



The

McMullen Booth Elementary PTA Newsletter

MANATEE MESSAGE

McMullen-Booth
Elementary
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

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

May 2007

Volume VII - Issue IV

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President

It is hard to believe this school year is almost over. It is even harder to believe that nine years has flown by and my family and I will be leaving McMullen-Booth Elementary soon. We have met so many wonderful people at the school and made lifelong friends. So goodbye is not in order...see you soon is more appropriate.

In the two years that I have been president of the PTA, I have had the privilege of working with so many wonderful people. Our principal, **Pam Moore**, is a leader that I admire and respect. She sets an example for us all to follow. The teachers and staff and MBES are outstanding. The PTA Board, the PTA Committee Chairs and everyone that volunteers at the school gives freely of their time; their dedication is remarkable. The parents here are wonderful and the children are a blessing. Thank you for making my job rewarding and relatively easy!

Have a great summer!

Linda Serim, PTA President

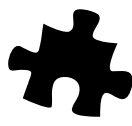
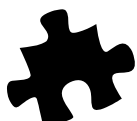


AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER

On Friday, April 27th the Pinellas County PTA Annual Banquet was held in Indian Rocks Beach. We were recognized as having the best PTA newsletter in the county for the second year in a row! Congratulations to **Paula Keyser**, Editor of the Manatee Message and the MBES PTA Newsletter.

WORD FIND CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Word Find Contest this year. Congratulations to **Beverly Johnson**, mother of **Kennedy** (Wyatt) and **Kelsy** (Frazier), who won a Kodak Advantix camera from the last newsletter's word find. Now we know a few parents read the newsletter! A special thank you goes out to **Paula Keyser**, newsletter editor and webmaster. She's the best!



Mark Your Calendar...

- May 7 – 11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 10 Last Market Day Pickup, Cafeteria, 2:00-3:30 pm
- May 10 5th Grade Play, Cafeteria, 7:00 pm
- May 18 5th Grade Awards Ceremony, Cafeteria 8:00am
- May 18 Last Day of School for Students
- August 21 First Day of School 2007-08

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:

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foursale@msn.com

Vice President, Programs:

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Vice President, Organization:

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Vice President, Communications:

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Treasurer:

Cheryl Lapham
Laphamcr@verizon.net

Secretary:

Susanne Mushaben
smushaben@tampabay.rr.com

www.mbes.com/pta

Principal's Corner



Wow, here we are wrapping up 2006-2007, and I find it difficult to believe that this is the tenth year we have closed together! What an awesome time it has been, and I have an extreme sense of pride as I reflect upon the many, many good things we have been able to accomplish because of the fabulous partnership that exists among our families.

I would like to begin with a round of applause of your outstanding support of our PTA Walk-a-thon on Friday, April 20th. It was a picture perfect day for such an event, and our third, fourth, and fifth graders were fortunate to be able to "clock" their steps using borrowed pedometers! It appears that we raised around \$5,000, and this money will help to continue your support of our "Book of the Month" program.

Speaking of Book of the Month, our last title for this year is "The Gardener" by Sarah Stewart. It is an endearing story written as a series of letters from a special little girl named Lydia who is experiencing some very challenging changes in her life. Her gentle ways remind us that we all have special "gifts" regardless of our age, and Lydia teaches us this lesson through her writings. The books get delivered in May, so give them a few days to have the story shared in class, then ask them about Lydia in "The Gardener"! You should have some great conversations.

Thanks to all of you who helped us with our recent Parent Satisfaction Survey online. I don't know the actual number of participants, but I know it will be higher than last years 81! Thank you for helping us to get better and better each year. This is very important to us.

Special thanks are also extended to our outstanding PTA for their special luncheon on Wednesday, April 25th during Teacher Appreciation Week. We continue to be humbled by your generosity, and we recognize how special our partnership is here at McMullen-Booth Elementary! This was a record-breaking year for PTA monies spent toward the actualization of mini-grants! Close to \$5,000 was awarded, and projects such as "Curriculum Cooking" to bookcases – all to benefit the students of McMullen-Booth. This program is outstanding and should be recognized by our district as exemplary in many ways!

Our "Evening of the Arts" on April 10th was the largest turn out we have ever experienced! It was a grand night from the great performances by first and second graders to the Chinese dragon created through the use of your referendum dollars at work! Thanks, too, to Mrs. Crawley, Mr. Jacobs, Mrs. Butler, and Mr. Pough for providing such quality opportunities for our children to be exposed to the Arts!

As we enter the summer, don't forget to encourage your children to READ, READ, and READ some more! Don't let the time slip away from establishing these good academic habits.

~ Pamela T. Moore, Principal

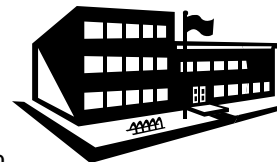
Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over! As our thoughts turn to Teacher Appreciation Week (May 7 – 11), end-of-year parties, Teacher gift, and summer vacation, I just wanted to take a moment to thank each of you who worked throughout the year to make this a special year for our children. I hope that you enjoyed being a Room Mom or Dad and I also hope that you know how much your gift of time and creative ideas contributed to making this year memorable for the students at our school! You are truly appreciated!!!

Also, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone that I have worked with this year. This is a special school with a phenomenal staff and a wonderful group of students and parents. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this very special community! You all are the best!!! Enjoy your summer!

Thanks again for all that you do!

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



GET INVOLVED



You can make your child's school life better and build a strong future. If you would like to help out next year with our PTA, please contact Doreen Duttry at 441-8617.

The MANATEE MESSAGE

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McMullen Booth Elementary PTA
3025 Union Street
Clearwater, FL 33759

PTA President....Linda Serim (727) 726-3816
MBES Principal...Pam Moore (727) 669-1800
Editor.....Paula Keyser (727) 415-7339

The Manatee Message publication dates:

Deadline:

Publication:

Thursday, September 14	Friday, September 22
Thursday, October 26	Friday, November 3
Thursday, January 18	Friday, January 26
Thursday, April 26	Friday, May 4

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. This month, you will meet Mrs. Wallace, a Kindergarten teach at MBES.

Tina, how long have you been involved with the PTA? I've been involved w/ PTA for as long as I've been a teacher...9yrs. I've been a member of the board for the last 3 yrs.

What first made you get involved with the PTA? I learned early on in my career that teachers want to have PTA on their side. I've always made it a point to be a member, and then I was approached w/ the opportunity to be a member of the board.

Why do you think it is important for Teacher's to get involved with the PTA? PTA has always been so supportive of teachers, and when teachers get involved, it is our way of giving back. We work together, hand-in-hand.

What do you see as being the benefits to having a strong PTA (from a Teacher's point of view!) A strong PTA provides support for us through mini-grants, incentives for reading, and more. They also help to build a strong community among our school families.

What do you do to help MBES and the PTA? (what is your position and what do you do?) As a kindergarten teacher @ MBES, I serve as the "Primary Teacher Rep" on the PTA board. I attend meetings as the voice of Pre-K-3rd grade teachers & bring info. back & forth among teachers.

Is there a Mr. Wallace? What does he do to keep busy? There is currently no OFFICIAL "Mr. Wallace".....but I'll keep you posted!

Do you think that joining and being involved in the PTA has been worthwhile? Why? It is absolutely worthwhile! I always knew that PTA played an important role in our schools, but being more involved has given me the opportunity to see just how much PTA truly does to help parents and teachers come together to benefit students.

How long have you been at MBES? 4yrs.

Were you at another school before MBES? What makes our school THE BEST? Yes, I taught 3rd grade @ Woodlawn Elem. in St. Pete, after moving here from a Tennessee teaching position. MBES is the BEST for a lot of reasons....but to name one or two....I have to say that the teachers & staff here work with such a high level of professionalism & there is a presence of such a strong community. I could also add that MBES has a wonderfully supportive PTA...that helps!!

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Any closing comments? Or anything else you can think of? On behalf of all MBES teachers....thank you so much for all of your support, PTA! Being involved w/ PTA has been such a wonderful experience. I look forward to next year....& there is always room for more friends! If parents want to get more involved, I encourage them to start by becoming a member of PTA!

TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, April 25th, the annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon was held. Several local vendors helped to make this luncheon a great success. We would like to recognize and thank:

- Starbucks for providing the tasty coffee
- Smokey Bones
- Bonefish Grill
- Poblanos Mexican Restaurant
- Sheraton Sand Key

Peggy Mitchell, was the lucky recipient of the grand prize from the Sheraton Sand Key. She will get to enjoy a 3 day / 2 night stay on the beach with breakfast daily and a massage for two. Enjoy!!!! Thanks also to all of our great teachers and staff for all they do here at McMullen Booth Elementary.

Secret Pals

Thanks to all of our secret pals for encouraging our teachers and staff this year. The smiles at the mailbox as they have found the little tokens of our appreciation are evidence that they appreciate you too! As we planned back in the fall, please prepare to reveal yourself to your secret pal during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 6 -12. They can't wait to find out who you are!

Kristen Siegel,
Secret Pals Chair

Change To The Final Dynamic Dads Meeting



The meeting has changed from April 27th to May 4th. The final Dynamic Dads Meeting of the year will be held at the Varsity Club on Sunset Point and US 19 at 6:30pm Friday, May 4th. Appetizers will be served at 6:30pm (drinks and dinner on your own). If you have not been able to make one of the Friday morning monthly meetings, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!! Please RSVP to Bob Fuller at by May 2nd if you are able to attend. dynamic_dads@yahoo.com

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Summer Break The Dark Side Of the Sun

By Tom Fry

FROM THE
National
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Parents endeavor to stack the odds in our children's favor as much as possible. Seat belts and car seats have become dogma. The mantra of not talking to strangers is nearly ubiquitous. In countless ways we provide to our children the means to protect themselves as much as they are developmentally able. Yet, every day, parents around the world put their children at risk of a certain danger that goes unrecognized; that danger is skin cancer.

The Dark Side EXPOSED

An estimated 10,000 Americans will die from skin cancer this year; that's one person every hour of every day. More than 1 million others (nearly 2 people every second) will be newly diagnosed with the disease.

Skin cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in the United States today. In fact, it has reached textbook epidemic proportions, especially in the America's Southwest. While the facts are alarming enough, it is the cause of the disease that is truly frightening—ignorance. Skin cancer is largely preventable.

The fluctuations in the ozone hole notwithstanding, researchers have determined that there is a direct correlation between the amount of ultraviolet (UV) exposure that we receive and the likelihood of developing some form of the disease later in life. Think of your skin as a living sponge that absorbs UV radiation from the sun and can never be wrung out; your lifetime exposure is cumulative and nearly 80 percent of your total lifetime UV exposure occurs in the first 18 years of your life.

At some point, our skin, the sponge, cannot further absorb the sun's radiation without causing damage. Studies have indicated that just two blistering sunburns before the age of 20 may double the risk of eventually developing melanoma (a life-threatening type of skin cancer) later in life. Approximately 25 percent of children under 6 years of age, and approximately 50 percent of children under 13 years of age, have experienced at least one painful sunburn. When that threshold is reached, we put ourselves, and our children, directly into harm's way.

The following are easy-to-implement strategies that help to ensure the daylong sun safety of our children.

1. Limit the amount of time spent in the sun
2. Wear protective clothing
3. Use sunscreen
4. Knowledge: The power to protect

Parents have grand aspirations for their children. No parent wishes a future as a statistic for his or her children. Recognize that the danger of skin cancer exists, and take pro-active and

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simple steps to protect children today against becoming tomorrow's statistic. A parent armed with the knowledge of the disease and its prevention is a child protected.

Tom Fry is a research assistant and market coordinator for Partners for Health Systems, Inc., a health communication organization, partnered with the AMC Cancer Research Center located in Denver, Colorado. AMC is the nation's largest independent, not-for-profit cancer research facility that focuses exclusively on cancer and chronic disease prevention and control. Fry can be reached at (303) 239-3342 or by e-mail to fryt@amc.org

FROM THE
Florida
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Florida KidCare

Florida Kidcare, our state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19, has not been adequately funded. At this time Florida has over 7,000 eligible children without insurance. These children should be provided with affordable health insurance. We need your voices to speak on their behalf.

We have the opportunity to persuade our legislators to provide affordable health insurance for all these children as this issue comes before the House Health Care Council and Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations next week. Please visit our webpage at <http://capwiz.com/floridapta/state/main/?state=FL> and you will see two Take Action buttons on the page. One will connect you to the Senate committee and the other one to the members of the House Council. Please take a moment to write to both of them.

Letter Writing Tips

Please do not forget to edit the sample letter. The sample is completely editable. You may rewrite the entire letter or use parts of the sample letter. If you click send without editing the letter, it will go as displayed in the box without the proper wording and format.

- You do not need to add a salutation at the beginning (eg. Dear Sen.) or at the end (e.g. sincerely). That is automatically done for you.
- Please erase all of the points you do not use.
- You may erase all of the language in the box and start from scratch
- You can preview your letter by clicking on the Preview button before you hit send.

As always thank you for your advocacy efforts on behalf of children.

Thank You

www.mbes.com/pta

Below is the 07-08 Executive Board for PTA

President - Laurie Dobler
 VP Of Leadership - Dorene Duttry
 VP Of Programs - Carol Poelker & Susanne Mushaben
 VP Of Organization - Stacy Brinson
 VP of Ways & Means - Maureen Gallagher &
 Michelle Marcatos
 VP Of Communications - Kristen Sellas
 Treasurer - Dawn Shultz
 Recording Secretary - Beth Berman

The following is a list of committee chairs for the
07-08 School Year:

Adopt A Class- Katrina Johnson
 Commitment to Character - Terri Costello
 Directory - Robin Hussong
 Dynamic Dads - Vince Guerrera
 Historian - Amy Itschner
 Hospitality - Tammy Mitchiner
 Legislative - Neil Brickfield
 Memory Book - Laura Pohl
 Newsletter - Paula Keyser
 Publicity - Rob Meli
 Recreational Reading - Sharon Krayser
 Reflections - OPEN
 Room Parent - Kim Dickman
 SAC/PTA Liaison - OPEN
 Secret Pals - Kristen Siegel
 Special Events - Rob Meli & Laura Pohl
 Student Activities (DARE, 5th Grade Graduation) - OPEN
 Website - Paula Keyser

Please note that we have 3 positions that still need a chairman. Please consider serving in one of these positions. Please call Dorene Duttry at 441-8517 if you are interested or if you have any questions. There is also a brief description of each position on our school website. We have a great board for next year and we would love for you to get involved.

Thank you to our nominating committee which included Barbara Hajko, Laurie Dobler, Laura Pohl, and Katrina Johnson. Without all of you we could not have done such a great job. You are the best!!

Dorene Duttry

MBES Treasurer's Report



By Cheryl Lapham, MBES PTA Treasurer

Thanks to your generous support of the MBES PTA this year, we have been able to fund the budget approved at the beginning of the school year. Some of the projects and programs you helped fund are:

- Minigrants directly benefit an estimated 470 students by funding items that enhance learning activities.
 - Cooking Grants to help students learn to follow directions and improve communication skills.
 - Outdoor Picnic Tables that provide a work area for outdoor science and art projects.
 - Computer Software that enhances reading and writing skills.
 - Classroom materials to make learning tools more accessible to students.
- Reading Under the Stars: This fun program brings our community together for a nice evening of "Reading Activities".
- Book of the Month: Each classroom receives a copy of the "book of the month" every month.
- Battle of the Books: Our 3rd – 5th graders are encouraged to read the books on the "Sunshine State Readers' List", and then compete to represent our school in the Pinellas County Battle of the Books.
- Commitment to Character: Regular activities and programs to encourage students to demonstrate Responsibility, Respect and Honesty.
- School Directory: This directory is distributed at no charge to all MBES families.

Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-12

Annually, the state of Florida designates a week during the school year as Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a time to thank a teacher or teachers for the invaluable job they do on a daily basis for our children here at McMullen Booth Elementary. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful staff, and we would like to ask all of you to take a moment during this week to do something nice for your teacher.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MANATEE MARCH SPONSORS!!!

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Thanks to the students, parents, volunteers, staff, family and friends of MBES. We raised more than \$5000 for our "Book of the Month" Program! We can't forget to thank our special guests: The Big Blue House Bear, Phinley from the Clearwater Threshers and SpongeBob.

Special thanks to our GOLD and SILVER SPONSORS noted below for their generous contributions:

GOLD SPONSORS

Team Masselli
Tanney, Eno, Tanney, Griffith and Ingram, P.A.
Timothy M. Ingram, Attorney at Law
Diamond Pool Service and Maintenance, Inc.
Robert Clayton and Family
Eric Clayton and Family
CERT LLC
SweetBay SuperMarket
HCE Services
BJ Ketcher
Global Mortgage
EZFILLHAULING.COM
The Duffey Family
The Hewitts/Fulton Insurance Group
Brent and Valerie Sowell
Mike and Lisa Kessel
Fowler's Automotive Inc.
Marcy and Lee Blackwell
Printec, Inc.
Dani and Sara Davidson and Family
Paula and Mark Keyser
Tampa General Hospital/Carol Poelker
Clearwater Threshers

SILVER SPONSORS

Mark Serim and Family
The Sellas Family
Verdicia Salon
Maggie Seibert and Family
Channing Young and Family
Aunt Boo
Rick and Michelle Marcatos
The Itschner Family
The DuBois Family
AJ Medure and Family
The Batter's Box
Jonathan Norman
The Carrozza Family
The Fuller Family
Brittany Williams
Sean Mitchiner
Gulf Coast Pain Management
Paul Taylor/Taylor Quinn Recruiting
Harrison Siegel
Ocyrus Erickson
D.I.D. Racing, Inc.
The Gallagher Family
Andy and Maryanne Steingold
Matt King
Michael Brown and Family
The Dobler Family
Austin Siegel
Corbin and Syndi Kloczkowski
Lizard Sports
GrillSmith

Thanks as well to our fantastic PE Staff for supporting this year's Manatee March: Mrs. Babler, Mr. Ganatos, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Woodard and Mrs. Fisher