



## Mutual Dates To Remember 2009-2010

### Greetings and Welcome,

Another school year is beginning and we would like to welcome all teachers, staff and families to Mutual. The start of a new year is always exciting. Those of us on the PTA Board are equally excited and ready for the busy times this year will bring. We have been preparing over the summer for a wonderful school year and planning many fun and family-oriented activities for your children and the entire family.

The PTA Handbook is a reference for your family that includes a general overview of the PTA plans for the year and Mutual's scheduled events. It also includes the names and phone numbers of people who may assist you or possibly answer questions throughout the year. We hope you find this pamphlet informative and keep it for future reference. Have a great year!

*Mutual Elementary PTA Board*

**JOIN THE STAMPEDE .....**  
**AND HELP US SUCCEED!!**



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#### January

5 Ledo's Spirit Night  
12 PTA General Meeting

#### February

2 Ledo's Spirit Night  
TBA Volunteer Social  
9 PTA General Meeting  
TBA Classroom Holiday Recognition

#### March

2 Ledo's Spirit Night;  
3 & 4 Donuts w/Dads (A-M; N-Z)  
9 PTA General Meeting  
9 & 10 Muffins w/Moms (A-M; N-Z)  
29-31 Spring Break

#### April

1-5 Spring Break  
6 Ledo's Spirit Night  
9 Auction  
13 PTA General Meeting  
19-23 Volunteer Appreciation Week  
TBA BOGO Spring Book Fair

#### May

3-7 Staff Appreciation Week  
4 Ledo's Spirit Night  
11 PTA General Meeting  
TBA Volunteer Recognition (Hosted by MES Staff)  
TBA Band/Strings/Chorus Concert

#### June

1 Ledo's Spirit Night  
8 PTA General Meeting  
TBA Fun Day

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## Mutual Dates To Remember 2009-2010

### August

27 Fall Fundraiser Kick Off

### September

1-25 Ways & Means—Grocery Game  
 1 Ledo's Spirit Night  
 3 Volunteer Welcome Session (9-10am or 6-7pm)  
 8 OPEN HOUSE; PTA General Meeting  
 9 Volunteer Welcome Session (1-2pm)  
 11 Fall Fundraiser Ends  
 18 Family Movie Night  
 29 Room Parent Meeting (9-10am or 6-7pm)  
 30—Dec 2 Hands On Science

### October

1-23 Ways & Means - Box Tops Contest  
 5- Nov 23 After School Clubs  
 6 Ledo's Spirit Night  
 13 PTA General Meeting  
 23 Fall Carnival  
 TBA Classroom Holiday Recognition

### November

1-21 Ways & Means—Tyson's/Campbell's Contest  
 2—6 Fall Book Fair  
 3 Ledo's Spirit Night  
 4 Book Fair Family Night  
 6 Dance, 4/5th graders (5th grade fundraiser)  
 10 PTA General Meeting  
 16-20 American Education Week  
 17 & 18 Parent Visitation (A-L; M-Z)  
 19 Goodies w/Grandparents

### December

1 Ledo's Spirit Night  
 8 PTA General Meeting  
 9-11 Santa Shop  
 TBA Classroom Holiday Recognition

## The Mission of the PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children.
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools in this nation.



## MES PTA Goals 2009-2010

- To enhance the communication between the parents, staff and the Mutual Elementary Community, incorporating the objectives and purpose of our National, State, County and local PTAs.
- To provide and encourage student creativity and enrichment by hosting grade appropriate cultural arts programs and field trips throughout the school year.
- To encourage reading and learning for our students by offering a reading incentive program and enhancing existing media resources available to students and teachers.
- To strengthen our sense of community, family and school by sponsoring school-wide family special event programs and after-school programs.
- To maintain or increase our PTA membership and volunteer hours, promote the value of being involved in the PTA, and promote parent involvement with Mutual Elementary School.
- To maintain a Mutual PTA website.
- To continue our efforts toward Mutual's Green School Certification.

# PTA Meetings

**PTA Executive Board Meetings** will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. Meetings begin at 5:30pm in the Mustang Room. The purpose of these meetings is to hear the reports from the committee chairs, approve plans and allocate funds according to the approved budget. If time permits, comments from non-committee chairs will be heard during the last ten minutes of the meeting.

**PTA General Board Meetings** will be held in the cafeteria at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise noted. Parents and children are invited to the General PTA Meetings. The meetings are an opportunity to acknowledge our Mighty Mustang Students and learn about upcoming school events as well as to enjoy refreshments while meeting other students, parents and faculty. There is also an opportunity for the general membership to ask questions in an open forum at the end of each meeting.

## Schedule for 2009-2010 PTA General Meetings

Join us at 7:00pm in the Cafeteria!

<b>September 8</b>	<b>February 9</b>
<b>October 13</b>	<b>March 9</b>
<b>November 10</b>	<b>April 13</b>
<b>January 12</b>	<b>May 11</b>
	<b>June 8</b>



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# PTA Plans for 2009-2010

We have worked hard this summer to plan for a great school year. Here are the events that will be sponsored in whole or part by the PTA throughout the year:

- \* After School Clubs
- \* Auction
- \* Book Fairs
- \* Cultural Arts Events
- \* Dances
- \* Fall Carnival
- \* Field Trips
- \* Fun Day
- \* Fundraisers
- \* Hands On Science
- \* Landscaping
- \* Movie Nights
- \* Open House
- \* Publishing Company
- \* Reading Incentive Program
- \* Spirit Night
- \* Spirit Wear
- \* Staff Appreciation
- \* Teacher Luncheons
- \* Volunteer Appreciation
- \* Website

## Mutual Dates to Remember

1st Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted:

**Ledo's Spirit Night (4:30—7:30pm)**

A percentage of all sales are donated back to Mutual!

2nd Tuesday of every month:

**PTA Executive Board Meetings—5:30pm (Mustang Room)**

**PTA General Membership Meetings—7:00pm (cafeteria)**

Dates TBD: October—April:

**MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) 3-5pm**

2nd & 4th Tuesdays October—April

**JUST SAY NO! 3:30—4:30pm**

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## Breaking the Myths of Being a PTA Member

**If I become a member does that mean I have to volunteer at school?**

No, you are not required to volunteer if you are a PTA member. Of course, we welcome everyone that would like to volunteer.

**I cannot volunteer at school but I would like to help, what are my options and do I need to be a member?**

You are not required to be a PTA member to help out. There are many ways to volunteer from home or at school, we may need supplies cut out or constructed, baked goods prepared, paper collated, help with special events, or just phone calls made. All help to our school is appreciated.

**If I become a member does that mean I have to go to meetings?**

You are not required to attend the *General Membership* meetings, but we encourage parents and staff to attend. You will receive up to date information at the meetings and also vote on budget decisions.

**If I am NOT a member does that mean I can NOT go to the general membership meetings?**

You do NOT have to be a member to attend a meeting. However, you must be a member to vote on budget or other issues.

**I volunteered, but because I am not a member I did not think I could attend the volunteer appreciation breakfast or gatherings. Is that correct?**

We welcome everyone and anyone that helps out at Mutual. You do NOT have to be a PTA member to participate in any of the volunteer appreciation events.

## PTA BOARD MEMBERS

President	Tracy Fiore	410-495-8139
Vice President	Lara Gladhill	410-586-9252
Secretary	Wendy Miller	410-495-7694
Treasurer	Kevin Frere	410-586-1623
MES Administration	Lisa Wisniewski	410-535-7700 (w)
MES Administration	Summer Cox	410-535-7700 (w)
Teacher Rep	Carol Chang-Savoy	410-535-7700 (w)
CCC PTA Rep	Sheila Pitcher	410-586-1421
After School Clubs	Dawn Bernard	410-586-2696
Auction	Someone Special	
Bookfair	Libby Williams	<a href="mailto:slmjwilliams@comcast.net">slmjwilliams@comcast.net</a>
	Co-Chair Wendy Jenkins	410-586-9194
	Co-Chair Karen Wessels	410-586-1839
Cultural Arts	Lisa Reid-Regan	410-586-8165
	Co-Chair Elleen Kane	410-586-2173
Fundraising	Tracy Fiore	410-495-8139
Hands On Science	Tracey Williams	410-586-3411
Hospitality	Christina Ferrara	410-495-8614
Landscape Maintenance	Jen Baker	410-495-8375
Membership	Jen Roush	410-586-9780
MES Publishing	OPEN	
Newsletter/Website	Linda Ward	410-610-3736
Reading Incentive	Cindy Rerig	410-586-8023
Recycling	Kathy Brennan	410-586-8476
Special Events	Shannon Kwiatkoski	410-586-9445
	Co-Chair Heather Wright	410-586-3118
Spirit Wear	Pam Soffos	410-495-7849
Volunteers	Cynthia Kelly	410-586-2354
	Co-Chair Sue Morris	410-586-8715
Ways and Means	Linda Burke	410-586-0620
5th Grade Reps	Shannon McNeil	410-586-8907
	Co-Chair Stacy Frere	410-586-1623
	Co-Chair Dee Kline	240-441-5893

## What do PTAs do?

PTAs get results. More than 85 rigorous research studies conducted over 30 years show that kids do better when parents are involved. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases.

PTAs keep parents informed. Involved parents can understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution. PTAs support education through active participation and advocacy.

PTAs improve children's well-being. PTAs focus on what students need to be successful in their learning, including proper nutrition and safe, healthy environments.

PTAs can help schools fulfill parent involvement requirements in the law known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Why? Because PTA's definition of parent involvement is the definition used in NCLB. Getting involved in PTA is the best way to organize parent involvement.

PTAs benefit everyone. Strong schools mean stronger communities. PTA membership is open to anyone concerned with the education, health, and welfare of children.



## Why join PTA?

The \$5.00 membership fee (\$4.00 for each additional member ~ spouse, grandparents, other relatives, sponsors) includes membership in the National, Maryland, and Mutual Elementary PTA's.

1. The #1 reason to join the PTA is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help our school. Children do better when their parents are involved both at home and in school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.
2. Every membership counts! When you join the MES PTA, you also join the Maryland State and National PTA and become part of a national effort to improve the education, health, and welfare of every child.
3. PTA membership helps you connect with the school, the staff, and other parents and gives you a voice in deciding the direction of the MES PTA. Only members can vote on PTA issues and hold a PTA office.

In addition, all PTA members receive 10% off Spirit Wear and various other discounts through National PTA and local businesses.



Joining the PTA does not obligate you to volunteer at school or attend PTA meetings—although we hope you will!

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