

NORTHEAST REGION

“BRIGHT IDEAS”

Forest Park Elementary – An all school skating party is hosted twice per year at a local skating rink. The rink provides activities such as the “hokey pokey”, “shoot the duck”, “limbo contest”, “chicken dance” and more. The PTA rents the rink so admission is free and skate rental is only \$1.00. It has become a time of laughter and relationship building for families and staff.

Holland Elementary – Holland PTA holds a Family Fun Night. They serve pizza, pop, candy and lot so fun. They played Bingo where everyone was a winner. Since the event is held in February, they sang the “Seven Days of Valentine’s Day” to the tune of “12 Days of Christmas”. They served cake with a surprise twist. Everyone who had a flag on their piece of cake had to entertain the crowd with jokes, stories, music, etc. They also played a “Getting To Know You Game” where you had to ask other families questions from your list and introduce yourself. At the end of the evening, every family went home with a family game.

Jefferson Middle School – Jefferson PTSA collects items based on a chosen theme and creates gift baskets. Each homeroom chooses a theme and the students are given two weeks to bring items in to fill their basket. Themes range from candy baskets, pamper yourself baskets, chewing gum baskets, snack baskets, and more. Parent volunteers then assemble the baskets and make a list of its contents. A coffee can is also decorated for each basket and when a raffle ticket is purchased, it is deposited into the can. Tickets are sold during lunch times, at sporting events, and any other event held at the school. After all events are over for the school year, the cans are removed and a winner is drawn.

Lakeside Middle School – A task force reviewed an attendance list and highlighted the names of those families that were “known” or had a record of PTA involvement. A special invitation with PTA meeting dates was sent to these parents along with a copy of a volunteer sign up sheet. By doing this, they have eight new chair people this year that are new to the middle school and have an average of two new people at each board meeting.

Lindley Elementary School – Lindley PTA sponsors an “R&R Club” where students who qualify are treated to a special activity one a month. Students must demonstrate respect and responsibility and on the beginning of the following month an activity is planed such as having popcorn and punch while playing BrainQuest, singing along to a karaoke machine, watching a short movie or having an extra recess and ice cream. At the end of the year, there is a special “All Star Celebration” for those children who have made it to R&R every month.

Nebraska Elementary School – This year, their theme at back to school night was “Rodeo Round Up”. A bulletin board was put up with a rodeo theme representing each classroom and staff members. Each time a classroom or staff reached a certain membership level (25%, 50%, etc.) they enjoyed a treated form the PTA. Every adult that joins gets their name in a drawing for door prizes. Students who have an adult family member join get their name in a separate drawing for each adult joining. While the parents visit with teachers, the kids are kicking up their heels playing bingo.

Northcrest Elementary PTA – Northcrest PTA offered a Mommas (mothers offering mentoring moments at school) and Dads (dads addressing daily situations) group. The parents sign up for the group and get a button designed and made by PTA to wear when they come to school to help out. The parents received a letter for the refrigerator to remind them of who to contact for their available time to help. The volunteer parents names are written in a book and the teachers sign up for the parent to come to their class and help out. The parents would give tests, play a game, tutor students, eat lunch with students and many more things.

Northwood Middle School – Northwood PTSA initiated a “Hall of Fame”. Every time a student, adult, community member helped out at Northwood, their name was put on a star and hung on the ceiling at the main entrance of the school. Teachers were given forms to fill out when someone did something nice for their class, for example: a student helped another student; a parent provided a treat, etc. The PTSA made a banner to hang from the ceiling so visitors would know that this is the “Northwood Hall of Fame”. Event volunteers were also given star name badges to where while they were in the building volunteering.

Pleasant Center Elementary – Pleasant Center PTA was concerned whether anyone would want to attend another fish fry and felt they needed an incentive for people to come. They decided to host the fish fry one more time. A Cub Scout troop was responsible for games with prizes, they held a raffle for an area rug and offered face painting to children. They ended up running out of fish and chicken and had a real community homecoming!

Washington Elementary – Washington PTA hosted its first annual Santa Extravaganza with the help and support of parents, students, staff and families. The event included a Santa Shop where both adults and children alike could come and purchase stocking stuffers and Christmas gifts for either one or two dollars. The choir sang Christmas carols and free juice and donuts were provided for the shoppers. They also offered digital pictures with Santa for only \$2.00.

Washington Center Elementary – Washington Center PTA holds a Dad’s Night. For one hour there are games in the gym with their Dad or whomever they want to bring. After that, snacks are provided in the cafeteria. They had about 650 students and parents participating in this event.

Weisser Park Arts Magnet School – Weisser Park PTA gave out notepads to all parents who paid their PTA membership dues. The notepads, complete with our PTA logo, had spaces to check off various communications to the teachers such as “Students has a doctor appointment”, “needs to ride a different bus”, “was absent due to . . . “, etc. Parents and teachers both appreciated having the small notepad that they could leave in the car and fill out before school. Also, each February, our PTA holds a “Summer Opportunities Fair” and invites local camps, other schools, colleges, etc. to come into the school and promote their summer events. Parents come to the school, get information and/or register their kids for summer activities.

Woodburn Elementary School – As Woodburn PTA struggled to replace officers this year, they developed a new approach. They designated a group of volunteers that would take over many of the weekly tasks that had to be done in the school and to include more teachers in their events. Through this change, the communication between members has improved. The PTA also purchased a series of videos covering many different family and parenting situations and are available to anyone wanting to view them.