

As the newly elected PTA President, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2012-2013 school year at College Gardens Elementary School. PTA has been connecting parents to their children's education for 115 years. It is the defining organization for parent involvement. Research shows students do better when their families are involved at home and at school. The overall purpose of PTA is *"To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children."* Together we are a powerful voice for children. Help will be needed, as we continue to work toward PTA goals of a quality education and nurturing environment for every child. The elected executive board will further PTAs vision by demonstrating competence, collaboration and commitment toward PTA values.

PTA Values

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

The first opportunity to show your support will be to become a member of the College Gardens Elementary School PTA. I encourage each of you to join and or continue support. Please be sure to check out our membership incentives. PTA provides the opportunity to serve, to volunteer, and to contribute to the welfare of all children, because children represent our future. PTA will introduce you to a variety of new activities and opportunities to share your special talents. Please join your PTA forum where parents, teachers, and administrators promote quality education, strive to expand the arts, encourage community involvement, and work for a healthy school environment.

Different Ways PTA Members May Serve as Volunteers

Level 1- This member may not be able to volunteer in school but is willing to support their PTA as a member by attending PTA sponsored programs. This member is also willing to complete activities from home such as: collating materials for events, assisting with the membership directory, staff request or participating in fund raisers

Level 2- Some parents may be available to volunteer a few times a year in school. They will assist with at least one PTA sponsored program. They can participate in the programs and fundraising programs.

Level 3- This member is more likely to be an active volunteer in the school. They are more willing to chair a committee for the PTA and assist in developing and implementing PTA programs.

It is very important to work together and support each other throughout the year. Our quest as PTA members is to collaborate with our parents, staff and students to raise our achievement level even higher. If you would like to support or offer suggestions or ideas for other potential PTA initiatives, please feel free to use our email address. info@cgespta.org Whatever level of participation you select, your time and involvement will certainly be appreciated. **In order for us to meet this goal we need you.** We need your time, talents and commitment at College Gardens Elementary School to help our children achieve their fullest potential.

I welcome the opportunity to serve.

Thank you,

Nicole M. Cathey

College Gardens Elementary School PTA President

Your 2012-2013 PTA Executive Board

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