

Northeast Region Bright Ideas 2002

MEMBERSHIP BRIGHT IDEAS

Northcrest Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Northcrest’s membership drive theme was “Join the three rings of education” centered on a circus. They made a tent on the wall with a ring for each classroom. The teacher’s face was put on the ring leaders (lion tamer, etc.) body and the members’ names went on the animals. The ringmaster in the center of the tent was the Principal. They had a father/son ringmaster team outside at back-to-school night with megaphones urging families to join PTA. An ice cream party with a circus clown was given to the class with the most memberships by the November deadline and each student was given a red clown nose to wear. If their membership goal was met, the Principal agreed to dress as a clown for the school day. In the spring they will have an outside community circus carnival with Ronald McDonald, trolley rides, games, rides and lots of community support.

Holland Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Holland’s membership theme was “Hit A Home Run with the Holland PTA”. They made a giant baseball card featuring the school principal hitting a home run. Every person who joined got to sign the card. Smaller baseball players were made for each classroom and hung in the main hallway. Each member’s name was hung next to his or her child’s classroom ball player. Based on percentages of classroom members, the class earns prizes and/or parties. A baseball diamond was hung on each door with first base as 25%, second as 50%, etc. They handed out Babe Ruth candy bars with a note saying “Welcome Back to a Homerun Team” to each staff member at the beginning of the school year.

Franke Park Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Franke Park had a sign up table during summer registration and during Back-to-School night. The grade that brought in the most memberships received an ice cream party. As an incentive for teachers to join, they gave them an extra \$20 as a teacher resource when they paid their membership dues. Through newsletters, flyers and visibility they have increased their membership 100%.

PROJECT BRIGHT IDEAS

Forest Park Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Forest Park offered family oriented activities to take the place of TV viewing during National TV Turn-off Week. The Principal and local librarian were put on the roof with a cherry picker on the first day. During the day, the Principal lowered a basket with prizes at recess. Also offered was a library night, family gym night, swimming afternoon, nature hike and a pizza supper with a storyteller and musician.

Mabel K. Holland Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Holland participated in Drug Awareness Week by planning activities around the theme “Drugs are Unbearable”. Each classroom was given a teddy bear for the students to sign and a large banner was made and hung in the school. Other activities included a “Hugs Not Drugs” candy count contest; they passed out smarties because “smarties” don’t do drugs. They passed out erasers to say, “don’t let drugs erase your mind” and they passed out licorice to say, “drugs twist your mind”. They made teddy bear banks and accepted donations to purchase teddy bears for the local Sheriff’s department to carry with them in their cars.

Lakeside Middle School PTSA, Fort Wayne, IN – Lakeside did a school beautification project. Lakeside is a uniform school, so in order to provide funds to purchase some of the landscaping material, students could pay \$1.00 to wear jeans to school. The “beautification day” was planned on Fort Wayne Clean-Up Day.

Northcrest Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – Northcrest singled out one individual to be a volunteer coordinator. She was responsible for contacting all volunteers for each event along with the Chairman to check their availability and interest in the various events.

Pleasant Center Elementary PTA, Fort Wayne, IN – The most successful program was surviving and learning to work together to bridge the generation gap. They got the local American Legion to donate flags to each student who participated in the Citizenship Essay contest. The Board united to get new playground equipment and through a generous donation of paint, four young mothers and a grandmother painted the existing equipment red, white and blue. They have been able to purchase half of the new playground equipment and will begin installation in April.

Woodburn Elementary PTA, Woodburn, IN – Students earn citizenship dollars through improvement in their work or behavior. Woodburn PTA set up a Citizenship Store for students to spend these dollars in. In conjunction with the store, they have Wig Wam Day. Wig Wam Bear is the school mascot and he visits classrooms to recognize outstanding students with citizenship dollars, hugs or Hershey Kisses. A paper is sent home to the parents asking for favorite foods, hobbies, friends, etc about each student recognized by Wig Wam Bear. Those papers are then hung on a bulletin board with the student’s picture.