



The Pony Express

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PTA Chapter 8.2.37

Volume 7, Issue 3

December 2008



Message from the President

Happy Holidays from Mt. Erie PTA

Dear Mt. Erie Families:

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families. As the year draws to a close, I am reminded of how lucky we are to have such a wonderful team of staff and teachers at Mt. Erie. I hope you can take the time this busy holiday season to share your thanks and good tidings to all those who are involved in your children's lives.

Last month we "wrapped up" our Sally Foster Fundraiser. It was a huge success and I want to especially thank **Leslie Tysseling** for her hard work and organization of this. Thanks also to all the families and students who helped raise funds for all our PTA programs. Without your support, we couldn't pay for all the activities and events that benefit our children.

Please take some time to check out our

PTA website: www.mt-erie-pta.org
Our Communications Leader, **Meredith Laws** and her team have done a fantastic job setting up and maintaining this website. It contains all the PTA information, contacts, forms and updates. It has all the newsletters and a handy calendar to keep track of school and PTA events. Thank you, Meredith, for all your hard work and creativity!

I would also like to take this time to **thank all the volunteers** who faithfully come in every week to help out with all our PTA and school activities. I just can't thank you enough!

Last and certainly not least, I want to **thank our board members** that work tirelessly to make sure everything always goes off without a hitch. We have a great group of dedicated people and this PTA wouldn't run without you!

Happy Holidays!
Suzy Gilbert

Important Dates

Family Night!	Dec 4
<i>Holiday Crafts</i>	
PTA Board Meeting	Dec 10
Reflections Entries Due	Dec 18
All School Concert	Dec 18
<i>Brodniak Hall</i>	
Winter Break	Dec 22
<i>No School</i>	
	Thru Jan 4
PTA Board Meeting	Jan 14
Martin Luther King Day	Jan 19
<i>No School</i>	
PTA General Membership Meeting	Jan 20



Volunteer Round-Up!

Many hands make light work! We are all volunteers—can you lend a hand?



Do you have a flair for scrap-booking and decorating? We need someone to help out with bulletin boards in our hallways! Please let us know if that is something that interests you!



RIF, health screenings and lice checks are all important PTA functions at our school. We can always use a hand with these—and training is always provided.



We are so lucky to have a great volunteer coordinator on our PTA Board. Silja Shjarback is great at matching you up with a volunteer opportunity that fits into your schedule. An hour or two on a day that's convenient for you could make a huge difference to our kids! Contact her at shjaresa@fidalgo.net.



Family Nights at Mount Erie

Harvest Night was fun! Lot's of games and prizes and families spending time together! We had a boat load of helpers and I want to thank each one of you! Kori Fosso did a beautiful job with her photo booth. I saw lots of happy kids and families being photographed – making memories for years to come!

Our mustang point winners who guessed the nuts in the vase were: Tom Bigelow (parent), Ethan Switzer (boy winner), Jayda Jameson (girl winner), Cathy Hoy (staff) and Mrs. Conat (teacher). Each winner gets 5 mustang point to the classroom of their choice.

Movie night was packed! Thanks to the Washington State PTA for sending us Dreamworks "Kung Fu Panda". This movie will be donated to the Mt. Erie Library for students and teachers use. Check out www.PTAMovieNightLive.com for family friendly movies to purchase. Thank you also to the Welliver family for donating their popcorn machine – it was a busy, busy machine – cranking out lots of popcorn!

Join us on December 4th as our parent volunteers bring their ideas to share and create holiday crafts and gifts at our next family night "Holiday Crafts". The evening will run from 6:30 – 8pm. Christmas music, cookie decorating and hot chocolate will put you in the holiday spirit!

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of our family nights please email me at patty.luciano@earthlink.net. I will put you on the mailing list and you can decide how and when you would like to help.

Patty Luciano and Heidi Parker
Family Night Co-Chairs

Don't miss...

The All-School Holiday Concert "A Christmas Carol"

A Joyous Rendering of the Holiday Spirit featuring a musical production of the story by Charles Dickens

December 18 at Brodniak Hall

Primary Grades perform at 6pm

Intermediate Grades perform at 7:15pm





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Corral 2008-2009**

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We're on the web!
Check out
www.mt-erie-pta.org
for Mustang Point
totals, volunteer
information and more!



Focus on Reflections

Reflections entries are due December 18

Reflections Art Program Information

The Reflections Program is a National PTA cultural arts competition. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works.



Each year, Reflections challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. Themes are selected from thousands of ideas submitted by students to National PTA's Reflections Theme Search. **The 2008-2009 Reflections theme is: "Wow..."**

Young artists get involved in Reflections through their local PTA. A student may submit an entry in any of six arts areas. Only

original works of art are accepted. The six art areas are:

- Literature -- works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, drama, short stories and lyrics.
- Music Composition - original musical composition, with or without words.
- Photography -- prints up to 11 x 14 inches in color or black and white, including techniques: photogram, retouched, montage, sandwich and multiple exposures.
- Visual Arts -- drawing, painting in tempera, oil, acrylic, watercolor & t-shirt paints, computer generated art, two-dimensional collage, printmaking, needlework & leather tooling.
- Film/Video -- original works, with or without sound, of animation, narrative, documentary, experimental or music video/film.
- Choreography/Dance -- originally choreographed dance composition (recorded



on VHS tape or DVD).

Entries are judged on creative ability and interpretation of the theme. The Reflections Program is structured for PTAs to recognize students at the local, council, state, and national levels. Entries are first judged at the local level and selected works are chosen to represent the PTA at the state level PTA.

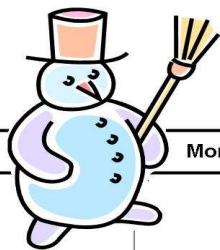
Information packets, rules, guidelines, and entry forms are available to interested students in the PTA Office soon or online at www.wastatepta.org (follow links to Reflections).

For more information, contact Jennifer Bowman, Mt. Erie PTA Reflections team leader, at jbow2@verizon.net



Mt Erie PTA Mission:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, 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 of this nation.



December 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	2	3	4 Family Night Holiday Crafts ★	5	6	
7	8	9	10 PTA Board Meeting 2:30-3:30	11	13	
14	15	16	17	18 Reflections Due All School Concert: A Christmas Carol ★	19 Last Day of School before Winter Break	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
★ Winter Break No School ★						
28	29	30	31			
★ Winter Break No School (through Jan. 4) ★			★	★ HAPPY NEW YEAR ★		

