

Georgia PTA District 12 Spring Newsletter

Spring 2009

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Newly Elected Officers 2009-2011

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District 12 Update

In a few short weeks, the school year will come to a close. We are all busy wrapping up the activities of our PTAs. It has been an extremely busy spring, with 10 charters to date and two more in the next few weeks. We will all deserve a much needed break.

Thanks to everyone that attended our District Vendor Fair and Spring Conference. Our officers were elected that evening. We are looking forward to the next two years helping to grow the district in membership and leadership.

Please remember to submit your officer information to Georgia PTA, either online at www.georgiapta.org, by fax at (404)525-0210 or the old fashioned way, by US mail, by May 15th. Remember to use your home address so that important information will make it to you in a timely manner over the summer.

Also, mark your calendars for Convention/Leadership Training on July 10th & 11th at the Georgia International Convention Center. It's a PTA election year and you want to participate in electing your State Leaders for the next two years. The next newsletter will be post CLT. I hope to see many of you there.

Thanks for all your hard work. Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless. You are all the best. Have a great summer.

Carol Ranft

District Recognition - Priority Reports

Each newsletter we spotlight a Local Unit and their progress and achievements through the year. This issue we focus on membership increases and priority reporting throughout the District

Have you ever wondered how a PTA is recognized for its programs and accomplishments? Quite simply, they wrote a report about it and submitted it to the District Director and Georgia PTA. Priority Reports also document the work of your PTA.

The following units submitted an Outstanding Local Unit report by the March 13th deadline:

Trickum MS PTSA
Jackson ES PTA
McKendree ES PTA
Creekland MS PTA
Camp Creek ES PTA
Taylor ES PTA
Cedar Hill ES PTA
Level Creek ES PTA
R. D. Head ES PTA
Winn Holt ES PTA
Collins Hill HS PTSA
Brookwood HS PTSA
Grayson ES PTA

Newly Chartered Units:

2008-2009:

Puckett's Mill ES PTA
Rosebud ES PTA
Trip ES PTA

Congratulations on your
first year!

2009-2010:

Mountain View HS PTSA
Archer HS PTSA
Twin Rivers MS PTSA
North Gwinnett MS PTSA
Couch MS PTSA
Bay Creek MS PTSA
Woodward ES PTA
White Oak ES PTA
Starling ES PTA
Ivy Prep Academy PTSA

Good Luck during your
Charter Year!

District Recognition - Membership

This year, PTAs were encouraged and challenged to increase their membership by 5% over last year.

We are proud to recognize the following units that increased their membership by 5% or more:

Jackson Elementary School PTA	5%
Pinckneyville Middle School PTA	5%
Brookwood High School PTSA	6%
Duluth Middle School PTA	6%
Magill Elementary School PTA	6%
Dacula Middle School PTA	7%
McKendree Elementary School PTA	7%
Arcado Elementary School PTA	8%
Crews Middle School PTA	8%
Kanoheda Elementary School PTA	9%
Patrick Elementary School PTA	9%
Suwanee Elementary School PTA	10%
Meadowcreek Elementary School PTA	11%
Annistown Elementary School PTA	12%
Peachtree Elementary School PTA	12%
Summerour Middle School PTA	12%
Simpson Elementary School PTA	15%
Sugar Hill Elementary School PTA	15%
Taylor Elementary School PTA	15%
Barrow Elementary School PTA	18%
Hopkins Elementary School PTA	18%
Gainesville High School PTSA	21%
Winn Holt Elementary School PTA	26%
Mill Creek High School PTSA	30%
Cedar Hill Elementary School PTA	33%
Fairview Elementary School PTA	43%
Alps Road Elementary School PTA	76%
W. C. Britt Elementary School	82%
Chesney Elementary School PTA	110%
Hull Middle School PTSA	141%
Gwinnett School of Math & Science PTSA	181%
Benefield Elementary School PTA	308%
Corley Elementary School PTA	831%

Don't forget to:

Submit your officers
information online, by
mail or fax to Georgia
PTA by May 15th

Register for
Convention/Leadership
Training

Begin planning your
membership campaign
for the next school year

Thank all the volunteers
that helped make your
year successful

Take time for yourself
and your family

Date to
Remember

Congratulations for all your hard work!

July 10th-11th
Convention/Leadership
Training

Legislative Updates

What happens when PTA members from all over the state take action? We get noticed and make a difference! The Popsicle campaign was a success as legislators from across the state commented about how they had been inundated with Popsicle sticks and now better understood the important role school nurses play. Great news and a heartfelt thank you to all the schools that sent in Popsicle sticks in our campaign to save the school nurse funding. The 2010 budget that passed contained almost full funding for nurses.

A summary of all the bills that passed that effect children and education can be found on [Capitol Watch](#).

The legislative team will have several workshops at the July Convention and Leadership Training. Plan to attend to learn how to be a better advocate for children. Now more than ever, we need to have our voices heard.

Treasurer Reminders

Local Unit Bylaws guide how the PTA conducts an audit or financial review of the books. An audit is conducted whenever the treasurer changes, at the end of each school year and whenever deemed necessary. Remember - audits are necessary to 1) maintain your unit's 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization, 2) protect the membership and officers relating to all financial issues, and 3) to be in good standing with Georgia PTA.

Local Unit Bylaws stipulate that an officer's last day of office is the last day of the school year. This means that no checks may be signed by the current officers on PTA accounts after the last day of the school year. The new incoming officers need to have their signatures recorded with the PTA banking institution so that ongoing business of PTA may continue throughout the summer. Until the books are returned from the audit, it is highly recommended that payments be limited to expenditures of an emergency nature. These include funding for PTA leadership events, back-to-school events and other ongoing business, such as purchasing membership campaign supplies for the coming year, etc.

Turn your books and records over for audit as soon as possible after the school year ends. You don't need to wait for the end of the fiscal year. The fiscal year is important for tax purposes.

Please refer to the Georgia PTA Leadership Resource Guide for all the information and forms necessary to conduct the audit. They can also be downloaded from the website www.georgiapta.org, forms section.

Reflections Winners Announced

This year's theme was "Wow" and that is what we are all saying now. Of the 24 entries that Georgia PTA submitted, 13 were chosen as National Winners! Of those 13, 4 were from District 12.

The outstanding results of this program would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved with the Reflections Program - from the state level, council level and local level.

Next year's theme is "Beauty is" and is certain to produce more outstanding pieces of art. Be sure to let parents and students know the theme now so they can be working on it over the summer.

Award of Excellence

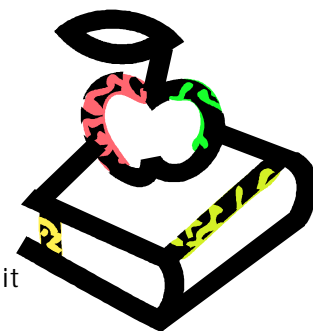
Photography
Ryan Riche
Richards MS, Gwinnett Area 3
Middle/Junior Division

Musical Composition
Ava Hager
Duncan Creek ES, Gwinnett Area 3
Primary Division

Award of Merit

Musical Composition
Jonathan Li
Duluth MS, Gwinnett Area 2
Middle Junior Division

Literature
Aveek Sarker
Duluth HS, Gwinnett Area 2
Senior Division



Top Ten Things To Do After Your Election (from GA PTA website)

1. Verify that outgoing secretary has entered 2009-2010 officers online, www.georgiapta.org or mailed the information to the state office (Convention/Leadership Training Registration Guide will be mailed to incoming president/co-president)
2. Register NOW for Convention/Leadership Training, July 10-11. (Information is available online) It's the most important training offered by Georgia PTA. Make every effort to bring your officers and committee chairs. Pick up Membership Cards and Annual Resource Guide.
3. Become acquainted with your local unit bylaws – Officer's terms, elections, duties, membership dues, nominating committee and meetings.
4. Change the signers on the PTA's bank account as soon as the school year ends.
5. Make sure 2008-09 audit is completed and properly conducted and IRS reports are filed.
6. Visit www.georgiapta.org, click PTA Leaders Section, click President's section, for the Incoming Officer's Guide. Check it often for Announcements and Upcoming Events. Includes comprehensive PTA leaders section, general bylaws information, forms, Reflections, membership awards, OMDR, etc. Our website has it all!
7. Use your resources. Annual Resource Guide, Treasurer's Guide, Secretary's Guide, Nominations and Elections Guide, Principals and PTA Guide, (all found on our website, www.georgiapta.org).
8. Meet with your principal to learn about the school's goals and share your objectives for PTA. Establish a good working relationship right from the start.
9. With Executive Committee, (President/Co-president, Vice President(s), Secretary, Treasurer), identify what committees you will need to accomplish your goals and appoint committee chairpersons.
10. Plan your budget, calendar & membership campaign. Have fun serving your PTA and the children of Georgia. If you need help or have questions, contact:

- Carol Ranft, District Director, 770-339-1872, PTA_District12@bellsouth.net
- State Office, gapta@bellsouth.net or 404-659-0214

A great year starts with a smooth transition!

Help Wanted!



Many PTAs struggle with the choice of an auditor. Did you know that the audit can be conducted by an auditing committee that your board approves? You may not even need to pay someone for it.

Before you choose an auditor, be sure that person(s) is aware of what the PTA audit entails. The best place to start is the audit checklist. Be sure that your auditor is looking at those items on the checklist. Following these guidelines protects your organization and its financial resources.

If you have an auditor that you use, please let me know. Many local units have the resources to pay an auditor, but don't know who to contact.

Regarding taxes, if your PTA brings in \$100,000 or more in gross revenue, pay a professional to prepare your taxes. Don't burden a future board with IRS problems because you thought you could do it yourself.