

A Note from the PTO

It is hard to believe, but the PTO Board has already begun making plans for the 2008-2009 school year. We have made some exciting changes to our lineup and wanted to share our plans with you.

In November, the Board reviewed all of the activities and events that PTO is involved with during the year, and we discovered that we could meet our budgetary requirements in a much more efficient way. For example, the Entertainment Book fundraiser required 200 volunteer hours to raise \$10,350 while the Partners in Education required 13 volunteer hours and raised \$11,000.

In the spirit of "working smarter not harder", we will replace both the Entertainment Books and Sally Foster with Partners in Education. We will also restructure the program to be more of a "one stop shop", with package items including yearbook, spirit T-shirt, student directory and PTO membership. We have a fundraising goal of \$25,000 for the Partners campaign, but we may add additional fundraisers throughout the year, if needed.

The next important change relates to Buckalew's implementation of the Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) program, as required by CISD. This program is designed to promote physical activity and healthy food choices in elementary aged children. One of CISD's requirements is a family oriented event designed to increase family awareness of the CATCH behavioral outcomes and reinforce healthy eating and physical activity behaviors among students. As a result, we will be expanding our Triathlon to meet more of the program requirements. This Fall Family Athletic Event is still in the planning stages, but we are committed to hosting an event that allows more than 175 children to participate, reducing the fee per student, and incorporating a family picnic.

Next fall, we will introduce our new "Big Bear/Little Bear" Program, which is aimed at connecting families who are new to the school with an existing Buckalew family in order to make their transition an easier one.

We are also excited to implement our new Community Partnership Program. This program will allow businesses to make a monetary donation to the school in return for extensive advertising through the PTO.

I would also like to encourage you to consider serving on the PTO Board next year. Nomination forms came home at the beginning of this month and are due March 3rd. We would love for you to be a part of our amazing group!

Thank you for your continued support of the Buckalew Parent Teacher Organization. It is our goal to make Buckalew a family-centered and family-friendly community. Please know that each hour you volunteer and each dollar you contribute truly makes a difference.

Jennifer Gann
PTO President