



# Principal's Perspective

Dear Parents,

I am continually blessed by your children here at Lone Star Elementary.

Because of my unique position, I am able to see children make mistakes

and then grow into better people because of those mistakes. I get to be involved with the large and small successes that happen with

all of the different children here at Lone Star. I get to see the teachers praise kids for doing great things. I get to be impressed by a child who has come to the principal's office in trouble and still chooses to be honest and tell the truth even though it gets them in trouble.

This year we began a new program to support, grow and encourage honorable character at school. Our goal was to have a common language of character at school to use when building and encouraging character. Our teachers have been using our honorable character system with great success. Recently the company that we received the Honorable Character program came

up with a home system. We want to offer you the home edition of the system that we are using here at school. We are not using this as a fundraiser or to raise money.

We will offer the program at our cost to you. In the next few weeks we will have an order form come home of-

fering the program to you. It will have a small poster and enough tally sheets for every week in the year. The total package will cost \$10.00.

Thank you for all that you do to make you children a success here at school!

Steve Hurst

Principal

Lone Star Elementary

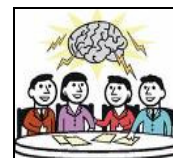
*Correction does much, but encouragement does more.*  
Johann Wolfgang van Goethe

## PTA Updates & Information

Avoid the Back to School Rush! I'm not sure if you've been in any office/school supply store in late July to early August, but it's a nightmare. Consider utilizing the gift of sanity provided by our PTA by purchasing your school supplies *in advance*. PTA will be sending flyers home in March for purchasing school supplies till May 22, 2009 for \$40. After that they will be \$45 till August 7th.



**Wanted:** 3 volunteers for next year's PTA executive board. Please send inquiries to Nathan Metts, PTA President at metts@sbcglobal.net.



Teacher Appreciation is coming up and we will need 4 volunteers to form a committee to help organize and prepare.



## Kindergarten News

Kindergarten classes will begin an in-depth study of ladybugs and Spring in March.



Full day Kindergarten will be participating in a musical performance on March 31 called Nuts! They will perform at 2:00 and 7:00 along with 1st grade!



The **Book Bag** program is in full swing! Kindergarteners will bring home books from their classroom to read on Mondays. With daily practice, you'll be so amazed at how quickly their reading improves daily!



Kindergarteners will take a field trip to the **River Legacy Science Center** on March 11 and 12.



## 2nd Grade News

Second grade learned all about how money is made when they visited the Fort Worth Bureau of Engraving and Printing in January. By the time we left, we were



all "green with envy" :o).

Second grade students presented a wonderful performance of "Welcome to the Jungle" for parents and students on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. The children are great signers! Thank you to Mrs. Rollings, the co-curr teach-

ers, and the parents that helped decorate the stage and dress our children for the performance.

Second grade will go on a field trip to hear the symphony on March 24, 2009.

## 3rd Grade News

Third grade has the Reading TAKS test on Tuesday, March 3rd and the Math TAKS test on Tuesday, April 28th.

We also have a **Research Project** that the kids are working on in class during Reading and Language Arts. They are each pick-

ing a person to research, writing a report, and drawing a portrait, which will be displayed at Open House on April 7th. We will be having our first "Living Statues" museum on the person each student is choosing to research coming up in March. More information to come.

We have an exciting Solar System unit as well and each student will be doing paper mache planets along with other fun activities.



# March 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>Reading TAKS (3rd)</i>	4	5	6	7
8	9 (4) <i>Sky Ranch</i>	10 (4) <i>Sky Ranch</i>	11 (4) <i>Sky Ranch</i> <i>(K) River Legacy Field Trip</i>	12 <i>Spring Pictures</i> <i>(K) River Legacy Field Trip</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Spring Break</i>	17 <i>Spring Break</i>	18 <i>Spring Break</i>	19 <i>Spring Break</i>	20 <i>Spring Break</i>	21
22	23	24 (2) <i>Symphony Field Trip</i> <i>PTA Mtg</i>	25	26 <i>McDonald's Night</i>	27	28

# April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31 (F-K & 1) <i>Spring Musical, NUTS!</i>	1 <i>Early Release</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7 <i>Open House</i>	8 <i>Panda Party Fundraiser</i>	9	10 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	11
12	13 <i>Bad Weather</i> <i>Make up day (to replace Jan 28)</i>	14	15	16 <i>Brown Bag Lunch w/ district superintendent @ Basswood</i>	17	18
19	20	21 <i>PTA Mtg</i>	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Math TAKS (3rd)</i>	29	30 <i>Box Tops DUE</i>		

## Thank you, Sharon!



The PTA & Lone Star Elementary family would like to make a moment to thank

Sharon Angelo for all her hard work in planning the Daddy-Daughter and Mommy-Son date nights.

She did a fantastic job & we truly appreciate her so much!

— Holly Sherriff, VP over Pro-

# From the National PTA Press: "Fathers make PTA a 'parent thing' at grassroots level

By MELISSA EISELEIN and MELANIE C. JOHNSON  
The Press-Enterprise

The face of the Parent Teacher Association is changing.

When it was founded more than a century ago, all the members were women.

Now, it is not unusual for fathers to join in an effort to better their children's education and serve as male role models. In the Riverside County PTA district, which covers 260 schools, there are 14 male presidents, said 23rd District President Mimi Badura, of Hemet.

Joe Hayden, of Corona, got involved in the PTA when he became a volunteer in his daughter's first-grade classroom at Vicentia Elementary School. He also helped start the school's 100-Mile Club, a running program in which children earn prizes for walking or running laps.

He enjoyed the recognition he received from the kids on the school campus and elsewhere. But it was the adoring way his daughter looked at him when he showed up on campus that prompted his continued involvement, Hayden said.

"I feel I'm contributing to my daughter's education," he said. "It doesn't have to be a mom's thing anymore. It should be a parent thing."

He has also been the Vicentia PTA president, and is currently the auditor for the Corona-Norco PTA Council and insurance commissioner for the 23rd District.

Men's involvement is growing at the national level, too.

In July Charles J. Saylor, of South Carolina, will become the first male National PTA board president since the organization's inception in 1897. He is now serving a two-year term as president-elect.

## Not just bake sales

The national association was founded in Washington, D.C., by two mothers, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. It was originally called the National Congress of Mothers. The group served as an advocate for children on issues including child labor laws, hot lunch programs, mandatory immunizations

and the creation of kindergarten classes.

The mission has not changed, despite some misconceptions about the organization.



Keith Velotta, Menifee PTA Council's executive vice president of leadership and training, draws on his expertise as a Garden Grove fire captain to make Menifee Union schools safer. He revamped the emergency evacuation plan for Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary School.

"For many years, the PTA was thought of as an organization comprised of mothers holding bake sales in support of their children's school," Badura said. "In reality, PTA is the largest child-advocacy organization in the United States, with over 100 years of history working on behalf of children, families and public education at local, regional, state and national levels."

The president of the 5th District PTA, in San Bernardino County, echoed the sentiment that the group is not "bake sale moms."

"We go out there and advocate for children," said Tina O'Brien-Coats. "Quite a few men see the benefit of that."

The 44,000-member 5th District association has two male PTA presidents at the council or school district level, and 16 male presidents at school sites.

# Continued: Getting Dads Involved

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## Getting dads involved

The national association has partnered with a coalition of other organizations nationwide to create PTA MORE, according to the national PTA Web site. PTA MORE is an initiative to increase the involvement of fathers and other male mentors in children's lives.

Craig Matthews, president of the 4,000-member Upland Council of PTAs, participates so he can stay involved in his children's lives, he said.

"Kids need their dads," he said. "It's really important to maintain that relationship with the kids."

In years past, PTA dads were relegated to flipping burgers on the grill. But the association can be even stronger now that men are getting involved as long as schools allow the men to utilize their talents, Badura said.

"They are accountants, salesmen, career businessmen with backgrounds in conflict management," she said.

## A valuable role

Keith Velotta, of Menifee, is proof that PTA dads can do more than barbecue. He is using his expertise as a Garden Grove fire captain to make Menifee schools safer.

Velotta revamped the emergency evacuation plan for Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary School, where he served as PTA president three years ago. The former plan was designed by a teacher, not someone experienced in emergency evacuations, Velotta said.



Luis Vaquera is a member of the Parent Teacher Association at Mango Elementary School in Fontana. A growing number of fathers has gotten involved in the PTA.

Now, in his capacity as Menifee PTA Council's executive vice president of leadership and training, Velotta is tweaking the Callie Kirkpatrick plan for each of the district's school sites. When done, there will be a consistent emergency action plan throughout Menifee Union School District.

Meanwhile, teachers can focus on what they do best: teach.

"Asking a teacher to write an emergency plan is like asking me to write a lesson plan in algebra," Velotta said.

Dads don't need to have specialized skills to join the PTA, though. Being a dad is qualification enough.

"The need for dads is in the role of a father figure," said Edward Velasquez, PTA president at Poplar Elementary School in Fontana.

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