



# SOBOCO PTA



February 2009

## Letter from the President

I don't know about you, but I often feel outsmarted by my two nine year-olds when it comes to technology. If I can't figure out why there's no sound coming from the TV when I'm trying to watch a DVD, I go to my son. He fixes it in a matter of seconds while giving me a "you're pitiful" smile. If I want a new background on my cell phone, my daughter is the one I find. My phone now says "Mom Rocks" every time I look at it, which is nice. I didn't have a computer until I started my first job in 1994 and it wasn't mine. It was my employer's. My kids have access to several computers at any given moment. When I was a child, the only mobile phones were the ones the "rich" farmers had in their trucks that could be heard ringing two blocks away. According to my daughter, half the kids in her class have a cell phone. The fact is that unless you're a technology guru, your kids know more about computers and cell phones than you do and they're learning more every day. This can be good, but also quite scary. Do you know everything that they're doing or even how to look? Would you know what to do if something bad happened?

On Monday, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Detective Tracy Perkins of the Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force, presented at the elementary school on local computer and cell phone-related crimes involving children. The Task Force serves the Mid-Missouri area by investigating Internet related crimes against children and assisting other Mid-Missouri agencies with Internet related investigations. In 2008 the Task Force completed 105 investigations. Twenty-two people were convicted of Internet related offenses, totaling over one hundred years in sentences. The Task Force identified thirteen Mid-Missouri children between the ages of four and sixteen who were victims of Internet and technology related crimes pertaining to child pornography and other sexual offenses. To say I was shocked by these **Mid-Missouri** numbers is a major understatement. To say I was disappointed by the lack of parent turnout at this presentation is even more of an understatement. This is information that every parent of every child out there needs whether you want to believe it or not. Please go to <http://mmictaskforce.com> to become informed today. You'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,

Heather Miles-Mange

<p><b>Wed, Feb. 18th</b> Selling BLACKOUT t-shirts at the MS over lunch</p>	<p><b>PTA CALENDAR</b></p>	<p><b>Fri, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup></b> Selling BLACKOUT t-shirts and taking orders for all other Spirit Wear during BB games at the H.S. that evening</p>
<p><b>Tues, Mar. 10<sup>th</sup></b> PTA meeting - elect new officers, plan carnival, general business</p>	<p><b>Thurs, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup></b> Selling BLACKOUT t-shirts at the HS over lunch</p>	<p><b>Sat, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup></b> Family Carnival &amp; Dinner - HS gym/commons</p>

**Poof... your wish**



**has been granted!!!**

The PTA is proud to announce that we will be awarding more than \$14,400 to our teachers this spring through our 'Teacher's Wish List' program! We have approved requests from 81 teachers in the district, with each teacher receiving an average of nearly \$179.00 to spend on materials needed for his or her students and classroom. The funding provided through this program will be used to purchase printers and ink cartridges, drums and rubber duckies, and just about everything else in between!! All requests were reviewed and discussed by a committee made up of Jenny Grabner, Peg Thompson, Bill Palmer, Julie Chapman, and Tiffany McLemore. It was particularly helpful this year to have the insight of teachers from the primary, middle, and high school buildings. A big 'Thank You' to those teachers for their willingness to help!

### **Community Comes together to Support the Buddy Pack Program**

The SOBOCO PTA would like to thank all those individuals and organizations that have supported the buddy pack program. It has been so amazing to watch this community come together to ensure that children at SOBOCO have enough to eat over the weekend. Generous donations of time, food or funds have made this possible. It has been truly rewarding to partner with so many organizations and individuals including members of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, teachers, Ms Beetsma's class, the Girl Scouts, the Ashland Baptist Church, the SOBOCO Middle School, the National Honor Society, PTA members and the Englewood Community Club. We currently send home 18 packs which are filled not only for one child, but sometimes several others who are at home. The PTA will be meeting with school administrators to discuss any needed improvements, make sure we are reaching all those in need and to plan for the future. The Central Mo Food Bank recently sent surveys home to all participants and those are currently under review.

### **Curious About the '09-'10 School Calendar?**

Of course you're curious! All parents, teachers, staff, and administrators are anxious to know the general outline of the upcoming school year so they can begin making plans. This year's Calendar Committee is working hard to create the best possible calendar for all. The committee consists of 22 people, from all of the groups mentioned above. Two meetings have occurred thus far and have resulted in four sample calendars that will soon be presented for opinions and input. All comments will be considered before choosing the final '09-'10 calendar.

Prior to serving on the Calendar Committee, I always wondered how "they" decided on which day to start school, how long to make winter break, etc. Now that I've served on the committee, I have a much better understanding of all that goes into establishing the final calendar. First, there needs to be 175 instructional days, then, you have to figure out where breaks should fall and when to squeeze in professional development days. By law, six snow days must be included. All of this while trying to consider every different point of view and what the majority of those affected would want. Also, you have to remember that the days of the month are different with each passing year, so what worked well for winter break last year, might not work as well this year.

Please trust me when I say that the committee works very hard and considers everything before making its final decisions. We're hoping you'll all be very pleased with the finished product.