

Encinal School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

August 1, 2007

Dear Encinal School Parents,

On behalf of the PTO, let me be among the first to welcome you back to school! This will be a year of big changes. We'll welcome our new principal, Allison Limer. Allison is as impressive in person as her education and professional experience suggest. I'm excited to know she'll be bringing the best of her knowledge to guide the Encinal community as it evolves into a K-5 campus over the next few years.

Construction has begun on campus, beginning with the renovation of the playing field and the new kindergarten wing. Incoming 3rd graders will begin the year in the new "3rd Grade Plaza." True to form, our enthusiastic 3rd grade team is embracing the challenge and making the best of it. And we'll begin to make plans for the arrival of the first kindergarten classes, due the fall of 2008. The PTO programs for our youngest students will surely present some exciting challenges.

What won't change, however, is the PTO's commitment to providing enrichment programs for our students, staff, and parents in the 2007-2008 school year. We have a slew of volunteers on the PTO Board and in committee positions poised to continue the multitude of programs that help to make Encinal a stimulating and fun learning environment, a rewarding place to work, and an inviting place for parents.

As president, I respect all the resources—time, talent, and financial—our Encinal community generously provides. I'm grateful for all the support given in each of these areas as I know there are many other ways in which these limited resources could be used. This coming year, the Encinal PTO has allocated more than two-thirds of its budget toward student enrichment programs: assemblies, the Community Read, field trips, curriculum enrichment, math and science nights, student clubs, our garden, the library, ENTV, art, and citizenship and school spirit activities. The remaining funds are allocated toward faculty and staff (e.g., reimbursement of classroom supplies, professional development, staff appreciation events, and special projects identified by the staff or principal) and parent (e.g., school directories and parent education) programs. Without your financial support, these wonderful programs can't happen. Please help support them by joining the PTO today! **You can attach a check to the flyer in this mailing or make an online credit card donation at <https://www.merchantamerica.com/lepto/echopay/>.**

There are many ways to volunteer your time and talent as well—on and off campus, one-time only, or in ongoing programs. To learn about the various volunteer opportunities, join us at the Encinal Multi at our annual **Back-to-School coffee on Thursday morning, August 23rd**. Also, mark your calendars for Back-to-School night on Wednesday evening, August 29th, where teachers will present opportunities for your involvement at the classroom level.

And, if you haven't subscribed yet, be sure to sign up to receive the Encinal PTO Weekly Newsletter by email—just go to <http://www.encinalpto.com> and type in your email address at the top of the page.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and see you on August 23rd!

Sincerely,

Jane Baran
President, Encinal PTO