



## Happy New School Year To Everyone!

Exciting changes have happened to make the parent volunteer group at Nate Mack Elementary School the very best it can be. Last year, members voted to disband as a PTA and instead, become a PTO. There really is little difference in the change of one letter in an acronym but there are HUGE possibilities. Being a part of the National and State levels of the Parent Teacher Associations required us to pay dues to those organizations. We, in turn, passed that cost onto our PTA members. Now, as an independent PTO, we no longer have to pay those dues and now we are able to keep all profits made in house to benefit our school.

### **Why should I be a participating member?**

Participation through volunteering allows you to be "hands on" with your child's education. All research indicates that when families are involved, a child is more apt to get higher grades, be more likely to graduate, and go on to college. Our children love to see us in this environment where they spend seven hours a day. You get to know your children's teachers and your children's friends.

Participation through attendance at PTO meetings gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group. You help decide where the money should go. If you are new to the Nate Mack Elementary Family, the established families are available to answer questions and ease your transition into becoming a school family. If you are new to our community, we're always happy to help wherever possible. An added bonus is that you have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who can become great friends.

### **What is the level of membership?**

The levels of membership are Standard and Premium. Standard is \$8.00 per person and gives you the privilege of being a voting member. Premium is \$16.00 and gives you the privilege to be a voting member as well as a Nate Mack T-shirt. If you're interested in more than one t-shirt all additional shirts will be \$12.00. Discussion, ideas and suggestions are always welcome from all members, but our bylaws allow that only members are allowed to vote during meetings or hold office on the board. This contribution could provide transportation to field trips or supplement a teacher's classroom supply order. All membership dues are profits kept directly at our school to pay for various things. Voting takes place on the budget, changes in fundraising or programs, bylaws, and for board members.

### **Isn't the PTO only about fundraising?**

The Nate Mack Elementary PTO is more than just fundraising. Fundraising is really just a necessary evil as school budgets are requiring more and more cuts. It is our privilege that we are able to provide the supplies, equipment and activities that our school budgets can no longer cover. We are only able to do that through our Nate Mack family's willingness to participate in our fundraisers. Harvest Festival, Parents Night Out, and the Bake Sales are some of the ways we raise money for items such as classroom supplies, literacy support, supplies and equipment for the staff workrooms. It also helps in funding the track meet as well as PTO programs such as Watchdog Dads and others.

We are about men and women working together toward a common goal. That goal, simply stated is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work - and so can our children. There's so much more that can be done and we need your help. We look forward to seeing all that can be and will be accomplished this school year when we come together, as a group and as a community to enhance and maximize the education of every child.