

# PTOs Offer More Than the Essentials

Parental support makes our schools the best they can be. PTO volunteers are unbelievable individuals who are extremely generous with their time, talents and knowledge. They are a visible force at Joan Martin, Liberty, Ridge View, George Earle , and Hobart Middle School. Pride in the school community is apparent by the work these organizations do on an annual basis.

## Ridge View's PTO

provides an example of what can be accomplished by a group of very determined people. The principal and teachers believe that they are a significant part of what makes their school successful because of the positive link between home and school. Their PTO has helped raise funds for playground equipment, carpeting in the classrooms, and supplies for the classrooms. During the construction project this summer at Ridge View, a new sign/message board was purchased by the PTO using Market Day profits and placed in front of the school.

This PTO has demonstrated that they will do whatever it takes to get children and teachers the essentials for learning. Leveled books are one of those necessities for classroom teachers and students. Leveled books are books that are chosen to correspond with a child's reading ability because not all children read at the same level, even if they are in the same grade. This means that classrooms require lots of books that are appealing and interesting to every reader! The PTO saw this as such an important need that they have spent approximately \$11,000.00 on leveled books.

There are many wonderful volunteers who work side by side with the PTO board to make these lofty endeavors happen every year. Without families supporting the PTO, their success would not have been possible. Ridge View feels fortunate to have a support base of parents, grandparents, guardians, aunts and uncles, and the community. The generosity of Ridge View's volunteers is greatly appreciated.



Pam Hoover, President, Debbie Stanton, Vice President, Laure Laco, Treasurer, and Sheila Brownfield, Secretary, are the PTO's Executive Board Members.



## George Earle's PTO

is another outstanding support system for the students, parents, teachers, and community. Fundraising efforts throughout the school year generate \$12,000-\$15,000 for student activities and instructional materials. Family/Student/Community activities include: Back to School Night, Craft Show, Pumpkin Decorating Contest, Santa's Secret Shop, Book Fair, Swim Nights, Family Nights, Nutcracker Ballet performance (all school attends bi-annually), Valentine Sundaes, Fun Fair, DARE Graduation, Grandparent/Special Person Day, and Field Day.

Board members volunteer dozens of hours preparing for meetings, organizing activities and events, and communicating with parents. Likewise, they recognize Hobart businesses that unselfishly donate items for students and fundraising opportunities. Family members (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles) donate hours volunteering at school sponsored events. The PTO budget, through fundraising, supports the activities listed above and also provides resources for classroom instructional materials such as: library books; 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>

grade study trip to Indianapolis; Teacher Appreciation Luncheon; calendar magnets (1/family); playground equipment; and school sign.

The George Earle School PTO represents our school family – students, parents, teachers, and the community. Every year students and teachers write heart warming thank you letters to the PTO Board.

