


MT. BETHEL ELEMENTARY PTA: ARTS IN EDUCATION 2006-2007


 2005-06

GOALS: Our goal was to create, implement, and oversee programs within the arts that broaden the horizons of our students, encourage self-expression, and enhance self-esteem. This goal addressed primarily the Student Learning and Volunteering standards outlined by the National PTA Standards for Parent/ Family Involvement. The committees that helped support this goal were Cultural Arts, Reflections, Music Parent, Art Parent, Visiting Author, Challenger Book Publishing, and Story Book Readers. Other committees that also had elements addressing Arts in Education were, Cultural Celebrations of the World, Health and Safety Fair, and Character Education.

CULTURAL ARTS: This program focused on Performing Arts. Three programs were provided for the school, broken into appropriate grade levels with a wide variety of performances. **Results:** Student and teacher feedback confirmed the value of this program. **Resources:** Funding for this program came the PTA with a budget of \$4500.


REFLECTIONS: Our goal was to inspire as many students as possible to explore their creative impulses by participating in the National PTA Reflections program. The Reflections committee promoted the contest through flyers, the morning announcements, PTA meetings, newsletter articles, and recorded phone messages from our principal. Our Performing Arts teacher also promoted the program during class time. In an effort to better communicate as well as promote environmental awareness, Reflections rules and entry forms were primarily available on the Mt. Bethel website. Flyers, *Bugle* articles, and Principal calls referred parents to the Mt. Bethel website where rules and forms could be downloaded. Additional copies of the rules and forms were put in our Information Central by the front office. Volunteers hung the submissions in the main hall for parents,



 **CULTURAL ARTS:** Our Cultural Arts program focused this year on Performing Arts. The following programs were selected for the 2005-2006 school year. A Theatreworks USA production of “Charlotte’s Web” was performed for our 1st through 3rd grades. Our whole school, grades K-5, were treated to the delightful, *Junie B. Jones, the Musical*, another Theatreworks USA production. Atlanta Opera Studio performed their musical rendition of “Little Red Riding Hood” for our Kindergarten classes this performance included sets, props, and costumes. Elise Witt, a musical artist, performed a Musical Trip Around the World for grades 3-5. Parents were updated by the newsletter and updates on the Mt. Bethel website.¶

Resources: Funding for the Cultural Arts program came solely from the PTA. Our budget this year was \$4500. We used many venues to pick our performances; Young Audiences, the Internet, and a past production led us to our final choices. Our Music teacher, Assistant Principal and PTA Cultural Arts Committee collaborated on the final selections.¶

Results: Performances focused on education and audience participation and were received with overwhelming support. Feedback from the students and teachers confirmed to us the value of this program. The energy and excitement that these performers brought to the students increased their appreciation and understanding of Performing Arts and therefore “played an integral role in assisting student learning.”¶

 A significant change was made this year to the distribution of the forms for Reflections.

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teachers, and students to enjoy on new cork display rails that were purchased by PTA for the use of this committee and many throughout the year. Winners received special recognition during morning announcements, through the PTA newsletter, and at a PTA

general meeting. **Results:** We were very pleased with the results of this program from 94 last year to 124 entries submitted this year. Truly a student learning experience. We

are proud of the 11 who went on to win at the Eastern Cobb County Council level. The committee chairs noted that children were enthusiastic about their entries and loved

seeing their projects and names posted on the walls of Mt. Bethel. **Resources:** This

committee had two chairs. Judges included teachers from a nearby school and professionals in the community. The budget paid for medals, ribbons, and certificates.

The Georgia and National PTA websites provided the sources for the rules and entry forms.

MUSIC PARENT: Music appreciation is further enhanced by introducing students to master composers or music genres through lesson plans presented by parent volunteers.

A lesson consisted of music samples, stories, and biographies. Results: Parents

recognized that musical arts enhance learning in other areas and were supportive of this

type of enrichment. Resources: 17 parents used cd's and lessons from prior years.

ART PARENT: THE goal of the Art Parent program was to promote a hands-on

appreciation for art and design inside the classroom led by a parent volunteer. Results:

Through the program, each class enjoyed between four and eight art lessons this year that

is an effective way to supplement the art education provided by the school. Resources: 56 parents volunteers. Lesson plans and example projects were created and available in the resource area.



Resources: This committee had two chairs. Judges included two teachers from a nearby school (one for Art and one for Literature), a Wolf Camera owner (Photography), and a member of the St. Ann's Music Ministry (Music). The budget paid for medals, ribbons, and certificates. The Georgia and National PTA websites provided the sources for the rules and entry forms.¶



with 94



. The numbers of entries are comparable with last year without the waste of paper resources.



(Literature with 35 entries, Visual Arts with 36 entries, Music with 7 entries, and 16 entries for photography)



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MUSIC PARENT: Music appreciation is further enhanced through the Music Parent Program. This program introduced students to master composers or music genres through lesson plans presented by parent volunteers. Thirty-minute lessons were provided once a month to each class. A lesson consisted of a music samples, stories, and biographies. Supplies for the lessons included CD's, books, posters, videos and other teaching aids. During the lesson, the children participated in an activity (such as drawing or word search) designed specifically for that composer. ¶ **Resources:** At the beginning of the school year, parents volunteered to be the Music Parent for their class This year 23 parents acted as Music Parents. These volunteers atte




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VISITING AUTHORS: The purpose of this program was to instill in our students a passion for reading and literature and to inspire them to write. This year PTA sponsored 5 author/illustrators/story tellers. **Results:** Meeting an author or illustrator and having an interactive time afterwards was a positive learning experience. **Resources:** PTA newsletter articles, flyers, and use of the Mt. Bethel website were used from promoting and the budget was \$3500.



CHALLENGER BOOK PUBLISHING: Mt. Bethel established an in-house “publishing company” that nurtured the art of creative writing for all students. The opportunity to publish a book was available to all Mt. Bethel students. Volunteers guided the students and copied and bound the finished books. An author “launch party” was at Borders, a Partner in Education. **Results:** More than 30 students participated in the program, exploring their own creativity and creating keepsakes to read and enjoy for years to come. **Resources:** There was one committee chair and 2 parent volunteer editors. Funds were used for copying and binding.


STORY BOOK READERS: Parent volunteers read aloud to students from selected age-appropriate books. **Resources:** 150 parents participated in this program.


CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE WORLD: For the 6th year, this celebration took place for two weeks. The celebration provided a basis for exploring various world cultures, traditions, and history through 12 Winter Festivals from around the world. Volunteers designed and created exhibits of games, photos, books, artifacts, and information about the celebrations in each culture. **Results:** Parents, teachers, and students gave very positive feedback. Participants explored the rich diversity of the world that is representative of the students at Mt. Bethel and our community. **Resources:**


 **ART PARENT:** The goal of the Art Parent program was to promote a hands-on appreciation for art and design inside the classroom. Each month a parent volunteer prepared a 45-minute art lesson that was presented to students in the classroom. Children enjoyed learning about an artist or art form through stories, examples and books. As part of the lesson, students created a hands-on project in the style of the artist. Teachers often advised volunteers in the selection of the art lesson in order to complement the class curriculum. Examples range from Native American studies for the 2nd grade, Black History month, or to highlight current events, such as major museum exhibits. A 4th grade Art Parent made art very current by doing an outreach project for children in Mississippi who lost so much as a result of Katrina. The Mt. Bethel students learned about Faith Ringgold, a quilt maker, and then made quilts out of polar fleece and sent them to those children in need.¶
Resources: Parents volunteered to be Art Parents in their child’s classroom. Room Representat

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 **CHALLENGER BOOK PUBLISHING:** Last year, Mt. Bethel established an in-house “publishing company” that nurtured the art of creative writing in the students. The opportunity to publish a book was available to all Mt.

 **STORY BOOK READERS:** Through this committee, parents read aloud to individual classes (grades K-3) in our Media Center and classrooms. Over 150 volunteers participated in the program. The Media Center Specialist select


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This committee consisted of 2 chairs and an over 30 volunteers contributed to the success. The committee collaborated with Mt. Bethel's Instructional Lead Teacher to develop the theme and display ideas for the Celebrations. Teacher, parent and student volunteers provided all materials.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: The goal was to promote awareness of positive character traits and to recognize and reward students who demonstrated such traits. The primary activity of this committee was the **Monthly Character Traits/Word of the Week**. These themes were communicated via morning announcements, bulletin boards, and newsletter articles. The children were recognized in hallway displays and the newsletter and by the principal. This committee also led the Eastern Cobb County Council PTA's. "**Honoring Our Heroes**" essay contest. Winners were recognized in a PTA council-wide awards ceremony and in the monthly newsletter. **Results:** We have received very positive feedback from parents because this program targets children with outstanding character. Through terrific communication, "**Honoring our Heroes**" had 115 entries. **Resources:** This committee had two chairs and two additional volunteers who worked closely with our school counselors. This year our PIE, McDonald's donated gift cards. A flyer for the essay with rules and entry form went out in our newsletter and were also available on our website and E-Minders were sent regarding the deadline.

MISCELLANEOUS: Many other PTA programs at Mt. Bethel enhanced the art experience for our students. For our **Health and Safety Fair**, students created artwork on health-related issues and hung them in the main hallway of the school. By encouraging the students to create pieces of art, we succeeded in getting them to consider various health issues and to express their opinions about those issues. **Fifth Grade Variety**

 **CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS OF THE WORLD:** For the sixth consecutive year, this celebration took place during the first two weeks of December. The purpose of this PTA-sponsored event is to increase student awareness and appreciation of the many cultures that are the future of our community. The theme this year was "Celebrations of Winter". This was a great fit with our PTA theme "Putting it Together... Piece by Piece" by providing a basis for exploring various world cultures, traditions, and history through Winter Festivals from around the world. The twelve Celebrations were: Carnival, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Diwali, D'yed Moroz, St. Nicholas Day, Ramadan and Id-ul-Fitr, Las Posadas, Oshogatsu and Sollal, Chinese New Year, and Winter Solstice. Volunteers designed and created exhibits of games, photos, books, artifacts, and information about the celebrations in each culture. Parents also volunteered to "host" the displays throughout the two weeks. ¶ **Resources:** This committee consisted of 2 chairs and an unprecedented 52 volunteers. Numerous articles and a flyer as a call to volunteer placed in our newsletter was a huge success. ¶

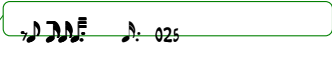
 **CHARACTER EDUCATION:** This committee encouraged all students to participate in the Eastern Cobb County Council PTA "Honoring Our Heroes Essay" Contest. Last year's participation was low, so this year the committee chairs promoted the contest not only through the newsletter, but also through the website, the principal's phone message, the assistant principals daily message on the morning announcements, and E-Minder. ¶

 The Ann Weeks Music Award and the Performing Arts Program were both promoted in our newsletter as well as linked to the Georgia PTA from our website for application information.

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Show: In May, our students had a fun opportunity to present their many extraordinary talents for friends and family. Our **Community Outreach** committee was responsible for coordinating parent volunteers to be classroom readers at our sister school, Powers Ferry Elementary.

In Conclusion: Children enjoyed a variety of performing arts presentations through the Cultural Arts committee. Students were able to explore their own creativity through Reflections, Challenger Book Publishing, and "Honoring our Heroes". Parents were involved in delivering the Art and Music Parent programs. Literacy was encouraged through Visiting Authors, Story Book Readers, and Read Across America as well as the reading support at our sister school. These efforts as well as all the other programs that contained a component of art education insured that the students at Mt. Bethel received many opportunities to explore and participate in the world of arts. Our PTA practices the 3:1 rule with 25 priorities serviced with 7 fundraisers.

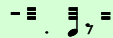
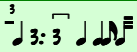


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Resources: Parents volunteered to be Art Parents in their child's classroom. Room Representatives coordinated scheduling. There were 56 Art Parents this year. Lesson plans and example projects were created and available in the resource area. Books, posters, reproductions, and helpful websites were also available to enhance the lesson. Two new books, one on Matisse and one on Degas were purchased to further enhance the program. The committee met twice during the school year. The first meeting was primarily instructional for the parent volunteers. The second meeting was for sharing ideas.

Results: Through the program, each class enjoyed between four and eight additional art lessons this year. It proved to be an effective way to supplement the art education provided by the school. The Art Parent program remains a popular one with parents,

students and staff. It achieved the PTA goal of exposing children to a rich and diverse variety of art and artists and provided an avenue for parent involvement to enrich student learning. We are most proud that the students also learned another venue for **outreach**.



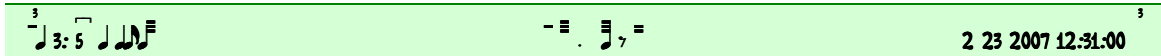
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VISITING AUTHORS: The purpose of this program is to instill in our students a passion for reading and literature and to inspire them to write. This year PTA sponsored three author/illustrators/story tellers. Michael White, illustrator of Carmen Deedy's books, provided classroom workshops for each 5th grade classroom. He discussed the development of a story using descriptive language and worked with the children to develop a set of illustrated characters with which to base their stories. Author/ecologist, Peter Parente, visited our 1st and 2nd grade classes. His *Peeper* series help introduce children to the importance of protecting the ecosystem. He also brought along some of the inspiring characters from his book for a hands on session with the children. All of the children enjoyed meeting Peeper, the kinkajou, and Mo, the two-toed sloth. Actress Holly Stevenson transported Mt. Bethel's kindergarteners to the world of Beatrix Potter. She used stories, songs, and puppets to stimulate the children's imaginations.

Resources: Our committee chair handled all of the arrangements for these visitors. The Media Center Specialist, an administrator and teachers provided input on the selection of authors. PTA newsletter articles, flyers, and use of the Mt. Bethel website promoted the upcoming visitors. The PTA budget for this program was \$3500.

Results: The students and teachers responded very enthusiastically to these authors. Meeting an author and/or illustrator and having an interactive time afterwards was a positive learning experience.

keepsakes to read and enjoy for years to come. The parent volunteers spent countless hours working directly with the students to promote writing. Their response was that the time was “so worth it to see the pride of the new ‘published’ authors.”



STORY BOOK READERS: Through this committee, parents read aloud to individual classes (grades K-3) in our Media Center and classrooms. Over 150 volunteers participated in the program. The Media Center Specialist selected new books and arranged them by grade level so that parents could choose an age-appropriate book to read. In the spring, the children voted on their favorites in the “Mt. Bethel Book Award” contest. The read-aloud program involved parents in enhancing literacy and fostering the love of reading.

Resources: A committee chair and 150 volunteers participated in this program.

Results: This proved to be one of the most popular PTA efforts among parents and children alike.



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Id-ul-Fitr, Las Posadas, Oshogatsu and Sollal, Chinese New Year, and Winter Solstice.

Volunteers designed and created exhibits of games, photos, books, artifacts, and information about the celebrations in each culture. Parents also volunteered to “host” the displays throughout the two weeks.

Resources: This committee consisted of 2 chairs and an unprecedented 52 volunteers. Numerous articles and a flyer as a call to volunteer placed in our newsletter was a huge success. The committee collaborated with Mt. Bethel’s Instructional Lead Teacher to develop the theme and display ideas for the Celebrations. Materials included 12 tri-boards for displays, 12 tablecloths, a TV/VCR, videotapes, books for display, decorations, bulletin board paper, and glue guns. Parents and teachers supplied their personal clothes, decorations, photos, books, games, and artifacts to the displays. A guest book recorded the number of visitors. It was our pleasure to have Savannah Court, one of our Partners in Education, bring many of their residents to enjoy our display. This community partnership bolstered the positive effects of the program.

Results: Parents, teachers, and students gave very positive feedback both verbally and in the guest book. “*An outstanding display!*” wrote one teacher. Brooke, a 2nd grader, commented, “*...Chinese New Year and Winter Solstice rock!*” The many volunteers came together from a variety of backgrounds and cultures to put together all the pieces of this project. All classes at Mt. Bethel visited the display, and many of them visited twice! Participants explored the rich diversity of the world that are representative of the students at Mt. Bethel and our community.

CHARACTER EDUCATION: This committee encouraged all students to participate in the Eastern Cobb County Council PTA “Honoring Our Heroes Essay” Contest. Last year’s participation was low, so this year the committee chairs promoted the contest not only through the newsletter, but also through the website, the principal’s phone message, the assistant principals daily message on the morning announcements, and E-Minder – an email reminder sent to subscribers.

Resources: A flyer with rules and entry form went out in our newsletter for “**Honoring our Heroes**”. Rules and entry forms were also available on our website and E-Minders were sent regarding the deadline.

Results: As a result of the promotion through enhanced communication participation in this contest increased significantly from **25 to 115 entries**. Giving students creative writing opportunities directly support Mt. Bethel’s School Improvement Plan.