



August 2011

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Dear Wanda Gray Families,

The number one priority for parents is their children's well-being. More than 30 years' work of research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved both at home and at school. Grades and test scores climb. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve.

There's a simple way for you to help your child succeed: Join PTA.

PTA helps parents, students, school staff, and communities work together to share ideas about programs and activities that benefit children. Our PTA provides information and resources that strengthen the connections between children parents, schools, and the community.

In the past year we have:

- Purchased a new sign for the school, collected and turned in over 1400.00 in box tops, and 55,000 Labels for Education points, donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, and purchased activities for the students and children at St. John's Pediatric Oncology here in Springfield.
- Sponsored a major field trip for the entire 4th grade, as well as assisted with field trips for all classes, and assisted with bringing in guest authors.
- Given every teacher monetary assistance for their classroom.
- In addition to donating time and a special blue jean drive, made a monetary contribution to the PTA clothing bank which currently sees more than 1300 student visits per year. (for more about the PTA Clothing Bank, go to scptamo.com)
- We partnered with Bissett Elementary to open a Cents of Pride store
- Sponsored several other fun events for Wanda Gray students: Fun Night Festival, Sock Hop, Scholastic Book Fair, Health Fair, and our first "Trot for Paws" 5K.
- Sponsored several other programs at Wanda Gray: Reflections, Gray-T Reader, School Directory, Yearbook, RIF, Spirit Wear, Birthday Salute, School and Teacher Appreciation, Snacks at MAP testing time
- Wanda Gray PTA also helps organize RAD Dad and Home Room Parents.

PTA is America's number one parent involvement resource. By becoming a member, you will not only help your child in one of the most important ways possible but also receive valuable benefits:

- Online parenting resources and other materials on issues relating to children's education, health, and well-being
- E-newsletters on parenting and legislative issues
- Special offers and discounts from corporate supporters of PTA
- Leadership training opportunities
- The Member-to-Member Network, connecting you to Congress when help is needed on issues important to children, schools, and families

Please join by filling a membership form and returning it to school, attention Casey Greenway, or e mail: cgreenway@mchsi.com . You can visit the National PTA website, www.pta.org, to sample the benefits you'll reap when you join PTA, and you can go to the Springfield Council PTA website, www.scptamo.org, to find out some more about what is going on around town.

Take a minute, Parents, and join. I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Ann Owsley,
President, Wanda Gray PTA

**You belong in PTA! Join now,
during PTA Membership Month.**

Wanda Gray PTA, Ann Owsley, President; 417-881-8633; annowsley@hotmail.com