

# Council PTA Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

October, 2009

## COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT:

*"Provide inspiration, information and instruction for its PTA units and the community in which they serve."*

### Council Meeting Dates 2009-2010

- September 14<sup>th</sup>  
7PM Gowana Library – **DONE!**
- November 9<sup>th</sup>  
7PM Acadia Library
- January 11<sup>th</sup>  
6:30PM Presidents Meeting Acadia Library
- March 8<sup>th</sup> 7PM Acadia Library
- May 10<sup>th</sup> 7PM Acadia Library

### Community Conversations with Dr. Robinson

- October 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM Shatekon Library
- December 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM Chango Library
- March 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM Orenda/Tesago Library
- April 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM Turf Park
- May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM HS East Library

## A Message from the Council PTA President...

Happy Autumn! The first few weeks of school are behind us. Hopefully your children have settled into a routine and are finding, learning and enjoying new experiences.

We know you are busy going forward full force with the start of your PTA goals and advocacy. Council too has remained busy setting the ground work for future initiatives that we hope will prove to be successful. I am happy to say that a small success has already surfaced from units who communicated to their membership about the two District-wide initiatives that we spoke of at our first Council meeting, *Health and Wellness* and the *Community Coalition*. We have parents that will take "turns" within their unit, as well as units who had a parent willing to attend meetings and be part of the Health and Wellness Committee. The Presidents have agreed to communicate to Council any information that we can pass on to help promote the Committee's work. We also received responses from parents interested in being part of the Community Coalition. Receiving positive results from our initial requests has given Council more reason to remain diligent in our approach of "*Communication, Follow Through, Communication, Appreciation*". We believe efforts made will result to success. As you know, both committees are looking forward to parent involvement in order to share ideas and opinions for the benefit of our children and our community. Please continue the quest to find parents who are willing to help serve on these two committees. Let us all make a point to establish positive, effective communication with one another. Great thanks to all who effectively communicated information given at our meeting to their membership.

The Annual Northeastern Region Presidents/Principals dinner is on October 19<sup>th</sup> at Michael's Banquet House in Latham. Hopefully you have already invited your school's principal to join you at this dinner. If you haven't done so already, make sure to RSVP to the Region PTA Registrar, Kim Vilardi, with dinner choices and payment no later than October 5<sup>th</sup> (*this is a legitimate PTA expense*). Dr. Robinson has been asked to be a keynote speaker at this dinner.

We can only improve on the impact of PTA if we work in partnership. Piece by piece, side by side, what we do together will be more successful than if we were to try to do everything on our own.

By reaching out, being inclusive and open to ideas, who knows how much more we can achieve!  
Gina Scotto di Carlo, Council PTA President

## 2009 NYS PTA ANNUAL CONVENTION – November 13-15

**The Saratoga Hilton and the Saratoga Springs City Center, Saratoga Springs NY**

*The theme for the 2009 Convention is "The Power to Shape the Future". This is consistent with PTA beliefs. Working together with all invested in the educational excellence for all children and youths, we as PTA members can help shape a better future for them to prosper beyond their expectations.*

The Convention is in our area. This is a perfect opportunity for you to attend all three days or **just as a day** delegate. The Convention is open to all PTA members. Look through the Convention Packet that was mailed to Unit Presidents for complete information or view it online at the NYS PTA website. There are several workshops to choose from, opportunities to meet with NYS and National PTA leaders, and meet fellow advocates across the country. PTA goes so much further than your Unit or our Council.

Please consider attending not only to meet great people, but to learn ways to make your unit's advocacy more effective and see firsthand all the work involved that has made PTA the largest, most effective volunteer child advocacy organization in the world for the past 113 years.

**Registration is due October 15, 2009.** *This is a legitimate PTA expense.*  
Hope to see you there !

### Community Coalition Update

*“There is a great difference between worry and concern. A worried person sees a problem and a concerned person solves a problem.”  
...Harold Stephens*

Claire Brown, Associate Principal, HSE reports that the 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation conducted in August had an attendance of 150 students and received positive feedback. 50 parents attended the evening sessions. Next year’s orientation will be held during the school day for maximum impact. Better communication with the parents will be done through Shen’s “SIS” messenger. A draft proposal for a State Farm grant to create a six-week, ½ day program for Alternate Ed students with a peer mentoring component was discussed. Also a discussion of other grant opportunities were presented. Ideas for seeking additional funds from local banks, credit unions, etc. will be pursued. 32 Faith-based institutions in the Shen area were invited to participate in making October “Prevention Month” by including substance abuse prevention in a variety of formats through religious education, sermons, etc. October’s meeting will focus on parents’ initiatives- *Parent Surveying & Reporting* and *Community Events* geared for parents. The Coalition’s next meeting is scheduled **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9AM at CAPTAINS.** Any interested parents who would like to help with the Coalition’s goals, please contact Sally Vanderzees at [vanderzees@aol.com](mailto:vanderzees@aol.com) OR Gina Scotto di Carlo at [gscdc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gscdc@nycap.rr.com)

#### REMINDERS:

**Oct 20<sup>th</sup>** – Early Bird Membership Dues. Mail payment to the NYS PTA office.

**Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>** - First Membership Dues payment mailed to NYS PTA office.

**Presidents**, if you have not done so yet, please send Cheryl Hildenbrant [children18@aol.com](mailto:children18@aol.com) :

Delegates names and email info. (2 delegates per Unit required).

Unit results of Resolutions Survey by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Preschool PTA is in Need of Volunteers!**

Also any parent interested in shadowing Kate as chairperson. Please contact Kate Kirkpatrick @ [preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org](mailto:preschoolpta@cliftonpark.org)

### Take the Official PTA Kit Survey

The NYS PTA would like feedback to make improvements to the PTA Kit.

Share your thoughts and suggestions by taking the Official PTA Kit Survey.

Its quick, simple and can be done online. Your opinions and suggestions are important in making the “PTA Big Box of Possibilities” even better.

Every respondent who completes the survey can enter a drawing for \$250 worth of gift cards for your PTA unit

Take the Official PTA Kit Survey @ [PTA.org/KitSurvey](http://PTA.org/KitSurvey) from now **until October 26, 2009**

### A message from Lisa Mendel-Hirsa, Council Legislative Chair...

We are looking for Legislative Advocacy Chairs from each of Shen’s PTA Units. Currently we have two. One from Arongen and one from Acadia.

The main job of a Legislative Advocacy chair is to inform PTA membership about laws pertaining to education that have been passed on the State and Federal level which can directly affect our community and schools in our district, as well as across State. You will help to mobilize people to influence the outcome of pending educational legislation. This is all made very easy by the NYS and National PTA websites. It contains all the resources and current information that is needed. We also receive monthly email advocacy newsletters and legislative briefs to keep us updated.

We are looking for parents that can use their passion for their children’s welfare to advocate for positive change on behalf of all children. All that is needed is good communication skills and the desire to effect positive change.

Interested? Questions? Please contact Lisa Mendel-Hirsa at [lisa.mendel@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.mendel@gmail.com)

## What's Going On at Shen....

- At our September Council Meeting, Dr. Robinson spoke of the districts goals and objectives for the 2009-2010 school year. He provided a handout that was to be discussed at the September BOE meeting. The handout is entitled *"Bringing Out the Genius in Every Child Through Synergism"*. In keeping with Shenendehowa's commitment to excellence through continuous improvement the BOE approved the plan at their September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. You can read the details of the goals, objectives and action plan by clicking the following link:  
[http://www.shenet.org/2009\\_10goals.pdf](http://www.shenet.org/2009_10goals.pdf)
- The Aquatic Center is offering 8 lanes of lap swimming, 6 days a week, to community members. It is run by the district's Community Education Program. Check out the homepage of shenet for dates, times, fees, restrictions and other information.
- The Carillon Bell Dedication will be on **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM** in front of HS East. All are welcome to join.
- SAGE (*Shenendehowa Advocates for Gifted Education*) will be having their Open House on Tuesday, October 6 at the Acadia Library from 7PM-8:15PM.

### **BIG THANKS!**

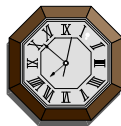
Just wanted to say "THANK YOU!" to all Units for getting their Council Dues to us by the deadline. WOW! It's great not having to "chase down" checks into November.

We so appreciate your quick response! This is the first time this has happened in several years. YAHOO!!!  
Shielene Guyatte, Council Treasurer

PTA offers a wide variety of opportunities to receive help and guidance. One such opportunity will be provided with the NE Regional PTA Officers Training Workshop on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Information will soon be sent.

If you are a new officer, take advantage of the workshops that will be offered. Be informed as to why basic PTA policy should be followed. Learn to apply good PTA practices for the benefit of your membership. Assumptions are quite often inaccurate and may eventually affect the way that your Unit functions.

Remember that leaders are not born, they are trained. So be on the lookout for information pertaining to the training. Please encourage officers in your Unit to attend.



*Remember to turn your clock back one hour before you go to bed on October 30<sup>th</sup>!*

### **SHENENDEHOWA PTA BANNERS**

The PTA banners that we ordered are in! We have two 3ft x 8ft, vinyl indoor/outdoor banners with grommets for easy hanging.

Please let us know if you would like to borrow a banner when running an event at your school. This is a great way for your parents to know that PTA is hosting the event that they are attending.

We would like to give many thanks to Rob from **MovinAds**, [www.movinads.com](http://www.movinads.com) who donated the 2<sup>nd</sup> banner to PTA, just because they believe in the work that we do! *Isn't that awesome!!*

The banners read SHENENDEHOWA PTA. One is green with white lettering and the other white with green lettering. So if you would like to use a banner for an event please let us know.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!**