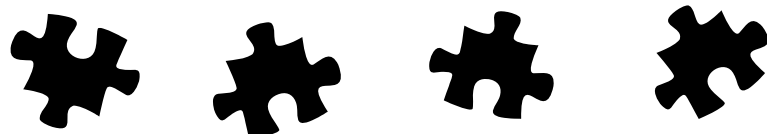
Finally, our next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the cafeteria. Cpl. Denise Nestor of the Sheriffs Office will present her award winning program called Live Safe. She will talk about child abduction and ways to keep your children safe. This is an adult-only presentation, but child care services will be provided for school age children. This is a program you must attend.

Congratulations to Karen Carlin, mother of Zachary (Rains) and Kiley (Valenty) for reading the last PTA newsletter and correctly finding the word **administrator**. Her name was drawn at the Reading Under the Stars Event and she won a Kodak Advantix camera.

Linda Serim, PTA President

WORD FIND CONTEST

Do you read this newsletter from cover to cover? Then your commitment is about to pay off! Find the word **'absolutely'** in this newsletter and email your answer to mbesweb@gmail.com or call 727-415-7339 and leave a message as soon as you find it. **You will be entered to win a Kodak Advantix Camera!** (\$45 value). You must be 18 or older to win. Deadline is February 9th, Drawing will be on February 11th at the Valentine's Day Dinner/Dance. MBES Staff and PTA Board Members are not eligible to win.



Mark Your Calendar...

- Feb. 1 Deadline for Valentine Dance
- Feb. 11 Dynamic Dads Valentine Dinner/Dance
- Feb. 19 Early Dismissal Day, at 11:40 am
- Feb. 23 Volunteer/Business Partner Breakfast, 8:00 am
- March 26 – 30 Spring Holidays, No School
- April 2 School Resumes
- April 25 Early Dismissal Day, at 11:40 am
- May 18 Last Day for Students

Need to Reach Us?

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

President:

Linda Serim
serim.inc@verizon.net

Vice President, Leadership:

Dorene Duttry
foursale@msn.com

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Secretary:

Susanne Mushaben
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Principal's Corner



Happy New Year to the McMullen-Booth families! It is difficult to believe that we are already highly engaged in our second semester of learning and that 2007 is alive and well at McMullen-Booth!

You should be very proud of the outstanding work your PTA has achieved this year. One of the greatest gifts they support for our school is the adoption of our "Book of the Month Program". PTA purchases the identified titles for all classrooms and specialists in order for us to be able to have common conversations with children across grade levels as we all develop our love and appreciation for good literature. The January title, "Mabela the Clever" by Margaret Read MacDonald, is one that should be greatly appreciated by parents. It is an ancient retold folktale that emphasizes the importance of listening to your parents. It is told in a clever way with wonderful illustrations to tie our commitment to character lessons into each classroom. Look ahead to February when I generally select a book that will support our celebration of Black History Month. This year the selection will be "Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt" by Deborah Hopkinson. Be sure to ask your children about these books, and check them out from our library!

Along that same line, I wanted to express my gratitude to Sharon Kraye and her Recreational Reading Committee. They began the year with the lofty goal of increasing the amount of reading that our children complete outside of their school day! They set up the "Manatee Marketplace" where children can cash in their "Book Bucks" depending upon the amount of reading they completed. Lunch with Mrs. Moore was one of the things they could purchase with their book bucks, and in December I "dined" with 43 students! We had a great time enjoying good literature as well as each other! Encourage your children to continue these wonderful reading habits!

As you may be aware, we are quickly entering that time of the year when we complete our FCAT testing in grades three through five. This year our testing window runs from Monday, February 26th through Friday, March 9th. This time frame does include make-up testing. We always share concern that we are typically coming off of the cold and flu season, and there is a direct relationship to attendance during this period! As always, please be certain that all children are getting plenty of rest and eating a healthy breakfast to give them every possible advantage in a testing situation! Additionally, fourth graders have an additional set of tests earlier in the month of February called Florida Writes. These writing tests are administered to all fourth graders over a two-day period, February 6th and 7th. All of our children are prepared, and we count on your words of encouragement so that we are all supporting their best efforts! Thanks for joining us in these "campaigns for kids"!

~ **Pamela T. Moore**
Principal

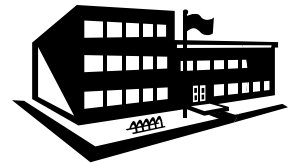
Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

Happy 2007! I hope that all of the classroom celebrations for the Winter Holidays were fun and exciting. I heard great comments from Room Moms, Dads, and Teachers! I am glad that everyone is enjoying the year.

Now that we are settled back in to 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, I am sure that you all are getting fun ideas together for your class! Don't forget about www.familyfun.com as a great source for ideas!

Thanks again for all that you do!

Lisa Kessel
Room Representative
Committee Chairperson
Phone: 797-8877
E-mail: Samadison1@hotmail.com



*This newsletter
dedicated to our dear
PTA member, friend
and supporter
Spencer Sellas
who passed away
on December 15, 2006*



The **MANATEE MESSAGE**

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

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MBES Principal....Pam Moore (727) 669-1800
Editor.....Paula Keyser (727) 415-7339

The Manatee Message publication dates:

Deadline:

Publication:

Thursday, September 14
Thursday, October 26
Thursday, January 18
Thursday, April 26

Friday, September 22
Friday, November 3
Friday, January 26
Friday, May 4

www.mbes.com/pta

Meet a PTA Board Member

This is a new column that will appear in each of the PTA newsletters this year. Our hope is that you will hear from these 'real people' who dedicate their time and talents to make your school a better place. The third person you will meet is the Dynamic Dads Chairman, Bob Fuller.

Bob, how long have you been involved with the PTA?

Since 2001-2002 school year when we moved back to Florida from Boston and my oldest daughter started 1st grade at MMBE.

What first made you get involved with the PTA?

I think it is important to show your children that you want to be an active part of their life. Also, in elementary school, they do not know that they are not supposed to want their parents around all the time yet. It is important to take advantage of it while they are young so they get used to seeing you around.

Are you a stay-at-home Dad or do you work full-time?

I work full time for Proctor and Gamble as a Senior Account Executive. I sell Gillette Razors to Publix.

What do you do to help MBES and the PTA?

I try to help out where I can. As this year's Dynamic Dad's chair, I try to create opportunities for parent's to spend time with their kids. The DD group has hosted the Healthy Start Breakfast, Game Night, Homerun Hitters, and the V-Day Dance coming up on 2/11 (don't forget to sign up!!). By putting together opportunities for parents to do something fun with the kids, all anybody has to do is show up (which, as they say, is 90% of life!)

Is there a Mrs. Fuller? What does she do to keep busy? Yes - she takes care of the 4 kids in the house (2 girls, 1 boy, and 1 slightly immature adult male - ME!)

Do you think that joining and being involved in the PTA has been worthwhile? Why?

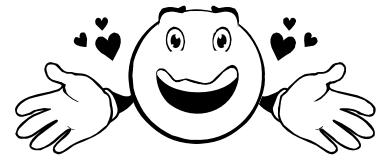
Absolutely. Every parent should take advantage of the opportunity to be involved in their child's education and welfare. Don't take it lightly - anyone can make a difference.

Any closing comments? Or anything else you can think of that you want to share about PTA and MBES?

Get involved - get active - make a difference in your child's life.

If you would like to reach Bob, you can email him at cfuller3@tampabay.rr.com

HAVE A HEART!



During the week of Valentine's Day (February 12th-16th) we will be conducting "Helping Hands make Happy Hearts" in which we will be collecting toiletries and old cell phones. All items collected will be donated to a local women and children's center. An example of items we are asking for include tooth brushes, tooth paste, dental floss, cotton balls, shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand lotion, q-tips, hair dryers, etc. These are all items many of us take for granted and yet are in high demand for many in need. We are also asking for old cell phones as most phones are still able to dial 911 in an emergency. Please clean out your drawers and bring them in and drop them in the box in your classroom during the week of February 12th through February 16th. This is a wonderful project in which our Helping Hands are sure to bring Happy Hearts. Thank you for your support.

Dorene Duttry, VP Leadership

Have Some News?

Do you have some news to share about any of our McMullen Booth Elementary 'Marvelous Manatees? Then email your newsletter editor Paula Keyser and tell me about it.

mbesweb@gmail.com

All stories subject to PTA and MBES approval.



Got a Secret Pal?

If you don't have one and you want to join the fun, please contact Kristen Siegel. 727-797-4398 or email swak.km@verizon.net. You get to secretly send cards, notes, or other small gifts throughout the year to your Secret Pal. Then, during Teacher Appreciation Week in May, you get to reveal yourself to your pal. It's loads of fun!

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!'



FROM THE
Florida
PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.

How To Be a Better Parent

Learning

Teach your child perseverance, the ability to follow through with a task or activity. Encourage them to finish a task.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day for your child. Many studies show that students are less able to perform well without the significant nutrients that a healthy breakfast provides.

It is important that your children see you reading. Try to include a variety of reading material, such as newspapers, magazines and books. Remember, don't have books in the house that you wouldn't want your children to read.

Look through the newspaper together with your child. Make a list of cities mentioned in various stories. Try to find the cities on a map or globe.

Check out a book from the library about holidays around the world. How did the people from your ancestor's native land celebrate various holidays?

Living

Being a parent isn't easy. It is OK to ask for help, advice and support.

In your efforts to limit passive TV viewing, be sure to have alternatives ready. Read independently in the same room. Have a family "read together" time. Pursue a hobby together or play a musical instrument.

Know your child's friends. Encourage your child and his/her friends to spend time at your house. This may help you have a better idea of what is going on in your child's life.

Be aware of the attitudes and values of your children's friends. Make an opportunity to meet their parents. Never underestimate the power of peer pressure.

Any child who is old enough to love, is old enough to grieve when he/she loses someone he/she loves. Try to answer your child's questions about death.

Being a parent can be very stressful. You can set a good example by finding healthy ways of relieving your own stress, such as, regular exercise, talking with other parents in similar situations and spending time taking care of yourself.

Next Dynamic Dads Meeting

Friday, February 16th at 7:30am
in the Media Center.

If you would like more information, contact Bob via email: cfuller3@tampabay.rr.com



www.mbes.com/pta

Helping Your Child Perform Well on Tests

By Ronald Dietel

FROM THE
National
PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.®

Teachers, parents, and schools have a common goal and shared responsibility to have children perform well on tests. Tests are, after all, the primary means on which students and schools are measured.

There's been plenty of advice on preparing for tests: Eat a good breakfast, sleep well the night before, avoid careless mistakes, and answer easy questions first. Rather than focusing on these physical and strategic aspects of test-taking, parents and students are better off knowing that success in test-taking depends on good instruction, parent support, and hard work by students.

How parents can help

Here are some suggestions on what parents can do to help their children perform well on tests, especially in a high-stakes environment.

- Instill the value of learning in your child at an early age.
- Make sure your children are good readers.
- Communicate frequently with your child's teacher or teachers.
- Know your child's learning progress and needs by monitoring assignments, homework, and test performance.
- Establish a regular time for homework and studying.
- Don't make your child nervous about tests, even big ones.
- Encourage your child to develop a positive attitude toward school and testing.
- Review tests with your child after they are returned home for what your child did and didn't understand.

Remember, tests and grading systems are not perfect.

Some test experts say that when their children were growing up, they emphasized the learning process. "I focused on helping my children find methods of studying and reviewing that worked for them," said Dan Koretz, a Harvard professor and testing researcher. "I pushed them [my children] to discern what level of studying generally produced a given grade, which was often more than they initially thought."

"Doing well on tests ultimately means knowing the test content," says Joan Herman, co-director of the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing at UCLA and author of several books on evaluation and assessment. "Getting good at format and knowing the tricks of test taking only take you so far if you don't know the relevant content and skills."

Ronald Dietel, Ed.D., is assistant director for research use and communications at the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing at the University of California, Los Angeles.

MBES Treasurer's Report



By Cheryl Lapham, MBES PTA Treasurer

Checking Account Status

As of 1/5/07, both income and expenses are slightly under plan. The reduced income is due to less than expected sales for the Entertainment Book and PTA Membership. The reduced expenses are primarily associated with the "Dues Pass Through to Florida PTA" as a result of less than planned PTA Membership sales.

Future fundraisers include the Dynamic Dads' Valentine's Dance and a TBD fundraiser. The expected net income of \$6300 will fund the expenses associated with the Mini Grants, Recreational Reading, Book of the Month, the Health and Safety Fair, Commitment to Character, Campus Beautification, and many other activities that benefit our school community.

The table below shows a checking account balance of \$19,751 as of 1/5/07.

	Aug '06 - Dec '06	
	Projected	Actual
Beginning Balance	\$2,514	\$2,514
Total Income	\$44,173	\$42,983
Total Disbursements	(\$25,884)	(\$25,746)
Ending Balance	\$20,802	\$19,751

Mini Grants

Thanks to your support of the PTA, \$3449 in Mini Grants has been approved as of 1/5/07. These grants directly benefit an estimated 470 students by funding items that enhance learning activities. Some of the grants approved to date are listed below.

1. Cooking Grants to help students learn to follow directions and improve communication skills.
2. Outdoor Picnic Tables that provide a work area for outdoor science and art projects.
3. Computer Software that enhances reading and writing skills.
4. Classroom materials to make learning tools more accessible to students.

Dynamic Dads News Valentine's Day ALERT!



If you have not gotten in your registration form **YOU ONLY HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE!** Registration has been extended to 2/1/07, but your registration form and check must be turned in to Leslie in the front office by end of school February 1st. **DON'T MISS OUT!!** There is a fun night of dancing / dinner / prizes and more in store so let me see you shake your tail feather and get out to the V-Day Dance!!



REFLECTIONS



Congratulations to the following students who entered their artwork into the Reflections program this year.

Photography:

Sara Davidson
Ashley Thomas
Stephanie Letts
Lauren Davidson
Reece Palmer
Griffin Wiley



Literature:

Faith Poelker
Jeana Fraser
Marquetta McManus
Megan Ingram
Lillian Long
Kaylin Ingram
Hunter Lane



Visual Arts:

Jillian Carta
Annie Eiseman
Sara Davidson
Julia Ingram
Eric Itschner
Bobby Itschner
Lauren Davidson
Joshua Finegold
Lillian Long
Amelia Goldstein



Music:

Jennifer Stalas

Two of our students will be going on to compete in the State competition. They are Jeana Fraser and Lauren Davidson. Congratulations to them both.

Mary Ann Lane
Reflections Chairperson

GOAL
100%



PTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and teachers who joined our PTA. We still need 94 more members to reach our goal. Parents, grandparents and teachers, who have not already joined, there is still time to do so. We need your support. The cost is \$5.00 per person. With your paid membership you will receive a Chick-fil-a coupon good for a free chicken sandwich. Don't Delay, Join PTA Today!!!

Michelle Marcatos
VP, Organization

We Need YOU! To Join Our PTA



Emergency Contact Information

From the PCCPTA Newsletter

Pinellas County Council
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.®

To all licensed drivers in the State of Florida: Effective Oct. 2, the following service will allow you to provide emergency contact information to law enforcement in the event of an emergency. This information may save crucial time if ever it becomes necessary to contact family members, or other loved ones. This service is only available to individuals holding a current Florida Driver License or Florida Identification Card. Go to <http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us/> and click on "Emergency Contacts", put in your drivers license number and date of birth, then it will ask for the name, address, and phone numbers of two people you want to have contacted, save and you're done.

To Find More Links To Articles
Log On To:
www.mbes.com/pta



everychild.onevoice.

PTA Is Seeking Interested Members for the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee

Our PTA needs volunteers to join the 2007-2008 Nominating Committee. This committee helps identify and recruit our school's 2007-2008 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 (2007-2008 school year):

First and Last Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

Child's Name, Grade, and Teacher: _____