



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

September 2007

Volume VIII - Issue I

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President

Hello MBES Family,

I hope your school year is off to a wonderful start. I am excited to serve as your PTA president this year. We have an excellent PTA board in place, and we are always in need of volunteers so find something that you would like to support and jump in!

Our PTA membership drive is underway. We are striving for 100% membership. The cost is \$5.00 per person. You can go online to our website and print out the form and send it in to school with your child. Just be sure to designate "PTA Membership" on the envelope.

The Entertainment Book sale has come to a close, so I hope you were able to purchase one. It has so many wonderful ways to save money. The cost is only \$20.00. Please consider supporting our school with this cost-saving fundraiser.

Thank you for your continued support of the McMullen Booth Elementary PTA and our programs.

Laurie Dobler, PTA President

Join The Dynamic Dads



The 'Dynamic Dads' gives fathers extra opportunities to participate in the school-lives of their children at McMullen-Booth Elementary. Now in our **8th year**, we have established a reputation for fun and fund-raising, contributing over **\$30,000** towards the technology and media-center resource needs of the school. Here's what we're planning for the new school year:

- * **More Game Nights** - with card, board, and other strategy game tournaments!
- * **Another Valentines Dance** - a favorite MBES event for parents and their kids!
- * **Even more Helping Out** - where ever we can lend a hand, our dads will be there!
- * And of course, the annual children's **Breakfast With Dad** - our kick-off event! Friday, September 28th at 7:00am. We'll need all you experienced 'Dynamic Dads' from last year to help fill the cafeteria with parents and kids as we serve up a healthy breakfast (and maybe we'll even bring some donuts :-).

To all you 'new' dads at McMullen-Booth, now is your chance to get in at the beginning. Send an e-mail to dynamicdads@gmail.com and we'll get you started. (BTW - grandfathers, uncles, and other male role models are all welcome to join.)

Vincent Guerrero, Dynamic Dads Chair

Mark Your Calendar...

Sept. 18	PCSB Community Input Meeting Student Assignment Plan
Sept. 20	PCCPTA General Meeting
Sept. 28 - 7am	Breakfast with Dads
Sept. 28 - 8am	Principal Chat in Media Center
Oct. 8 - 10:00am	Room Representative Meeting
Oct. 8 - 6:00pm	PTA Executive Board Meeting
Oct. 8 - 7:00pm	SAC Meeting - Media Center
Oct. 10 - 11:40am	Early Dismissal Day
Oct. 18	PCCPTA General Meeting
Oct. 19	Pro Ed Day No School for Students
Nov. 1	PTA Newsletter Deadline
Nov. 7 - 11:40 am	Early Dismissal Day

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
doreneduttry@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Programs:

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

Vice President, Organization:

Stacey Brinson
stabrin@msn.com

Co-Vice Presidents, Ways & Means:

Maureen Gallagher - mlgallagherfi@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

www.mbes.com/pta

Principal's Corner



What a wonderful start we have had to our year. Both Open House sessions were well attended and our Book Fair was very successful! We have started our Book of the Month program this year with "**A Day's Work**" by **Eve Bunting**. This book helps children understand making responsible choices and shows the wonderful relationship between a young boy and his grandfather. I am so happy to say that PTA is a strong supporter of our Book of the Month program.

I am so proud of the way all of our children are getting to the court or their classrooms very quickly after they arrive. Parents, your help is needed to make sure your child arrives to school on time. Our last bell rings at **7:40** and learning starts at that bell. Please make every effort to get your child here by **7:30** or **7:35** so that they can be ready to start their learning day when the last bell rings.

I have met so many of our parents and I am looking forward to working with you all throughout the year. Our first Principal's Chat will be on **September 28 at 8:00am** in the Media Center. This is an informal time to come and chat about our school community. I look forward to seeing you there.

~ *Kathy Wickett, Principal*

Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

The Room Mom/Dad committee will be co-chaired this year by **Kim Dickman** and **Anece Hughes**. We are excited about our upcoming meeting with this years Room Representatives', scheduled for **October 8th at 10:00 a.m. in the Cafeteria**. This meeting will give a general overview of their responsibilities as a Room Mom/Dad and to help plan, organize and share new fresh ideas for the upcoming year.

If you have volunteered to be a Room Mom/Dad, please be on the look out for an invitation to this meeting in your child's folder in the upcoming weeks. Even if you are a veteran Room Parent, please plan to attend this meeting to share your experiences and ideas to help others who are new at this very important position. Please make sure that you R.S.V.P, so we can properly plan for the meeting.

If you have any questions or comments before the meeting, feel free to contact one of us. We look forward to seeing you.

Room Representative Committee Co-Chairpersons

Kim Dickman
725-9404
markld55@yahoo.com

Anece Hughes
724-3164
anece@tampabay.rr.com

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!

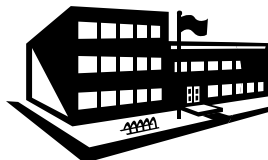
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new principal and teachers that have joined us this year. They are as follows:



- Principal - **Kathy Wickett**
- Kindergarten - **Sarah Caughell**
- Third Grade - **Evelyn Moldal**
- Fifth Grade - **Jessica Rivers**
- Autistic - **Debra Ruth**
- PE - **Sandra Everett**
- Music - **Jessica Moore**
- Teacher Assistant - **Anne-Marie La-Mont**
- Blended Pre-K - **Maggie Jordan**



Please be sure to give them a big Manatee welcome when you see them. We will be putting their pictures on the bulletin board in the office so please come by and see who they are so you can introduce yourself to them and make them feel a part of our McMullen Booth Family. Thank you,
Dorene Duttry, VP Leadership



DON'T MISS OUR PRINCIPAL CHAT
Friday,
September 28th
8am in Media Center

The **MANATEE MESSAGE**

McMullen Booth Elementary PTA Newsletter
McMullen Booth Elementary PTA
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:

<u>Deadline:</u>	<u>Publication:</u>
Thursday, November 1	Friday, November 8
Thursday, January 9	Thursday, January 17
Thursday, March 6	Friday, March 14
Thursday, May 8	Friday, May 16

DO YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR SCHOOL?

Are you trying to figure out a way to volunteer at your school while raising a family and working a full-time job? There are many ways you can help out our MBES Teachers if you are unable to spend time on campus during regular school hours. If you know how to update Websites or format a Newsletter and want to learn more, please contact: **Paula Keyser (727) 415-7339** or email mbesweb@gmail.com



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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.

**GOT PLASTIC BAGS? PLEASE
SEND THEM INTO THE
OFFICE AND MARK THEM
ATTN: SHARON KRAYER/PTA
They Will Be Used For The
Manatee Marketplace**

PRESS RELEASE



Community Input Meetings For Student Assignment Plan Set for September 18, 26, 27

DATE: Aug. 13, 2007

CONTACT: Andrea Zahn, Director, Communications
Pinellas County Schools
301 Fourth St. SW, Largo, FL 33770

Community input meetings will take place throughout the county to allow public comment before the board votes on the student assignment plan on November 13. Meetings with district staff members are scheduled for:

- **Sept. 18 – Palm Harbor University High, 1900 Omaha St., Palm Harbor - 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- **Sept. 26 – Pinellas Park High, 6305 118th Ave. N, Largo, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- **Sept. 27 – John Hopkins Middle, 701 16th St. S, St. Petersburg - 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

The school board is scheduled to Vote on a new student assignment plan on November 13. The new plan will go through a number of workshops, community sessions and other steps before it is finalized. The new plan will go into effect beginning in the 2008-09 school year. The draft plan was presented to the school board at a August 9 workshop.

The major elements of the proposed plan are:

- Predictable attendance patterns based on proximity or closeness to a school.
- Eight elementary areas, six middle school areas and seven high school areas.
- Additional fundamental school offerings in each elementary attendance area. A variety of magnets, charter schools and "home" schools in each attendance area.



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

www.mbes.com/pta



Recreational Reading

Again this year we are offering "book bucks" for every book read. By now your child should have received a reading log. Just have them fill out the log for every book read. They will be paid every month. The students can then use their "book bucks" to purchase their own prizes at our Manatee Marketplace open in November, January, and March.

I would appreciate any donation of your time, toys, books, or even plastic grocery store bags for the marketplace. If you have questions or would like to help work at the marketplace please contact **Sharon Krayer** at (727) 712-1187 or krayer@knology.net

Have You Joined PTA?



Calling all Moms, Dads, Grandparents and Teachers who have not yet joined PTA. We need you! We would like to reach our goal of 100% membership which qualifies our school to receive an award of recognition. Also, PTA sponsors many of the great programs here at MBES so every dollar counts.

If you have not already returned your membership, please do so. If you need to obtain extra membership forms, please go to www.mbes.com/pta/forms and print, complete and send it in with \$5.00 per membership, place in envelope marked PTA and return to your child's teacher.

Thanks for your support, and remember together we are better .

Stacey Brinson, VP of Organization



Pinellas County Schools is launching a parent involvement campaign called **Be There** designed to encourage direct parent involvement in their children's education. Research proves that parent involvement has a significant impact on student success. **Be There** is a media campaign that promotes simple ways for parents to connect with their children during everyday moments of life –

driving to school, preparing a meal, doing the laundry, shopping for groceries, making eye contact, smiling, asking a question, giving a hug or reading a story. School administrators, teachers and PTA members will be asked to incorporate the **Be There** message when communicating with parents this year. For more information, visit www.bethere.org



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Membership Form

School year: _____ (A new membership form with dues is required each school year)

Member name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Child's Name and Teacher: _____

(One child/teacher is okay -- so we can get your membership card to you)

- Please check if grandparent. (Counts towards Golden Grandparent Award application)
- Please check if member of MBE Faculty (Counts towards 100% Faculty Participation Award)

**Amount enclosed: _____

**Please enclose form with \$5.00 per member and return to school to the PTA mailbox in the front office. Please make checks payable to MBES PTA.

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

FROM THE
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Helping Families Make Wise Food Choices

By Kelly A. Hammer

Overall nutrition is crucial to children's health. Breakfast gets them to lunch, lunch gets them home, and dinner nourishes them overnight. Having a good dinner in the evening isn't enough; kids need to make wise food choices throughout the day!

As parents, we carefully choose for our children many aspects of their lives until they are old enough to make their own choices. We choose the neighborhood in which they live. When they are very young, we help them choose their friends. We monitor how much television they watch and what video games they play. We teach them how to cross streets safely and to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. We show them how to take care of their bodies by brushing their teeth, washing with soap, and providing remedies when they get hurt. We do all this, yet we sometimes pay little attention to what they eat and why they eat it. How do we get them to eat right?

Lead by Example

Practice what you preach when it comes to nutrition. You are your children's first and most important teacher, even if your children, particularly your preteens and teens, don't always see it that way. If you start your day with a large latte and donut in the car, your children may believe that caffeine and sugar are wise breakfast choices and that eating on the go is normal. Here are some ways to be mindful of what you eat as a family:

- Shop for groceries together. Read food labels for nutritional content, and choose foods that are low in sugar and fat.
- Discuss the school lunch menu with your child in advance to help him or her make wise food choices. Or, if your child takes a lunch from home, have him or her help pack a healthy one.
- Allow your kids to cook with you, and let them help plan the week's meals.
- Slowly introduce some new wholesome foods.
- Dine together as a family as often as possible. Remember, the car is not the dinner table; refrain from eating there as it encourages eating fast food on the run.
- Stock your home with low-sugar foods and rid the pantry of refined sugar, i.e., processed white sugar found, for example, in many boxed snacks and cereals.
- Avoid fast-food restaurants by planning your meals and snacks before leaving home.
- Be prepared for meal-time changes and food substitutions if necessary.
- Do not give food as a reward.

(continued in next column)

(continued)

Parents should also be aware of their own dieting endeavors and how they affect their children's perception of health. Fad diets, for example, that cut out an entire food group or a substantial amount of calories in order to achieve weight loss are neither balanced nor healthy. When a parent embarks on such a diet, a child is led to believe it is okay to eat only one meal a day or to live entirely on grapefruit! As parents, you need to dispel the myths surrounding the latest fad diet and be an example to your child.

Educate yourself about the nutritional needs of your children. For a visual example of what constitutes a healthy diet, look at The Food Pyramid located on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's website. The pyramid is divided into six sections, with a suggested daily amount (number of servings) for each food group. These amounts, however, are much too large for children.

A food guide that takes into account children's nutritional needs would contain a smaller number of servings per day from each food group and a section for treats or extras. Serving sizes for children also are generally smaller than those for adults. Keep in mind, however, that there are other variables to consider, including individual eating patterns.

Remember, you know your child better than anyone and are capable of providing food choices that are better for their health. The new food pyramid and examples should help guide you and your family toward healthier food choices. As a result, you and your family will achieve a dietary balance that will reward all of you in many ways throughout life!

Kelly A. Hammer is the founder and owner of Hammer Nutrition, which provides education on how nutrition and physical fitness can make for a well-balanced, healthy life. She is also the coauthor with Vicki Caruana of the forthcoming book Brain Food: Feeding Children for Success in School, available in January 2006 from M. Evans Publishing, New York City.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Thanks to all McMullen Booth families for supporting this year's **ENTERTAINMENT BOOK** fundraiser. As this effort comes to a close, we need your cooperation and assistance in returning any unused books and collected funds for books sold to school as soon as possible. **THIS IS NOT A FREE BOOK**, so if you do not wish to purchase the book provided, simply return it to school in the original envelope which includes your child's name and teacher.

Also, your child's teacher will receive a free book if every student in their class returns their money or unused book to school.

We'll be awarding prizes to our top sellers on Friday, September 21st, so please return your money and books orders by MONDAY, 9/17. Thanks for your support!

Maureen Gallagher and Michelle Marcatos
Ways and Means Co-Chairs

PTA

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Celebrate your talents

Do you **express** your creativity through dance, music, story, or poetry?
Do you **dream** of having your drawings displayed in a special exhibit?
Do you **enjoy** taking photographs or videotaping your friends?

Participate in PTA's Reflections Program.

Join thousands of other students as they create entries based on the 2007-2008 theme, "I Can Make a Difference by..."

Think about the theme. Then select a category:

- ❖ Film/Video Production ❖ Dance Choreography
- ❖ Musical Composition ❖ Photography
- ❖ Visual Arts ❖ Literature

Put on your dancing shoes, grab a camera, or pick up a pen or paintbrush and create! It'll be fun!

Check out what other kids did last year.
Visit the Reflections Program gallery online
at www.pta.org.

For More Information Log On To
<http://www.mbes.com/pta/reflections.htm>

Suggested for preschool through 5th grade

