



PTA Matters!

Volume 24, Issue 3

Illinois PTA District 28
January/February 2009

<http://www.illinoisptadistrict28.org>

From the District Director

A new year has opened with days waiting to be filled. With our busy family lives, many of those days are already earmarked with activities. I even saw signs out already for baseball team registrations! January is a good time to review what your PTA has accomplished this year and what needs to be taken care of in the next few months.

For instance, plans should be well under way for your Founder's Day celebrations. Founder's Day is a commemoration of the birthday of PTA in February 1897, and often celebrates the anniversary of the founding of each of your local PTAs – especially during a milestone anniversary year. This meeting often recognizes volunteers or community members with some of the special PTA awards such as the Distinguished Service Scroll, Educator of the Year, Book of Recognition or even a Life Membership. Donations made to the Illinois PTA for these awards support the Illinois PTA Lillian E. Glover Scholarships that are presented to high school seniors around the state. More information about the award program may be found in the Illinois PTA yearbook or on the Illinois PTA Website. www.illinoispta.org

Plans should also be made to elect the members of your **nominating committee**. The purpose of the nominating committee is to select a slate of candidates to be elected by the general membership. According to the Illinois PTA Local Unit Bylaws, the members of this committee must be elected and should include representatives from your executive board as well as the general membership. Please refer to your bylaws for the specific numbers and make-up of the committee. The members should be folks with knowledge of PTA and officer responsibilities. An added benefit would be people who are familiar with a wide variety of parents and teachers in your school. Remember that the candidates selected/recruited by the nominating committee must be announced at least 30 days prior to the actual election of officers, BUT the committee may need more time than that to recruit the best possible candidates for your PTA.

Make plans to attend our Illinois PTA District 28 *Celebrating Kids in the ARTS and SCIENCES* event on Monday, February 23, at Roy School in Northlake. That evening, we will honor those children whose Reflections entries are advancing to state judging. But, THAT'S NOT ALL. Parents and children will also be invited to try out some simple Science-related activities, too. So, whether your school participated in Reflections or not, come on out and enjoy the fun. Refreshments will be served. Registration information is included in this mailing.

Finally, plan to celebrate the accomplishments of your PTA by applying for both state and district awards. The state awards may be found on the Illinois PTA Website. The district awards are included in this mailing. Our awards are as follows: Gold Ribbon Award (to the Outstanding Local Unit), Legislation Award (for outstanding advocacy work), and Newsletter Award (for outstanding newsletter). The Membership Award (for 25% increase in membership and highest increase) does not require an application form to be completed, but will automatically be determined by our district assistant for membership, Kathy Meitzler. Presentation of awards will take place at our Annual Awards Dinner, tentatively scheduled for April 25th.

If you ever have questions about something your PTA is doing, don't hesitate to call me. As District Director, I am here to help and advise.

Barbara Miralgio
(847) 455-6150
bmiralgio@sbcglobal.net

Membership in PTA is Important!

Current Bylaws

If the date of your most current bylaws is 2005 or earlier, then your bylaws are not up-to-date. If they are dated '06, please update by December 31st. Contact the District Director for a copy of the most current, standard local unit bylaws.

Adams.....	90
Ames.....	08
Berwyn Council.....	99
Blythe.....	08
Central.....	07
Edison.....	07
Emerson, Berwyn.....	04
Emerson, Maywood.....	06
Forest Hills.....	08
Franklin Park.....	04
Freedom Middle.....	05
Garfield, Forest Park.....	08
Garfield, Maywood.....	91
Hauser.....	07
Havlicek.....	07
Heritage Middle.....	06
Hiawatha.....	07
Hollywood.....	07
Home.....	06
Irving, Berwyn.....	08
Irving, Maywood.....	06
Jefferson, Berwyn.....	06
Komarek.....	05
Komensky.....	97
Leigh.....	01
Lincoln Middle.....	06
Lincoln, Brookfield.....	06
Lincoln, Cicero.....	95
Lincoln, Maywood.....	no bylaws
Mannheim Council.....	06
Mannheim Middle.....	07
McKinley, Bellwood.....	08
Melrose Park.....	no bylaws
John Mills.....	08
Northlake Middle.....	03
Pershing.....	08
Piper.....	05
Pleasantdale.....	07
Prairie Oak.....	06
Proviso East.....	05
Proviso Math & Science.....	05
Rhodes.....	06
Riley.....	06
River Grove.....	08
Roosevelt.....	08
Roy.....	08
Scott.....	08
Stevenson.....	01
Sunnyside/McArthur.....	08
Union Ridge.....	03
Washington, Lyons.....	07
Washington, Maywood.....	no bylaws
Westdale.....	05
Whittier.....	06

The Treasurer's Corner PTA and Fundraising

Fundraising should only be done to raise the necessary money needed to meet the budget which has been adopted by your local PTA's general membership. After the development of a budget, the difference between anticipated income and expenditures is properly met with a fundraiser. There should be no fundraising without a designated purpose for the funds. Be certain that your membership knows why the funds are being raised and how much is needed. Parents are more likely to support the fundraiser if they understand WHY it's needed. It is important that only the necessary funds be raised and NO MORE. Additional scheduled fundraisers should be canceled, if possible, when budget needs have been met.

Fundraising is NOT the primary purpose of the PTA and should be done ONLY for PTA purposes, NOT to fulfill school board responsibilities (e.g. playground equipment, stage curtains, essential classroom books, etc.). PTA funds should be used ONLY for PTA work.

Children should NEVER be used in fundraising projects in any manner that would cause them to solicit funds or sell items, including candy and food items. — door-to-door or to persons unknown to them. Suggest parents take order forms to work, if possible, and call on neighbors and family members themselves.

Some suggested ways to spend PTA money:

1. General PTA needs or operating expenses;
2. Leadership Training (state or district PTA workshops, courses, meetings, etc.);
3. State Convention;
4. Family-centered activities such as game, movie and reading nights;
5. Sponsoring the National PTA Reflections Program in your school;
6. Sponsoring Parent Education and Parent Involvement programs;
7. Providing support for special programs or presentations in reading, math, creative writing, the arts, etc.;
8. Special field trips or outdoor education projects for children.

Debbi Scollard, District 28 Treasurer
(708) 484-1472

"If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever."

—UN Secretary General Kofi Annan

WAY TO GO 28!!

We have reached over half of the goal of 10,000 members.

You know why District 28 is at the top of the convention awards? It is because of you; you make 28 great. District 28 looks good because our local units are good. Let's see if we can reach that goal of 10,000.

If each local unit sends in 89 members until the end of the year, which is only 22 new members a month (January-April), we can make it. Don't forget community members, park district boards, school boards, library boards, and other organizations that are advocates for children. There are grandmas and grandpas, who may be willing to join. They do not even have to live in the State to become a member of your child's PTA. **Let's work together for our goal.**

I realize that some PTAs may not be able to reach that goal of 89 members until the end of the year, but I know there are others out there that can get more. Let's make the attempt to do it.

LET'S GO 28!!

Kathy Meitzler, Membership Assistant



Your help is needed!

Calling all local PTA members for help!

Since the economy is in such a bad place, donations for our Silent Auction have been difficult to obtain. So, I'm asking for your help in this endeavor. If every PTA is able to get two or more donations from your area, we would have a great Silent Auction at the Awards Dinner in April.

Here are some suggestions for gift certificates/donations: restaurants, spas, local area retail stores etc.

Or...if you are a crafty person, how about something that shows your creativity such as a wreath, flower arrangement, or a basket filled with goodies.

Thanks for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please free to contact me at Jennifer@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org.

Jennifer Rohrbacher, Resource Assistant



WOW! Reflections

Wow! The local part of the Reflections program has come to an end and now it's time for me to get to work! We had 11 schools participate from throughout District 28, including children from kindergarten through eighth grade. Overall, over 300 students participated in this wonderful arts program and are anxiously awaiting this year's district results.

Once judging is completed in early January, I will notify each district winner and send a complete list of winners to each school's local chairman.

District winning entries will be on display at this year's Illinois PTA Convention during the weekend of March 13-15, 2009 in Naperville at the Holiday Inn Select. The exhibit is open to the public, so I hope that all local chairmen will take advantage of the close proximity to drive out I 88 and have a look at all the wonderful artwork our students do in Illinois. Congratulations once again to all those who participated. Each of you is a winner in my eyes!

Please note that all winning pieces of art from last year's program will not be returned until after the close of this year's convention.

Reflection entries that advanced to the State PTA level are listed on the following page.



Illinois PTA Scholarship

Many Thanks to all of you who submitted an Illinois PTA scholarship application. Winners of the Illinois PTA Scholarship from each PTA District will be honored during the 107th Illinois State PTA Convention. The Student Award Celebration will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 15th, at 2:30 pm at the Holiday Select Inn Naperville. See you at convention! District 28 winners also will be honored at Illinois PTA District 28's Annual Dinner in April.

Pat Denofrio,
Scholarship & Publications

IRS 990 Tax Returns

New IRS laws enacted earlier this year make it mandatory for **ALL** not-for-profits to file a tax return. All PTAs should have filed their tax return no later than November 15th based on a July 1st- to June 30th fiscal year.

Didn't do yours? Please do so immediately. If you need help, call Debbi Scollard (708) 484-1472, Barb Miralgio (708) 445-6150, or the State PTA office at (800) 877-9617.

Debbie Scollard, Treasurer

Advanced Reflections Entries

Judging at the District level has been completed and I am pleased to announce the following children have entries that are advancing to the State level:

Literature:

Emily Jimenez PTA, Melrose Park	Grade 7	Mannheim Middle
Stuart Marciniak Riverside	Grade 6	Hauser PTA
Ashley Soller River Grove	Grade 4	Rhodes PTA
Walter Holguin PTA, Melrose Park	Grade 7	Mannheim Middle
Nicole Johnson Melrose Park	Grade 4	Scott PTA
Christian Rubio Northlake	Grade 5	Roy PTA
Aspen Gitter Riverside	Grade 1	Blythe Park PTA
Klaudia Sarat Northlake	Grade 2	Roy PTA

Photography

Molly Biagi River Grove	Grade 6	Rhodes PTA
Lucas Schmidt Melrose Park	Grade 5	Scott PTA
Selena Saucedo River Grove	Grade 8	Rhodes PTA
Zuzanna Kania River Grove	Grade 6	Rhodes PTA
Nathan Dimaano Riverside	Grade 8	Hauser PTA
Sean Muldowney Riverside	Grade 3	Ames PTA
Ryan Cicenas Riverside	Grade 3	Ames PTA
Rebecca Hammond Berwyn	Grade 6	Heritage PTSA

Visual Arts

Kayla Tross Berwyn	Grade 5	Hiawatha PTA
Nancy Garcia Berwyn	Grade 4	Hiawatha PTA
Matt Zuska PTA, Melrose Park	Grade 7	Mannheim Middle
Jimmy Vazquez PTA, Melrose Park	Grade 7	Mannheim Middle
Maria Magallon River Grove	Grade 7	Rhodes PTA
Lucia Faust Riverside	Grade 1	Ames PTA
Ana Cubas Riverside	Grade 2	Ames PTA

Maya Bulka River Grove	Grade 6	Rhodes PTA
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Film/Video

Eric Monette River Grove	Grade 7	Rhodes PTA
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Music

David Duwal River Grove	Grade 2	Rhodes PTA
Maddie Obrzut River Grove	Grade 6	Rhodes PTA

Dance/Choreography

Shannon Bell Berwyn	Grade 8	Heritage PTSA
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These entries will become a part of the Illinois PTA Reflections Exhibit, which will debut at the convention in Naperville from March 13-15, 2009. They will then travel throughout the state for one year. Dates and locations for this exhibit will be posted at the Illinois PTA website www.illinoispta.org as they become available.

This year, we had 11 schools participate for a total of 333 entries throughout District 28 —333 children who might not otherwise have had a chance to showcase their talents. Congratulations to all of the schools that participated in this year's program. Wow!

Celebrating Kids in the Arts and Sciences

Help us celebrate the artistic talents of our children AND participate in activities to increase their interest in Science. That's right, this event has a two-fold purpose. First, we will honor the student Reflections entries that are being forwarded to the Illinois PTA for state judging. Then, we have planned activities for parents and children to enjoy and learn about science. Please invite ALL parents and children in your school - not just your Reflections winners. Bring your own children out for this PTA event. This celebration will take place at Roy School in Northlake on Monday, February 25.

Do You Want to Learn More About PTA?

Then call or e-mail your District Director, Barb Miralgio, to schedule a "PTA: Road to Success" course. This course includes information about your non-profit status, PTA policies and procedures, officer responsibilities, how to make a motion during a meeting (and change that motion), as well as bylaw issues. This course may be presented days, evenings or weekends at

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your convenience. Invite all of your PTA members as well as school administration to participate, but especially, those individuals who are prospective officers and/or committee chairman.

Many Vaccines Still Contain Mercury

On January 1, 2006 the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act, 410 ILCD51/5 became law by banning mercury-containing vaccines that contain more than 1.25 micrograms of mercury per dose.

Thimerosal is actually 46.6% ethyl mercury and is used in vaccines to prevent bacterial contamination. This additive is controversial because some parents believe that vaccines with thimerosal were administered around the time autism became apparent in their children. The Center for Disease Control states that 1 in 150 children have autism.

Many researchers and parents link mercury in vaccines to autoimmune problems, neurological disorders and increased children's autism. The exposure from a single vaccination could potentially exceed federal guidelines for that day. With routine immunizations, a cumulative dose of 187.5 micrograms of mercury could be reached by six months of age. The body eliminates a mercury dose completely within 120 days.

In July 1999, the Public Health Service and the American Academy of Pediatrics issued a joint statement, which was later endorsed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, proclaiming: that, vaccine manufacturers agree that thimerosal-containing vaccines should be removed as soon as possible. Illinois' General Assembly passed the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act and it became law on January 1, 2006. It set forth that any mercury-containing vaccines that contain more than 1.25 micrograms of mercury per dose are to be banned. Congress has been reintroducing a similar law, H.R. 881, routinely since 2005.

One clause in the Illinois law states that the Department of Public Health may exempt the use of a vaccine from this Act if the Department finds that there is a shortage of the supply of a vaccine at a reasonable cost that would prevent a person from receiving the needed vaccine.

Therefore, the Illinois Department of Public Health has exempted vaccines from the Mercury-Free Vaccine Act. Originally, four vaccines were exempt. As of this past July 1, 2008, the list has more than doubled. This new list is applicable for 12 months.

The list includes: Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids Absorbed; Tetanus toxoid, Diphtheria-Tetanus, Meningococcal Polysaccharide, DTaP/Hep B/IPV (Pediarix), Hepatitis A/Hepatitis B (Twinrix), Hepatitis B (Engerix), DTaP (Tripedia), Japanese Encephalitis, Influenza Vaccine 2008-2009 multi-dose formulation

Parents need to ask their doctors for the vaccine's package insert to determine if thimerosal is still in the required or recommended vaccine. Illinois provides vaccination exemptions based on personal religious beliefs for grammar, high school and college students.

Resources: Illinois Department of Public Health, www.govtrack.us, Center for Disease Control, The American Academy of Family Physicians, Illinois Vaccine Awareness Coalition

Audrey McAdams

Legislation and Juvenile Protection and Safety

It's not too late!

2009 is here and the end of the school is right around the corner. It's time to ask yourselves has your PTA sponsored any Health or Environmental related programs? If the answer is no, It's not too late. There is still plenty of time to host a health fair or participate in a go green project.

With the beginning of the New Year many people have "getting healthy" on their minds. Perhaps you could invite a speaker to attend your meetings or have an exercise night. Your PTA may want to sponsor a healthy lunch day or provide healthy snacks for test days.

If your PTA would like to participate in a "go green" project, spring is the perfect time to get involved in an outdoor project. If you need ideas, check out www.go-green.com. It's a great website with many simple ideas on how children and schools can work together to improve our environment. If your PTA has sponsored a health event or participated in a go green project then don't forget to submit your award to the state. It would be great to see some winners from District 28!

If you have any questions or just need a little help on where to start, feel free to contact me and I would be glad to assist you or your PTA. The important thing is top just do something that makes kids, parents and teachers know that health and keeping our environment clean are important to PTA!

Terry Christenson, Health Assistant
Terryc1962@sbcglobal.net

So, You've Been Elected Secretary!

Here are some basic tips that just might help you through a meeting:

1. **Prepare Draft Minutes:** The minutes should generally include only what was done (actions taken), not what was said.
2. **Body of Minutes:** It should have a separate paragraph for each subject matter and never include the secretary's opinion of anything that was said.

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3. **Main Motions:** All main motions, which are moved during the course of a meeting, should be recorded in the minutes, whether adopted or defeated. The name of the mover should be included. It is not necessary to record the name of the person who seconded the motion.
4. **Voting:** Record that a motion was “adopted” or “defeated,” and if a count or ballot was ordered, record the number of votes for and against.
5. **The Last Paragraph:** The last paragraph should give the time of adjournment, but need not list the mover or fact of adoption of a motion to adjourn. It should read simply i.e. “The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.”
6. **Secretary's Signature:** There is no need to include “Respectfully Submitted.”
7. **Correction and Approval of Minutes:** It's important to recognize that the minutes you draft are only proposed minutes, which do not become the official record of proceedings until approved, perhaps with corrections by the organization. The minutes of the meeting at which the corrections are made should merely indicated that the minutes were approved “as corrected” without specifying the corrections. The corrections should be recorded in the minute’s book.

Source: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised

Bill Vest Jr., Secretary (708) 452-2816

- *Personalized Customer Service*

For more about All Pro Dad's Day and to send away for your free Kit, please visit:
<http://www.allprodad.com/apdd/what.php>

**Illinois PTA 107th Annual Convention
 March 13-15, 2009
 Holiday Inn Select
 1801 Naper Blvd
 Naperville, IL 60563**

**Plan to attend and join in the experience.
 Convention expenses are an appropriate
 use of PTA funds.**

**Speakers, Workshops, Training
 Sharing Successes and Concerns
 Priority Issues
 Celebrating Children
 Election of Illinois PTA Officers**

**Join us for the District Caucus during
 Saturday's lunch.**

All Pro Dad

“Our partnership with All Pro Dad gives us a new way to encourage fathers to join the PTA, get involved with their local schools and take a more active role in their children's education.” — Jan Harp Domene, National President, and Chuck Saylor, National President Elect, PTA

“Coaching the Indianapolis Colts is a big job, but not nearly as big a job as being a dad. All Pro Dad gives men the equipment they need to do their most important job well.” — Tony Dungy, Head Coach, Indianapolis Colts and All Pro Dad spokesman

Head Coach Tony Dungy and the PTA invite your school to start an All Pro Dad's Day monthly breakfast for dads and kids in your school cafeteria or local restaurant. At this gathering fathers and children discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, have fun and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationship. All the materials provided for your All Pro Dad's Day are FREE OF CHARGE and includes:

- *A DVD Speaker Library*
- *Father/Child Discussion Cards*
- *T-shirts*
- *Stickers*
- *Brochures and Flyers*
- *Your Own Webpage and a*



Successful Unit Check List

- ✓ Bylaws have been reviewed within the last two years and are being followed.
- ✓ The general membership adopted an audit report for the previous year's financial records.
- ✓ The general membership adopted the proposed budget.
- ✓ All amendments to the budget are presented to the general membership for adoption.
- ✓ All members are given notice of meetings in a timely manner.
- ✓ Elections are held according to the bylaws.
- ✓ Board members attend Leadership Training
- ✓ Utilizes and shares the resources supplied by the Illinois PTA
- ✓ Communicates with the general membership through a newsletter or website.
- ✓ Thanks volunteers. Thanks volunteers. Thanks volunteers.
- ✓ Develops a rapport with the administration and teacher representatives.
- ✓ Smiles, and make everyone feel welcome.
- ✓ Puts aside personal conflicts, by attacking problems not people, actively listens to each other, considers the feelings of others, and uses forward-thinking.

Illinois PTA District 28

<http://www.illinoisptadistrict28.org>

Barbara Miralgio, District Director
10146 Nevada, Franklin Park, IL 60131
(847) 455-6150 Barb@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Council – Berwyn

Denise Carpenter
3546 East Avenue
Berwyn 60402
(708) 863-4856
denice@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Council – Mannheim

Joe Barzano
2701 Louis St.
Melrose Park, IL 60164
(847) 409-4532

Cultural Arts

Linda Bartkowicz
9605 Palmer
Melrose Park, IL 60164
(847) 455-2314
Linda@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

General Arrangements

Vacancy

Historian/Health

Terry Christenson
3118 76th Avenue
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
(708) 453-3640
Terry@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Legislation/Juvenile Protection and Safety

Audrey McAdams
4034 S. Scoville
Stickney, IL 60402
(708) 484-0534
Audrey@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Membership

Kathy Meitzler
1422 Manchester
Westchester, IL 60154
(708) 345-1310
Kathy@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Newsletter/Webmaster

Mary Ann Daugherty
2913 Louis
Franklin Park, IL 60131
(847) 455-0427
Mary_Ann@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Publications

Pat Denofrio
1347 S. Elmwood
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 516-8315
Pat@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Resource Assistant

Jennifer Rohrbacher
7801 S. Wolf Road
LaGrange, IL 60525
(708) 246-3437
Jennifer@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Secretary

Bill Vest
7868 West Cressett Drive
Elmwood Park, IL 60707
(708) 452-2816
bill @IllinoisPTADistrict 28.org

Scholarship

Pat Denofrio
1347 S. Elmwood
Berwyn, IL 60402
(708) 516-8315
Pat@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

Treasurer

Debbi Scollard
1514 S. Euclid
Berwyn, IL. 60402
(708) 484-1472
Debbi@IllinoisPTADistrict28.org

**Please contact the District
Director at (847) 455-6150 to
arrange for Leadership
Courses.**

Leadership

Mary Ann Daugherty
Kathy Meitzler
Debbi Scollard

— Illinois PTA/District Events/Workshops —

Celebrate Kids in the Arts
and Sciences

February 23, 2009

Roy PTA, Northlake

Illinois PTA Convention

March 13-15, 2009

Naperville IL

District 28 Awards Evening

April 24, 2009

Location TBA

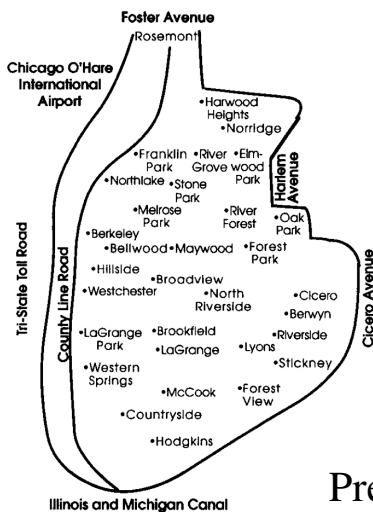
National PTA Convention

June 27 – 29, 2009

Ft. Lauderdale FL

- ☛ **Membership Challenge: Let's get 10,000 by February 28!**
- ☛ **Join us on February 23, 2009 at Roy School in Northlake for the program: Celebrate Kids in Arts and Science.**
- ☛ **Deadline for all Illinois PTA awards is February 28th (postmarked).**
- ☛ **Make your plans to attend the Illinois PTA Convention in Naperville, March 13 - 15!**
- ☛ **Review and update your bylaws! Send to the Director for review before you take them to your membership for approval.**
- ☛ **The District Director and Leadership Assistants are available to talk with you about PTA or present *PTA: Road to Success*. Call the Director to arrange a date!**

Barb Miralgio, District Director
 10146 Nevada
 Franklin Park IL 60131



Presidents: Please share this newsletter with your PTA Members.