

PTA Did You Know?!

Parent: What does the PTA do to benefit my child?

PTA Chairperson: The PTA pays for the transportation cost and field trip expenses for each grade level.

Parent: Do you do anything else?

PTA Chairperson: YES! Did you know that we are the largest PTA run bookfair in our district? All classroom teachers and the library receive hundreds of new books annually.

Parent: Do you ever do anything fun for the kids?

PTA Chairperson: Of course we organize and fund the annual Halloween Party, spring picnic, bring in the Prairie Fire Children's Theater group for an entire week to work with the students in grades 3-6 that audition for a part. We even have family events planned throughout the year – like movie night, game night.

Parent: How much does it cost to become a PTA member?

PTA Chairperson: It cost \$11 for the year for both a husband/wife combination this past year. Just remember that you do not have to have a membership card to attend the monthly meetings that we have. You DO HAVE to have a membership card in order to hold a PTA officer position.

Parent: How can I become involved with the PTA?

PTA Chairperson: You can fill out a volunteer sheet that you receive during fall open house or just let the PTA officers/office personnel know at school. If you attend the monthly meetings you can help make the decisions as to what we fund or not fund along with what activities are offered to the students and family.

Parent: What was the PTA's connection to "Family Reading Night"?

PTA Chairperson: The PTA joined forces with Laurie Keller to offer more activities to the students promoting reading. This is a REALLY FUN event! Dr. Seuss' Café is a big hit annually!

Parent: Do the other teachers receive benefits from the PTA as well?

PTA Chairperson: YES! The music department receives some funding for the 5th grade trip to Orchestra Hall annually, the art department has had local artists come in for a special event, and the P.E. department has received over \$2,000 worth of skis along with the additional funding we take in from the box tops, Nestle Water bottle labels, Campbell

labels. The librarians receive first choice on the books they want from the Scholastic Book Fair every time we host that.

Parent: I had no idea that the PTA did so much for my child in and out of school. I might be more willing to support your fundraising efforts now that I know what you all offer my child. Hey – is there any way I can start helping out right now?

PTA Chairperson: Yes! We have many open positions for next school year and there are a lot of opportunities to assist with the spring book fair, picnic, and other activities. Can I count on you to volunteer in the future?

Parent: Yes you can! I like to be active in my child's education. I have heard that it helps him achieve much more in school. I loved the making of gingerbread houses in Kindergarten with my child and am looking forward to his 5th grade wax museum experience. I seem to hear a lot of hype about the 6th grade skiing trip and "Bizz Town" field trip.

PTA Chairperson: Do you remember seeing the "Peaceful Playground" outside at school? That was also funded by the PTA and our wonderful P.E. teachers painted them over the summer so our kids can find positive playing experiences at recess without a lot of additional equipment. We also purchase equipment for all the staff to use such as laminator, book binder, overhead projectors, etc...

Parent: WOW! Thanks for sharing all that you do with me today.