

**Meadow Wood
Elementary PTA
2010 – 2011 Handbook**



**Transition Campus: 11339 Britoak
Houston, TX 77079
Phone: 713-251-6200
Fax: 281-560-7409**

www.meadowwoodpta.com

Welcome to the Meadow Wood PTA. Throughout the year the PTA supports the teachers and staff as well as provides enrichment programs to benefit students in all grades. We also provide a valuable link for information sharing between the parents and school. Below are some of the programs and services that are supported by your Meadow Wood PTA. Please take the time to read through this information as it will introduce you to the wonderful programs that make Meadow Wood Elementary a special place.

PTA Information Services

From the first day of school and throughout the year, PTA links the school and parents through:

- **Meet the Teacher Day:** Held prior to the first day of school, this event allows the students to meet their teachers in their new classrooms, revisit their old teachers and greet their friends in an informal setting. This is also a great time to get your MWE t-shirts and other school spirit items for the year.
- **Back to School Coffee:** On the first day of school, this event allows the parents to send their students off to class then greet *their* friends, meet new neighbors and sign up to volunteer for PTA supported programs.
- **Calendar:** Please check out our website calendar for an ongoing list of up-coming school and PTA events of interest. This is a handy, quick reference to keep track of up-coming events. You can click on an event to find more information about each activity.
- **The Eagle Express:** Each week, your student will bring home the school newsletter. This will include dates of up-coming events as well as a more in-depth report of what is happening at the school.
- **MWE PTA Website:** Located at www.meadowwoodpta.com, this website contains valuable information about activities and programs organized by the MWE PTA.
- **Directory:** Each family will receive free of charge one school directory listing the names and contact information of students. The directory also contains PTA contact information; teacher and staff contact information as well as the most recent class lists. Advertising from our community sponsors can also be found in its pages. Additional copies may be purchased from the PTA at any time for a small charge.

PTA Sponsored Activities

Throughout the school year, PTA sponsors educational and enriching activities for the students in all grade levels. Annual programs and events provided include:

- **Enrichment Programs:** MWE PTA supports our students and staff through performers and programs that visit the campus throughout the year. Programs are chosen to provide a variety of experiences including cultural arts, science, math and character building and in the past have included Main Street Theater, Houston Opera, Code of Honor, Science On-Stage, Earth Dome, Imathimation, storytellers, puppet shows and much more.
- **Family Fun Night:** Once a year MWE PTA provides an evening of fun, free activities for the Meadow Wood community.
- **Study Trips:** In addition to bringing cultural programs to Meadow Wood, MWE PTA sponsors study trips for each grade level. Some of these trips include the Planetarium, Main Street Theater, the Museum of Health and Medicine, Dewberry Farm and Taste of Texas.
- **Fifth Grade Graduation:** MWE PTA assists the principal and staff in making graduation a memorable time for all the fifth grade class.
- **Hands on Science:** This program offers 4th and 5th graders guided, hands-on experiments, designed to reinforce the classroom curriculum, with the help of volunteers in the science lab.
- **Library:** MWE PTA coordinates volunteers to assist the Librarian during student library times and with the two Book Fairs held each winter and spring.
- **Literacy Library:** MWE PTA supports additions to the Literacy Library. The Literacy Library books are used to teach guided reading at each grade level PK – 5 and for book club selections in grades 2 - 5.
- **Odyssey of the Mind:** MWE PTA sponsors teams to compete in this program which challenges students to devise a unique solution to a problem either in science or the arts. MWE has had several teams compete at the “World” level competition.
- **Red Ribbon Week/Random Acts of Kindness Week:** MWE PTA, in conjunction with the Counselor, challenges the students with these two national programs. Red Ribbon Week promotes anti-drug awareness. Random Acts of Kindness Week encourages the students to support one another.
- **Reflections:** This is a National PTA program that provides opportunities for students to express their thoughts and feelings through the creative arts. Every year a new theme is chosen and each student may submit one or more entries in any of the four arts categories: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography and Music.

- **School Supplies:** This program (not for profit or fundraising) benefits students and families by providing, at a reduced bulk rate, all of the school supplies necessary for the beginning of the year delivered to the student's classroom. Through this program, MWE PTA also supports the SBISD annual school supply drive which provides much needed resources to economically disadvantaged students.
- **Talent Show:** MWE PTA gives students and staff an opportunity to show off their talents. Everyone gets involved in this fun event usually scheduled in May.
- **Authors/Literature Programs:** MWE PTA partners with other area schools and Blue Willow Book Shop to provide visiting authors, guest readers, and illustrators of children's books to visit our school to encourage reading and promote a love for literature.
- **Walk to School Day:** Each year in the fall, MWE PTA sponsors this national event to encourage students to exercise daily and develop healthy eating habits.
- **Writers in the School:** This Houston based program provides the opportunity for 3rd graders to receive instruction in creative writing from published authors each week for the entire year. Each year MWE students are picked to represent our school from among thousands of participants across the city to read their pieces before an audience at the Menil Museum of Art.
- **Yearbook:** Every year a keepsake yearbook is available to our students to remember their time at Meadow Wood.

Other programs supported by MWE PTA provide funds and services directly for the benefit of teachers and staff. These include:

- **Room Parents:** These volunteers assist classroom teachers with anything that they may need such as organizing parent tutors, going on study trips or running the two PTA sponsored classroom parties for Winter Break and Valentine's Day.
- **Staff Appreciation:** We can never thank our teachers enough at MWE but we try with luncheons at the beginning and end of school as well as periodic treats in between.
- **Teacher Allotments:** Each year, PTA reimburses our teachers for out of pocket expenses that they may incur for supplies and classroom enhancements.
- **Teacher Workshops:** In order to ensure that MWE teachers use best instructional and classroom management practice, the teachers continuously participate in trainings and staff development. This could include attending conferences and seminars or participating in sessions in our district with visiting consultants. The PTA supports these experiences for our teachers.

Community Services

In addition to providing educational and enriching programs in our classrooms, the MWE PTA provides outreach services to our school community.

- **Scouting:** MWE PTA proudly sponsors Cub Scout Pack 902 which provides the color guard for evening performances and provides custodial and maintenance services around the campus. MWE also provides meeting space for Girl Scout and Brownie troops of all ages.
- **Community Service:** Whether for an illness, new baby, death or any other family need the PTA provides meals and other emergency supplies. PTA is also sponsoring a new program to help incoming families transition to Meadow Wood more easily.
- **Environmental:** This committee is dedicated to making Meadow Wood an interesting and safe environment. Educational and artistic elements are added constantly to inspire our community. Most notable is our SPARK Park which is used both for instruction and recreation.
- **Legislative Liaison/SBISD PTA Council Representative:** The MWE PTA involves itself in important educational issues in SBISD and in our state legislature by attending meetings and reporting back to the membership on legislative issues affecting our school.

REVENUE

Of course none of the wonderful programs mentioned above can be provided without the generous support of our Meadow Wood families. MWE PTA is supported by various fundraising efforts spaced throughout the year. Three major fundraisers, however, support the majority of these worthwhile programs:

- **PTA Membership:** Simply by joining the MWE PTA every year during our membership drive at the beginning of the year, MWE families show their support for our school and our students. Our goal is to have each student sponsored by a member.
- **Carnival:** This event is the highlight of the school year! Students and teachers look forward to this fun-filled day in the fall, which brings the MWE families and the community together to play games and enjoy each other's company.
- **Gift Wrap Sales:** At the beginning of the school year, PTA asks the students to contribute their efforts to support the PTA. By selling product from our selected vendor, the students and parents ensure that the PTA programs continue.

Other programs that contribute funds to the PTA efforts:

- **School Store:** PTA volunteers sell school supplies and other related items on a biweekly basis. School Store dates are announced in the Eagle Express and in the monthly calendar on our website.
- **Redemption:** Through local and national rebate and recycling programs Meadow Wood earns extra money. Current programs include:
 - Rebate cards from:
 - Randall's Good Neighbor Program, MWE PTA #1082
 - Kroger grocery store; new bar code will be available by 9/2010
 - Target "Take Charge Through Education" program, MWE school # 101319
 - Washington Mutual WaMoola for Schools program, MWE PTA #1399635
 - Box Tops for School program (various items)
 - One Cause www.onecause.com (register on this site and a percentage of your future online purchases from major retailers will come back to the school of your choice).

- **Marquee:** Important messages of upcoming school events are posted on one side of the marquee but the other is available for special messages. Most popular is the "Happy Birthday" listing where the student's name and birthday are displayed. Other personal or community messages can also be posted for a nominal fee. (We will maintain our current marquee as long as construction efforts allow and will also keep a temporary marquee near the drop-off lanes at our transition campus.)

None of the programs which set Meadow Wood apart and make it such a special learning environment would be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers. The MWE PTA frequently logs the most volunteer hours of any other school in the Spring Branch ISD. Take a look at some of our latest accomplishments (awarded by the Spring Branch ISD Council of PTAs):

- 2007-2008 – Outstanding PTA
- 2008-2009 – Outstanding Cultural Arts Programs
- 2009-2010 – Outstanding PTA Communication
- 2008 – District School Bell Award Winner – Art Teacher Julia Rowland Hampton
- 2010 – District School Bell Award Winner – 3rd Grade Teacher Delia Dunavin

To learn more about how you can be involved with this dynamic group, please contact any committee chairperson listed in the Directory or contact the PTA president.

Be a positive role model for your children and show them that getting involved not only helps others grow and learn, but helps you too! We hope to see you at one of our meetings very soon.