

# **Bledsoe Elementary PTA Year End Report 2017-18**

## **President**

- Bledsoe PTA gave out its fifth scholarship to a graduating high school student this year. The scholarship was endowed by a previous PTA board and is designated for students that graduated from Bledsoe Elementary.
- It was endowed to pay out at \$500 per year, but we added an additional \$500 to that scholarship so this year's recipient will receive \$1,000.
- Coordinated three summer gatherings for incoming Bledsoe Kindergartners.
- Coordinated school supply lists with the Principal/Staff to set up pre orders for the coming school year. School supplies were sorted in August and distributed to families at Meet the Teacher Night.
- Our board assisted with Meet the Teacher Night through the sale of spirit wear, Bledsoe yard signs and provided an opportunity for families to join the PTA that evening.
- The Bledsoe Field Day Chairperson coordinated two days of field day activities for all grade levels. The PTA funded the Field Day events. The PTA also provided lunch for the office on Field Day.
- Bledsoe PTA held General PTA meetings in September, October, November, January, March, April and May.
- Bledsoe students, teachers and staff gave generously to the Small World Angel Network program once again this year. Each classroom adopted one boy and one girl in our area providing them with clothing, books, and toys for the holidays. The PTA helped organize this event at Bledsoe by coordinating, sorting and managing donations for the recipient families.

**I would like to thank our PTA Executive Board, Bledsoe teachers and staff and Bledsoe families for their great support of our activities throughout the year! Thank you all for your hard work and devotion to making Bledsoe such a special community for our students and their families.**

Jennifer Lankford  
Bledsoe PTA President  
2017-2018

### **Bledsoe Elementary PTA Vision**

**The Bledsoe Elementary PTA, in partnership with the Frisco Independent School District, will support the development and continual enhancement of a safe and enriching academic community at Calvin Bledsoe Elementary School.**

## **Monetary Gifting to the School:**

The PTA voted on and gifted \$21,000 to the school in December 2017. This money purchased flexible seating for all grades. The PTA voted on and gifted an additional \$18,500 in May 2018 to purchase PE equipment and flexible seating. This adds up to over \$39,500 in gifting to school this year – WOW!

## **Membership:**

Our membership drive was held at the beginning of the school year from August 17th – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Our theme was “Be a Team Player and Join the PTA” to coincide with our school wide Varsity theme for the year. A class contest was held during the drive and the grade level with the highest membership percentage was awarded a popcorn party. In addition to the membership drive, we continued to receive new memberships throughout the first three months of the school year. Our total membership to date is **601**, which is an increase of 64 members. Our PTA earned several awards this year, including Head Start, Early Bird, Fall Increase, Fall Honor Roll 500+ Club, President’s List, and the Three Year High Award.

Each year our PTA nominates two to three deserving people to receive the Lifetime Member Award. An online survey was published, and our school community was asked to vote. Based on the responses, we were proud and excited to nominate Jennifer Lankford, Laura Buckley, and Jamie Peden with the Lifetime Member Award. All three ladies have been active PTA members for over 6 years and have had such an impact on the success of a variety of events for our school. The ladies were honored at our May PTA meeting as well as the Membership Banquet.

## **Fundraising Efforts:**

**The following fundraising events allowed us to provide student and parent enrichment programs, support teachers and staff, and provide needed items for the school.**

### **Ways and Means**

- Netted \$37,870.48 through our fundraiser, the Bledsoe BLAST-A-THON Fun Run (includes \$8,250 in sponsorship funds).
- Utilized Bledsoe volunteers for this fundraiser in order to keep over 85% of the revenues. (kept 100% of sponsorship funds).
- Provided daily fitness related information to tie in with the fundraiser during week of Fun Run.
- All students received a grade level t-shirt to wear for the fun run and throughout the year.
- Gave out prizes - spirit sticks for fundraising efforts - and sponsored prizes or experiential prizes (i.e. one-on-one time with PE Coach), in overall Fun Run drawing.

### **Book Fair**

- Managed all aspects associated with running the fall and spring book fairs including, but not limited to: logistics, set up and tear-down inside the library, decorations, volunteers, marketing, and financial.
- Kept the event focused on literacy by continuing the Bledsoe Literacy League (community leaders as guest readers) for the 5th year during our Fall Book Fair, which involved over 20 guests reading to 26 classrooms on the day of our grand opening.
- The library was closed for only 5 days in the fall and 4 in the spring. A strategic rotation schedule was created to accommodate all classes.
- Continued the Teacher Wish Box program for the 5th year, which resulted in over 200 books purchased by parents and donated to classroom libraries.
- Worked closely with the Librarian to get the students excited about the book fair through book talks, theme lessons, DVD promotions and a countdown poster.
- Continued the “Caught Reading” program to encourage children to read around the school. Prizes of free books and posters were given to winners of the Caught Reading drawing.
- Utilized Sign Up Genius as a medium to manage and communicate with over 80 event volunteers.
- Held family book fair events outside of school hours, including during Fall Festival in the Fall and Multicultural Night in the Spring.
- Created a classroom contest in the fall to collect spare change in mason jars for the “All for Books” program. \$1,090.00 was collected and used to purchase books to donate to The Boys and Girls Club of Frisco during the Fall Book Fair. For the Spring Book Fair, the same contest was run. This time the result was \$1,700.00 in collection to purchase books for Christie Elementary in Frisco! Winning

classroom Teachers were rewarded for their efforts with a total of \$225 Scholastic Dollars for the fall. In the spring, \$225 was also awarded in addition to the top 3 classrooms receiving a visit from a therapy dog during school hours.

- The Fall Book Fair resulted in net sales of \$19,561.00, which was an increase over the previous year.
- The Spring Book Fair resulted in net sales of \$15,535.00 with an increase over the previous year as well.

### **Community Partners**

- This year we earned over \$1,500 through Box Tops for Education, totaling over \$27,130 to date
- Encouraged students to bring in Box Tops and Labels each week by presenting Calvin the Lion to the class at GMB every week who brought the most combined Labels and Box Tops for the week.
- Recognized all students who brought in more than 50 Box Tops and Labels by calling their name during GMB
- Presented donated prizes on stage every 9 weeks to a student in each grade for bringing in the most Box Tops and Labels for the prior 9-week period
- The Labels for Education program has officially ended. We turned in all remaining labels and redeemed all of our points for school supplies selected by Mrs. Peden.
- Organized 7 nights of fundraising at the following local restaurants: Spring Creek (2 nights in the Fall), Your Pie (2 nights in the Fall), Palio's (1 night in the Spring), Mooyah (1 night in the Spring), Newk's (1 night in the Spring)
- Advertised Spirit nights with posters, stickers, social media, Bledsoe Beat and at Good Morning Bledsoe

## **Supporting Teachers:**

### **Room Parent Coordinator**

- The Room Parent Coordinator and committee met and appointed 53 parents as room parents.
- Maintained ongoing communications with selected room parents throughout the year assuring that they were meeting the needs of their teachers.
- Oversaw two separate "party planning committees," one for Winter Party and one for End of Year.
- Responsible for scheduling and conducting various party planning meetings, maintaining communication with our Principal, Mrs. Peden, regarding party plans, as well as communicating plans to the teachers and parents.
- The Room Parent Coordinator along with room parents and numerous school volunteers hosted the Winter Party, the Valentine's Party benefiting Jump Rope for Heart and the End of Year Party.

### **Volunteer Coordinator**

- Updated and printed the Volunteer Sign Up Sheet
- Oriented volunteers on school policies and procedures
- Created 17 volunteer spreadsheets and sent them to the appropriate chairs/teachers for their use
- Held 7 Sip n' Snips to help teachers with their projects. Each of the Sip n' Snips had between 5-15 volunteers attend to help out.
- Provided coffee and snacks for the volunteers at Sip n' Snips

### **Teacher Workroom**

- Participated in "spring cleaning" of the teacher workroom and cabinets and reorganized supplies prior to "Meet the Teacher".
- Collated and organized, according to teacher instructions, all "Meet the Teacher" fliers and documents for all grade levels ~ over 8,000 pages in total for the entire school.
- Held a training for all workroom volunteers in order to train them on the laminator machine, die cut, poster maker and binding machine as well as workroom policies and procedures.
- Maintained a Sign-Up Genius to coordinate workroom volunteers throughout each week in order to provide timely turnaround of projects.
- Efficiently managed the workroom by keeping up with workroom volunteers; supplies to be purchased; stocked, sorted and provided timely turnaround of projects for teachers.
- Arranged for sharpening of workroom paper cutting blades.
- Provided laminating, die cutting, poster making, binding, gluing, folding, cutting, sharpening pencils, sorting, organizing and assembling services for teachers and staff.

### **Communications**

- Created online directory in PT-Avenue and maintained member access through the school year
- Posted on the Bledsoe PTA Facebook page: PTA meeting details, volunteer opportunities, family fun events, book fair reminders, fundraiser information, accolades and district announcements.
- Updated and maintained Bledsoe PTA website with relevant announcements, dates and links to important forms and documents
- Set up PTA board email accounts and access

### **Hospitality**

- Hosted a Tears and Cheers breakfast on the first day of school for Kinder parents in August
- Celebrated birthdays and "half birthdays" August-May for all staff with Sonic drinks and treat bags.

- Recognized National Celebration Days with Bundtlets from Nothing Bundt Cakes: Custodians Day (October), Cafeteria Appreciation (October), Counselors Week (February), Librarians Week (April), Administrative's Day (April), Principal's Day, and Nurse's Day.
- Held a Fall Stock the Pantry in November and a Spring Stock the Pantry in March for the teachers' lounge.
- Coordinated a November Gift Card collection for the entire staff for Thanksgiving.
- Celebrated our FUSD School board members with Nothing Bundt Cakes bundtinis in honor of National School Board Recognition in January.
- Organized Staff Lunches:
  1. August Back to School lunch- Newk's
  2. October Fall lunch- Your Pie
  3. December lunch- Newk's
  4. February Valentines lunch- Paradise Bakery
  5. May Grab N Go lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week
  6. May Teacher Appreciation lunch for Teacher Appreciation Week- Twisted Tortilla
- Organized Teacher Appreciation Week
  1. Monday- Coffee Bar and Great American Cookies/Crave Popcorn snack cart
  2. Tuesday- Grab and Go lunch from Zoe's
  3. Wednesday- Sonic Drinks and snacks/dips
  4. Thursday- Twisted Tortilla lunch
  5. Friday- donated breakfast tacos by ICode

## **Enriching Classroom Curriculum:**

### **Student and Parent Programs**

- The grade level programs were:
  - K- Dig-It
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Weather or Not
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dig-It
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> – Fun'omena
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Edison's Workshop
  - 5<sup>th</sup> – What Floats Your Boat?
- On September 28, 2017, Aim for Success presented ABCs of the Birds and the Bees. This presentation focused on why, when, and how to talk to your toddler through elementary age child about sex.
- Patrice Dunn M.Ed., LPC-S, Professional Counselor, spoke to parents at the October 10, 2017 PTA Meeting. Ms. Dunn's presentation focused on How to Raise Successful

Children with topics including letting kids fail, fostering independence, setting expectations, and setting your child up for success.

Also, at this PTA meeting, Mavs Man and Champ, Dallas Maverick's mascots presented a student show with high flying dunk performance on Anti-Bullying.

- Famed children's entertainer and ventriloquist, Dennis Lee, gave performances for grades K-2 and 3-5 on November 30, 2017. Dennis Lee brought his self-empowering show "Dear Me" along with new sets, music, 2 new characters as well as old favorites, "Nana Puddin", and his big brother "Nick the Punk Monk". "Dear Me" is a letter Dennis Lee wrote to himself when he was 10 years old. The letter states: "Dear Me, life is an awesome adventure. Life is a wonderful race, so FUEL UP, FILL UP, FIX UP, AND FOLLOW UP because you never stay in one place. (P.S.: Don't forget to love yourself)". During this 50-minute performance, the students and staff were encouraged to:  
FUEL UP their body heart and mind.  
FILL UP their thoughts with a positive, optimistic, and uplifting attitude.  
FIX UP and repair mistakes with responsible behavior, learning to say: "I'm sorry" and moving forward. Then,  
FOLLOW the signs that lead to great choice making and good character.
- Local motivational speaker, Jimmy Lee, presented The Power of Positive Thinking to Bledsoe students.
- Children's author and illustrator, Keith Graves, visited Bledsoe's K-2 grades on February 7, 2018. Mr. Graves discussed the process for writing and illustrating his books Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance, Chicken Big, and Three Nasty Gnarlies.
- On February 22-23, 2018, Mobile Ed Productions brought their Sky Dome Planetarium to Bledsoe. Students entered the large inflatable dome and were introduced to a "star filled" sky. The navigator used a digital planetarium projector and a laser pointer to guide students through the stars of the Northern Hemisphere exactly as they appear on the day of the presentation. The students learned how to identify every planet in our solar system in dramatic "flights" towards each world. They were introduced to Greek mythological characters and see how these heroes of the past can be found in the stars. Students also witnessed the night sky in different seasons and from different global perspectives.
- Author Bryan Smith came to Bledsoe on March 9, 2018. Mr. Smith, a former teacher and now counselor, wrote his first children's book entitled "Is There an App for That?". This book was written to address kids who feel like they need to change themselves to fit in. Mr. Smith spoke to first graders about how to add more detail to their writing. Third graders discussed making inferencing, which was geared to help them with the STAAR test. Bledsoe fourth grade students were presented with an hour-long presentation and interaction of how to add more details and their voices to their writing.

### **Arts in Education**

Bledsoe's Art in Education enjoyed a busy and productive 2017-2018 school year.

- We are proud of our 33 students who turned in 36 pieces of artwork (film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts) for this year's Reflections Program. Each piece was judged in November on the interpretation of this year's theme, "Within Reach," Artistic Merit and Creativity, and Mastery of Medium. We are especially proud of our 12 students whose artwork advanced to the District level for judging, two of which received awards at the district level (Honorable Mention in Dance Choreography and Award of Merit in Film Production).
- In the Fall, students were also given the opportunity to create their own masterpiece for purchase through Square One Art. 103 products were ordered with Bledsoe profiting \$1,302.84. We are very proud of our Bledsoe artists.

### **SAGE**

- Attended the Council PTA Roundtable and met with other SAGE chairs representative to learn what other schools typically do for this position at the elementary level.
- Met with Bledsoe special education teachers and Principal to organize Diverse Abilities Day at Bledsoe on several occasions. Facilitated communication between teachers, PTA and SAGE district to show what resources Frisco ISD provides for this event. The teachers and principal chose 4 stations to run during the program on this Day.
- Diverse Abilities Day was held on February 16<sup>th</sup> and was run with the help of over 30 parent volunteers who ran stations, so all the students would be able to visit all four stations during their specials time. We offered lunch to volunteers that stayed half the day or more and to specials and special education teachers. Helped promote this event in PTA social media and website as well as posters posted at school.
- Maintained a SAGE presence in school, PTA website/FB page and newsletter, with information regarding Diverse Abilities Day and the annual fundraiser for SAGE programs. Also promoted events and conferences that SAGE council offered to parents and information about a parent support group led by a Bledsoe parent.

## **Community Building & Family Fun**

### **Inclusiveness/Diversity**

- Hosted the Multicultural Minute at Good Morning Bledsoe featuring students from different cultures. The children answered questions about who are from other countries and/or speak another language at home. These children were celebrated during GMB in their traditional clothing, played music from their home country, presented facts about the countries to the Bledsoe students as well

- as each student said “Good Morning Bledsoe, my name is \_\_\_\_\_”, counted to 10 and shared how to say “Hello” and “Goodbye” in their language.
- Created a bulletin board with the map of the world to feature the countries represented, pictures of famous monuments from the country and family pictures of the multicultural minute speakers.
  - Participated in the Frisco Community Parade - group of international students from Bledsoe and other Frisco schools rode on a float in the annual fall city parade dressed in their traditional / cultural outfits to celebrate the diversity of FISSD students.
  - Planned Multicultural Night featuring tables from different countries and US states as well as presented food samples, crafts, artifacts, language, facts, culture, etc. in the Bledsoe gym and cafeteria. There were also dance, song, music and cultural performances representing different countries. There was a Japanese Martial Arts demonstration, a Multicultural Night photo booth, and FISSD high school foreign exchange students/Frisco Foreign exchange organization was available to teach about their home country. We also organized Bledsoe parent and grandparent volunteers to apply henna tattoo designs on students and their families.

### **Family Fun Committee**

- The Family Fun Committee organized a fantastic family event for Bledsoe families and staff. Over 450 families attended the Bledsoe Carnival on Friday October 20, 2017.
- The carnival included inflatables like Jousting, a 68’ Obstacle Course, Slam Dunk, and soccer darts. Also, we had The Bubble Bus, a photo booth, face painters, balloon twister, cake walk, carnival games, popcorn, and cotton candy.
- There was delicious food from Crazy Burger Food Truck, IHOG BBQ, and Steel City Pops.
- Bledsoe volunteers made all the fun possible by helping plan for the event, baking for the cake walk, building the games and giving their time to make sure the carnival was a safe and fun environment for all. We also had help during the event from lots of youth in the community.
- It was a fantastic, fun evening where students, families and staff came together!

### **Environmental**

- Assisted in directing traffic during the first week of school
- Provided HOV tags to over 50 families
- Maintained planters at front of school building
- Worked as a liaison with Bledsoe’s Green Team teacher to discuss programs and events for the year, finalize dates and partnership opportunities.

- Organized Cafeteria Recycling Kick off, a week-long event from September 18-22 on educating all grade level students on how to correctly recycle lunch leftovers.
  - Updated wall posters on Recycling vs Trash items in the cafeteria & added posters to each Trash and Recycling bin. Also added posters in Teachers lunchroom and Workroom.
  - Sent out PowerPoint refresher on Café recycling to all faculty members.
- Organized Walk to School day in the Fall on October 4th
  - Decorated front sidewalk and foyer with chalk to welcome students/parents as they walked/biked to school.
  - Decorated the bike racks at the front and back entrances of school.
  - Promoted event through FB, Posters, GMB announcement and Bledsoe Beat
  - Invited the Reedy Drumline along with Reedy cheerleaders and dancers who greeted Bledsoe students at each of the entrances.
  - Held Essay contest for all grade levels and the winner got to walk to school with Principal
  - Worked with Frisco City Coordinator and outside vendors for raffle giveaways – got \$50 worth of gift cards from Annie’s sweet shop. 1<sup>st</sup> 100 walkers/bikers received lunch kits/ lunch containers, coloring books and stickers
  - Held a raffle drawing the Friday after at GMB for all walkers/bikers as well for all essay entries. Walkers/Biker raffle drawing - \$10 gift cards to Annie’s sweet shop (1 gift card per each grade level); Essay raffle drawing – shoe lights, 1 per grade level.
  - PTA Council and City of Frisco PTA Environmental division highlighted our Walk to School pictures on their social media and newsletter
- Rufus visited Good Morning Bledsoe on November 10<sup>th</sup> to promote America Recycles Day.
- Held school wide Clean it & Green it on November 15<sup>th</sup>. This event was promoted through FB, posters, GMB announcement and the Bledsoe Beat. Approximately 20 students participated and 5 bags of trash were collected.
- Promoted “Take care of Texas” art contest in January. It was promoted on FB, GMB announcement, the Bledsoe Beat as well as on posters at school.
- Organized ink cartridge and batteries pick up through City of Frisco
- Organized Clean it & Green it event for Green Team and Student Council members on March 20<sup>th</sup> with approximately 35 students participating.

## **WatchDOGS**

- WatchDOGS completed our 7th year at Bledsoe.
- PTA sponsored a pizza night for all dads and their students interested in being part of the WatchDOGS program.
- Over 200 dads were able to volunteer their time for a full day shift and were present on campus for day-to-day happenings and special events,
- The WatchDOGS committee had a volunteer on campus almost every day of the school year including two on Wednesday's & Fridays.
- For the 2017-18 program year we introduced a new schedule format that was met with very positive feedback from dads & teachers. The new format gave dads a more structured day and teachers advanced visibility into when they would have a dad in their classroom.
- The WatchDOGS program promoted PTA sponsors via registration site
- WatchDOGS committee evaluated a different registration platform after 2 years of online shift sign-up issues. For 2018-19 we will switch to [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com).

## **Spirit Store**

- The Bledsoe spirit store was very successful this year. Our merchandise was provided by Frisco Sports and they were a great partner.
- We had physical inventory on hand along with two on-line store opportunities. Our online store was available for 2 weeks at the beginning of the school year and once during late Fall for Winter wear items.
- The Spirit Store was opened during the Back to School Teacher Luncheon, Meet the Teacher Nights and various other events including GMB and PTA Meetings. Our most successful on-site sales opportunity was at Meet the Teacher Night.
- Our promotions included The Bledsoe Beat and the Bledsoe Facebook page along with various board members sharing on their personal Facebook page to make sure their friends knew when spirit wear would be available. We even did some "sneak preview" posts during the Summer of the designs that would be available to start getting teachers, parents and students excited.
- Overall the spirit store had a profit of \$2,096.12.

## **Healthy Lifestyles**

- Attended the Healthy Lifestyle District meeting at Fisd to learn about district wide programs to implement at Bledsoe.
- Helped Environmental Chair with Walk to School Day
- Organized Bledsoe's 3rd Health and Wellness Fair for our January PTA meeting, which was a huge success.
- Updated Healthy Lifestyles Bulletin Board.

**Field Day**

- Assisted Coaches in planning events and making daily schedule for field day.
- Purchased supplies for new events and replaced worn out equipment
- Coordinated and oversaw rental of inflatable horse racing.
- Provided lunches for specials staff, who are outside running the events each day of field day.

**Historian**

- Created a scrapbook of photos and activities from the PTA events throughout the year.

**Council Delegate**

- Acted as a liaison between Frisco ISD PTA and Bledsoe PTA.
- Attended each of the Frisco Council of PTA meetings to receive updates on local and state PTA information. Council Delegate provided a summary at each Bledsoe Executive PTA Meeting.

**Parliamentarian**

- Updated the Bledsoe Standing Rules and Procedures in April 2018. The changes to the Standing Rules were read and voted on in both the Executive and General May 2018 meetings.