

PTA PRESIDENT'S LETTER
SEPTEMBER 2015



I would like to welcome back returning students and families as well as extend a heartfelt welcome to our new MCES families! Your PTA Executive Board has been working hard over the summer to make the 2015-2016 school year the best and most productive yet.

In order for our PTA to be effective and successful, it is vital to have support and involvement of our parents. Studies show that parental involvement can have a significant impact on a child's educational experience. Your first opportunity to show support is to become a member of the PTA. It is \$6.00 that goes towards improving every aspect of your child's life with the school. When you become a member, it helps offset our dues, increase our membership, and add funds to our budget that goes towards selected educational materials, supplies, etc. **Being a member does not mean you have to volunteer in any way.** Your membership card can also serve as a discount card at various local merchants. Membership is not only for parents but it can extend to anyone in the life of a child (i.e. grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.). This year, each person that signs up for membership will be entered into a drawing for one of two \$50 gift cards during Back to School Night on September 15th.

Through our parent/membership involvement, your PTA has been instrumental in assisting our school administration and faculty with initiatives that have the ability to improve our children's learning environment. Last year we were able to provide a substantial amount of money that the Special Education Department used to purchase much needed items. Many items are being used in the school sensory room to assist our special needs children. Two years ago, the PTA helped school administration purchase several promethium boards that are being used in the majority of the classrooms. These high-technology boards are a wonderful tool for the teachers to use in their daily teaching. This year, we hope to raise additional funds to purchase promethium boards for the remaining classrooms that do not currently have them. We are also proud to partner with Administration in the PBIS Initiative in which students will shop at the ROAR Store with ROAR bucks earned through positive behavior. The PTA also provides funds to each grade level and department to assist with their supply needs.

The PTA also LOVES to have FUN and we have been busy planning some awesome events for our students and families. In September, the Fall Fundraiser with Great American will begin with a fun kickoff party for the students. Each student that sells two or more items will receive a Minion keychain. Any student who sells three or more items will be able to attend an awesome Minion party in November with special guest, GRU! We will also be having our annual Holiday Craft Show and Bazaar in November. This event has grown over the last few years to over 400+ attendees. It's a great way to start your Christmas shopping. In February we will have our Sweetheart Dance for fathers/daughters and mothers/sons. The Talent Show will return in March and showcase our children's' awesome abilities. In April we will be having our third annual Run on the Wild Side 5K and Kids 1 Mile Fun Run. This event has also grown to over 100+ runners/walkers and many vendors, etc will be onsite to join in on the fun. What a wonderful way to teach our kids about fitness! Lastly we look forward to our annual Lions on the Lawn event to celebrate all of our accomplishments at the end of the school year in June.

PTA Board meetings are held on Thursdays once a month at 6 PM during Family Reading Night. I encourage you to stop by and listen and stay informed as to what is going on. If you are not able to attend, you may also check us out at the monthly school events (see calendar for details). The PTA will quickly share what is going on and it will be your opportunity to ask questions. I also encourage you to check out our website at mces.my-pta.org. There is a lot of pertinent information as well as meeting minutes, treasurer reports, fundraiser information, as well as an events calendar. You can also "Like" us on Facebook to keep up to date. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to know how to become involved with the PTA, please feel free to contact me at 804-441-3221 or retillet@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Becky Tillett
Marguerite Christian Elementary School PTA President