



The

MANATEE MESSAGE

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

September 2006

Volume VII - Issue I

Presidential Matters

A Message from Your MBES PTA President

National PTA is the oldest and the largest non-profit, all volunteer organization working on behalf of children and public education. Today PTA has almost six million members and hopefully, you are one of them. If you haven't joined all ready, you can go to www.mbes.com/pta/forms.com to get a membership form.

At our first PTA meeting our budget was passed and we were entertained by the Tricky Dogs Show. Rick Martin taught us the importance of hard work and positive reinforcement in learning "new tricks". Our first PTA Potluck Breakfast was a huge success. The breakfast was fun and filling; the casseroles, quiches, muffins, fruit and grits were fabulous!

PTA is working hard on upcoming events. The Dynamic Dads Healthy Start Breakfast happened on Friday, September 22nd. There was a great turnout and everyone had a lot of fun! Our Pumpkin Patch Feast is scheduled for Friday, October 20 from 6-8 PM. The evening will begin with a spaghetti dinner and conclude with our spectacular pumpkin auction. Dress the children in their costumes and join us for an exciting evening.

Linda Serim
PTA President



Mark Your Calendar...

- Sept. 21 Room Rep Meeting, 9:30 am, Cafeteria
- Sept. 22 Dynamic Dads Healthy Start Breakfast, 7:00 am, Cafeteria
- Sept. 29 Principal's Chat, 8:00 am, Media Center
Yearbook Purchase Deadline
- Oct. 3 Picture Retake Day
- Oct. 9 Dynamic Dads Game Night
- Oct. 16/17 Vision & Hearing Screening
- Oct. 17 PTA Board Meeting 7pm
- Oct. 20 Pumpkin Patch Feast, 6:00-8:00 pm, Cafeteria

Need to Reach Us?

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

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WORD FIND CONTEST

Do you read this newsletter from cover to cover? Then your commitment is about to pay off! Find the word 'exceptional' in this newsletter and email your answer to mbesweb@gmail.com or call 727-415-7339 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 October 15, Drawing on October 20 at Pumpkin Patch Feast. MBES Staff and PTA Board Members not eligible to win.

Pumpkin Patch Feast

A Fun Family Event
Friday, October 20th
6:00pm—8:00pm

Watch For More Information
Coming Soon

Tickets Will Be Sold In Advance!



www.mbes.com/pta

Principal's Corner



McMullen-Booth Families,

We are off to a great start for the 06-07 school year, and we have our entire school community to thank for it! I continue to be amazed by the level of support we enjoy at McMullen-Booth Elementary, and many of my peers are envious of this strong relationship!

I would like to remind our parents of our newest Book of the Month title, "***Inch and Miles, The Journey to Success***" written by Coach John Wooden. Many of you would recognize Coach Wooden as the celebrated UCLA Basketball Coach who won 10 national championships over the course of his coaching career. He was asked to work on a children's book about what it takes to be successful, and this book is the fruit of his labor! It aligns itself perfectly to all that we talk about with our children about character traits like hard work, enthusiasm, friendship, loyalty, cooperation, self-control, alertness, action, determination, fitness, skill, team spirit, poise, confidence – just to name a few – that contribute to a successful child. This is a book I would highly recommend to add to your family library. It will become a great resource over the years to pull out and remind children of what is important to pay attention to in order to be successful. Ask your children about the book, as they should have shared it in class by now!

A special thanks is extended to our PTA for allowing me to create our Book of the Month series that enables me to add a new title each month to our classroom collections. This generous program has given us common titles to encourage conversation across our entire school!

Our first Principal's Chat will be held on Friday, September 29, at 8:00 in our Media Center. These brief meetings give me a chance to share information with interested parents on topics that could range from FCAT to dress code, from buses to parenting – whatever fits the needs of the group. If you want to drop by and join us, please feel free to do so! There is no set agenda, but the opportunity is there to simply ask questions if you would like! It is one of my most favorite communication opportunities!

Thanks again for sharing your children with us! We treasure these opportunities, and we recognize that "Together, we are better!"

~ **Pamela T. Moore**
Principal

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK UPDATE

Hello McMullen Booth family and friends, Here is an update on our Entertainment Book Fundraiser. You all have been very busy selling the Books. We have raised \$22,000.00 so far. Our goal is 26,000.00 so we are 4,000.00 shy. We still have 140 books outstanding. **PLEASE** either send your completed order back to school or the book. We can still make and exceed our goal! We are scheduled to meet with the Entertainment books sales representative on 9/22 to close out the sale. The prizes that come from the entertainment book company will be ordered at that time and distributed a couple weeks after that.

Here are our prize winners for this year:

1st Place- Sarah Dukes - 20 Books - Mrs. Brandt's class Sarah gets dinner for her family at Johnny's Italian Restaurant.

2nd Place- Ryan Inasy - 15 Books - Mrs. Glasgow's class Ryan wins a \$50.00 gift card to Toys R Us

3rd Place- Jonathan Fisher - 14 Books - Mrs. Rose's class Jonathan wins 4 movie passes to AMC Woodlands in Oldsmar.

4th Place – Sarah Goddard 13 Books Mrs. Thompson's class Sarah wins a \$25.00 gift card to Borders.

Congratulations to all. Everyone who sold a book is a winner! I would also like to offer a Big THANK YOU to Linda Serim, Cheryl Lapham, Laura Pohl, Susan Clairmont, Carol Poelker, Kristen Siegel, Sharon Krayser, Barbara Hajko, Leslie Ingelman .Without their continuous help this sale not have gone smoothly. Together we are truly better.

Laurie Dobler - Fundraising Chair

The **MANATEE MESSAGE**

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

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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

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

www.mbes.com/pta

FROM THE
Florida
PTA

everychild.onevoice.

Florida PTA Tips for a Safe and Healthy School Year

Vice President for Education Karin Brown

Tips to Avoid Abduction

Teach your child the tricks people sometimes use to interest children, such as: offering a ride in bad weather; offering candy or money; asking for help looking for a lost pet; or saying that "your Mommy or Daddy sent me to pick you up." It is important to teach your child that it is not bad behavior to say "no" to someone who asks for help. Talk over alternatives (like calling 911) if someone is hurt.

Instead of warning your child not to "talk to strangers," explain specific situations that might happen and what your child can do in those situations. Children may not have an understanding of what "stranger" means; for instance, some children think that someone who takes the time to befriend them is not a stranger.

Teach your child never to go anywhere with someone he or she does not know. Also teach your child never to go anywhere with someone he or she does know (such as a teacher, bus driver, neighbor, church official or member, etc.), **unless your child heard directly from you that it is okay to go.** Explain that sometimes people will say that you sent them or that you are hurt as a trick.

Role-play situations with your child so they can practice saying "**NO**" and avoiding dangerous situations. Talk about how hard it can be to say no to an adult, especially if the adult is asking for help or offering something fun to the child.

Do not put your child's name on any of his or her clothing, school supplies, or school bags. A stranger might use your child's name as a way of suggesting that she or he knows your child or you.

Walk your neighborhood with your child and pick out the safest routes to school, friends' houses, or other places your child walks. Identify with your child safe places to go in an emergency, such as a trusted neighbor, open business, or fire station.

Some communities have a "Safe Haven" program, where businesses encourage lost or frightened children to come inside for help. If your community does not have such a program, contact your local law enforcement agency about starting one.

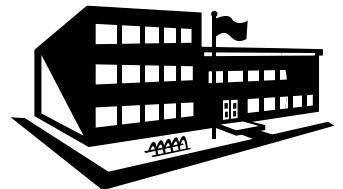
Room Representative (Room Mom/Dad) Committee

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for attending the Room Representative Committee meeting on September 21st. I was very pleased to see that so many of our Room Moms and Dads could attend! I hope that the information you received is proving to be helpful as you plan your year. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you will receive the information packet that was reviewed at the meeting. If you have not received a packet within the next week, please contact me either by the phone number or the e-mail address listed below.

Although we will not meet again this year as a committee, I wanted to let you know that you can continue to look for any updates or notes about the Room Representative Committee in this newsletter.

Again, thanks for a great meeting. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail throughout the year if you have any thoughts, ideas or questions. Our school is lucky to have such great moms and dads working with our wonderful teachers to plan such terrific things for our children! You truly make a difference because of what you do! Enjoy your year!

Lisa Kessel
Room Representative
Committee Chairperson



Recreational Reading Logs Are Online!

For your convenience you can now print the monthly Recreational Reading log at home. Just log onto www.mbes.com and click the PTA button on the left. You will find the reading log under "Forms." Your child will still get a log every month from his/her teacher. However, if you need additional logs feel free to print one yourself.

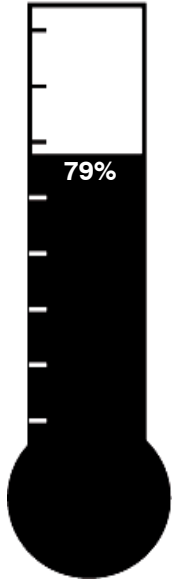
School Directory Update

Sponsored by the **PTA**

The directory files have been completed They are at the printer and will be distributed in 2-3 weeks.

GOAL
100%

PTA MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



We are close to reaching our goal of 548 members. We only need 116 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!

Michelle Marcatos
VP, Organization

**HELP US TO REACH OUR GOAL
IF 32 FAMILIES HAVE THEIR
GRANDPARENTS JOIN PTA, WE WILL
REACH THIS GOAL AND WE COULD
QUALIFY FOR THE GOLDEN
GRANDPARENT MEMBERSHIP AWARD!
WE NEED TEACHERS TO JOIN TOO!**

Commitment To Character

The Commitment To Character program promotes honesty, respect, responsibility and self motivation. Students who display these qualities have the opportunity to be recognized throughout the year. Nominations can come from teachers, office personnel, administrators, volunteers or parents. If you witness a child demonstrating an exceptional character trait please complete one of the C2C forms which can be found in the school office. We will be presenting this recognition three times throughout the year. Our first recipients will receive their recognition on October 18 and 19. Their names will be read on the morning show and they will be invited to the library to receive their certificates. If you have any questions or comments please call Terri Costello at (727) 726-3417.

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.



www.mbes.com/pta



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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.

10 Ways for Parents to Help Teachers

By *Mimi Doe*

Many teachers have written to me over the years, frustrated with how unprepared their students are—and they don't mean academically. Chris, a kindergarten teacher, wrote what many teachers have expressed, "I would love it if you could write a 10 tips for parents to help us teachers do our increasingly demanding job. Many parents of children I teach have left the job of spiritual, character, and social/emotional education to me. I can't do it all in addition to teaching academic skills. I'm getting burned out and pretty soon won't have the energy left to nourish one child let alone 25."

So here goes—my 10 tips:

1. Create a smooth takeoff each day. Give your child a hug before she ventures out the door and you head to work. Look her in the eye, and tell her how proud you are of her. Your child's self-confidence and security will help her do well both in school and in life.
2. Prepare for a happy landing at the end of the day when you reconvene. Create a predictable ritual such as 10–20 minutes listening to your child talk about his day—before you check phone messages, read the mail, or begin dinner. That way you are fully present to listen, and your child has a touchstone he can count on between school and home.
3. Fill your child's lunchbox with healthy snacks and lunches. Have dinner at a reasonable hour and a healthy breakfast. A well-balanced diet maximizes your child's learning potential.
4. Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings. Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
5. Remember it's your children's homework, not yours. Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
6. Fill your child's life with a love for learning by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his questions, and encouraging his efforts.
7. Fill your home with books to read, books simply to look at, and books that provide answers to life's many questions. The public or school library is an excellent resource.
8. Be a partner with your child's teacher. When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
9. Set up a system where routine items are easily located — such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
10. Tuck a "love note" in your child's lunch bag to let her know how special she is. Knowing they are loved makes it easier for children to be kind to others.

FROM THE
National
PTA
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Pumpkin Patch Feast Update

Thanks to the generosity of many of MBES parents, we have reached our goal of 45 artificial pumpkins! The pumpkins can be dropped off in the front office. Leslie and/or Barbara are overseeing our growing pumpkin patch.

To those that have offered to help with the planning for our Pumpkin Patch Feast, I am currently gathering donations of gift cards, merchandise, restaurant gift certificates, etc. We need these donations for our drawings. If you have access to any of these items, please contact me.

On the day of the event, I will need volunteers to help decorate the cafeteria. Many people have volunteered to help with this event, and I will be contacting them. If you have not signed up to help, but would like to, please contact me.

STAFF and PARENTS, please mark your calendar NOW for Friday, October 20, 2006, from 6-8 PM. This is an event you, and your children, will not want to miss. Tickets for this event, consisting of dinner, entertainment, prizes, and pumpkin auction will go on sale the first week of October. Tickets for the dinner portion of this event will be sold in advance ONLY. This event, and all the planning necessary to make it happen, is only as successful as the support of our MBES families! Come and celebrate the Fall festivities with your children's teachers and friends. Continue to look for upcoming information regarding this event!

Laura Pohl, Chairperson
799-9368

VOLUNTEER TIPS **PTA** REPRINTED FROM THE PINELLAS everychild.onevoice. COUNTY COUNCIL PTA COURIER NEWSLETTER

- ~ Respond to school surveys on your interests, talents, and skills.
- ~ Let school staff know your availability to volunteer (days, times, and how often).
- ~ Coordinate and participate in evening and weekend volunteer activities at school.
- ~ Assist your child's teacher in the classroom or on field trips when you are able.
- ~ Work with school staff and teachers to develop volunteer activities you can do from home.
- ~ Assist school staff and educators in creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for parents.

To Find More Links To Articles Log On To:
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 first person you will meet is your newsletter editor, Paula Keyser.

Paula, what first made you get involved with the PTA?

Well, my son started at MBES at age three in the Pre-K program and I wanted to learn more about the school and get to know the people here who would be taking care of our son. He is now in his third year of Pre-K here and we plan to stay at MBES until he graduates from 5th grade.

Are you a stay-at-home Mom?

No, actually, we are a family of the new millennium. I work a full-time job, as Creative Director for Fitness Celebrity Tony Little, my husband stays home with our son.

Mark stays at home? Isn't he volunteering at school?

<laugh> Well, yes...he has become the 'techie' around the school helping all of the teachers and Ms. Polgar in the library with the morning news show. He also spends quite a bit of time every day troubleshooting computer problems.

What do you do to help MBES and the PTA?

As you already know, I am the editor of this newsletter. Also, I do the layout design for the School Newsletter for Leslie. I also take care of the school and PTA websites. I am the room mom for Ms. Peters class too.

Wow, all that and a full-time job?

<laugh> Yes, I am often asked when I sleep. I really enjoy all of the things I do to help our school. You know, you don't really realize until you get involved how much help is really needed. I was very hesitant at first to become part of the PTA, because honestly, Jeremy is our first child, so we don't have a lot of school experience. I had always thought that the PTA was some exclusive club that only certain families could belong to. And then, you start to get involved, and you do something simple to help out a teacher. It's amazing the gratitude and appreciation you get from these wonderful gifted teachers. They have a difficult job to do, especially these days with all the requirements on a County, State and Federal level. But their smiles and simple thank-you's when you've helped them out go a long, long way.

How do you feel about the PTA now?

Well, I've really made some great friends and found lots of resources by networking with other parents. I guess my biggest surprise is that I thought there would be more people involved in their children's academic life. Especially the kids that have special needs and need their parents to be advocates for them. I wish I could do more! Last year, even though I work a full-time job, I was able to

(continued in next column)

(continued)

give over 130 volunteer hours to MBES. So I figure that there must be more parents out there who surely can spare a few hours every week or even month to help out their child's school.

Any last thoughts before we close?

I would just urge everyone to get involved. If you want to learn how to put a newsletter together, or how to create a website, contact me! I'd be happy to teach others what I do. There are so many places in our school and PTA where each parent could make a difference, even if it's only for a couple of hours every week.

If you would like to contact Paula Keyser, she can be reached via email at mbesweb@gmail.com

Dynamic Dads Game Night Is Coming Back!



Back by popular demand. It's the game night that everyone is talking about! Join Bob Fuller and his friends to play a few rounds of different board and strategy games in the Media Center on **Monday, October 9th from 7:00pm-8:30pm**. If you would like more information, please contact Bob via email: dynamic_dads@yahoo.com.

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 October

A small pumpkin or fall colored silk leaves to get them in the spirit of the season. Perhaps a pumpkin spice candle. A coupon for photo developing or a Starbucks Gift Card. Or how about a magazine or a good book to read.

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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 2006–2007 theme, "My Favorite Place."

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/reflections06.

Deadline for Entries 12/1/06 at 2:30pm

**For More Information Contact:
Mary Ann Lane (727) 796-5718**

