



Dear Sunset Families:

The Sunset Elementary PTA welcomes all new and returning families to the 2009-2010 school year! Over the summer your Sunset PTA has been busy planning some wonderful programs, services and events to benefit our students, families and school throughout this year. However, none of these programs can happen without your continued support and commitment and we ask that each one of you join the PTA.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is an organization of families, teachers, and members of the community whose purpose is to remind our country of its obligations to children and provide parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students. By joining the Sunset PTA, you become a part of the largest child-advocacy organization in the country, with over 364,000 members across Florida and 6 million members nationally. Your membership fee in the PTA does not pay for these programs, but it helps create the infrastructure to provide these programs.

Included in this packet are a PTA membership form and a Parent Contact Information Form. We are implementing a new e-mail communication tool this year in which each family will receive one weekly update of all the activities and events at Sunset Elementary. We are hoping this new communication tool will eliminate the number of emails received by parents and also eliminate some of the wasted paper that ends up going home in the Thursday Communicator. The information you provide on the enclosed Parent Contact Form will enable you to receive this weekly E-blast and will also give you a chance to indicate your preference for being included in the Sunset Elementary School Directory. Please take a few minutes and fill out these forms and return them to your homeroom teacher.

The PTA still has many committee positions open for those of you interested in getting involved at Sunset. Many new parents have already jumped right in and registered to be volunteers. **All parents and family members who wish to volunteer in the school, whether a cleared volunteer from last year or not, must register through the NEW Volunteer Registration System.** For information on becoming a registered volunteer within the Miami-Dade County School System, go to www.dadeschools.net or come by the Sunset PTA room for assistance with your registration. Also, feel free to stop by the PTA room for answers to any questions or additional information regarding volunteering opportunities.

Over the next couple of weeks you will be receiving the paperwork for our largest fundraiser of the year, Lavender's catalog sale. Lavender's offers a variety of gift wrap and assorted gift items by American Greetings as well magazine subscriptions and food items. This is our main fundraiser for the year and it is imperative that we have 100% participation in order to provide the quality services and programs for our children such as school beautification, police officers, student agendas, staff appreciation, honor roll and accelerated reader incentives, and classroom supplies to name a few.

Please remember that no matter where your talents or interests lie, there is a place for you in the Sunset PTA! Although we have many ideas and goals for the next year we are always looking for ways to improve so please come by the PTA office or contact me with any suggestions or ideas.

Sincerely,

Monica Pettigrew
Sunset Elementary School PTA President
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