

I wanted to share with you tonight some of the great things PTA is involved with in our school buildings.

For example, at Parkland-Brookside they have been working very hard on fostering a sense of community across the 2 buildings and amongst the families. They've:

- donated much needed books to the classrooms, to less fortunate households and to their libraries through hosting book fairs and fundraising options.
- provided much-needed funding to our classrooms towards field trips, supplies, incentive programs for students achieving reading levels, sight words, etc.
- held family enrichment opportunities (such as math night and literacy night),
- educational programs into the classrooms (ie: zoo mobile)
- celebratory tokens for Read Across America Week through the reading specialist department...
- PTA members support staff by volunteering in the classrooms and putting on teacher appreciation events.
- Through all of this, the Parkland Brookside PTA has furthered PTA's mission of family engagement by raising awareness to families of the importance of being active in our children's education through flyers and other reading materials and by setting a physical example of being present in the schools.

at Holmes Road

- first annual Doughnuts with Dad where they had over 150 fathers/male role models come in and have breakfast with their children, most of whom do not normally get a chance to come into the school.
- Last Saturday they held a Cookies and milk with Rudolph where they had every person in attendance bring a can or boxed good as admission and we donated a total of 275 canned goods to Greece food shelf!
- PTA also purchased a tree and put it in the foyer of our building and are asking Holmes Road students to "decorate" it with hats, gloves and scarves! We will first use them for students that need them here and then donate the rest!

At Olympia

- PTSA will be doing a "Christmas cookie" staff appreciation during the lunch hour for ALL staff and faculty at Olympia On Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, with 2 more staff appreciation events planned for March and May.
- In Feb 12 we will be doing a pancake breakfast at Zebb's for our big fundraiser. All money raised will go back to the students, whether they need assistance for a class trip or even an event!
- They will also be giving some money to the HOPE campaign that gives continuous support to those from Olympia and Apollo who are suffering from Cancer!

At Longridge,

- they fund the field trips, student folders, rewards for kids to celebrate their successes, take home folders,
- donate books to classroom teachers and the children in pre-k and kindergarten as well as the reading specialists.
- They also just held their second annual cookies and milk with Rudolph event and are anxiously awaiting their pizza bingo in January.
- The PTA is also working closely with pbis to encourage parent involvement, to further the PTA goal of family engagement.

At ODYSSEY,

- we've held several staff appreciation events so far this year: apples at the beginning of the school year; cider and pies on a prof development day; Thanksgiving dinner; and cookies and milk coming up next week. At all of our schools, the staff are extremely supportive of our kids, and we strive to ensure they know we appreciate their efforts.
- We also fund art and various grade level field trips and pay for a local artist who comes in to give students lessons in art classes
- One of the key things at Odyssey that PTA supports is annual funding of the Natural Helpers and Junior Natural Helpers programs, which are national peer-helping skills training/support programs that strengthen students' communication and problem-solving skills. Odyssey counselors and students have adapted the program over the years to fit Odyssey's specific needs. One of the basic premises of the program involves breaking down cliques and helping students reach across social groups. Over the years the core group of helpers expands throughout the school and we believe it is one of the reasons as students age at Odyssey they have so few conflicts and work so well with each other. It should be seen as part of the way, combined with a smaller learning community, knowing our students well, and keeping students for seven years, that we incidentally combat bullying and overall result in an environment generally regarded as very safe.

At Council

- Good Deeds awards to kids who've demonstrated caring and generosity toward others, Feb presentation: lots of great entries just over first couple months
- Working with FSC for an event in March, which is PTA advocacy month
- Scholarships for seniors heading to college
- Support and training to our members

I could go on and on, and hopefully we'll get the opportunity throughout the school year to share more of our efforts in the schools with you.