

SOUTHERN REGION

Cynthia Heights Elementary (Evansville) – A Celebration of Reading was held at the school during the month of May. Celebration of Reading is an all day festival where the students spend hard earned "Book Bucks" they have received during the school year from reading. The celebration included a professional magician, a petting zoo, musicians, clowns, games, crafts, snacks, and a dunking booth.

Helfrich Park Middle (Evansville) – Several programs were put into place to improve communication between home and school. A full page of PTSA news was included in every school newsletter sent home monthly. To insure the newsletters reach parents, the PTSA provides manpower and funding to mail it each month. On the first day of school, students took home a colorful and detailed committee sign-up form for PTSA. An e-mail tree was established for volunteer information and legislative news. To insure all Executive Board members are informed, the president makes sure that anyone who was unable to attend the meeting receives copies of the approved minutes, treasurer's report, and an agenda with notes within two days after the meeting.

Plaza Park Middle (Evansville) – The traditional open house became The Family Extravaganza. This event consisted of a Family Cook Out, Activity Fair, Volunteer Recruitment, and Open House. Entertainment was provided on the lawn by the school's jazz band during the picnic. A special program was held in the gym to introduce the teachers and PTSA officers using the Chicago Bulls theme song to add excitement to the occasion.

Stockwell Elementary (Evansville) – In order to enhance the arts, an annual Art Day is held. Students gain an appreciation for the arts while receiving up-front learning with artists, musicians, and hands-on experiences.

Stringtown Elementary (Evansville) – Every PTA general membership meeting was combined with a program or workshop. A Family Literacy night was held at the first meeting. The second meeting included an awards ceremony followed by the "showing" of the First Annual Citizenship/Reflections Display. The availability of this program encouraged teachers to use the Citizenship Essay Contest and the Reflections Program in their classroom curriculum. They received 80 entries in Citizenship and the Reflections Literature category. There were 321 entries in the Reflections Visual Arts category!

Tekoppel Elementary (Evansville) – A Family Fun Night was held in October which offered fun, food, and learning opportunities for the entire family. The evening was divided into various stations. One station was a free dinner provided by donations from local businesses. A second station included discussion on effective parenting for parents and reading opportunities for students. A third station was for Homework Hints. While parents attended this station, students participated in games in the gym. The final station was a hands-on craft for the entire family.

West Terrace Elementary (Evansville) – A "Fabulous Fifties" party for families was held in the fall. A photo booth was available, along with root beer floats and a disc jockey for jitterbugging. A special display of "oldies" cars was created by several parents.