



The **MANATEE MESSAGE**



everychild.one voice.

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

November 2005

Volume VI - Issue II

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President



A Recipe for a Successful Fall Festival

One organized and truly efficient committee
 40 creatively decorated book character pumpkins
 50 door prizes donated by parents and sponsors
 Pizza, popcorn, drinks and ice cream
 Supportive administration, teachers and staff
 Lots of volunteers
 Parents with cash
 Students who want to have fun

Gently combine. Success every time!
 Thanks for supporting PTA and our endeavors.

Linda Serim
 PTA President

Mark Your Calendar...

- Nov. 5 Earthsavers Club Meeting/Work Day
10:00 am -12:00 pm
- Nov. 10 PTA General Meeting
4th grade performing, 7:00pm
- Nov, 11 Full Day of School (no early dismissal)
- Nov. 11 Report Cards Distributed
- Nov. 15 DARE Graduation Cafeteria, 8:00am
- Nov. 21-25 Thanksgiving Holidays, No School
- Dec. 1 Reading Under the Stars, 6-8:00pm
- Dec. 16 Pro Ed Day, No School for Students
- Dec. 19 -30 Winter Holidays, No School

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:

Susan Clairmont
amoret25@hotmail.com

Vice President, Communications:

Laura Pohl
lauralpohl@yahoo.com

Vice President, Education:

Kathy Krohn
kathleenkrohn@yahoo.com

Vice President, Membership:

Maureen Gallagher
maureen.gallagher@bankofamerica.com

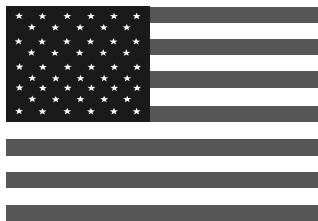
Vice President, Ways & Means:

Laurie Dobler
laurie.dobler@baycare.com

Treasurer:

Patrick Dauchot
sdauchot@tampabay.rr.com

Don't Miss It!



4th Grade Veterans Day Salute
November 10th, 2005
7:00pm in Cafeteria



Principal's Corner

Hats off to our wonderful PTA for our best-ever Fall Festival. Under the leadership team of Cheryl Lapham and Maureen Gallagher, our families had a wonderful fall experience filled with food, fun, and fellowship! Amazing things happened at the Pumpkin Auction. Your generous bids have enabled us to put \$1900 back into classrooms. Last year's silent auction raised \$900, so you can see how much we improved! Special thanks to all of the teachers and support staff who joined in on the fun, too! The entire evening was a great illustration of our school motto, "Together, we are better!"

It is not too late to express the desire to be a part of our "Great American Teach-In" activity during American Education Week, November 14 – 18. The actual Teach-In event will take place on Wednesday, November 16th and many, many community members will come into our school to serve as "teachers" and/or guests to share stories, vocations, demonstrations, music, or hobbies with our children. This event has been highly successful at our school, and this year should be no exception. If interested in being a part of the day, please contact Barbara Hajko in our front office. She is leading the coordination of the event and can tell you where we may need some extra help.

The November Book of the Month title is a Thanksgiving comedy entitled "Turk and Runt" by Lisa Wheeler. It is a delightful story about working together in a plan to make sure everything comes out all right! Ask your children about this unusual turkey family. It will give you a new perspective on Thanksgiving!

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving holidays, may we be mindful of the many, many for which we can be grateful. I often reflect upon how lucky I am to be a part of such an exciting learning community. Not only do we have a staff committed to excellence, but we have an entire school community ready, willing, and able to support the strong programs we enjoy at McMullen-Booth Elementary. It is my sincere wish that each family has the time to enjoy some quality time with each other during the season, and that we are reminded of those less fortunate.

~ **Pamela T. Moore, Principal**

Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

By now most of you have had your planning session with your teacher for fall and winter holiday class celebrations. This time of year is so busy and goes by so fast. I know you are all doing a great job!

I just wanted to remind you about www.familyfun.com is a great source for activities and crafts. Also, this is a great time of year to tie-in a book or story to your activity.

Thanks once again for all you do! You truly are gems! Don't hesitate to call or email if there is anything I can do to help. Have a fun and happy holiday season!

Lisa Kessel

Room Representative Committee Chairperson

Phone: 797-8877

Email: Samadison1@hotmail.com



The **MANATEE MESSAGE**

McMullen Booth Elementary PTA Newsletter

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) 538-9159

The Manatee Message publication dates:

<u>Deadline:</u>	<u>Publication:</u>
09/15/05	09/23/05
10/27/05	11/04/05
01/12/06	01/20/06
03/16/06	04/07/06

MBES Treasurer's Report



Entertainment Books

The PTA's largest fundraiser was a huge success this year, with approximately a net profit of \$13,000.00. A great big thank you to Laurie Dobler and her team for all the hard work on this project. Additionally, a round of applause goes to each and every child and family that supported this fundraiser by buying and selling the entertainment books. This money helps to pay for the many wonderful educational projects, programs and initiatives that the PTA supports throughout the year.

Fall Festival

What can you say about this year's Fall Festival other than ... WOW!!! In the 7 years that I have been associated with the school, this was the best event yet. I can not even begin to guess how much work went into putting on this event but Cheryl Lapham and Maureen Gallagher did an amazing job in coordinating, planning, and executing a wonderful event for our children to remember forever. We had a wonderful turnout despite some anticipated scary weather and a small amount of pre sales. Overall ticket sales exceeded our anticipated goals. The pumpkin auction was so incredibly put on by Linda Serim, Kelley and Neil Brickfield and grossed approximately \$1,900.00. The teachers, volunteers and students were very creative in their "literary pumpkins" and seemed to really make the characters come to life. The Fall Festival committee exceeded their goal of \$5,000.00 net profit, which will again pay for the educational projects and programs that the PTA supports.

Patrick Dauchot – 487-3685
sdauchot@tampabay.rr.com



REFLECTIONS

"I wonder why..."



Have you ever dreamed of having your drawing or photo framed and hung in a special art exhibit? Can you imagine what it would be like to have your story or poem published in a school newsletter or to play or sing a song you wrote in front of an audience?

You may be able to participate in the Reflections Program that the PTA has every year. The theme for this year's program is "I wonder why..." You can think about the theme and talk with your family and friends about what it means to you. Then create an original piece of artwork, take a photo, write a song or story about it. It's be fun!

For more information and/or to view the Reflections Gallery go to:
www.floridapta.org/involved-reflections.htm or get the forms from your teacher.

Contact Mary Ann Lane, Reflections Chair at 796-5718.
Deadline for all entries is Friday, November 18th at 2:30pm



FALL FESTIVAL

We had a wonderful turn out for the Fall Festival. Everyone seemed to have fun visiting with friends outside of school and playing the games. The Pumpkin Auction was a huge hit. **THANK YOU** to Neil and Kelley Brickfield for being our Auctioneers/MC. The evening's activities raised approximately \$6000, which will help the PTA fund activities such as: Recreational Reading, Educational Mini-Grants, Book of the Month Club and the upcoming Reading Under the Stars. It took a lot of people to make the Fall Festival a success.

THANK YOU



*Thank you to Barb Hajko, Leslie Ingleman, Lisa Gould and other personnel in the front office who handled the mail, phone calls and many questions associated with Fall Festival.

*Thank you to the teachers for supporting the pumpkin decorating activities and spending part of their evening working the booths. Special thanks goes to Mr. Wilson for being a sponge toss "victim" for over 90 minutes!

*Thank you to Tim Whitten and his crew for coordinating the setup, maintenance and cleanup activities.

*Thank you to the 254 VOLUNTEERS, who donated door prizes, worked the phones, setup the activities, worked booths and/or helped with cleanup. Special THANKS goes to the Classroom Coordinators who helped recruit volunteers, and the Dynamic Dads who helped from setup to cleanup.

*Thank you to our many sponsors including but not limited to: Dan Smith/Caricature Artist, Dairy Queen/Oldsmar, High Energy Systems, Kash N' Karry, JoAnn Fabrics, Café Kiln, Perkins, Applebees, CiCi's Pizza, Sheraton Resort Sand Key, Bonefish Grill, Home Shopping Network, Morton Plant Mease Wellness Center, Xtreme Fun Center and Pro Karate Cente, Sheraton Resort Sand Key, Bonefish Grill and Home Shopping Network. *THANKS AGAIN from your Fall Festival Planning Committee: Cheryl Lapham, Maureen Gallagher, Linda Serim, Linda Clayton, Tracy Blalock and Laurie Dobler.



Upcoming Elections for 2005

Pinellas County Council

PTA

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It is that time of year again and while there are a limited number of elections being held in 2005, it is still important to get the word out to be a registered voter and to also get out and VOTE!

For those registered to vote as of October 11, 2005, you are encouraged to get out and vote on November 8, 2005. Please be aware of the following elections for the upcoming Municipal General Elections for Pinellas County:

Mayor of St. Petersburg - Council Member for District 2 - Council Member for District 4 - Council Member for District 6 - Council Member for District 8

The registration deadline to vote in the General Election was October 11, 2005. We want to register as many voters as we can! Urgent need for registration is in those communities that have upcoming elections in 2005, but it's never too soon to get active in all communities in anticipation of 2006.

As PTAs and PTSAs, we must assist and encourage eligible voters in our districts to participate in the electoral process. Materials are available for registering voters as well as helping to explain the legislative process.

www.votepinellas.org has a very user-friendly guide to the voting process, including how to find your voting precinct, the location of your voting precinct and information on the candidates.

Pamela Warren-Wells, the PCCPTA Community & Family Awareness Chair can provide materials to your school that will assist in the registration and voting process. She can assist you in arranging for your school to have a voting Touch-screen available

(e.g. at Open House) to help those not familiar with this equipment become comfortable with it.

Linda Kearschner PCCPTA VP of Advocacy

WHAT IS THE FLORIDA PTA?



Our Purpose Is:

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer reason the home and the school that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Ready to help us meet these objectives? Become a Florida PTA member today!

The mission of the PTA is threefold:

- to support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise, protect and prepare their children;
- to encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this state.



Three for Me

Reprinted from the National PTA Website www.pta.org



Three for Me is a promise from a parent to a child and a promise from a parent to a school to volunteer three hours of his or her time to the school on behalf of his or her child.

National PTA has partnered with the co-creators of Three for Me to increase parent involvement locally. By promising to volunteer three hours of time per year for their child's education, the Three for Me program has been successful in helping to overcome perceived barriers to parent involvement today--time, access to a school, and diversity among families. Male involvement in PTA, through the Three for Me program, has been shown to increase significantly because of the appeal of specific male-friendly events. Working parents, stay-at home parents, siblings, and grandparents who did not raise their hand to join PTA previously have now found a simple way in. And they keep coming back. Implementing the program is easy, and everyone who promises to volunteer three hours on behalf of their child's education will find it to be the most valuable investment of all.

PTAs can leverage the Three for Me promise to increase their overall membership and organize parent involvement in an easy new way! A state PTA can hold a workshop that will introduce your members to the program, its benefits, and the steps to take when running the program. The helpful forms and tools to run the program are free, and can be found at www.three4me.com. Contact (800) 307-4PTA for a free brochure and more information.