

THE PTA PLANET

MOKENA PTA NEWSLETTER

February 2009



Serving Mokena Elementary, Intermediate and Junior High Schools
www.mokena.com/pta or e-mail: MokenaPTA@gmail.com

President's Message

Even though our warm weather in February was short-lived, it brought thoughts of spring and the end of the school year to the minds of many parents (and students!). The PTA is already busy preparing for the rest of the school year.

As with many organizations, the PTA relies completely on fundraising in order to support the activities we sponsor for the students and staff. In order to meet our budgeted expenses for the rest of the year, we will be sponsoring a Spring Fundraiser.

Students at MES and MIS will be bringing home the fundraising materials at the end of the month. We will be offering two fun and budget-friendly products this spring. (MJHS students will participate in a separate fundraiser in March.)

First off, is See's Candy. Several parents and staff have asked us to offer their delicious product. Each of the items available will be priced at just \$5. Our second product will be cook books. These will be priced at just \$6.50 each and offer several fun titles.

As an extra incentive, we will be offering a prize to the class in each grade that has the greatest participation. Full details will be sent home soon!

Finally, a special thanks to the families who supported our Chuck E. Cheese Night. We were able to make over \$500 in just one night! The best part is that there was NO cost to our schools. We hope to see everyone there next year – with over 1,300 students at just MES and MIS think of the potential! A special thank you goes to Christine Economous for organizing the evening.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Carol Garcia

President, Mokena PTA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fun Fair set-up, MES	February 20
Gift Card Orders Due	February 20
Fun Fair, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at MES	February 21
PTA Meeting, 4 p.m. at MES	February 25
Spring Fundraiser, MES & MIS	February 23 – March 6
Gift Card Orders Due	March 6
Spring Fundraiser, MJHS	March 16 – March 20
Gift Card Orders Due	March 20
Staff Appreciation Essay Contest begins	March 23
PTA Meeting, 4 p.m. at MES	March 25
Spring Fundraiser Pick-up Night, PTA Room	April 7

It's Fun Fair Time!

It's time for the Family Fun Fair. Join us at MES on Saturday, February 21 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. for an afternoon of fun and games. Pay one price at the door and play as much as you'd like! Family admission is \$10 for one child, \$15 for two, or \$20 for three or more children.

This year the Fun Fair will feature:

- Mini-Golf (North Gym) •
- Large Inflatables & Slides (Central Gym) •
- Carnival Games (Prizes) & Cake Walk (South Gym) •
- Face Painting, Spin Art & More (Commons/Hallways) •

Plus, there will be drawings for a Nintendo Wii, Apple i-Pod, autographed football and more!

Please contact Jen Brenner at 708/478-7375 if you have any questions or would be willing to volunteer for this annual event.



Jr. High Dance

The last dance of the year will be held on Friday, April 24 from 7-9 p.m. This will be the step-up dance, and the MIS students in 5th grade along with the current 6th and 7th graders at MJHS are all invited to attend. Please note that due to scheduling conflicts at the school, this is a different date that was originally on the PTA calendar. Look for more information soon!

Printer Cartridge Recycling

Do you just throw away those used ink jet or toner cartridges? We have a simple way for you to recycle them. The PTA is working with Cartridge World in New Lenox to recycle printer inkjet or toner cartridges. Simply send the cartridges to any of the three schools with your child (or drop them in the box near the school office). Cartridge World will pick them up and send the proceeds to be used for programs at the schools. Your used cartridges can be turned into a fun assembly for the students!

PTA Blood Drive

Thanks to the 25 parents who came out to donate blood in January. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

PTA at Work

The following expenses were approved at the January PTA meeting.

- 6-\$50 teacher mini-grants (\$300 total)
- \$500 scholarship for Lincoln-Way East graduate
- \$285 for Jr. High Dance

Staff Appreciation Essay Contest

Our annual Staff Appreciation Essay contest will begin on March 23. The essays, written by students, can highlight any of the wonderful staff members we have in District 159. Details will be coming home in March. The top essays will be read at awards night in May.

A Note from Mokena Education Foundation

The Mokena Education Foundation (MEF) is not holding the Dinner-Dance in March this year. Instead, there will be a Gold Outing and Dinner in June. We wanted to make sure everyone knew about this fun new event. Even if you don't golf, there will be lots of fun to support this worthwhile cause. MEF will be sending details out closer to the event.

Gift Cards

Every card purchased helps fund a portion of the PTA activities. Families support the schools by making regular household purchases they would make anyway using gift cards. Groceries, clothing, toys; even gasoline can be purchased with gift cards at no additional cost.

An order form was sent home with students, or you can complete the information below and send it along with a check payable to Mokena PTA to school. To find out what gift cards and denominations are available, go to www.glscrip.com and click on retailers. Please call Kim Perch at 708/479-6261 if you have questions.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ Student Name: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____ Send cards with my student _____ Contact me for Pick-up _____

Gift Card: _____ Qty: _____ Denomination: _____ Total: _____

Gift Card: _____ Qty: _____ Denomination: _____ Total: _____

Gift Card: _____ Qty: _____ Denomination: _____ Total: _____

Total Due (payable to Mokena PTA): _____