

Shelby County Council

4595 North Germantown Road

Arlington, TN 38002

PTA

SEPTEMBER 2008

PTA

Purposes

TO PROMOTE the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and the place of worship.

TO RAISE the standards of home life.

TO SECURE adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.

TO BRING into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.

TO DEVELOP between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Shelby County Council

PTA®

everychild.one voice.

Becca Priddy, President

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Go Wild About PTA

September 3, 2008

**Advent Presbyterian Church
1879 N. Germantown Parkway, Cordova**

**Join us for a Coffee Meet & Greet at 9:30 a.m.
Meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.**

**Membership Kick-off with the Mayors
Buzzy Fire Safety Program Kick-off**

Local Municipalities' Fire Marshals
will be on hand to answer
questions specific to programs in
your community!



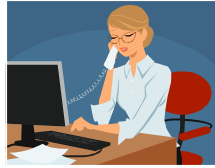
Did you know they have programs
designed for all age groups and grade levels?

Here is your chance to learn more.

Wild About PTA

SECRETARY

My name is Sharon Farley and I am the secretary for Shelby County Council PTA. My primary job is to take the minutes of all meetings of Shelby County Council PTA and maintain those documents for future boards.



Remember... minutes are to be taken for all meetings and approved at the next meeting. This is for Board of Managers meetings and for the General Meetings when the members are present. All minutes should include a financial report.

If you have any questions about how to record and/or report the minutes, please do not hesitate to call on me and I will do my best to respond as soon as possible. The best way to reach me is secretary@sccpta.org, msfarley@bellsouth.net or 937-8260.

Have fun and enjoy the coming adventure!

Sharon Farley—Secretary

HEALTH & SAFETY

Summer was too short! I hope you have had a successful start to this year's school year and that you've started thinking about your safety poster contest. You should have received your Tennessee PTA Handbook that has all the information you need for your safety poster entries. Remember, Shelby County Council deadlines are different from the Tennessee PTA deadlines.

We have a brand new multi-media program this year for middle school and high school. You should have received that information at summer leadership. If you choose to do this program in your middle/high school this year, the drop off dates will be the same as the safety poster contest. This is the first year for this program – it's a mix between the reflections contest and the safety poster contest. If you plan to do this program this year, please contact me and let me know.

As always, if you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me at healthandsafety@sccpta.org.

Joni McMahan—Health & Safety

PROGRAMS / PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had a fun and restful summer and are ready to get back to school. My name is Jessica Starr and I am the Vice President of Programs and Parental Involvement. We have some wonderful speakers scheduled for our general meetings this year.

Our first general meeting is September 3rd at 10:00 am. It will be held at Advent Presbyterian Church on Germantown Parkway. We have a special guest to speak on fire safety and its importance. Please make plans to attend and bring your Board. I am also interested in any programs you might have done at your school. Please let me know if there are programs you are particularly proud of and we will put them on our website to highlight your PTA.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please let me know. I wish each and every one of you a productive and successful year.

Jessica Starr—Programs / Parental Involvement

HISTORIAN

The opportunity for us to play vital roles in our children's education has arrived again – the start of a new school year. As your 2008-2009 Historian, I encourage each of you to take the time from your busy schedule and volunteer at your child's school. The time you spend there will make a big difference. Feel free to email me your *priceless pictures* that exemplify PTA purposes and/or of your SCC Board member at your event – your pictures might be in the County Scrapbook. I will be available to answer any questions pertaining to your school's scrapbook. Get started early to be ready to turn them in at the State Convention. Thank you and I look forward to serving as your SCC Historian. Email: historian@sccpta.com



Sirlina Barnes—Historian

Membership Reports are due...

***Please note these dates are different from the State**

Initial Report.....due **October 3, 2008**
 Additional Report.....due **November 21, 2008**
 Final Report.....due **February 20, 2008**

What to send

2(Two) copies of your membership list
Check for \$3.00 per member
Completed membership report form

Where to send

Nancy Loggins, SCC PTA
 8042 Irene Blvd. #201
 Memphis, TN 38125
OR Pony to Germantown High School

MEMBERSHIP

It Takes A Village to Raise a Child

Let's take our schools and PTA memberships out of the "cookie cutter box" society has placed us in and "go wild" with our memberships this year. Don't limit yourself to the school parking lot, get out and explore the possibility of having a village as your membership base.

The Village, the neighborhood, that place where people look out for each other and support each other, where people share joys and sorrows, good times and bad times. It does take a village, to raise a child, it also takes a village to have a successful PTA. Your PTA membership should consist of parents, administrators, staff, teachers, firefighters, police officers, business owners and church members. Anyone in your community that stands still long enough for you to hand them a membership form should be apart of your village.



In it's best sense, I think it means every person in a community has a vested interest in seeing to it that every child is well cared for, well educated, and well raised. It's your job as a local unit membership chair to prove to your community that they are the extended family and we are calling all neighbors, teachers, coaches, religious leaders, and all others to take a special role in our village.

You start building a good neighborhood when you yourself decide that you will be a good neighbor. Make your PTA your village and find out that life is easier when you are part of a network of friends, family and community.

Nancy Loggins—Membership

President's Message

Here we are again, another September, another school year and more excited than ever about what the Shelby County Council PTA has planned! The Council has several goals this year and most of them include you – the PTA leaders. However, it is also our goal to include the general membership, local governments, the business community and the community at large – basically anyone who lives in or works in Shelby County. Why? Because each and every citizen depends on our school system to be successful, even if they do not have children in the system.

Once again, kudos to the Shelby County School System for receiving their incredible straight A report card. Credit goes to the system's outstanding teachers, faculty, staff and administration; however the school system is quick to say they could not do what they do without you – the parents. The Shelby County Council PTAs have always maintained a strong relationship with the systems and in each school it shows. Parental Involvement is key to the success of a system, not to mention each and every child in the classroom. Keep up the great work you are doing in your local unit!

This year, we will prepare to push for Special School District Legislation again. Each year, funding from the local governments becomes increasingly difficult. By gaining Special School District Status, the SCS Board of Education potentially has the option of making decision and getting funding based on the needs of the schools. Throughout the year, you will hear more on this subject. Stay tuned.

Our Membership goal this year for the Council is 100%. That means one member for every student. We've already heard great increases just at registration. Keep up the momentum! When we achieve 100% membership, then the SCC voice is over 47,000 members strong! This speaks volumes to our elected officials. This year, I encourage local unit leaders (not just the membership chair) to get out to the community and ask people to join and to take a vested interest in their community's future – the students. Add these non-parent members to your email lists so that they know what is going on in your school. What better way to connect to the community.

We also have some very exciting programs planned for this year. Please let your general membership know about some of our speakers and presentations and invite them to attend. After all these are your future leaders!

Good luck as the school year hits high gear and always know, we are here for you – the local units! Just email or give us a call.

Becca Priddy—President

2008 NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB)

(Outstanding Results for Shelby County Schools)

Under NCLB, benchmarks are set to establish a required level of proficiency in Math and English/Language Arts. For each school in a system, test results for these two subject areas are then disaggregated into nine subgroups (cells), which include race, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency. Every school is thus graded in 18 areas. (The fact Shelby County Schools (SCS) had 49 schools tested, resulted in 882 systemwide subgroups.)

Not achieving the benchmark in even one of the 18 subgroups results in a school being placed on a list of schools not meeting "Adequate Yearly Progress" or so-called "Target Schools." In Tennessee, under NCLB guidelines, a school must have 45 students in a subgroup in order for that subgroup to be counted. Many smaller systems/schools do not have enough students to qualify for a subgroup to be counted and thus escape the so-called "Target" list.

2008 NCLB Systemwide Results for SCS

For a system as large and diverse as Shelby County Schools, the 2008 results for No Child Left Behind were outstanding. Systemwide results improved in all four academic categories.

- 95.7% proficient or advanced in Language Arts grades 3-8 (95% last year)**
state benchmark 89%
* **58.5% of SCS students scored at advanced level)**
- 95.5% proficient or advanced in Math grades 3-8 (95% last year)**
state benchmark 86%
***59.4% of SCS students scored at advanced level)**
- 96.8% proficient or advanced in English II (96% last year)**
state benchmark 93%
***73% of SCS students scored at advanced level)**
- 95.4% proficient or advanced in Algebra I (95% last year)**
state benchmark 83%
***67% of SCS students scored at advanced level)**
- 99.77% - each of the 49 SCS school's test results were disaggregated into 18 subgroups for a total of 882 systemwide - the benchmark level for "proficiency" and "advanced" was reached in 880 of the subgroups**

CULTURAL ARTS

Hello and welcome to an exciting new "Reflections Contest" school year. I'm looking forward to working with everyone and making this year's contest and Cultural Arts program just as successful as last year. The theme for this year's National PTA Reflections program is "WOW". The goal of the Reflections program is to give children a chance to experiment and feel good about their work. Now would be a great time to get the Reflections program rules and entry deadlines (for your school) out to teachers and parents. Also, don't forget to begin locating judges for each category as the deadline approaches quickly.

Mark your calendars! all entries for the SCC PTA Reflections Contests must be dropped off November 5 & 7 to be eligible for judging on the county level. Drop off locations to be announced soon.

Karen Williams—Cultural Arts



MEMPHIS-DELTA REGION NEWS

I hope everyone had a great summer and you're off and running. Summer Leadership went great and we had even more attendees than last year! Thank you all for attending and visiting with our exhibitors. Please mark your calendars now for Fall Conference. It will be Oct. 16 at Chimneyrock Elementary.

Kim Dyer—Memphis-Delta Region Director

SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

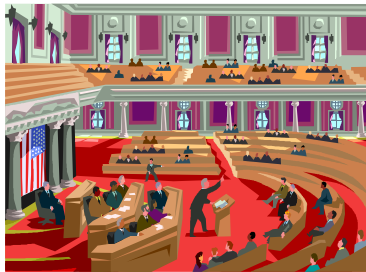
Safety Poster Contest theme this year is "*Stranger Danger*". Poster drop-offs will be on Tuesday, November 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. location TBA and Thursday, November 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. location TBA. You may drop off your safety posters on either of the designated days. Forms must be completely filled out and include the Student Entry Forms/Local Unit Entry Forms securely attached to the back of each poster. Remember to make extra copies of the blank entry forms to use for the state contest. If one of your entries is chosen to represent the Council, you'll have to amend your Unit Entry Form. If you have any questions, contact Joni McMahan at healthandsafety@sccpta.org.

LEGISLATION

Hello! My name is Evelyn Jones and I am your Legislative Representative for the Shelby County Council. You can find me at legislation@sccpta.org. I am looking forward to an exciting year and want you to celebrate it with me. Please be sure that I have the email for your unit's legislative chairperson (or president, if you have no legislative representative) so that I can keep you updated on the issues in our local, state, and national government that impact our children and our schools.

If you have kept abreast of the local media at all lately, you are aware that school funding is an issue that has been dominating the news. Everyone agrees that schools should be well funded, but how that should happen is the burning question. The current system is so convoluted that it seems to confound even the brightest minds. Something needs to change, but what?

That is the issue on the table for the coming year, both locally and at a state level. As active and interested parents, we need to be as knowledgeable as possible, so that when the time comes for us to weigh in on the issues, we can speak with wisdom and accurate facts. Our funding system could potentially be overhauled over the next couple of years, and this is no time to be sitting on the sidelines.



Learn as much as you can. Talk with other stakeholders. Explore pertinent web sites. Attend School Board meetings. The issues are legion, so learn everything that you can.

A good place to start is at FundShelbySchools.org. This is a web site created by Commissioner Mike Carpenter to explore the issue of school funding. The section Funding Today is an excellent primer on how things are currently done. It is not all inclusive and does not address some of the issues that impact those numbers, but it is a great overview of how the current system works. He also provides links to some of the state laws and legal opinions on these topics. While PTA does not endorse the web site, I offer it to you as one of many excellent resources.

Many people have offered their opinions and solutions to the school funding issue based on misconceptions about the current system and laws. Don't be one of those people. Learn the facts and be part of the solution. Our children deserve nothing less.

Evelyn Jones—Legislation

INSPIRATION

Let us take care of the children, for they have a long way to go. Let us take care of the elders, for they have come a long way. Let us take care of those in between, (volunteers for PTA) for they are doing all the work!

Lisa Brothers—Inspiration

COMING TO A COMMUNITY

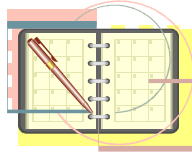
NEAR YOU!

SCC PTA will provide training for all PTA members.

We will hold training workshops in Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Germantown & Millington.

Watch for more information on the website and watch announcement emails

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**



September 1	Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
September 3	Shelby County Council PTA General Meeting— 10:00 a.m. @ <i>Advent Presbyterian Church</i> <i>1879 N. Germantown Parkway</i> <i>Cordova, TN</i>
September 25	School Board Meeting/Public Forum— 6:30 p.m. @ <i>Southwind</i> <i>High</i>
October 1	Presidents & Principals Luncheon <i>Ridgeway Country Club</i>
October 3	Initial Membership Report due to Council
October 9	Parent / Teacher Conferences
October 13 & 14	FALL BREAK
October 16	Memphis-Delta Region Fall Conference @ Chimneyrock Elementary

This newsletter is printed in 8 issues
September, October, November,
December/January,
February, March, April, May

HOSPITALITY

Mark your calendars for the Presidents and Principals luncheon to be held October 1 at Ridgeway Country Club. Invitations will be sent in early September and it is vital that you return your reservations and money on a timely basis. We must give a set number to the country club and have to pay for the meals even if someone does not come. The price of luncheons for this year has gone up to \$22. Please notify your treasurer of this increase.

The Founders' Day Luncheon date has been set for February 4 so go ahead and make plans to attend. More information will follow at a later date.

If your school is interested in providing refreshments for a general meeting please contact me. General meetings are in September, November, January, April, and May.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. I can be reached at 754-0957 or bpickler@aol.com or hospitality@sccpta.org.

Beth Pickler—Hospitality

DID YOU KNOW

SEPTEMBER IS:

- PTA Membership Month*
- National Preparedness Month*
- Library Card Sign-Up Month*
- College Savings Month*
- Hispanic Heritage Month*