



# The Chalkboard

March 2011



## President's Letter

*"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world." ~ Margaret Mead*

So we may not be changing the "world" at Chesak/ Martin PTA, but to our students Chesak and Martin is their world. We can make a difference close to home. Part of the reward of a parent is the opportunity to be involved in your children's school. I see the look on the kids faces light up when they see parents helping in a classroom, or working at an event, or leading a committee... it is priceless for them to see us helping out, being kind to one another, and showing appreciation for what is done at the schools.

Showing our appreciation towards one another is allowing our children to witness these random acts of kindness. Our children learn so much from the adults around them. Teaching our children respect, kindness and empathy is more important than anything else they could learn in school. When our children witness us being kind towards one another and being helpful they will follow our lead with their peers. We are given so many "teaching opportunities" where we can truly influence our children and help them make good moral decisions. These are the things that shape the adults our children will one day become.

Involvement in the PTA provides you the ability to teach your children, and to get to know teachers and staff that teach our children in their educational setting. Our PTA is a progressive one, a group that values all the backgrounds of our families. We have PTA members that are moms, dads, teachers, school administrators, grandparents, foster parents, step parents, civic leaders, people that work outside the home, those that work in the home, those that travel for work, and those that stay home. There is no "one size fits all" family anymore, and we are no longer a "one size fits all" PTA. Tell us what you can do, and we will welcome you with open arms.

PTA provides excellent opportunities for adults to add skills to a working resume as well. Leadership qualities, organizational efforts, teamwork, and communication skills are all welcome in today's workforce. PTA can offer you the opportunity to add value to your resume by building upon these skills in a volunteer capacity. Make sure to check our website for the many opportunities we have throughout the year to help out and be more involved.

I am so proud to be a part of the vibrant community that is Chesak/ Martin PTA and feel blessed every day to work with all of the amazing volunteers who truly Make The Difference for our students and staff! Please don't hesitate to contact me with your comments or suggestions at [cmpta158@yahoo.com](mailto:cmpta158@yahoo.com).

Dana Wiley  
President- Chesak/ Martin PTA



### Dates to Remember:

John Lynn Assembly 4th grade	3/21
PTA Meeting	4/14
2nd Grade Concert	4/18 4/19
Chesak Art Show	4/28
Martin Art Show	4/27 4/28
Staff Appreciation Week	5/2 - 5/6
Mother's Day	5/8
PTA Meeting	5/12
Muffins with Mom	5/14

### DID YOU KNOW:

- ◆ *Nick's Pizza in Crystal Lake is having Family Bingo Night on March 31st from 6 - 8pm.*
- ◆ *HUGS has open gym during spring break.*
- ◆ *Morkes Chocolate has a walk in candy day on March 31st.*
- ◆ *The last day of school is June 7th.*

## Reflections

The Chesak/Martin PTA would like to congratulate the students who participated in the 2010-2011 Reflections Program Contest. This year's theme was "Together We Can". Students created original works of art based on this theme from the following categories: photography, visual arts, music composition, dance choreography, film production and literature. Each entry was judged at the school and district levels. Winners at the district level advance on to the state level and have their art work in a year-long traveling exhibit.

**Pre-K** Sophia H. - visual arts; **Kindergarten** Abby S. - visual arts; Melanie G. - photography \*District winner; **First Grade** Olivia H. - visual arts; Sarah C. - visual arts; Nicholas M. - visual arts; **Second Grade** Valerie G. - photography \*District winner \*\*Illinois PTA Reflections Semi-Finalist; Olivia F. - visual arts; **Third Grade** Emma C. - literature \*District winner; Samantha E. - photography; Sydney N. - visual arts; Jennifer M. - visual arts \*District winner; **Fifth Grade** Jack T. - music composition; Kaitlyn K. - music composition \*District winner; Brady M. - photography \*District winner; Bella Rose D. - visual arts ;Conor K. - visual arts.

All participants will be honored at the Reflections Recognition Ceremony on Thursday, April 14th 6:30-7:00pm at Chesak in room 411 (join us for the general PTA membership immediately following.) Congratulations to all the students for their outstanding artwork!



## Positions Available

The Chesak/Martin PTA Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for the following positions: President and Treasurer. Please consider nominating someone you know, who you feel could serve the PTA in one of these capacities. For a description of each position please refer to our website. ([http://www.cmpta158.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/AllRoles2010.6983015.pdf](http://www.cmpta158.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/AllRoles2010.6983015.pdf)) We are also looking for two people to co-chair the Ways & Means Committee. Ways & Means is responsible for fund raising efforts for both schools. This is a very important position since our group is a non-profit organization and relies solely on fundraising and donations in order to operate. If you are interested in this committee please email at [cmpta158@yahoo.com](mailto:cmpta158@yahoo.com)

## Family Events

We held Family Movie Night in January for a special showing of Toy Story 3. We also participated in Family Night with the Chicago Wolves in February, and 40 families joined in the fun. We just held Family Ice Skate at the Crystal Lake Ice House in March. Muffins with Mom is our next scheduled Family Event to be held on May 14th from 8:30 am - 10:00 am in the Chesak

Cafeteria. This event is free with a non-perishable food donation.

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## Staff Appreciation

Committee work has begun for our week long Staff Appreciation Celebration. The first full week of May is always dedicated to honoring and supporting the Staff that have an impact on the lives of our children on a daily basis. This includes, but is not limited to, classroom teachers, administrative staff, specialist teachers, special support services, custodial, and lunchroom staff. These people are instrumental in the running of our schools, and this year we "Salute Our Staff!" If you would like to take part in this fun-filled week, please email your questions to [cmpta158@yahoo.com](mailto:cmpta158@yahoo.com).



## "Paws"atively Perfect Recipes

The Chesak/Martin cookbook sponsored by the PTA is on sale now for just \$15. This unique cookbook is a collection of over 200 recipes from student and family favorites. All proceeds from the cookbook sales go directly back to the CMPTA where the money is used to offset costs for field trips, scholastic news, 5th grade DARE celebrations and Challenger Trip, Young Author books, assemblies, family events, Variety Show, music, gym, and art supplies. Please consider showing your support for the PTA and purchasing a cookbook. Please check the website for more information.