

# THE PTA PLANET

## MOKENA PTA NEWSLETTER

October 2009



Serving Mokena Elementary, Intermediate, & Junior High Schools  
<http://www.mokena159.com/PTAwebsite/ptahome.html>  
E-mail: [MokenaPTA@gmail.com](mailto:MokenaPTA@gmail.com)

### President's Message

Happy Autumn! I hope everyone is adjusting well to the new school year and enjoyed Back to School Night. The PTA Board would like to thank all those who participated in the Fall Fundraiser and for your support. Results will be provided next month. We are always open to new ideas for fundraising opportunities so attend a meeting or contact a board member via phone/e-mail with any ideas.

### How can you continue helping the PTA and avoid cutting programs?

**Gift Card Program:** Similar to past years, we're continuing our gift card program. These cards are a wonderful way to support the PTA without any additional cost to you. When you purchase a gift card, you get exactly what you pay for. For example, if you purchase a \$100 JC Penney gift card, you pay \$100 and receive a card with a value of \$100. The PTA will make \$5. Although that may not seem like a large amount, it adds up quickly, and it wasn't any additional money for you. There are hundreds of retailers' that participate in the program. To see a complete retailer list, go to [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com).

Although the gift cards do, of course, make great gifts, they also can be used for everyday purchases. Several families have discovered that they can purchase gift cards with the money they would normally budget for regular expenses, such as gas and groceries. Then they use the cards when making purchases. It takes a little planning to get started, but it's a wonderful way to support our schools without having to sell products.

**Direct Donations:** As always, we greatly appreciate direct donations. In fact, a list of families that have already donated is later in this newsletter.

**PTA Membership:** If you haven't done so already, you can still become a PTA member (\$12 Family, \$9 Individual, \$7 Staff). Just e-mail [jennifer.brenner@comcast.net](mailto:jennifer.brenner@comcast.net).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Gift Card Orders Due	October 9 & 23
PTA Meeting, 7pm MES Commons	October 28
PTA MJHS Fall Dance 7-9pm	October 30

### What do the Fall Fundraiser, Gift Cards, membership, and direct donations support?

- School Assemblies for EVERY grade (K-8<sup>th</sup>)
- Three Junior High Dances
- Santa's Secret Workshop
- Family Fun Fair
- Mini-grants for teacher to utilize in classroom
- Donations toward Book Fairs (MES, MIS, MJHS)
- Staff Appreciation Week

### When is the next PTA Meeting?

### Evening Meeting at 7:00pm in MES Commons Appearance by 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Student Council

We are excited to be offering an evening PTA meeting and invite everyone to attend. The PTA works for every child in our district, and we can use your support. Sometimes just hearing your thoughts at a meeting is all we need to get a program running in the right direction.

If you would like to contact anyone on the PTA board, please e-mail us at [MokenaPTA@gmail.com](mailto:MokenaPTA@gmail.com).

As always, we appreciate your support.

*Carol Garcia*

President, Mokena PTA  
[carolgarcia3@gmail.com](mailto:carolgarcia3@gmail.com)

## Santa's Secret Workshop Crafters Wanted

On Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our annual Santa's Secret Workshop from 10-1pm. **Please note that the PTA Calendar has the workshop ending at 2pm, but will actually be 1pm this year.**

**What is Santa's Secret Workshop?** This is fun event we hold for district students and is not a fundraiser. The workshop offers items for students to purchase for anyone on their gift list. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about gift giving, budgeting, and managing their money.

**How can I participate?** The PTA is searching for crafters for this event. Participants will be given a 10x10 space in which to display goods on a table they supply. This year we are opening it up to "home based" businesses. We are still requiring that items for sale **do not exceed the price of \$15** (given it is the students who are doing the shopping). If you would like an application or for additional information contact:

**Donna McKenna**  
**simply.green@hotmail.com or 630.643.5253**

The deadline for applications will be October 26<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited. If you were a crafter with us last year, you will be contacted to see if you are interested in joining us this year.

**How can I volunteer?** If you would like to volunteer for this event (either with the planning or the day of), please contact Deborah Harvey at [deborah.harvey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deborah.harvey@sbcglobal.net) or 815.806.1558.

## Donations

A huge "Thank you!" goes out to the families below who made a donation to the PTA. These donations help us fund our programs and provide many of the services for our students.

*Family*  
*Family*  
*Family*  
*Family*  
*Family*  
*Family*  
*Family*

## Jr. High Dance

The first Junior High Dance will be held at Mokena Junior High on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 7- 9pm. We have a fun evening planned including music by DJ Michael and inflatable jumpers. There is no cost to the students because **PTA fundraiser funds** pay for this event. The only cost to the students will be at the concession stand!

Parent volunteers are always needed. Please contact Cindy Hoyle at [hoyle\\_cindy@yahoo.com](mailto:hoyle_cindy@yahoo.com) or 479.4294 if you can help (even for an hour). Sorry, no one younger than 6th grade will be allowed and school ID's are required for admittance.

## E-Mail Announcements

In an effort to communicate and notify members when volunteers might be needed (often only for an hour or two), we will be sending out e-mail announcements. If you do not want to be included on this list, simply reply "take me off the list" and we will do so. Otherwise, we hope that you find this method helpful for the communication flow between our Board/Event Chairs and members. Please note that the PTA newsletters will also be available on Virtual Backpack.

## Volunteers

We are still looking for anyone interested in taking an active role in planning the Family Fun Fair (note: last year's chair would easily be accessible to help). This would involve determining prizes, games/activities, and collecting donations.

**In summary, if interested in helping.... here's out to do it!**

**MJHS Fall Dance** (Fri. Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: Cindy Hoyle ([hoyle\\_cindy@yahoo.com](mailto:hoyle_cindy@yahoo.com))  
 479.4294

**Santa's Secret Workshop** (Sat. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: Deborah Harvey ([deborah.harvey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deborah.harvey@sbcglobal.net))  
 815.806.1558

**Family Fun Fair** (Sat. March 13<sup>th</sup>)

Contact: Jennifer Brenner ([jennifer.brenner@comcast.net](mailto:jennifer.brenner@comcast.net))  
 478.7375