

# BEST IDEAS

Elementary, Middle/High, Council



Arts in Education



Education Enrichment



Environmental



Health and Youth Services



Legislation/Advocacy



Membership



Parent Involvement



Special Needs/Exceptional Children



Outstanding Principal

**Georgia**  
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# ARTS IN EDUCATION

## Elementary

### **Celebrating the Arts Night**

Hosted several events in one: “Art Show” displayed all students’ artwork which parents could purchase, acknowledged all Reflections winners with awards, and ended with a musical performance by students.

*Rocky Mount Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## Middle/High

### **Reflections Raffles**

Raffled prizes at designated times for all students who turned in entries.

*Centennial High PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Evening with the Arts**

The school’s art department scheduled an evening designed to showcase an accumulative year’s work by the students. The band and choruses performed before, after, and during the event to showcase their talents for the year. All the while, artwork completed by the students during the year was displayed throughout the room. Dickerson’s PTSA organized the event, served refreshments, and published it in the school newspaper, the school website, and in a PTSA Newsletter. Weekly announcements were made and flyers were sent home reminding parents of the event. This was a very successful evening for the parents, students and faculty.

*Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Art Works Day**

An event to connect Art, Music, Business, Family & Consumer Science, and PE. Teachers, parents and students focused on the idea of pursuing a non-traditional career in the arts program. The goal was for the students to learn that there are many arts-related jobs available requiring all kinds of skills. People from the community came to the school and spoke to the students. Speakers spoke for 15-20 minutes about their careers (how they became involved, necessary education, etc.). The speakers did a show-and-tell presentation with samples, props, hands-on demonstrations, and ended with a question and answer session. There was a wide spectrum of arts-related career choices.

PTSA funded the event and provided a hospitality suite for the speakers with drinks and snacks.

*Hightower Trail Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## Council

### **Honoring Our Heroes**

A PTA essay contest. Students were asked to write about a “hero” who has personally made a positive difference in their lives. Sponsored by the Council, there is a reception for the winners from each school - but this could also be held at any individual school.

*Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

# EDUCATION ENRICHMENT

## (CULTURAL ARTS)

### **International Festivals/Cultural Arts Days**

Students and their families participated in an evening event featuring food, song, dance, art, clothing, language, and facts from countries around the world. One school celebrates this annually as a Flag Day Ceremony and Reception, another set up an International Café.

*Mountain View Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Kennesaw Charter PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9; Taylor Road Middle PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10; Mountain Road Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Black History Month**

Historically important black Americans and their contributions were introduced each week through bulletin boards, trivia questions and skits on the weekly student-run W-ESE TV show, and assembly programs with storytellers and entertainers.

*East Side Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Career Day**

Community members presented information and tools about their careers in a “fair” format. Students visited up to 26 community members as they learn about the variety of jobs in communities. The program is designed to impact student self-awareness, positive attitudes, decision-making skills, and knowledge of communities.

*Mountain Road Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Veterans Day Breakfast**

Students, families, and teachers invited veterans to breakfast and honored them with a photo on the “Wall of Honor.” Students made placemats as gifts for their guests. A guest speaker from the Veterans’ Museum in Atlanta and a 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus performance was part of the program. Veterans introduced themselves and related a short story.

*Still Elementary PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9*

### **Student Savings Program**

Students set up savings accounts with a local bank and make regular deposits at school. Many schools participate in the Washington Mutual School Savings Program, while other schools set up programs with a local bank.

*East Side Elementary PTA, Murdock Elementary PTA, Tritt Elementary PTA, Mountain View Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## (ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS)

### **JAG Student Newspaper**

The JAG publishes the written and artistic work of about 50 students each month. Everyone is encouraged to (participate in) DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), when the Jag is delivered. Edited and formatted by a parent volunteer.

*Mableton Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Student Newspaper/Junior Reporters**

Student-run newspaper or section of PTA newsletters provided students with the opportunity to develop journalism skills, including interviewing, writing, editing, layout and design.

*East Side Elementary PTA, Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Annual Oratorical Contest**

An annual contest with the Optimist Club International encourages 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students to present a self-written speech (4-5 minutes) in front of peers, teachers and family. An annual theme is used (2006-07: My Biggest Challenge is...).

*Woodland Elementary Charter PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Writer's Club**

Parents assisted students in developing creative writing skills. A celebration was held at the end of the year to present stories.

*Woodland Elementary Charter PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## **(MATH)**

### **Family Math Night**

Students and their families use grade appropriate scavenger hunt lists to search the local Kroger for math-related information and activities, including prices, measurements, and nutritional information. Students received a prize for completing the hunt (approximately 45-60 minutes).

*Rocky Mount Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Sunshine Math/Math Superstars**

A popular program at the elementary level, but available through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, this program encourages students to complete a weekly math word problem worksheet to earn points or coupon to be used at the school store or other prize redemption center. Programs run from 10-20 weeks depending on the school and grade level. Participation encouraged with weekly competition between classes at each grade level. Top two classes at the end of the year awarded a party. Sunshine Math materials can be purchased from [www.paec.org](http://www.paec.org).

*East Side Elementary PTA, Murdock Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Bascomb Elementary PTA, Carmel Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

## **(READING)**

### **Math & Reading Tutors**

Tutors (parents, high school students, senior citizen groups, teachers, partners-in-education) tutored over 161 students targeted as needing assistance in math and/or reading.

*Hillside Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10; Carmel Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Jr. Great Books, Great Books Clubs**

A parent-led after school program using the Great Book Foundation materials to engage students as a book club, read and discussed stories. Improves critical thinking, reading comprehension, and verbal skills.

*East Side Elementary PTA, Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Woodland Elementary Charter PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Literacy Book Club**

Students met once or twice each month with a parent or staff volunteers to discuss a selected book of the month. For middle school/high school students, meetings held at a local book store, library, or other community site can enhance the activity as a social event, especially if refreshments are available or can be purchased.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Book Fairs**

Set up with Scholastic Books or a local bookseller, books fairs use a theme to promote a weeklong celebration of reading. A family night, book reviews, teacher previews, poster contest, used book drives, etc. enhances the week. Book fairs scheduled in November promoted books as holiday gifts, while book fairs in the spring promoted summer reading. Proceeds can be used to support Media Center purchase of books, including Accelerated Reader books and tests.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, East Side Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Craig Elementary PTA, Richards Middle PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12; Bascomb Elementary PTA, Carmel Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Read-A-Thon**

A school-wide goal was set in October for the number of pages read by students by the end of March (1.5 million pages!). Students submitted a form for each book they read, including books they read more than once. Early readers were allowed to have books read to them. Reading pages were tallied weekly per student. Students earned prizes for reaching reading goals. If the school-wide goal was achieved, each class would have a movie and popcorn party at the end of the year. Additional incentives: students reviewed their favorite book on the school TV show; a pizza party was awarded to one class per grade level based on number of pages read during November. Progress charts (thermometer posters) throughout the school tracked progress toward school-wide goal. Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was used to track student reading.

*Findley Oaks Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Books are a Blast Literacy Campaign**

Grade level reading goals were set for each nine-week grading period. For example, first graders must read 1 hour each week and keep a reading log; 4<sup>th</sup> graders read an increasing number of books with each grading period, starting with 4 books and finishing with 9 books during the last grading period. A different genre was selected each month for students to read. Program was promoted with a Reading Rally, distribution of bookmarks with monthly genre, grade level bulletin boards identifying genre and tracking student success, Media Center book displays, nine-week prizes, and other events (e.g., book fair).

*Vaughan Elementary PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9*

### **Accelerated Reader Programs**

Accelerated Reader books and quizzes are used to earn points for reading. Incentives vary by school, as does the name of the program. Incentives from the community include coupons for ice cream cones, aquatic center admission, and treat bags. School incentives: quarterly Books for Breakfast and pizza parties, books, treat bags, and Wall of Fame inclusion. Students earning a quarterly pizza party at one school were allowed to bring a friend, which encouraged more students to participate and reach the AR pizza party goal. One school selects a new theme and prizes each year to generate excitement for the program.

*East Valley Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Mableton Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9; Marietta Center for Advanced Academics PTA, Marietta City Council, District 9; Craig*

*Elementary PTA, Creekland Middle PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12; Bascomb Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Past Words**

This celebration of classic literature takes place for two weeks every fall. Classic literature is presented to students during announcements and bulletin boards. A raffle of classic literature books culminates the celebration.

*Northwestern Middle PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## **(SCIENCE)**

### **Family Night (Day)/Science Fair**

Family Science Night was used as a prelude to a Science Fair. Family Night included lots of hands-on science activities. Communication strategies were designed to get kids excited about the events, including conducting experiments during morning announcements, advertising during other school functions by dressing up as a scientist, and door prizes.

*Still Elementary PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9; Bascomb Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **SMART (Science, Math, Art, Reading Technology) Fair**

Held the last day before winter break in lieu of holiday parties, this event had students rotate through four 50-minute interactive activities led by 34 presenters on a variety of topics, including wetlands, math games, robotics, mock court, improv, falconry, archeology, technology, mummy wrap, crime lab, and more.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Sunshine Science**

Students receive a worksheet appropriate for grade level with hands-on science activities during this ten-week program. Students employ the scientific problem-solving process to complete a variety of experiments at home. Students are asked to journal their thoughts in a Science Journal as part of the program. Students return the worksheet for a 25-cent coupon to the school store. Students who complete at least eight worksheets will be recognized at the end of the year awards ceremony. Four East Side Elementary fathers who used home science experiment books designed the program.

*East Side Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

### **Let's Go Fishing**

“Let's Go Fishing,” teaches students about fish biology, fish species, fishing techniques, and the importance of keeping streams and rivers clean. Activities include a fishing expedition. Earth Day celebration continued to educate students on clean water with Camp Creek Water Reclamation Facility participating to educate students. Many community partners were involved in this event, including Fulton County Department of Environment and Community Development; Camp Creek Water Reclamation Facility; South Fulton; Clean and Beautiful; Pine Center Garden Club; Mason Lodge 42; as well as commissioners, legislators, businesses, and other government agencies.

*Mary M. Bethune Elementary PTA, South Fulton Council, District 10*

### **HEROES (Helping the Environment Recover On Earth's Surface)**

Student-run environmental committee selected projects, including support of Keep Cobb Beautiful Tree Planting Day and Adopt-A-Mile Program, NIKE Re-Use a Shoe (recycling) Program, pilot of a recycling program for Styrofoam trays.

*Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Earth Week: Go Green, Inside and Out: Promoting Health, Fitness, and the Environment**

This school achieved a level 2 certification for the PTA Go Green Initiative. Programs included an Arbor Day tree planting and nature trail clean-up event, Clean Air Bear presentation (K-2). An Earth Day Fun Run/Health Fair featured vendor exhibits and activities, including plastics recycling, flowering plant activity, environmental craft projects and games (Knock Out Junk Food Bean Bag Toss), healthy refreshments (juice, fruit, water). Other week activities focused on family activities at home with students marking an "Earth Week Score Card" for every activity completed. For example, one day was devoted to reading environmentally friendly books (e.g., Lorax, Hoot, Just a Dream). A t-shirt design contest was held in the months before the event. A new mascot is selected each year from among endangered wildlife species.

*Shallowford Falls Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Outdoor Classroom**

The outdoor classroom at this school includes a nature trail with stream (with 3 study areas, bird houses, and animal tracks box), a bog garden, an herb garden, an ABC garden, a bird habitat, a meadow area, planting boxes with cold frames for cold weather planting, a bluebird trail, outdoor study areas, and a composting bin. The science teacher incorporates the Outdoor Classroom into the curriculum whenever possible. An Environmental Education Profile is submitted to Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful to maintain the status as a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat. Volunteers and students help maintain the outdoor classroom.

*Craig Elementary PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12*

### **Colonial Garden**

Students and parents maintain a garden planted exclusively with colonial era plants.

*Taylor Road Middle PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## **HEALTH AND YOUTH SERVICES**

### Elementary

#### **Staff Pie-Eating Contest**

Exciting activity that raised money to benefit the Rally Foundation (a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for childhood cancer research) held in conjunction with "Rally for Childhood Cancer Research Week." Students "sponsored" a teacher with a \$1.00 donation. Public donated pies. They raised \$838.51.

*Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

#### **Year long activities and programs**

In keeping with their theme for the year, "Our Children. Our Future," they provided several programs throughout the year. In November they had an annual Fun Run and conducted a Health and Safety Fair in conjunction with it. More than 800 parents and children participated. They provided hearing and screening tests for all 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and new (excluding kindergarteners)

or referred students. They screened for nearsightedness, eye-muscle imbalances and color perception difficulties. They provided supplies for the clinic, clothing for students when needed and a direct phone line for the nurse's office. During Red Ribbon week a Cobb County police sergeant with the K-9 patrol unit gave a demonstration to the students on illegal drug detection. They donated books from the wish lists at the book fair and book swap and provided a Parent Resource Library in the Media Center. The fingerprinting and Ident-A-Kid program was offered free to parents. In February they promoted School Bus Safety during Bus Driver Appreciation Week and supported the staff in their "Jump Rope for Heart" initiative.

*East Side Elementary PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Better Air School**

To create a better "breathing environment" for children, they are currently establishing themselves as a "Better Air School." We chose the "Anti-Idling Campaign," to bring attention to how idling a car can pollute the environment and thus, affect a child's learning environment. They sent home flyers as well as put up signs entering the school stating, "No idling-young minds at work".

*Findley Oaks Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Red Ribbon Judges**

Cafeteria workers served as judges during Red Ribbon week activities. An often-overlooked group, in the quest for healthy school environments, including cafeteria workers as judges is a "Best Idea."

*Kincaid Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Red Ribbon Week**

Worked with the Student Council to launch a campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs. The motto was to "Keep Drugs Out". Certificates were distributed that resembled bricks and decided to build a "wall" to "keep drugs out." Each class signed their names on the bricks and took a pledge to be drug free.

*Lake Windward Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Rainbow Group**

They recognize and support the work that the counselors at Mableton do for students who have suffered loss and grief through financial assistance. They understand that emotional issues can have "a profound effect on a child's well being." While they are able to provide many programs and services, they only hold two fundraisers for the entire school year.

*Mableton Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Class Activity for Red Ribbon Week**

Prior to Red Ribbon week, teachers were given appropriate coloring pages, word searches and crossword puzzles as activities for their students throughout the week. Colored paper was provided for each student to trace their handprint and write a pledge not to do drugs. The teachers organized the handprints on a poster board, which were hung in the hall. A large banner with a written pledge was hung on the wall outside the cafeteria for each student to sign (pens were hung on the wall). The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders wrote essays on drug awareness. They displayed their writings in the hall. Some were read to the school during announcements. Throughout the week, 5<sup>th</sup> graders were chosen to read appropriate drug awareness facts during announcements

*Mt. Bethel Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **School Safety and Security**

The school security system was enhanced in three ways. First, the front office parent volunteer's desk was moved to the school lobby so they were able to greet each person who enters the school and ensure they sign in. Second, the Cobb County Ident-A-Kid program was put in place. Each time a person enters the school they must sign in on a laptop and print a name sticker. Signs are posted at all entrances to make the public aware of the policy and all adults must adhere to it. Third, the front entrance is the only unlocked entrance into the school. Anyone wanting access to the annex building must sign in at our front desk and enter the annex through the main school building.  
*Woodland Elementary Charter PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## **Middle/High**

### **Teen Driver Safety and Awareness Week**

This program was modeled after Red Ribbon Week and provides a week's worth of messages to middle school students about the importance of driving responsibility. Within the week, students: 1) watched five days of videotaped messages explaining the importance of being a safe driver; 2) drove golf carts while wearing "drunk goggles"; 3) discussed the dangers of driving under the influence with an incarcerated citizen; 4) listened to the wisdom of a Juvenile Judge in relation to legal issues and responsibilities; 5) "drove" simulators from Safe America that demonstrated how easily distractions can impact a driver in a negative way; and 6) watched a powerful DVD entitled, "It Won't Happen to Me." There was a complementary program on this topic for parents at night.  
*Lost Mountain Middle PTSA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9*

### **Teen Health Night**

Teens came together at night to hear 20 different community experts speak on 18 different topics. Each speaker hosted three 30-minute sessions and students could select 3 sessions to attend. Between 300-600 students attended. This program was expanded to include Lunch N Learn programs in the spring. In addition, Alpharetta is sharing and assisting two neighboring schools for the same program. Advertising included morning announcements, fliers, newsletters, website updates and newspaper updates. Students receive extra credit for attending. Topics include: teen dating, depression, disease prevention, drug addiction, teen driving, Internet safety, anger management, etc.

*Alpharetta High PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Students Teaching Parents about Health**

Students are in advisory homerooms known as "Houses" which are named after famous African American doctors. Each month, two "houses" present information on a health topic in any form they choose. Presentations are made in the form of skits, raps, poems, posters, power point presentations, questionnaires and pamphlets. Topics included sickle cell disease, Suicide prevention, breast cancer, respiratory care, AIDS, hand washing awareness, donating blood, birth defects, heart disease and dental health. This program increased communication between teens and their parents.  
*Carver School of Health, Science and Research PTSA, Atlanta Council, District 10*

# LEGISLATION / ADVOCACY

## Elementary

- Take advantage of all the local, council, district, state and national trainings, events and materials offered. This should be participation not only for the officers and committee chairs but also for all of the membership.
- An informed legislative team communicates information to local membership and greater community through articles in the PTA newsletter, e-mail and local outlets.
- Involvement with your School Council is very important.

*Mt. Bethel Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## Middle/High

- Get students involved early and often in learning civic skills and responsibility. Organize and participate in 'Kids Vote' and actively support and encourage your school's Student Council.
- Expand your monthly newsletter to include more information and articles from the State and National PTA resources especially about legislative issues, PTA objectives and resolutions.

*Tritt Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

- Promote voter registrations with your membership and community.
- Get active and involved as a PTA local unity in issues such as SPLOST.

*Woodland Charter Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

Encourage and support parental involvement in teaching civic skills and responsibility by taking children to the polls. Strongly encourage membership participation in Georgia PTA's website surveys and communicating with their elected officials.

*Mountain View Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

Have legislative chair/committee become teaching resources by attending events and trainings and then reporting back to the membership through writing articles and reporting at meetings about

legislative happenings and issues.

*Lake Windward Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **“When you want change, who ya gonna call?”**

Legislative chair wrote a series of articles using Georgia PTA Education Policy Specialist's “Who's the Decision Maker” resource to guide advocates when they want to make a change. Questions ponder “what if...” and then answer with enough facts to inform the advocate whether it is a municipal, local, state, federal or local Board Of Education issue.

*Northview High PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **“Involve more of the “S” (students) in PTSA!”**

The goal was to involve students in advocacy by bringing a group to PTA Day at the Capitol. The students attended a break-out session with state representatives.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Senate Page program**

They brought a student from each Georgia Social Studies class (8<sup>th</sup> grade) to the Capitol to work as Senate Pages for a day where they learned more about the legislative process. Each student shared his/her experiences with their respective class. Senate pages are arranged through the Senate representative for that school's district. (High school students can do this too.)

*Dickerson Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Democracy in Action - Reaching out with public forums**

The legislative team hosted two public forums; one with 20 candidates running at the federal, state and county level, and one for candidates for the Fulton County School Board.

*Centennial High PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Student Voter Registration**

Students who have turned 18 need to be reminded to vote. Registration drives were held twice, once at the beginning of the year when the seniors were lined up to get their parking passes and in the spring during graduation practice.

*Walton High PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **"What PTA Does for your Child" Slide Show**

Throughout last year they took pictures of each PTA activity that the children were involved in, as well as items that PTA purchased. They put all photos (over 125) into a 4 ½ minute Power Point slide show presentation that was shown at this year's first general membership meeting. They added some music, headings and clipart to jazz it up. A common response was that people did not realize just how much the PTA did at the school. They were excited to join PTA after learning how their child(ren) benefited from it.

*Camp Creek Elementary PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12*

Some of the factors that helped contribute to our membership success included: having a committed, enthusiastic membership chair; offering a variety of incentives and benefits to PTA members; providing a detailed benefit listing on the local, state and national PTA levels; active school administration support and getting the entire school community involved in our efforts. All of these factors proved to be a winning combination for the Carmel PTA membership drive.

*Carmel Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **"Working Together We Can Achieve"**

Demonstrated how a grass roots campaign can be simple, effective and fun by creating excitement among the students and teachers. They were able to grow membership with the "Membership Honor Roll", healthy competition among high school students to see which class would reach 100% first is a great way to involve students and accomplish your goals. They asked parents, grandparents and community leaders to support them and their school by joining PTA.

*Carver School of Health, Science and Research PTSA, Atlanta Council, District 10*

It came to our attention that some parents were not joining PTA because they believed that by signing up for membership they were signing up to volunteer. We received notes from parents that said "I work full time" or "I am a full-time student". We responded by sending out a letter outlining PTA benefits, but also stating that PTA membership was not synonymous with volunteerism. We

also made follow-up phone calls to the parents who had sent us their reasons for not becoming members. The results were fantastic. We were successful in reaching our goal of 100% membership before our first PTA meeting.

*Free Home Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

PTA Rocks was the theme for the year. We used it throughout the entire school year and incorporated it into our school through spirit wear, teacher appreciate week, luncheons, special events, our PTA website and PTA meetings. Our committee started off our membership drive at our back to school luncheon for teachers and staff. They were treated to a “rocking” meal. Our PTA volunteers served everyone while wearing their groovy tie-died spirit wear and jeans.

*Hickory Flat Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **"Each One, Teach One"**

Hit the very core of the PTA mission. The benefits and reasons to join PTA were communicated via flyers that went home in the weekly PTA Communication Packet on Wednesdays, on the school's website, at General PTA meetings, in the monthly PTA newsletters, and at membership drives. All communication was sent on green paper so that information from PTA could easily be seen. Parent sessions were offered to provide information on how parents could collaborate with the PTA to affect change in education and become more active members and participate in the decision-making and advocacy of children. Parents were recruited to help with membership drives and local businesses became members and provided services, food, and door prizes for membership events.

*Kennesaw Charter PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9*

In an effort to reach out to the Hispanic community, this PTSA joined a group of school organizations that participated in a walk-through of a predominately Hispanic neighborhood. They gave out flyers and met parents. All of their literature is available in Spanish and translators are available at most PTSA events.

*Lovejoy Middle PTSA, Clayton Council, District 7*

Ongoing membership recruitment and retention efforts have included articles in our newsletter stressing the importance of PTSA on a local, state and national level. Using our database tool we have been able to email directly those who have not paid membership dues and request their membership on a one-to-one basis. We have also been able to thank those who are PTSA members for their membership and support.

*Marietta Center for Advanced Academics PTA, Marietta City Council, District 9*

### **"Get on the Bus with PTA"**

Demonstrated how a grass roots campaign can be simple, effective and fun. By creating excitement among the students, teachers and community were able to grow membership with a simple yet creative giant size bus. The children were excited and asked parents to join PTA so they can have their personal size bus displayed on the big bus. Created an awesome feeling when people stopped by the school to see "the bus they have heard so much about." They also took the time to educate the community about the true purpose of PTA and referred them to the National and Georgia PTA websites. This created an opportunity for the community to buy into the PTA mission and purpose and developed trust with the PTA leaders.

*Pine Ridge Elementary PTA, Harris Council, District 4*

### **"You Belong In PTA"**

Using the National PTA Publicity Kit and guide they were able to provide information in English and Spanish to attract members at their membership table at various PTA and school events. They used all these resources at every membership drive and left some materials at the front desk. In September, every board member was trained on how to "ask" people to join and used the flyer "The PTA Difference" to help board members feel confident about asking and selling PTA. Organized a display board that listed the Six Standards. At every function the president would welcome the members and provide an update regarding the membership enrollment and "what PTA is doing at our school." The principal wore her "I joined PTA" sticker during registration and open house.

*Richards MS PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12*

One of the technical improvements for the membership drive was to have a sneak a peek sign up form made in duplicate/triplicate so that the committees that need it, have it immediately.

*Rocky Mount Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

The Membership Committee focused on our PTA Theme "Sope Creek Elementary: Where the World Comes to Learn" consistent with the Sope Creek PTA calendars and other material distributed with all membership. The following strategic initiatives were implemented to meet our goal: Teacher luncheon; Meet and Greet; membership packets, new student packets; open house night; and Newcomers' Welcome party.

*Sope Creek Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **"Everyone Wins"**

Began a great grass roots campaign by mailing a letter to all new parents and staff members inviting them to join PTA and included a benefits list showing the advantages of joining PTA. Also participated in the Office Depot membership drive, which was very successful. Offered "goodie bags" to every member that joined. Due to the generosity of the business partners, they were able to offer five different goodie bags. Biggest challenge was families that could not afford the basic membership dues so they worked with each family individually so see what amount worked for them and in some cases the PTA paid the dues. This was done because the PTA felt it was important to show that they valued the families' involvement and supported the educational needs of the student.

*Spalding Drive Charter PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

### **Elementary**

#### **Parent Resource Center**

Collection of over 200 books and videotapes housed in the front office lobby where parents can browse and read in a relaxing area while waiting for appointments. Books are also available for checkout. Includes: parenting, child development, self-help, inspiration, and preparing children for college and career choices. Some titles are also in Spanish and future plans include adding more.

*Creekland Middle PTA, Gwinnett Council, District 12*

#### **Lunch with the Principal**

All families (parents and guardians) were invited to this event. It featured a school tour, cafeteria lunch and conversation with the principal and PTA representatives. This event was promoted through the weekly email newsletter and PTA newsletter. Limiting participation to 20 – 30 people is

a manageable size that made questions and answers easy to handle. The whole session lasted approximately two hours. The only costs incurred were lunch in the cafeteria and printing costs. The openness and accessibility to both the principal and PTA were applauded.

*Frank N. Osborne Middle PTSA, Gwinnett Council, District 12*

### **Surprise Visit to The Library!**

The focus is on literacy and math. Parent workshops were provided on various topics and parents engaged in hands-on activities to reinforce basic skills. At a workshop focused on the benefits of reading with their children, parents arrived at school to attend the class, but to their surprise, were loaded on school buses and taken to the South Cobb Regional Library. The library staff opened at 7:30 a.m. to accommodate the tour. Parents and students were given an orientation about resources, listened to a story as they ate refreshments, and were encouraged to sign up for a library card.

*Harmony Leland Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **International Night**

First year's theme was *education* – a day in the life of an elementary student in each country. Second year's theme was *sports* - famous athletes, origins of sports and demonstrations are shared. Third year, the theme was *music* - musical instruments were displayed and the children enjoyed a dance with music from around the world. This year's theme was Art From Around The World. An evening filled with the Parade of Nations, each child wore traditional clothing, carried their country flag, marched on stage for introductions, and took turns welcoming the audience in their own language. It was an educational evening that included international cuisine and entertainers.

*Hillside Elementary PTA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Coffee and Conversation**

This new program is perking every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the PTA room at school. Each session has a topic for discussion, which keeps our group focused and gives us results. Some of the topics discussed include the Volunteer Partnership, Accelerated Reading Program, and more. An upcoming session will be focused on the “end of the year” slide show and parents will choose the best songs and pictures for the show. We hope to capture a new group of parents in an inviting, warm and “easy to mingle with” Coffee and Conversation.

*Pine Ridge Elementary PTA, Harris Council, District 4*

### **“A Framework for Understanding Poverty”**

Principal of the school made all the teachers read this book over the summer. All PTA leaders also read it so they would be on the same page with the school.

*Sandy Springs Middle PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10*

## Middle/High

### **Meet and Greet**

The PTSA attended the Richmond County BOE meeting and delivered individual invitations to board members to the first BHS PTSA Meet and Greet. The drama students opened with a short skit and the ROTC participated in the event. Parents, students, teachers, community partners, and board members met and discussed issues directly related to the well being of students, both educationally and physically. This event was an informal meeting, as well as a question and answer session for the parents and community to understand the process of the Richmond County BOE.

*Butler High PTSA, Richmond Council, District 8*

### **Get the Scoop on Dodgen Night**

Program developed to increase attendance at their general PTSA meetings and to provide an opportunity for students to boost their self-esteem. They planned a night to hold the PTSA meeting, highlight students' involvement in music, dance, drama, and art. They wanted everyone to see the others at their best so they put a PTSA meeting in among performances and entertainment by the chorus, improv by drama club, student dancer, band and orchestra ensembles, and scenes from the spring production. Art was also displayed around the school. An ice cream sundae social followed as the percussion ensemble played Jamaican music. Responses from parents, teachers, and students were very positive. This will now be an annual event.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

### **Take Your Family to School Week**

We were the only school in Georgia to win this National PTA grant! Many parents along with Atlanta Public School board members attended "Coffee and Chat with the Principal." "Parents Day Out" involved a school tour (in the classrooms, too), and ended with a luncheon in the Hospitality Suite. "Have a Heart Day" was focused on stamping out violence. A "Basketball Game" between faculty, staff and students was scheduled. "Focus on Literacy Day" involved the students enjoying a quiz bowl Jeopardy game. The week ended with the Saturday tutorial classes, and a formal breakfast attended by the National PTA President, and other PTA leaders.

*Frederick Douglass High PTSA, Atlanta Council, District 10*

### **Math Night Out for Parents**

Parents come in on the Thursday for the following week's math assignments so that they can help their students. Students (K-12) were provided study hall while the parents learned math.

*Garrett Middle PTSA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Walton 101**

This communication tool provides incoming parents with a better understanding of what high school life is all about. Parents receive an A-Z booklet which outlines terminology used at Walton, offers a summer reading list, a map of the school, test results from the previous year, and the Cobb County school calendar. Three sessions are held the last week of April at varying times of the day so all parents have the opportunity to attend. The result of Walton 101 is that parents are aware of what to expect and teens are able to make an easier transition from middle to high school.

*Walton High PTSA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## **GEORGIA PTA PARENT INVOLVEMENT GRANT SUMMARIES**

Funded by United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta

### **Getting Everyone Involved to Student Learning!**

Monthly Lunch and Learn sessions are conducted by community leaders, business partners, teachers and staff; workshops focused on parent involvement, communication, parent/teacher conferences, increasing students' ability to learn and testing skills. The theme *Committing to Walk the Journey with my Student* was the focus of the Book Fair, a free Dental screening, and Donuts for Dads. There is a monthly Student of the Month Breakfast, where community leaders are invited to attend. Also scheduled is a basketball game between staff, Dads, and community leaders, and a Community Health Fair, Fall Festival, and Old Campbell County Race-A-Thon.

*Campbell Elementary PTA, South Fulton Council, District 10*

### **It's About Student Learning**

The programs: “Fathers Know Best” Parenting Workshop Dinner, and “Mothers Know Best” Parenting Workshop Breakfast. Two 2-hour single gender workshops include information on the importance of the parent-child bond and the role in education, a volunteer agreement form, and food. These workshops provide an opportunity for parents to enhance parenting skills while learning about their role in student learning, communication with the school, and how volunteerism translates into student success. Want to utilize Georgia PTA’s David Damico, DICOM Chair for the Father’s Dinner/Workshops, and Judy McNeil of Atlanta Public School System for Mom’s Breakfast/Workshops.

*Carver School of Health, Sciences and Research PTSA, Atlanta Council, District 10*

### **Parent Education Universities**

Parents requested skills training, and Parent Universities topics include “Improving Math and Reading Skills”, “Motivating Your Child and Helping Your Child Deal With Problems”, “Teaching Your Child Financial Responsibility”, and “Drug Education”. Partners in Education assisted with workshops; Powder Springs Police Department, Washington Mutual, a licensed psychologist and Compton staff. This PTA’s BSP team also looks at trends in state testing data, local assessments, and perceived changes in stakeholder perceptions. All feedback from parents, students, teachers and staff will be analyzed for future workshops and programs.

*Compton 1900 Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Increasing Parent Involvement**

To increase the number of parents participating in the school, a three series program is planned: Family Campus Beautification Night – organized by the newly formed Garden Club, Student Academic/Leadership Awards Nights, and two PASS (Parental Awareness for Safe Schools) workshops created and presented by the Cherokee County School Police – “Drug Awareness/Interdiction” and “Internet Safety.” Food is provided at all events.

*E. T. Booth Middle PTSA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Addressing Reading Skills**

This PTA worked with school administrators and parents to identify the need to address reading skills. Volunteers are recruited to provide one-on-one tutoring and needed materials were purchased for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students. Parents were trained on how to become effective one-on-one reading tutors. Most of the parent survey responses came from special needs groups.

*Florine Dial Johnston Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Students and Parents Achieving Success**

The program for students is designed to provide Out-of-School time tutorial services to 10% of the students enrolled 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, who need and want to improve their performances on standardized tests and in core classes, taught by staff and peer students – who will be awarded community service hours. The programs for parents provide community forums, Principal Chats, and workshops – Computer Skills, Health Seminars, Parenting Skills, Preparing Your Child For College. Presenters are from nearby colleges and community organizations. Two surveys were conducted – one for parents and one for students. Of the 380 surveys given to students, 348 students responded, the majority interested in tutorial sessions. Students will evaluate the tutorial sessions. Parents will evaluate the workshops.

*Frederick Douglass High PTSA, Atlanta Council, District 10*

### **Open Communication 24/7**

To address the need for better two-way communication between the school, home and community, this PTA implemented an Edline Website. Edline is an Internet program used to check a child's latest grades, receive email alerts, school or class information, team and club activities, verify attendance, calendar of school/PTA events, daily announcements, lunch menus, school policies, and is an easy way for stakeholders to keep-up-to-date online. Teachers, parents and students were trained during a PTA Technology Night. The event began with a dinner enjoyed by parents and school staff; participants received their activation code and instruction on a school computer.

*Gray Station Middle PTSA, Middle Georgia Council, District 5*

### **Connecting Parents To Help Their Child(ren) Be Successful In School**

Parenting workshops were presented at "Moms & Muffins", "Dads & Donuts", "Padres & Pastries," and "Family Game Night" to provide parents with concrete and easy to understand instructional strategies used at school, to help their child with homework. Parents created make-and-take folder games to reinforce basic math and literacy skills, and logged on to school computers to take on-line sample tests of the CRCT to gain insight into what was expected from their child. Parents also learned about thinking maps to help their children organize their thoughts. Thinking maps are used in all grade levels in the school.

*Harmony Leland Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Better Communication Between School and the Parents**

To keep parents informed, the Principal uses a bi-weekly newsletter, presents a Principal's Report at PTA meetings to help parents feel more connected to the school, and sets aside one day a week for parents to communicate any concerns they may have. The School Advisory Council also gives a report to help parents understand how different school groups come together for the benefit of the children. Two parent seminars addressed health and nutrition concerns and combating childhood obesity. "More Books Please!" and Grandparent's Day Celebration involves grandparents to become "mystery readers" to the classes. Collaboration is done with the public libraries.

*Kennesaw Charter PTA, Tom Mathis, Sr. Council, District 9*

### **Fitness Challenge!**

Program challenged parents, teachers, and staff to get back in shape and help their children learn to live a smarter and healthier lifestyle. Local gyms collaborated in this program. A Fitness Assessment is done for each participant; an exercise, nutrition and meals package is put together, which includes recipes. To be a Fitness Challenge participant, you must be a PTA member! Personal Trainers are available at discounted rates. The individual who loses the most inches and body fat percentage and maintains to the end of the school year, wins a trip to anywhere in the contiguous 48 states.

*Kleven Boston Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **PASSport to Success (Parents Assuring Students Success)**

This program is a 6-week workshop series offered to parents and caregivers, (developed in an urban school system in NW Indiana) successfully motivates and involves low-income families in their children's education. Parents learn Parent Attitude, Structuring the Home Environment, Study Skills, Homework and Learning Expeditors/Note-taking Skills, Helping Children Prepare for Tests/Memory and Thinking Skills, and Teaching Reading Skills. This program is extended to ESOL families. Workshops offered in January and February; classes are in English and Spanish. Local high school students as part of their community service projects provide free childcare.

*Mableton Elementary PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Reading Skills Enhanced**

To develop and enhance reading skills with an emphasis on parent involvement, a program was developed to include the Scholastic Book Fair, Reading Workshops for parents and students, and a Renaissance Reader's Reading Contest. This is a Targeted Title I school, and the first time this issue of reading is being addressed. After the reading campaign, there will be an award assembly. Gift cards from Barnes and Nobles will be given to the top readers.

*Renaissance Elementary PTA, South Fulton Council, District 10*

### **Increased Communication and Student Learning**

Beginner language classes for Spanish and English speaking parents are provided in three (3) 8-week courses. Spanish conversation classes are offered to 25 English-speaking parents; English conversation classes are offered to 50 Spanish-speaking parents. CPR certified childcare is offered and there is a graduation program. These courses are designed to help parents assist their child academically by attending parent programs such as How to Help Your Child Become A Better Reader, How to Help Your Child With Their Homework, and How To Motivate your Child.

*Riverside Intermediate PTA, South Cobb Council, District 9*

### **Parents As Partners In Education**

Parents As Partners In Education is an 8-week after school and Saturday tutoring program. Snacks and refreshments are provided, and an Awards Ceremony will take place on the last Saturday session. Both students and parents will be recognized. There will also be a Parent Pep Rally. This PTA's BSP Team works with school administrators and identified 200 students for this tutoring program. CRCT Test Scores, analysis of previous standardized test scores, and classroom performance data recognized the Reading and Math areas of need.

*Stephenson Middle PTSA, DeKalb Council, District 11*

## **SPECIAL NEEDS / EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN**

### **Special Needs Week**

This annual week focuses on promoting awareness of disabilities and the challenges of those with physical or mental disabilities. Students meet and interact with people with disabilities, engage in activities simulating disabilities (e.g., wheelchair tennis), read books and newsletters about disabled people, their experiences, and special needs to help inform students. One school presented Kids on the Block Puppet Show, a national program that uses puppets to create awareness and understanding of people with disabilities. Special activities for the school's MOID/SNP, SNK students – party, performances for parents, parent breakfast, and “Yes, I Can” awards.

*Timber Ridge Elementary PTA, Shallowford Falls Elementary PTA, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9; Woodland Elementary Charter PTA, Centennial High PTSA, North Fulton Council, District 10; Mountain Road Elementary PTA, Cherokee Council, District 13*

### **Exceptional Children Seminars**

A series of seminars co-sponsored by an elementary and middle school offered a variety of topics for gifted and special needs students, their teachers and parents. Speakers were from the community. Teachers and paraprofessionals earned PLU credits for attending. One school offered seminars as part of a monthly parent support group with a potluck dinner.

*Dodgen Middle PTSA, Murdock Elementary, Eastern Cobb County Council, District 9*

## OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL

### Elementary

#### **Baggett Elementary School, District 9, *Dr. Mark Crowe***

Communication with parents is key for Baggett Elementary. Dr. Crowe spends time and effort communicating through newsletters, personal letters, meetings, and face-to-face discussions. He encourages teachers to look at the entire child, not just the academic part, by interacting with them in positive and meaningful ways. This reinforces not only academics but also moral and value growth in each child.

#### **Camp Creek Elementary School, District 12, *Mrs. Kathy M. Jones***

Mrs. Jones collaborates with middle and high schools that Camp Creek Elementary feeds into by interacting with the Beta, Future Teacher of America and Careers in Educators Clubs to provide student mentors for 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Camp Creek is one of the newest schools in Georgia to receive the National PTA Parent Involvement National School of Excellence Award. Specific parenting programs are “Lunch and Learns” or “Dessert and Learns” in which speakers address parenting techniques and skills.

#### **Cheatham Hill Elementary School, District 9, *Mrs. Belinda Walters-Brazile***

Mrs. Brazile works closely with PTA to provide training for parents in Internet knowledge. She was vital in aiding the PTA receiving a \$30,000 Georgia Forestry tree grant to promote health on our school campus. She is constantly helping search for grants to aid in educating the students and innovative programs to do so.

#### **Ocee Elementary School, District 10, *Dr. Jan Linscott***

Dr. Linscott was instrumental in establishing a partnership with another elementary school in Ocee’s district. Ocee collects and delivers needed school supplies for their sister school such as books, school supplies, and winter outerwear. Dr. Linscott encourages reading by leading a PTA Lunch Bunch with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to explore supplemental reading books and exploration of literary themes. She also supports a PTA program specifically developed to supplement the Georgia Performance Standards in Science titled—The Science Zone. These are just some of the ways that parents as partners in the school are utilized.

#### **Pine Ridge Elementary School, District 4, *Mr. Dan Trotter***

Mr. Trotter maintains an open door policy, which encourages both parents and teacher to drop in anytime, with or without an appointment. Parents may visit classrooms, interact with their child in the school setting, eat lunch any day of the week as well as participate in classroom activities. Working with Partner in Education: First People’s Bank, every Friday a student is chosen to be “Teller for the day.” Mr. Trotter understands the value of the “personal touch” by handwriting notes to staff and faculty throughout the year. This time honored method of personal communication, in a time when emails abound, signifies how much he values communication between staff and principal. Of even greater note is the attention devoted to students with families in the military. Since Pine Ridge serves the Fort Benning community, many students throughout the year have family members deployed to active duty around the world. Mr. Trotter continually updates the status and needs of their children during these stressful times.

**Roswell North East Elementary School, District 10, *Mr. Jerome Huff***

Roswell North East Elementary offers parenting CRCT workshops to help children prepare for the standardized test and learn strategies to relieve stress associated with testing. To serve their diverse population translators are available at school for Spanish and English needs. Buses are provided for parental transportation to better serve all parents within their district to come to programs and activities. The principal has actively worked to assure that PTA programs coordinate and enhance curriculum. Examples of offered programs are: Science Day, Readers' Challenge, Math Superstars, and Artist Day.

**Middle/High School**

**Duluth High School, District 12, *Mr. Patrick Blenke***

Mr. Blenke stepped outside of the normal boundaries of the high school principal when he combined the traditional Technical Education Diploma with the College Prep Diploma. This means **each and every** student at Duluth High School takes college preparation level courses. Though perhaps a risky gamble, the students have proven themselves well by increasing their passing rate even while taking more difficult courses. Results of these new program ideas have been tremendous. Three years ago Duluth High was on the "Needs Improvement List" and now they are one of the top ranked high schools in Gwinnett County as per a *Newsweek* Report. They rank 2<sup>nd</sup> in the county in SAT scores and have 98% of students passing the State writing test. These achievements occur even though students are from 50 different countries and speak over 60 different languages.

**Freedom Middle School, District 13, *Dr. Louis A. Manzella***

Dr. Manzella works with PTSA to ensure that goals align with the school's Strategic Plan. To aid the PTSA in its start-up year, he provides paper and copy services for the newsletter. To address bullying, Dr. Manzella introduced a program called: Olweus Bully Prevention Program for all teachers. To incorporate the program to parents he has referred parents to print material on bullying and Internet safety.

**J.E. Richards Middle School, District 12, *Ms. Judy Stephens***

Ms. Stephens, in recognition of the diverse school population, utilizes translators when planning programs and publicizing PTA events. She has also furthered communication between home and school by hiring a bilingual clerk to work in the front office. This helps support and speak to the diversity within the home when parents arrive at school.

**Lithonia Middle School, District 11, *Ms. Patricia May***

Lithonia Middle School utilizes a Parent Patrol. This group shares parenting strategies and serves as parenting mentors. The principal invites parents into the classroom to observe and learn new techniques for helping children succeed in school. Families are regarded as the child's first teacher and valued stakeholders in their education. Ms. May is also a strong communicator who utilizes numerous vehicles to keep in touch with parents and students: Student Magazine, School Newsletter, home visits, and parent surveys.

**Paul D. West Middle School, District 10, *Mr. Dan A. Sims***

"Just Drop In!" Parents are invited to stop in anytime to see what is going on first hand in their child's classroom. This signifies a trust that EVERY teacher comes prepared each day and that they will demonstrate their acumen at all times within the classroom. In an effort to meet the school

family where they live, Principal Sims took some of his faculty and did a community visit to talk and listen to the parents in the area. Mr. Sims goal was to build stronger relationships with parents. Parents are also encouraged to use the media center at the school by checking out books to read with their children. “Staff Member for a Day” program allows students to apply for jobs within the school. Applications from the students are submitted and matched with the job they are seeking.

**South Gwinnett High School, District 12, *Mr. Berry Simmons***

Mr. Simmons promotes parenting skills by inviting keynote speakers to school to discuss and improve parental involvement. He also requires all teachers to have websites to help parents with insights into the specific teaching and learning occurring in their classes.

**Council**

**PTA - Up Close and Personal Workshops**

DeKalb County hosted PTA - Up Close and Personal Workshops for all 142 principals in the county. Of the 142 - 140 actually attended. While many topics were covered in the workshops, the principals were given a clear understanding of how best to work with the parent groups in their schools, address issues effectively as well as to involve themselves as team players in the decision making process. Follow up rounded this event out to be the success it was intended to be.

*DeKalb County Council, District 11*