

# *District 9 PTA*

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*2013-2014*



9<sup>th</sup> District

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
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**PTA Membership for Every School Member** – Focused on the idea that the school community was unaware that the PTA was hoping for all members of a student’s family to purchase a membership. The reality of *A* membership for *EACH* family member meant that the PTA would benefit from a larger member base. In fact, the concept created the largest membership increase ever recorded. (Standard #1, 2, 4) Garrison Mill ES, ECCC

**Winter Dance** – All students who were members of the PTA received free admission to the dance and if a student was not a member, s/he could join on the spot and enter the dance. Resulted in 50 memberships during February! (Standard #1, 4) Shelton ES, PCC

**Membership Matters** – Designed multiple large signs that detail various programs and services sponsored by PTA. Signs were displayed at all PTA events and membership drives. (Standard #2, 5) Mtn View ES, ECCC

**Pizza, Pizza** – The PTA held a pizza party for students whose family bought 3 or more memberships. Membership increased as a result! (Standard #1, 4, 5, 6). Shelton ES, PCC

**Fall Festival Vendor Fair** – The price of a booth at the fall festival was \$31, which included the \$25 booth fee AND a \$6 membership. Feedback from vendors was very positive. (Standard #1, 6) JJ Daniell MS, ECCC

**Grandparent Memberships** – Changed membership form encouraging not only parents but also including additional grandparent memberships. (Standard #1) Murdock ES, ECCC

**Membership Tree** – Each leaf placed on tree contained the last name of the PTA member. This is in school lobby and a bright and colorful “thank you”. (Standard #1), Nicholson ES, ECCC

**Quarterly Welcome Packet** – On a quarterly basis, the Membership Committee sent a welcome packet to new families which included PTA Membership information, volunteer opportunities, community contacts, member benefits. (Standard #1) Sope Creek ES and Pope HS, ECCC

**Welcome Packet for Kindergarten and New Students** – In order to make families feel more welcome and informed, Welcome Packets with all forms needed for Meet & Greet were mailed to K and new families prior to the day. (Standard #1, 2) Nicholson ES, ECCC

**Meet & Greet Family Fun** – Partnered with the school’s Foundation to make Meet & Greet Day a family fun event on the field so families could enjoy food trucks, fun and music throughout the day while promoting membership, spirit wear, volunteer opportunities, etc. (Standard #1, 6) Sope Creek ES, ECCC

**Golden Greyhound Lunchroom Monitor** – Faculty members who are PTSA members are eligible o have a parent volunteer take their rotational shift as lunch room monitor. This frees teachers to handle other issues or simply have a well-deserved “break”. (Standard #5) Pope HS, ECCC

**Membership Matters** – Families were given the opportunity to join online. Encouraged early sales by awarding a reusable shopping bag to families who registered prior to June 15. The bags were in their child’s classroom at Meet & Greet and contained PTA coupons and any preordered spiritwear. Membership increased by 2%. (Standard #1, 2) Tritt ES, ECCC

**Eagles Flying High** – Arranged a display of the mascot “Flying Eagles”. For each member a die cut eagle was placed on the membership wall. Once over 1,000 eagles were placed, it was a visual reminder to our school community that our voice is larger and stronger when we “fly high together”. (Standard #1, 2,3,6) W.C. Abney ES, PCC

**Membership Packages** – Several schools “package” PTA memberships, flat donations and other merchandise like calendars, spiritwear, East Side’s package includes free tickets to PTA-sponsored events to encourage sales. (Standard #2) East Side ES, ECCC



**Three For Me** – Used to promote and track volunteer hours. Each month there is a drawing from the forms turned in (Available electronically and hard copy) and the winner receives a gift card to Publix or Target and a small token of appreciation (donated by a local business/Partner in Education or a family) as well as recognition in newsletter. (Standard #1, 3,5,6) Kincaid ES, ECCC

**Volunteer Coordinator** – Appointed as a Standing Committee position primarily designed to help parents discover ways to get involved in the school community. Usually, this person serves as the one point of contact for all school needs, so parents are not receiving multiple requests from different committees, clubs, affiliated organizations, etc. for volunteers. Typically uses online tools like Sign Up Genius, Remind 101, Facebook, Just Between Friends and different communications tools – email, phone, flyers, text. At Mt Bethel ES (ECCC), the coordinator managed the FLEX committee (last minute helpers) comprised of volunteers who want to be involved but either don’t know how or cannot commit to help with activities far in advance. The Volunteer Coordinator served as point of contact for Three For Me at Kincaid ES (ECCC) (Standard #1,3,6).

**On-Line PTA Volunteer/Room Parent Enrollment** –PTA provided 6 iPads for parents to enroll at Meet & Greet as a volunteer on the spot as a convenience. This eliminated paperwork and allowed parents more time to spend in the classrooms during Meet & Greet. The online convenience was maintained throughout the year so that volunteer recruitment did not end in August. (Standard #1,3) Mt Bethel ES, ECCC

**Helping Hands** – Advertised as a way to volunteer at one’s discretion. When the PTA has a need, those who have signed up as a “Helping Hands” receive a sign up request. Volunteers commit as they are able. Also called FLEX committee. (Standard #1, 2) Murdock ES, ECCC

**“Guys” Involved** – Targeted reach out to encourage fathers, grandfathers, uncles, etc. to volunteer in specific programs like environmental education and Dad Volunteer Day at the book fair. (Standard #1) Kincaid ES, ECCC

**E-Blast Signup for Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Graders** – On rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade night, computers are set up in the lobby to facilitate sign up for the school e-blast. (Standard #2, 3) Dickerson MS, ECCC

**School Tours** – Led by PTSA volunteers in order to connect with potential new families. At Tapp MS (SCC), these volunteers also serve as greeters and escorts for parents during Conference Week. At Dickerson MS and Mtn View ES (ECCC), these tours are led by PTA *Ambassadors*. A “New Family Handbook” was created at Mtn View which included a history of the school, as well as procedures, contact information and other pertinent information relative to daily life at the school. These tours end in a small group Q&A that often focused on school culture, community involvement and family engagement. (Standard #1, 5)

**Transportation** – Recognizing that families sometimes do not have a way to get to school, the PTSA worked with a Partner In Education to provide transportation to families for school events like Math Night, Literacy Night, etc. Childcare also provided. Tapp MS, SCC. Cheatham Hill ES (TMC) also provided bus transportation for families to Hispanic orientation. (Standard #1,3,6)

**Newcomer Committee** – Hosted a Back to School Breakfast in August for families new to the school, allowing for an informal Q&A session as well as information about community resources, curriculum, procedures. Administrators also on hand. (Standard #1,2,3,4,5) Dickerson MS, ECCC

**T-Shirt** – Volunteers were advised to use a monthly sign-in sheet to log hours. Once a volunteer completed 5 hours, s/he was eligible for a T-Shirt which became a “must-have” item. The t-shirts were not available for sale; only thru volunteering. (Standard #1) Shelton ES, PCC

**Common Core Parent Roundtable** – Parents were informed via text messages, announcements, emails, flyers, social media about this opportunity to discuss Common Core and CCRPI data with the principal while also receiving a copy of the school’s Strategic Plan. (Standard #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) South Cobb HS, SCC

**Student v. Teacher Volleyball Games** – Each grade level has a student team that plays a teacher team. The “winning” team is awarded a trophy and bragging rights. Parents are encouraged to attend and the PTSA provides information about the school and being involved during a meeting. (Standard #1, 5) Moses MS, PCC

**Coffee Talks** – The PTA heard from parents that they were often intimidated by the size of the school, uncertainty about who was “in charge” of different areas (bus routes, scheduling, nurse, etc.) or how things worked. This was especially true for families who moved into district mid-year. The PTA hosted two Coffee Talks which were informal gatherings in the Media Center with no set agenda beyond a brief introduction. Parents were encouraged to ask questions of administrators, PTA leaders and other parents. It was so well-received that 2 will be scheduled in the print calendar for next year. Dodgen MS also hosts 4 coffee chats, similar in design. (Standard #1,2,3, 4,5) East Side ES, ECCC

**High School 101** – The high school PTSA President visited feeder middle schools and held an “101” session. Common procedures, expectations, communications and Q&A are discussed. (Standard #1,2,3) Lassiter HS, ECCC

**Student PTA Representative** – Each class was encouraged to elect a PTA representative who would attend PTA general meetings and report back to the class any new business or information covered at the meeting. (Standard #3,5) East Side ES, ECCC

**Playdate at School** – The school sends an Email to all new families, inviting them to a playdate on the school playground the week before school begins. (Standard #1,2,4) Marietta Center for Advanced Academics, MC



**Celebration of the Arts Day** - Allows students to experience a variety of arts-related presentations, including painting classes, musical demonstrations and theater classes. The goal is to expose students to the arts, encourage hobbies, extracurricular activities and careers (Standard #3) Kincaid ES, ECCC

**Visiting Author/Challenger Publishing** – Hosted two authors to lead students in how to create a story – renowned author Carmen Agra Deedy and nonfiction author Patsy Smith Roberts. Challenger Publishing program kicked off after this which allows parent volunteers to work with K-5 student writers to edit stories and illustrations they had created and prepare them for publication in a hard cover book that is maintained in the Media Center. (Standard #3) Mt Bethel ES, ECCC

**Adventures in Reading** – Allows a parent to volunteer in the classroom on a monthly basis by reading a book and preparing an activity that supports the book. Selection is based upon teacher’s lesson for the month. (Standard #3) Timber Ridge ES, ECCC



**Hi Touch Hi Tech Field Trips** – On campus field trip experience provided to every student at school. (Standard #3), Sope Creek ES, ECCC

**Science Fair** – Incorporated a new component – the Invention category. (Standard #3) Timber Ridge ES, ECCC

**Georgia Apply to College Day** – This event partnered local college reps from Chatt Tech, North Georgia College, Georgia State and parent volunteers with senior students to help them apply to college. (Standard #3, 4, 6) Wheeler HS, ECCC

**Caught In the Act** – (“CIA”) Designed to catch students demonstrating positive character traits, helping others and modeling positive behaviors and actions. Faculty, administrators and PTSA board members provided tickets to deserving students, who would turn their tickets in for a prize and an opportunity to have a special celebration with lunch provided by the PTSA. (Standard #3, 5) JJ Daniell MS, ECCC

**Rocket Readers** – To encourage collaboration between home and school to support reading, this program involved an agreement signed by families at the beginning of the year. There are monthly minimum reading requirements along with summaries written by the students. These logs are turned in and reviewed by a committee of volunteers who award the students with community-provided incentives and awards. The program ended with a Rocket Reader

celebration at the last evening PTA meeting with transportation provided for those families who are in need. (Standard #3, 5, 6) Cheatham Hill ES, TMC

**On a Roll** – Designed to reward those students who are not on the Honor Roll, but nevertheless are improving. These students have moved up a letter grade in at least one academic subject while maintaining other core class grades. (Standard #3) Dodgen MS, ECCC

**Financial Literacy** – The PTSA invited a case manager for the FDIC to provide information to parents and faculty about this topic. The rep provided computer-based instruction and resources that faculty can use in the classroom and that parents can use at home themselves or as reinforcement to their student. (Standard #3) JJ Daniell MS, ECCC



## *Special Services*

**Piccadilly Puppets** – Educated students about physical disabilities and acceptance. (Standard #1, 3) Mt. Bethel ES, ECCC

**You're Unique Week** – Used as a way to combine National Inclusive Schools Week and Exceptional Children's Week, this program encouraged students and families to celebrate how differences can make us all stronger. Students identified and shared character traits, interests and talents and completed index cards that demonstrated how they would make their "DOT" on the world, in reference to a book entitled "the Dot" by Peter H. Reynolds. The "DOTS" were displayed in the cafeteria. (Standard #1, 3, 4) Kincaid ES, ECCC

**Exceptional Children's Week** – A week of activities geared toward raising awareness and support including a Lunch & Learn geared to navigating IEPs and hosting a lunch for the educators that work directly with students who receive specialized services. (Mtn View ES, ECCC)

At Timber Ridge ES (ECCC), the committee held a design contest for students to design a T-shirt that encouraged others to "be yourself no matter what." The winning design was produced into a shirt for Timber Ridge students. Each morning, an inspirational story involving a person living with exceptionalities was read during the announcements. (Standard #1,2,3,4,5,6)

**"be who u r"** – another theme for Exceptional Children's Week. (Standard #4) Tritt ES, ECCC



## *Health & Wellness*

**Ride The Bus** – Partnered with the Clean Air Campaign to promote bus ridership, informing families with stickers, flyers, Emails and Facebook posts. One "surprise" day a week during a 5 week period, bus riders were welcomed by volunteers and given a raffle ticket. During morning announcements, 3 winners were drawn who received small prizes. Bus ridership increased more than 11% (Standard #3) Kincaid ES, ECCC

**RED 'e'** (Ready) – Twist on Red Ribbon Week with the goal of not just discouraging students from alcohol/drug use, but encouraging healthy behaviors. The PTSA distributed big white buttons with red "e's" for the students and staff to wear and each morning, random students



wearing the buttons were rewarded – with Chick Fil A coupons, while others were given raffle tickets for a drawing where iTunes and other local business gift cards were distributed. Daily Eblasts spotlighted issues on drug and alcohol awareness and offered resources. (Standard 2, 3, 4,6) Lassiter HS, ECCC

**Run/Walk the Track** – Based on research that indicates that physical activity increases test scores, the PTA sponsors a run/walk on the track before standardized testing. The students have the opportunity to run for 30 minutes each morning and are provided with water and a snack. (Standard #3) Tritt ES, ECCC

**“Challenge” Walk to School** – To add a new element to Walk to School Day, the school challenged a neighboring elementary school on the number of walkers. (Standard #3) Tritt ES, ECCC

**PTA Pedometer** – To promote healthy lifestyles, the PTA purchased and gave each of their 900+ students a pedometer to record the number of steps walked over the summer. Students recorded steps and recorded in logs. These were turned in and the students were recognized and awarded medals for their healthy efforts. (Standard #3, 4) W.C. Abney ES, PCC

**Color Run** – For a voluntary fun run, students were given an environmentally clean powder to mark their progress. By the end of the run, they look like a rainbow of color. (Standard 4) Mabry MS, ECCC



**Multicultural Cooking Class** – Offered to parents, staff and adults in the Wheeler community. Parents and staff are encouraged to share a dish from their home county in a small class setting and are reimbursed for the cost of the ingredients. The parent liaison targeted parents in the non-English speaking community and provided translators as necessary. This class, held 3 times a year, allows those who would not normally come to school to share the common bond of food. (Standard #1, 5, 6) Wheeler HS, ECCC

**Free ESOL Classes** – Recognizing the fact that many parents do not speak English among its international population, the PTA expanded beyond its traditional activity of translating forms. Working with the ESOL teacher, the PTA created a program to offer parents/caregivers who are PTA members free ESOL classes. The lessons focused on increasing confidence in conversational English, learning about American culture and answering questions about school and “American” life. (Standard #1, 2,3,4,5,6) East Side ES, ECCC

**Culture Club** – The Diversity Committee created a Diversity Dialogue Group (“Culture Club”) which provides students with an opportunity to discuss cultural issues and/or concerns and provides them a voice to express their feelings about issues. (Standard #1,2,3,4,5) JJ Daniell MS, ECCC

**American Schools 101** – An annual, 90-minute session dedicated to explaining the school as an institution, traditions, festivals, class activities, PTA and Foundation activities and volunteer opportunities. The session is simultaneously translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Spanish. (Standard #1, 3, 4, 5) East Side ES, ECCC

**Friday Morning Chats** – The school and PTSA reached out to Hispanic families and host them on Friday mornings to network, discuss school activities and work on projects that directly assist teachers. (Standard #1, 3) Marietta Center for Advanced Academics, MCC



## *Community Involvement*

**Police and Firefighters Dinners** – To demonstrate how much the PTA valued the service of these forces, students made thank you cards for the policemen's dinner that were read at the event. To support the firefighters, the PTA collaborated with student leaders and student council to make signs, appear on morning announcements and collect money in a firefighter's boot each morning during a designated week. ASP students made thank you cards. Students raised \$286 to help support the firefighters dinner. (Standard #6) Tritt ES, ECCC

**Give Back Day** – Held on the last day of school before winter break, this program encourages students to look outward and help others. Prior to the day, donations are sought for several local organizations. The day has 3 components – motivation, charity and serving. Every student heard from a motivational speaking team, participated in a hands-on project and cleaned the school. (Standard #3, 5,6) Dodgen MS, ECCC

**Clothes Closet/Food Pantry** – The clothes closet was expanded in order to help the entire school community and the social worker and school counselor can direct students to this resource. The food pantry also serves the needs of the school community. (Standard #3, 4,6) East Cobb MS, ECCC

**Silent Auction** – Held during conference week to take advantage of foot traffic, the PTSA facilitated a silent auction on behalf of the school social worker to benefit students in need. Standard #3,4,6) JJ Daniell MS, ECCC

**Book Drive** – Worked with a teacher to conduct a book drive for a homeless shelter. Over 900 books collected. (Standard #3, 4,6) Cheatham Hill ES, TMC



## *Other...*

**School Newsletter** – In addition to going completely online, the newsletter became more community-minded, including a staff member spotlight, article from school nurse, cafeteria manager. (Standard #2) Murdock ES, ECCC

**Veterans Breakfast** – Students were encouraged to bring a veteran to breakfast as well as a photograph of family members who are veterans. The photos were displayed during breakfast and then outside the cafeteria to continue to celebrate and honor veterans throughout the week. (Standard #1, 6) Sope Creek, ECCC

**Tritt Tiger Dash** – Decided that keeping 100% of fundraising proceeds was vital and utilized the support of administrators, teachers, parents, PTA and Partners in Education. An obstacle course was created (e.g., tire runs, army crawl, balance beam, hula hoop course, inflatable wall



and slide) and each grade level had a certain period of time to complete the course. Classes were given rewards (Pajama day, extended recess, homework pass) based upon teacher input. Proceeds went to classroom material and enhancement, technology curriculum and STEM. (Standard #1,3,6) Tritt ES, ECCC

**Donations** – In an effort to increase membership and donations while the school Foundation was also conducting its capital campaign, the PTA had incentives consisting of 5 lunches with the principal, reserved seating at school performances, two reserved parking spaces – i.e., items that did not carry a true cost, but had value for our members. (Standard #1,2,5) Murdock ES, ECCC

**Thank You to Bus Drivers** – After the two snow storms in winter 2014, the school catered a breakfast from Waffle House for the bus drives and parents were asked to donate \$5 gift cards to retail establishments for a drawing. (Standard #6) Lassiter HS, ECCC

**Mentoring Program** – Recognizing that the transition from elementary to middle school can be challenging, this Mentoring program allows students from feeder schools to “preview” a day in the life of a middle-schooler. Escorted by a buddy, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders get to attend classes and eat in the cafeteria. Students who are selected to be mentors are honored to be selected. (Standard #3,5) Mabry MS, ECCC

THANK YOU  
TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS...



WE HOPE MANY OF YOU FIND THESE IDEAS TO BE  
INSIGHTFUL AND MOTIVATING