

November 2008
Volume 1, No. 2

PTA Meetings:

The LITTLEWOOD PTA usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 4:30 in the Media Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

11/13/08(*Thu*)
01/12/09
02/09/09
03/09/09
04/13/09
05/11/09

Membership Dues: \$10

To receive email reminders of meeting dates and volunteer opportunities, email Amy Vollmer at: Vollmerfl@yahoo.com



Lion Tails

Littlewood Elementary PTA Newsletter

The Information Source for Littlewood Families & Friends

President's Message:

WOW, we are off to a great start this year! It's hard to believe the 1st 9 weeks is over. First let me say thank you to all of our volunteers! Second, thanks to our fantastic Littlewood staff who are amazing and so supportive of our school community. Also, thank you to all the Littlewood families who have come to the PTA sponsored events. We want Littlewood to be a close-knit community and by participating in school and PTA events you make that a reality.

So many things have happened in such a short time that I'll just highlight a few. We've had PTA meetings with parents who have come to share their ideas. We love this input! We had a successful gift-wrap fundraiser – thanks to all who participated and to Connie Burton our gift-wrap chair. We had our first ever "movie night". We learned how to simplify our lives and enjoyed a spaghetti dinner during our PTA general meeting, while the children were entertained by a story teller. All of this was arranged by Jill Wilby with the culinary talents of our very own Littlewood cafeteria staff.

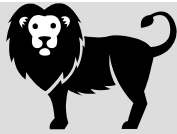
Thanks to the unbelievable talents of Jennifer Anhalt, we just had a terrific carnival with lots of families and friends participating. We love this tradition – it is full of laughter, socializing, and wonderful memories. Shout outs to those who volunteered for the carnival committee – Gretchen von Mering, Michelle Disabb, Joann Jaeger, and Leslie Perz. We also had a successful fundraiser with our gift baskets. The baskets were amazing, every year they get better. How do the room representatives do it? Thanks for the help from their fearless leader, Lori Rossi-Barrett. Finally we've kicked off our 50th anniversary t-shirt contest. Who won this contest and will have her design immortalized on a Littlewood t-shirt for years to come? That honor goes to Summer Uman, congratulations!

Thanks to all of you for being part of the Littlewood family. We are so excited about the events to come and can't wait to see you there!

Amy Vollmer

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 26-28	Wed- Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 5	Friday	Book Fair Begins Terrell Center
December 6	Saturday	Bazaar and Book Fair Terrell Center
December 12	Friday	End of Book Fair
December 19	Friday	School in Session (former flex day)
Dec 22 –Jan 2	Mon –Fri 2wks	Winter Holiday
January 5	Monday	School Resumes
February 21	Saturday	Five Points Kid's Marathon



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About Us:

We have nearly 640 students this year!

Fact or Fiction? :

Cake Lane is named for the cake walk event at Carnival.

Fiction! Littlewood's 6th principal's name was Mrs. Jacquelyn S. Cake. Be sure to look for news on Littlewood's 50th Anniversary coming up in the new year.

How Many Books?

The number of books in our media center is more than:

- a. 1,500
- b. 4,500
- c. 15,500

Answer: C, come check one out today!

Morning Mile Results:

As of October 31st:
2503 Miles run.
157 Sneakers on the wall.
329 Students participating.

Five Points of Life Kids Marathon - February 21st

Register at:

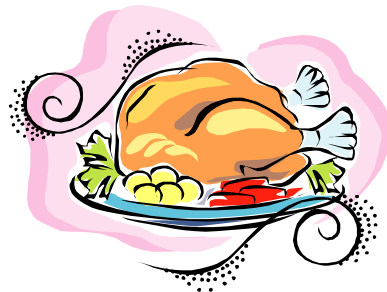
<http://www.fivepointsoflife.org/>

The school with the best participation gets a cash prize.

Children need to complete 25 miles of running or walking beforehand, and Morning Miles count. Print the log sheet from the website, and bring it the day of the Marathon. That day, the kids will run the last 1.2 miles of the marathon to receive a t-shirt and a really nice medal.

Morning Mile

Littlewood's morning mile is a voluntary, non-competitive program for all students and their families. There is a 1/5 mile course west of the cafeteria students can run or walk on. The course opens at 7:15 and closes at 7:30. Parent volunteers record student laps and track them for the year.



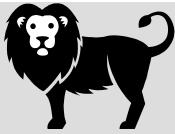
Volunteer Highlight

If you get a chance, be sure to say hi to **Mr. Larry Kroll** who volunteers in the library and Mrs. Bracken's room. Mr. Kroll especially enjoys reading to the students. When not at Littlewood he and his wife run a business helping families with: seniors, pets and errands. Contact Mr. Kroll at: krollc1@yahoo.com for more information on his service. Many thanks for all your time and efforts with our Littlewood lions!

Mr. Kroll got involved by contacting our volunteer coordinator. If you have a special interest and would like to volunteer contact Susan Falsetti at: susan.falsetti@barrsystems.com.

Thanksgiving Dinner

You are cordially invited to attend Thanksgiving dinner with your child in our café. It's a fantastic menu that includes: Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll and cake. \$3/adult, \$2/child, \$.40 reduced lunch. Hope to see you there on **Thursday, November 20th**. Would you like to help serve? Please contact: Cricket Adkins at 955-6732.



Check out the PTA webpage linked from Littlewood's Web Site:
www.sbac.edu/~littlwood

Phone Numbers:
EDEP – 955-6990
Café – 955-6732
Phone 955-6712
Fax 955-7149

Who am I?

I have been at Littlewood for 17yrs. I helped to "raise the roof" for PE, raised the sign for the marquee. You can find me helping all Littlewood students.



(answer on back page)

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Friends of the Library:

The winter Book fair will be running Friday, December 5 – Friday, December 12th. New this year is a Saturday Bazaar along with the Book Fair. The event will take place in the Terrell Center with great items like: Tupperware, Party Lite, Pamper Chef, Head bands, Avon, Jewelry etc. Come see our first Bazaar Saturday, December 6th from 10am – 2 pm. If you are interested in helping work the book fair or being a vendor at the bazaar please contact Michelle Foster at shawdouglas@bellsouth.net

New Sunshine State Books Program (SSYRA)

Starting in January, Littlewood students will participate in the Sunshine State Young Reader's Award program. Students in 3rd -5th grade get to vote for their favorite book among 15 titles selected by Media Specialists throughout the state of Florida. Students who read at least 3 of the 15 books qualify to vote, and the title that receives the most votes statewide receives the SSYR Award.

Littlewood 5th graders that read all 15 books will be invited to a special celebration! To learn more about this program visit our school web site or contact Kristina Belvin at tbelvin@bellsouth.net.

Testing in PE?

Did you know Ms. Bean, our PE teacher, has tested students for her yearly health assessment test? We caught up with her to get the details:

PTA: Why do you give students a health assessment test?

MB: It's a great test to see where your child performs physically with his age group. It's important to see what the strengths and weakness are and work on them. Students are not graded on their efforts just recorded.

PTA: What are the areas you test, and how will parents see the results?

MB: 4 major areas are tested: Mile run for cardiovascular endurance, sit and reach for flexibility, sit ups for abdominal strength and pull ups for shoulder strength. These are described on the assessment form your child will bring home.

PTA: Have you noticed a trend in Littlewood's students in terms of their overall fitness level?

MB: In the late 90's there was a dip in students that earned the fitness award (for meeting all the standards for their age group). This has been increasing and I attribute a lot of that to Littlewood's Morning Mile.

PTA: It's fun to see all the different units you are teaching under the covered area or in the field. What is your favorite?

MB: I enjoy all of them but 4th grade gatorball is fun. It's fun to see how excited they get for this game. (Gatorball is a team sport that combines the skills of basketball, football and soccer.)



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PTA Membership
break down:
64 Parents
30 Teachers

School Volunteers
Did you know last year 34,225 hours were recorded by our volunteers? Be sure to record your hours on the forms in the front office, and thanks for you time!

Answer to "Who am I?"
Nettie Maguire! Thanks for all you do Nettie.

PTA Membership Drive.

Why should YOU become a member?

Last year, over 90% of Littlewood teachers and staff joined the PTA. Sadly, the percentage of parents that joined was much smaller. This year, we are striving for 100% membership. As an incentive, **the class with the highest percentage of parents that have joined by December 5th will be rewarded with a PIZZA PARTY!**

Don't have time to volunteer?
Today's parents are busier than ever. We know everyone can't volunteer during school hours or at school events. By joining the PTA, you are getting involved by showing your support! It lets your child know you care about education and about Littlewood. A portion of your PTA membership also supports regional and national PTA - the largest and oldest volunteer child advocacy organization in the USA. What a wonderful way to fill your family's bucket!

Ready to get involved?

Of course, we also need people to volunteer! Working with the PTA you will meet other parents, as well as Littlewood teachers and administrators. Your volunteer work will benefit your children's school and their education. You will make new, wonderful friends. And you can work as much or as little as your time allows – it is entirely up to you. The first step is to attend the PTA monthly meetings.

Fundraising Update:

\$ Giftwrap: \$ 5,200
\$ Donations: \$ 920
\$ Boxtops: \$ 895
\$ Carnival: \$ 6,300
\$ Baskets: \$ 6,100

This money is used for:
Computer Aide's salary, Lion's Pride Tutoring, Teacher Appreciation Week, cafeteria lunches for needy students, PTA special events and more.

All PTA Members get a vote on how this money is allocated.

The end...



PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM – return to your child's teacher
Please include \$10 cash or make checks payable to: Littlewood PTA

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Student's Names & Grades: _____