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Area 12 Newsletter

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Message from President Cheryl Edwards:

"Laissez Les Bon Temps Raulez" - Happy Mardi Gras and Happy Valentines

Hello to everyone, it's not too late to prepare for State Convention. We need your voice we need your votes. So if you haven't already prepared to attend get things in gear and meet us there. There are some great workshops to be taken and a lot of good times and socializing to be done. Come out and meet new faces from our Area 12 family and all the other areas across Texas.

Hope to see you there. Everyone that attends and finds me will get their name in a drawing for a very special basket at the end of convention on Sunday. So come on over. February 22-24, 2008 in The Woodlands. Also it's time for nominating committees for locals and councils to be in place. You should have already sent your EIN Verification into the State Office. Whoops,!!!! if you haven't please do so as soon as yesterday. Spring Membership drives should be going on now, let's get our numbers up, remember they are due to state by March 15th. April 19th is Area 12 Spring Conference and will be held in Port Arthur and hosted by the Port Arthur Council. Our Northern locals I know you are a good ways away but try and come down to be with us, we are all one big happy family which includes you. It would be good for you to come and see how this goes because it is coming your way in the Fall. Please share our website with others to see what's going on and to get the registration for Spring conference.

areatwelvepta.teach-nology.com. Founder's Day Celebrations should be in the planning stages. Get with Tammy and give her your dates so she can post them. I'd like to offer a challenge to every local in Area 12, if you increase your fall membership by 50 your membership chairman's name will go in a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card to Bath & Body Works or to Wal Mart (**your choice**). So let's get busy membership folk and get those numbers up.

Butterfly Kisses,

Cheryl

Calendar of Events

Reflections due to TX PTA: Feb. 1, 2008

Environmental contest entries due to Council by: March 1, 2008

Texas PTA Convention: Feb. 22-24, 2008 in the woodlands!

National PTA Founders Day- Feb. 17, 2008

Sales Tax Returns were due by Jan. 31, 2008

Reminders:

*Register for Convention in the Woodlands- This IS an Election Year for Texas PTA BOD. Attend, Learn and Vote.

*Organization is the key to a healthy PTA.

*Celebrate Founders Day

*Prepare for Teacher and Student Scholarship Entries for Texas PTA

*Sales Tax Returns are now past due.

*All Parent Education Program Request are due to Texas PTA by Feb. 15, 2008.

Dad's Outreach:

Area 12 PTA is in need of a Chairman for this position. If you are interested please contact Cheryl Edwards at 983-1355

REFLECTIONS!!!!

2007-2008 Theme: "I Can Make A Difference By... "

Reflection Entries will be moving on to Texas PTA on Feb. 1, 2008. Area 12 will be presenting awards for the Area level at our annual Spring Conference. Dates, times and other important information will be sent out at a later date. If your child won an award on the Area level you will be notified by mail.

Environmental Program

Theme for 2007-2008 is

"What Can I Do"

Please contact Desiree Edwards with questions about the Environmental Contest. You can download your information and entry forms at www.txpta.org.

Entries due:

Area by: March 1

Texas PTA by: April 1

STORY OF THE MONTH

Amazing Things Kids Do

by: Melissa Poe, Founder Of Kids F.A.C.E.

Kids For A Clean Environment, Kids F.A.C.E.®, is the world's largest youth environmental organization - much more than the first six members who gathered at Percy Priest Elementary in Nashville, Tennessee in 1989.

At 9 years old, I started the club for kids after seeing a program on TV, *Highway to Heaven*, that made me think, "What will the future world be like if we don't help take care of the environment today?" I didn't want to grow up in a world with a polluted environment. At the end of the program, however, [Michael Landon](#), the actor, said something very important. He said, "It's not too late. People who *care* will Do something!" I wanted to be one of those who "Cared", and so I started the club, Kids F.A.C.E. as a club for kids who wanted to be involved.

Starting the club turned out to be a way to help people get involved with the environment. Club members started doing things like recycling, picking up litter and planting trees as well as inviting other kids to join their club.. Soon, letters, written by kids, started arriving. They asked, "How can I help ...what can I do...how can I join your club and get started?" The more people heard about the club, the more people wanted to join and do things for the environment. In 1990, the club was incorporated as a non-profit organization.

As the club grew, so did the demands of a growing organization. There were bills to pay; mail to send; and hopefully, a way to communicate, as in a newsletter, with all the club members. The organization was established "by kids and for kids" but to continue, some very special adults would have to come forward and help. A major corporate

sponsor was found in the Wal-Mart Corporation when I wrote to Sam Walton asking for help. He and Wal-Mart adopted Kids F.A.C.E. making it possible for any child who wants to get involved with their community and help protect nature to join the club free of charge.

Now, Kids F.A.C.E. membership is over 300,000 members strong all across the United States and in twenty-two foreign countries. - Melissa Poe

by: Council President, Bessie Wise-Coleman

Congratulations to all the BMAC Reflections participants

The following school participated

Odom Academy
Marshall Middle School
Regina Howell Elementary
Westbrook High School
Dishman Elementary
Sallie Curtis Elementary

Thanks for participating BMAC!

**Founders' Day For BMAC
is February 12, 2008
11-1 p.m. in the
Administration
Building**

History Books:

Please see the attached form for all details and due dates.

Area 12 PTA Spring Conference

Area 12 PTA is holding it's annual spring conference on April 19, 2008 at Dowling Elem. School in Port Arthur. Port Arthur City Council in conjunction with Area 12 PTA is helping to host this auspicious occasion. There will be workshops, learning, vendors, guest speakers, awards and much, much more. We invite you and your PTA members, families and friends to come out and spend a spectacular day with us. Learning is an important part of PTA. You never stop learning and we are here to help you.

Please fill out an enclosed registration form for each person in your PTA that will be attending. (Make copies if necessary). Send this as well as your registration fee to Cheryl Edwards at 647 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, TX 77640

Forms and Fees are due by:

April 1, 2008

Registration will be available at the door however we will be unable to promise you a lunch.

PTA Take your family to school week: Feb. 10-16, 2008

Area 12 PTA 2008-2009 Slate Of Officers:

Nominations are:

President -Cheryl Edwards

Vice President-Holly Bullard-Loitz

Secretary-Rhonda Flanagan

If you would like to run from the floor at Spring Conference for any of the above positions please mail your intent to run letter to Cheryl Edwards, 647 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, TX 77640 by April 1, 2008. Any Intent to runs received after April 1st will not be accepted.

2008 PTA National Legislative Conference

2008 PTA National Legislative Conference
Washington DC

February 26-28, 2007

Get ready! PTA will host the 2008 National Legislative Conference on Wednesday, February 27–Thursday, February 28 in Washington DC. Additionally, a special training session for federal legislative chairs will be held prior to the Conference on Tuesday, February 26

Membership

Membership recruitment is a year-round endeavor. You need to continually reach out to new families, teachers, parents who have not yet joined, and other potential members in the school and community. Share with potential members the value of being part of the one and only Parent Teacher Association—the nation's original and premier parent involvement group in schools and a driving force in national education policies and programs.

**AREA 12 PTA
SPRING CONFERENCE**

Saturday, April 19, 2008

at

Dick Dowling Elementary School, 6301 Pat Ave, Port Arthur, TX
8 am till 2 pm

Please mail this registration form along with payment to:
Cheryl Edwards, 647 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, TX 77640

Pre-Registration - \$13.00, lunch included. **Late Registration - \$15.00** ; \$6.00

NOTE

Whether you choose to eat lunch or not the same registration fee applies.
Port Arthur Council will provide a continental breakfast, free of charge.

Please Make a Copy of This Form for Each Person Attending

Name _____ PTA Position _____
Address _____ PTA _____
Council _____ County _____

Please Check ONE Workshop Per Session

10:30-11:15 Workshop I

_____ President's Workshop

_____ Autism

_____ Website & Newsletters

11:30-12:15 Workshop II

_____ Treasurer's Workshop

_____ Parliamentarian Workshop

_____ Parent to School

12:15-2:00 - Lunch, Entertainment, Elections, Installations & Awards

Will you be eating with us? ___Yes ___No

Lunch Menu - Chicken Spaghetti, Vegetable, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Tea

1:30-2:00 - Environmental (EPA) & Reflection Awards

2:15-4:15 - Leadership Orientation Course

There is a \$6.00 charge for this course

Will you be taking the Leadership Course ___Yes ___No

REMINDER

Will you be voting? ___Yes ___No

(in order to vote you must have your membership card)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ check or money order # _____

(Please keep a copy of this form for your records)**

Please mail this registration form along with payment to:
Cheryl Edwards, 647 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, TX 77640

AREA 12 PTA 2007-2008 HISTORY BOOK RULES

THE HISTORY BOOK IS THE PERMANENT RECORD OF YOUR PTA ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS. IF THE HISTORY BOOK HAS BEEN NEGLECTED IN THE PAST, THE HISTORIAN SHOULD BRING IT UP TO DATE BY APRIL 1, 2008. INTERVIEWING PREVIOUS PTA WORKERS AND REVIEWING PAST MINUTES BOOKS OF FORMER PTA SECRETARIES.

THE HISTORY BOOK SHOULD BE OF DURABLE MATERIAL. APPROXIMATELY 12 X 16 INCHES IN SIZE AND IN A BINDER OF SOME KIND. OFFICIAL PTA HISTORY (PUBLICITY) BOOK BINDERS AND FILLER SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE PTA OFFICE. (CURRENT PRICE LISTS & ORDERING INFORMATION ARE IN THE PRESIDENTS HANDBOOK.) WHEN ON DISPLAY, HISTORY BOOKS ARE MORE EASILY IDENTIFIED IF YOUR PTA NAME IS ON THE FRONT COVER. THE HISTORY BOOK SHOULD CONTAIN THE REQUIRED INFORMATION, PLAINLY VISIBLE AND PLACED IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER.

FOR JUDGING USE ONLY

1. This rule sheet attached to the inside front cover. (5 its) _____
 2. Name of Unit, District, City & State, and year unit organized on first page (1 pt each = 5 its total)
 3. Names of officers and chairmen (10 its) _____
 4. List of all Life Members ever awarded by your unit (List year if possible) (10 its)
 5. Annual budget (10 its) _____
 6. List of current year activities and projects (15 its) _____
 7. President's summary of the year in report form, not list (10 its) _____
 8. Copy of bylaws, highlighting any amendments (5 its) _____
 9. Photographs, publicity, communications, and articles on your PTA and its activities and programs (10pts) _____
 10. Neatness (10 its) _____
 11. Creativity (5 Its) _____
 12. In order according to this list (5 its) _____
- T O T A L _ _ _____

Place additional materials you would like to include that concern your PTA unit and its activities after required information. **You may have a table of contents, and past school history in there just like before.**

JUDGED BY: _____

RATINGS: 95 -100 = SUPERIOR GOLD SEAL WITH BLUE RIBBON

85 - 94 = EXCELLENT GOLD SEAL

75 - 84 = GOOD BLUE RIBBON

Deadline for History Books is April 1st.

History Books should be delivered to

**Theressal Prevost, 3439 E. 14th St., Port Arthur, Texas 77642 ,
409 982-1053**

