

SOUTHERN REGION

“BRIGHT IDEAS”

Bosse High School - A new Mini-Grant Awards program allows any faculty or staff person who is a current PTSA member to apply for a grant of up to \$100. All applications received by the deadline are reviewed and discussed, then voted upon by the PTSA. Funding for this program comes from the sale of doughnut balls, milk and juice to students and staff as they enter the school every Tuesday by PTA volunteers.

Central High School - A self-defense program was provided to female students, faculty members and parents. A local corporation provided a grant to cover \$15 of the \$25 fee, so participants had to pay only \$10 for one 4-hour class.

North High School - In addition to observing Teacher Appreciation Week in May, special treats and remembrances are provided throughout the year. Christmas goodies, Valentine's Day treats, Muffin Monday, and Mexican Monday are provided. The most highly anticipated monthly event is "Souper Monday", held in October. PTSA members bring in homemade soups, crackers, breads, desserts, and other accompaniments. A cook-booklet of the soup recipes is compiled and distributed to the teachers.

Signature School - Teacher Appreciation Week is spread out over the entire year. Every Teacher/Staff member is recognized on his/her birthday, including the summer birthdays. Monthly treats are provided, such as pop tarts, tea packets, and hot cocoa tied together with a ribbon and a special note of thanks. Cookie mix in a jar and popcorn balls with a note attached are two other treats used last year.

Helfrich Park Middle School - A new project, "Sixth Grade Star Quest", was designed to give incoming 6th graders some challenging and interesting activities to perform over the summer and help the students with their transition from elementary to middle school. Each incoming 6th grader was sent a list of activities that he/she could try to complete over the summer. The activities were divided into categories: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Fine Arts, Technology, Consumer Science, Practical Arts, Physical Fitness, and Community Service. Activities included: Reading a minimum of 3 books, hiking through one of our local woods, keeping track of his/her family mileage over a two week period and figuring the average miles per day, using a calculator at the grocery store, pumping gas, running or biking one mile, etc. Any student who returned the checklist at the back-to-school picnic received a special ice cream treat and had his/her name put in a drawing for donated prizes.

McGary Middle School - Students joined with the senior citizens of a nearby retirement community for several parties throughout the year. In October, a "Soup and Pie" event was held. "Milk and Cookies with Santa" was the theme in December. Several other parties were held, and the students enjoyed them as much as the seniors!

Plaza Park Middle School - For the past several years, the annual open house has included a cookout for the whole school. This year, over 500 people attended, feasting on grilled hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, and soft drinks.

Hebron Elementary School - A one-day-per-week Reflections workshop was held for the seven weeks preceding winter break. The first two weeks were spent concentrating on exploring the current theme and discussing supplies needed with each child. PTA provided all supplies for the children. At the end of the program, 2 photography, 2 literature, and 20 visual arts entries had been completed.

Lincoln Elementary School - This PTA provides "Welcome to Lincoln School Bags". The bag is a bright yellow handled bag with the mascot on front. It is filled with an assortment of school supplies.

Lodge Elementary School - A Dad's Lunch was held in October in an effort to get more Dads involved with the school and their children's education. More than 90 Dads, Grandpas, Uncles, and Family Friends participated in this event. They all participated in a scavenger hunt. Each visitor had his picture taken with his special student in front of a patriotic display in the front hall.

Stockwell Elementary School - Student Pride Night is the theme of each year's open house. The student's have the opportunity to show off their teachers, rooms, and the work they have done the first few weeks of school. A New Parent Reception is part of the evening. A school-wide briefing is held in the gym. An Ice Cream Social is held in the All Star Cafeteria. A Book Fair is also held in the gym.

Stringtown Elementary School - A community expo was held and designed to empower parents and grandparents by creating awareness of community resources available to assist with life skills that directly affect children. Agencies in attendance had displays and information on a variety of subjects including parenting skills, child abuse, energy conservation, fire safety, drug awareness, child abduction, healthy eating, de-stressing, saving for college, and recreational programs promoting confidence.

Tekoppel Elementary School - In order to focus on fitness among students and adults, all school families were invited to take part in a month-long fitness program. A healthy dinner was provided along with free information on leading a healthy lifestyle. Eight 20-minute sessions were held on a variety of topics. Each participant was able to attend five sessions. Student sessions included: Discussions on germs and proper hand washing, the importance of exercise and how to take your heart rate, fitness workouts, tumbling as exercise, basic karate instruction, dance for fitness, family kickboxing and fitness, and a presentation on think-quick strategies for children in trouble. Adult sessions included: preventative health care information, signs of your child having social/emotional problems, proper eating habits and screenings, fitness programs for families, how to quit smoking, exercises especially for women, and vision questions from families. To continue the Family Fitness ideas, families were able to attend five follow-up classes during the month of January.