

The Colts' Corral



A publication of Carmel Elementary School PTA

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www.georgiapta.org
www.pta.org

Carmel
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

Carmel PTA Satisfaction Survey Results

From PTA Co-Presidents, Kristy Meusel and Kelly Mosley

We would like to begin by welcoming everyone back to Carmel! We hope you are all getting back into the swing of things. If you haven't already done so, we would like to encourage you to join PTA.

MEMBER REWARDS

Membership is only \$5 and you get so much in return. For every membership purchased, you will receive a Carmel antennae ball; a coupon from Chick-Fil-A for a free chicken sandwich; and, if you attend various PTA events throughout the year and present your membership card, you are entitled to a free gift. These include: refreshment ticket at the Sock Hop in August (\$.50 value); 2 free game tickets at the Fall Festival in October; 1 free craft ticket at the Holiday Gala in December; 1 free bingo card at Chili Bingo in January, 2008, (\$3 value); and 1 free refreshment ticket at the Luau in April, 2008 (\$.50 value). That is a total value of \$9.00 in gifts just for joining and attending events. All of that is great, but most importantly, you are helping all of Carmel's students by joining PTA. Your support of the various PTA fundraisers will enable PTA to continue to

sponsor many of Carmel's departments including: art, music, PE and the media center. We also run many special programs and events that would not be possible without your help. So we thank you for all that you do for Carmel!

SATISFACTION SURVEY

Last May, a parent satisfaction survey was in the Colt's Corral and we would like to share the results of those surveys with you. We offered a \$50 restaurant gift card to the winner of a drawing from the surveys submitted by May 16th. The winning name, Monika Balke, was drawn by Sylvia Gaillard, Carmel's Media Specialist on Town Hall on Friday, May 18th.

All numbers/percentages are based on the number of surveys returned to PTA. These figures may not necessarily represent the majority opinion of the PTA membership.

The average number of memberships purchased by a family was 2. Some of the major factors cited that interested members to join PTA were: benefit to school; helps my children; school pride and positive role model for kids.

49% were very satisfied with their PTA membership; **46%** were satisfied; **5%** were dissatisfied and **0%** were very dissatisfied.

77% found the member benefits listing helpful and enjoyed the added value to the membership card.

69% took advantage of benefits through Carmel PTA, while only 4% took advantage of the benefits through the state PTA and 0% took advantage of the benefits through the national PTA. Please remember as a member of Carmel PTA, you are also a member of Georgia PTA and National PTA and are therefore entitled to the benefits offered through them as well.

90% were interested in seeing similar benefits offered this year and we listened!

17% thought that there were some PTA programs/committees that could use some improvement. Please know that we are always striving to improve our efforts. We will take your suggestions seriously.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

37% attend Stevi B's family night; **34%** attend the Chick-Fil-A family night; **31%** attend the Skate Night family night.

Con't on page 2

Carmel PTA Satisfaction Survey Results

Con't from page 1

77% felt that there are just enough family night activities offered. 10% felt that there were too many family night activities offered. 6% felt that there are too few family night activities offered. 7% did not respond.

As is evidenced in the percentages per activity, we feel that all 3 family night activities get a fairly equal amount of participation. We also feel that the 3 choices offer a good variety to pick from. Keep in mind, these are all voluntary events. Also, we only make a very small amount from each family night activity. Last year, we received \$134 from Chick-Fil-A, \$414 from Skate Night and \$312 from Stevi B's for the entire school year. With a combined total of \$860, these are obviously not big fundraisers for us. Honestly, large fundraising is not the reason for the activities. We feel that if these companies are willing to pair up with Carmel PTA to help generate some money for us, why not take advantage of their generosity? Every little bit helps.

One question was raised as to why we always have Skate Night during the week, when there are elementary aged children involved that have homework, extracurricular activities and bedtimes. The answer is simple. The skating center is a business and depends on the weekends to make the majority of their profits. They are doing us a favor by offering these school nights during the week when they would not otherwise be busy.

COMMUNICATION

98% read the Colt's Corral and find the information provided useful.

52% access the Carmel PTA website. If you have any questions pertaining to PTA events/programs, the website, www.carmelpta.com, is your best source for up-to-date information.

Please keep in mind that all PTA officers and committee chairs are parent VOLUNTEERS. We do the absolute best we can to provide you with information and updates, however, life goes on around us all and sometimes, it may take a little longer than we'd like to get the latest information to you. Please

know we always have the best of intentions for you and your children!

We are looking forward to another great year at Carmel! Last year, we had over 1700 members. We were actually the 3rd largest PTA in the entire state of Georgia. We would love to achieve this accolade again.

As our membership campaign signs say....

Carmel Water Bottle \$3
PTA Membership \$5
Carmel T-Shirt \$12 (give or take)

Making a Child's Face Light Up.....PRICELESS!!!!

Please consider joining PTA and helping make all of Carmel's students faces light up!



Liz Chase, Southern School Services, kicks off the fall fundraiser

Fifth and sixth grade students get excited about school fundraising.



Square 1 Art Returns to Carmel This Fall!

Submitted by Suzette Weber,
Ways and Means Chair

Square 1 Art, a program that creates keepsakes and unique gifts using your child's artwork, returns early this year! Carmel PTA will offer this perennial favorite in anticipation of the holidays!

Starting in September, Carmel kids will begin working on their submissions. The artwork will be mailed to Square 1 at the end of the month. In October, look for the order packets to arrive!

Over the years, parents have enjoyed the quality of work from Square 1 Art. Many families collect ceramic tiles, quilt blocks, and stationery. (Hint: Teachers appreciate class gifts! Square 1 Art will work with Room Moms who wish to order items for their teachers).

This year, Carmel PTA is working for 25% participation! This program is a wonderful way to show your child how much you value their artistic expression! This year, each class will work on their

submissions in their homerooms. Previously, the program was worked into the Art Department's curriculum. This year, Carmel students will work together with their teacher to create artwork that reflects their class. We are excited to see what unique and personal work our kids will produce!

So, look for Square 1 Art order forms in October! Orders will be delivered before Christmas.

Southern School Services and American Greetings Featured in Carmel's Annual Fall Fundraiser!

Submitted by Suzette Weber,
Ways and Means Chair

Liz Chase, from Southern School Services, kicked off Carmel's annual Fall Fundraiser on August 14th. This is Southern School Services first time selling to Carmel. They are exclusive distributors of American Greetings Wrapping Paper. With the name "American Greetings," Carmel parents can be assured of quality unmatched by any other company. Starting in 1982, this family-owned and operated company has helped raise millions of dollars for schools and non-profit groups all across the Southeast.

Besides the diverse catalog selection of gifts, wraps, candies, and magazines (and even more items on the internet), Southern School Services brought to Carmel an innovative incentive program. Students who sold three items the first week and five additional

items the second week were presented with Y.E.S. wristbands. The Y.E.S. Program, (Your Efforts Show!), offered a drawing for iScan Radios for all kids who sold just 10 items. Kids who sold 15 items were invited to the Hamster Relay and Party, which included grab bags for everyone who attends! Kids who sold 25 or more items will have the opportunity to spin the Prize Wheel at the party!

The top selling classes from each grade level were entered in the Hamster Relay, with the top seller from each grade running the relay! Each winner of the Relay wins a Toys-R-Us Gift Card! The three top selling classes (with the largest percentage of participation) from each grade level will be put into a drawing to win one of two class parties! (K-2nd grades and 3-6th grades). The teachers from the winning classes will also receive a Longhorn gift card! All teachers

whose classes participated in the Hamster Relay will receive a tote bag.

The kids who sold over 40 items will ride the Fur Bus to Stevi B's! Look for an update in the next Colt's Corral – we are positive that everyone will have a blast! These industrious sellers will also receive a pet nap.

We would like to offer a huge "Thank You" to Southern School Services for offering this generous incentive program!

Also, Carmel teachers and staff members were not left out of the fun this year! The top two selling staff members were eligible to win gift cards from Longhorn.

We would like to thank all of the parents and staff members who have supported Carmel PTA during this year's fundraiser!

Fall Festival: Saturday, October 13, 1:00-5:00

By Steve Hoofnagle, PTA Fall Festival Chairperson

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 13th for Carmel PTA's Annual Fall Festival. The fun will run from 1 PM until 5PM. Come enjoy ponies to ride, a rock climbing wall, inflatable "moonwalks" and mazes, lots of games and prizes, and don't forget to enter to win one of the always impressive Raffle Baskets.

Publix will offer hot dogs and chips and "The Concession Stand" will sell popcorn, cotton candy, pucker powder, ice cream, and beverages.

Stop by our Pumpkin Patch and pick out a good one for Halloween!

Ticket presale information will come home with your kids the first part of September. Order your tickets in advance to get the discounted price.

Also remember to bring your PTA Membership card to the Festival to receive 2 free tickets (must present card and get it punched at one of the Ticket Booths).

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the festival and you haven't already been contacted by your Room Parent, please contact me at stevehoofnagle@bellsouth.net or 770-516-9092.

Online Homework Help Resources

Parents--help your students start the new school year off right by using county and state approved databases for homework help. I have printed a label to go in each child's agenda with this information on it, but you can help your student by marking these in his/her Favorites file on the computer.

Homework Helps can be found by first going to the Carmel school website at:

<http://www.cherokee.k12.ga.us/carmel-es/>
Click on Departments, click on Media Center then Homework Links.

Go.Grolier

Username: go Password: go

Go. Grolier is a set of 6 encyclopedias plus a thesaurus and dictionary for your students to use. The Book of Knowledge is for Grades 2,3. Grolier Multimedia is for Grades 4,5,6.

GALILEO

Password changes every few months.

Kids GALILEO is provided by the State of Georgia. It has several helpful databases. The Encyclopedia Britannica is for all elementary grade levels. Also included is Kids Search & Kids Infobits which provide magazine and newspaper

articles. The Digital Library of Georgia is wonderful for the students studying Georgia history. The first Gov for Kids database connects students to helpful government sites such as NASA, NOAA weather, etc.

Nettrekker from home: www.nettrekker.com

Log-in: 628 cares password: student

Nettrekker has information on all statewide curricular topics and meets state standards in information.

Please have students use the above databases first instead of using Google. On Google our students will get over a million hits on a topic. How do they know what site is real and valid? Well, they don't. This has not been taught to them.

Please email me with any questions. I'm always glad to help.

Thank you,

Sylvia Gaillard

Media Specialist

Sylvia.gaillard@cherokee.k12.ga.us

GOLD HORSESHOE PTA MEMBERSHIPS

Kathy & Chris Alvey
Alan & Heather Anderson
Tammy & Gregory Ballou
Jody Barkman
Barbara & Nicholas Bonatucci
Natalie & Adam Brodofsky
Theresa Brown
Tim & Carla Baert
Carolyn Daugherty
Diane & Mark DuMond
Kim Eidson
Deanna Gale
Cindy & Jeff Garrison
Monica & Paul Gunderson
Kim Harrison-10 memberships!
Elizabeth & Dempsey Hickman
Dr. Sharron Hunt
Mike & Angela Jensen
Lori & James Karnes
Holly & Andy Loeb
Carol & Steve Mainieri
Betsy & Ed McAlpine
Kimberly & Stephen Miller
McCarthy family-10 memberships!
Kristy & Curtis Meusel
Kelly & Terry Mosley
Dawn & Mark Mueller
Kelli & Christopher O'Toole
Amy & Chris Parman
James & Cathy Pinkston
Donna & James Ridenour
Margaret Ryan
Hilary Sonnenthal
Cindy Spears
Stacie & Russell Stumpf
Sherri & Gary Tongco
Stephanie & Steve Vidrine
Robbin Walker
Amy & Gary Weissel

Where Does All That PTA Money Go?

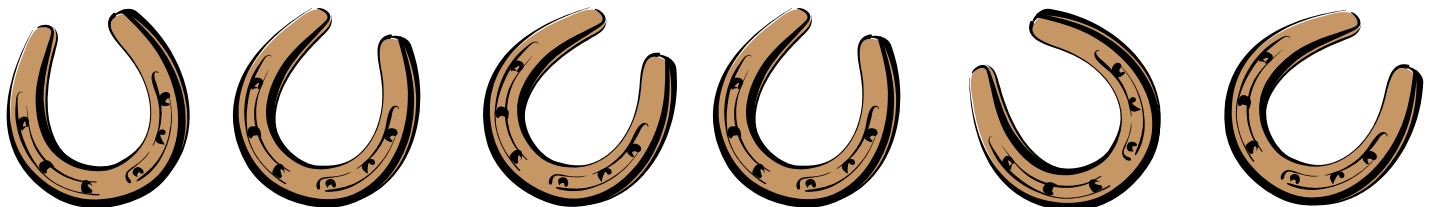
Why Should I join?

Submitted by Betsy McAlpine, 1st Co-Vice President

Do you know what PTA funds at Carmel Elementary?

- Teachers receive \$5 per student in their classes to purchase classroom materials to be used by the students! That's over \$7500!
- Classes with 100% PTA membership earn another \$50 for classroom materials! That's another \$4000!
- All non-homeroom teachers receive money, too! That means PE, Music, Art, Speech, Resource, EIP, ESOL, Media!
- \$9000 for Student Agendas!
- Walkie Talkies for the mobile classrooms!
- An Outdoor Classroom!
- Character Education Assembly!
- Author Visits!
- \$75 for each artist who comes for Art in the Park!
- Art in the Park Assembly!
- Clinic Supplies!
- Playground Equipment, Beautification Projects, and more!

Please consider joining and supporting Carmel's PTA!

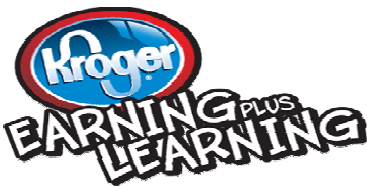


BoxTops Contest Winners

Mrs. Palmer won the \$25 gift certificate from The School Box for the Boxtops Teacher Round-up contest.

Winners in the Kindergarten Boxtops / Campbell's label contest will be announced soon. Watch for the next grade level contest soon!

Remember to turn in Boxtops on the flyer. The first 25 who turn one in will get a Dairy Queen free ice cream certificate.



Kroger Earning Plus Learning is an Education Incentive Program that brings funds back into our school when you shop at Kroger. Present the

barcode below, along with your KrogerPlus card, to your cashier upon checkout. This will link your KrogerPlus card to Carmel's fund from Kroger. The Kroger Co. will contribute 4% of our eligible purchases to the Carmel Kroger Earning Plus Learning fun.

Last year, the participation of just 129 families earned \$3,247.52 for Carmel. Imagine what we could do when even more families simply scan this code when shopping at Kroger! If you did participate last year, thank you and remember to re-enroll at the start of each school year.

Let your local and out of town family support Carmel by enrolling in Earning Plus Learning at their Kroger. Learn more and download the Carmel Parent Letter, with the unique Carmel barcode, at: www.krogerearningpluslearning.com

Carmel Elementary School



Kroger cashier: Please scan customer's KrogerPlus Card at the beginning of the order, then scan the above barcode.

The customer's KrogerPlus Card is now enrolled in the Kroger Earning Plus Learning Program for the 2007-2008 school year.

When turning in Campbell's labels, please be sure to also send the UPC portion of the label.

Always write your child's name and his/her teacher and grade level on your envelope or bag of Box Tops and Campbell's labels.



LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE PRESENTS CARMEL NIGHT

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
TOWNE LAKE LOCATION**

*Let your server know you are with Carmel
to earn funds for our school.
The results will add up for purchasing supplies
we need throughout the year.*

Carmel Night at



4th Thursday Every Month!

A percentage of purchases during Carmel Night will be donated to Carmel PTA.

Tell your cashier "I'm with Carmel!"



NESTLE PURE LIFE "GO PLAY"

"Go Play" is a program through Nestle Water that helps schools receive free indoor/outdoor sports equipment for physical education programs. Bring those water bottle labels with the "Go Play" logo to the collection box at school

throughout the year to help our PE department.

The Carmel PE department receives 2 points for each label. Labels collected last year will soon be redeemed for the Nestle catalogue for sports items such as soccer corner flags, Major League bases, or a First Aid kit.

Back to School Rules for Safety

*Submitted by Lisa Grisham,
Health & Safety Co-Chair*

Getting back into the school routine can be hectic, but take a few minutes to review some of the rules to get your kids to and from school safely.

Bus riders:

- * Stay out of the street and avoid horseplay while waiting for the bus.
- * Cross the street at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- * Make sure the bus comes to a complete stop before entering or exiting.
- * Remove loose drawstrings or ties on jackets and sweatshirts. They can get caught in bus handrails.

- * Always ask the bus driver for help if anything is dropped while entering or exiting the bus.

- * Remain seated.

- * Do not throw objects or distract the bus driver.

- * Keep hands and arms inside the bus.

Car Riders:

- * Use safety belts or child safety seats (if necessary) on every ride. Children under 6 or children who do not fit a seat belt correctly should ride in an appropriate seat, usually a booster seat.

- * Drop off and pick up children in a designated safe area.

- * Make sure children enter and exit the car on the curb side.

- * Carpool (when possible) to cut down on extra traffic through school zones.

Following these important safety rules and reviewing them every year with your children can help keep the back to school season a safe one

To learn more about how to keep your kids safe go to www.safekids.org.

Have a GREAT and SAFE year!

UPCOMING PTA FAMILY EVENTS



SKATE NIGHT

Wednesday, September 26
6:00 –8:00
Hot Wheels Skate Center

Beginning in October, Skate Night will consistently be scheduled on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY LUNCHEON



September 11-13, grandparents are invited during their grandchildren's lunch time to enjoy some special time together. Photographs will be available.



FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 13th from 1:00 to 5:00. Don't miss this annual favorite for Carmel families! The fun will include pony rides, rock climb, moonwalk, mazes, games, food, prizes and our own pumpkin patch. Please sign up to volunteer and/or donate when your child's room parent asks for your support for Fall Festival.

Family Day–

A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children, September 24

This is from an article in the PTA Local Leader newsletter.

Source:<http://www.casafamilyday.org/>

Whether you're cooking a gourmet meal, ordering food from your favorite take-out place or eating on the go, rest assured that what your kids really want during dinnertime is YOU! Family meals are the perfect time to talk to your kids and to listen to what's on their mind. The communication that occurs over the course of a meal is critical in building a relationship between you and your kids and it helps you understand the challenges they face.

Did you know that eating dinner frequently with your children and teens reduces their risk of substance abuse?

Research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)* at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs.

CASA created *Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™* in 2001, as a national movement that encourages parents to frequently eat dinner with their kids and be

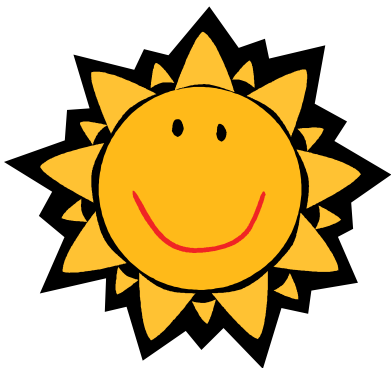
involved in their children's lives as simple, effective ways to reduce substance abuse among children and teens. *Family Day* is celebrated on the fourth Monday in September.

Family Day is not just for families. It is a day for all to celebrate, including businesses, unions, religious organizations and community groups. The symbolic act of regular family meals should be promoted and celebrated inside and outside the home throughout the year.

Regular family dinners aren't the only way to help keep your kids substance free. Here are some other important things you can do:

- Set a good example.
- Know your child's whereabouts, activities and friends.
- Set fair rules and hold your child to them.
- Maintain open lines of communication.
- Surround your child with positive role models.
- Learn the signs and symptoms of teen substance abuse and conditions that increase risk.

Sunshine Math Coming Soon!



Submitted by Tammy Smith and Susan Norrell

Be on the lookout for those yellow math sheets! The Sunshine Math Program consists of 15 worksheets for grades two through six and 10 worksheets for kindergarten and first grade. The worksheets will be sent home on Fridays and should be returned by the next Friday. The math problems can be fun and challenging.

Accomplished mathematicians will enjoy figuring out the problems on their own, while students less adept at math will benefit from working on the problems with help from a parent. Students who complete at least 70 percent of the worksheets will receive a small prize and a Sunshine Math Diploma at the end of the year.

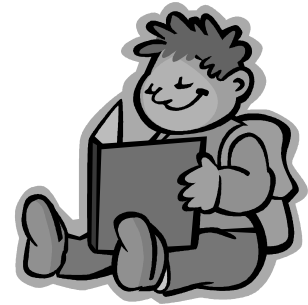
I Want To See That Smile!!!

Do you know the smile I mean? The one on a child's face that says: "Look what I did." "Did you see what I can do?" "Listen to me, I can read." The smile that says a child is proud of real accomplishment. The smile that every child deserves to smile and the smile that every parent longs to see. As I enter my second year as chairperson of the Literacy Committee, I want to see more of those smiles.

Did you know we have many children at our school who read below grade level? Being able to read with ease and enjoyment is something so many of us take for granted. Think for a moment about the things we do that involve reading. No, wait a minute. You probably don't have all day. Just think about the ones that don't—it's a much shorter list. It is obvious that life in

general must be a lot easier for people who read well. What can we do to better the lives of the kids who don't? We can help them become readers!

Our school has a literacy program that serves children who struggle, who are in real need of your assistance. This program takes kids who are reading below grade level and pairs them with volunteers to assist them in their reading skills. Right now we are looking for volunteers so we can include as many of these children as possible. Last year we had 131 students recommended for the program but only had tutors for 45 of them. We desperately need people who can commit to one 30-minute session a week. We will try to work with you and your schedule; and if you are able to do more, we will



happily arrange for you to help additional students. We would love to have grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends, neighbors, or anyone else who would like to make a difference in a child's life.

What if your child needed a little extra attention and there were not enough volunteers to provide it? Let's give all our children a chance to reach their potential. If you can't help in this program, then please sign up for another one. It's all for the benefit of our kids. For more information on the Literacy Program please contact Stephanie Parsons at 770-924-2648 or sparsons@bellsouth.net.

Fourth Grader Donates Her "Locks" with Love

Daria, a 4th grader in Mrs. Newton's class, donated TEN inches of her hair to Locks of Love this summer. Daria made her generous donation in loving memory of her cousin, Tyler, who died of cancer at the age of five.

Locks of Love is a private, non-profit organization. Their mission is to return a sense of self-confidence and normalcy to children suffering from hair loss by utilizing donated ponytails to provide the highest quality prosthetics to financially disadvantaged children. For more information on Locks of Love visit www.locksoflove.org.



Daria with her 10 inch ponytail for Locks of Love

Thank You!

The Carmel PTA would like to thank
the following businesses
that have donated items to our school.

Chick Fil A

Starbucks

Family Tradition

Stevi B's

Dairy Queen

School Box

Steak n Shake

Georgia Theater Company

Joe's Crab Shack

Chili's

Longhorn Steakhouse

We are sorry for the confusion with the Chick Fil A Night in August. There was a miscommunication, but a CFA representative assures us that we will be receiving credit for purchases made on that night. **Please continue to go to the Towne Lake CFA on the 4th Thursday of each month.**

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Secretary	Ann Fowler	770-924-7071
Treasurer	Elizabeth Hickman	770-928-9630

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Communications	Suzette Weber	678-429-0037
Community	Simone Alsup	678-445-6790
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Co-Chair	Sherri Tongco	770-517-9502
Dads' Club	OPEN	
Donations	Angie Condra	770-924-6874
Co-Chair	Monika Balke	678-445-8011
Environmental	Robbin Walker	770-926-1237
Exceptional Children	Tammy Smith	770-517-8630
Co-Chair	Susan Norrell	770-591-4224
Fall Festival	Steve Hoofnagle	770-516-9092
Family Development	Synethia Tucker	770-924-1460
Co-Chair	Maria Regan	678-445-1319
Grant	Angie Condra	770-924-6874
Growing Up	Monika Balke	678-445-8011
Health & Safety	Jodie Rodriguez	770-928-2584
Co-Chair	Lisa Grisham	678-494-3157
Historian	Lynette Farmer	770-592-9470
Co-Chair	Cathy McNamara	770-517-3037
Holiday Gala	Jodi Rodriguez	770-928-2584
Hospitality	Lori Karnes	678-445-6682
Co-Chair	Angelia Pearson	770-591-0224
Co-Chair	Jayne Woodyard	770-926-8038
Literacy	Stephanie Parsons	770-924-2648
Co-Chair	Elizabeth Hickman	770-928-9630
Media Center	Kristy Meusel	770-516-6773
Membership	Cindy Garrison	770-517-9618
Newsletter	Stephanie Weber	770-591-3894
Parliamentarian	Tammy Childree	678-230-7622
Public Relations	Kara Kiefer	770-592-0579
Room Parent Coord.	Lori Karnes	678-445-6682
Recreation	Troy Meeks	404-403-1988
School PR	Susan Moore	770-516-2633
Skate Night	OPEN	
Spirit Wear	Jere McCorkle	678-494-5399
Volunteer	Karman Skeens	678-494-5349
Ways and Means	Suzette Weber	678-429-0037
Co-Chair	Jeanne Figdore	770-592-1264
Web Page	Keith Weber	770-591-3894