

Cobb Middle School PTA

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Annual Report

The Cobb Middle School PTA is a grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers, students, and community members who have interest in the betterment of our school. Our goal has been to make every student's potential a reality by engaging and empowering our families and community to advocate for all children. By joining PTA, a member becomes part of the largest child advocacy organization in the state and nation. Cobb MS PTA has been active and successful in providing quality programs and activities for the community of Cobb Middle School.

The purposes of Cobb MS PTA are to:

- Promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community,
- Raise the standards of home life,
- Advocate for laws that further the education, physical & mental health, welfare, and safety of children & youth,
- Promote the collaboration & engagement of families & educators in the education of children & youth,
- Engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, & social well-being of all children & youth, and
- Advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding

Our goals for 2017-2018:

- Cobb MS PTA provides educational enrichment to all children,
- Cobb MS PTA builds the community through engaging family events, and
- Cobb MS PTA supports our staff and school.

With our guiding purposes, goals, and the PTA mission in mind, Cobb MS PTA has been able to fulfill many accomplishments for the school, faculty, staff, and students of Cobb Middle School. The CMS PTA consists of twenty-six dedicated board volunteers and the highest number of PTA members in Cobb Middle School history, 735 PTA members.

Our most exciting accomplishment is the recognition by National PTA as a PTA School of Excellence. National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Cobb MS PTA is one of 143 schools nationwide, 18 schools statewide, and the first in Frisco ISD to receive this designation. But to exceed this incredible honor, Cobb MS PTA also received the highest distinction from National PTA as the recipient of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award and the first in the state of Texas to receive this honor, making our PTA the #1 PTA in the nation to demonstrate outstanding success engaging families in student success and school improvements. Cobb MS PTA received a grant this school year of \$2000 in recognition of the Hearst Award.

Arts in Education

Rom Tom Holding, served as the contact for our students and coordinated the National PTA Reflections program for the CMS PTA. Students in preschool through grade 12 create and submit works of art in six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. This year's theme was "Within Reach". Eleven students participated in the Reflections program and three students advanced to the Council level in the categories of Music Composition, Visual Arts, and Photography.

Book Fair

Cindy Edwards coordinated our Required Reading book sale with Barnes & Noble at Cobb Middle School's 6th Grade Cyclone Camp and 7th/8th Grade Schedule Pick-Up events. An in-store event was also scheduled at the Barnes & Noble Stonebriar Mall location with proceeds donated to Cobb MS PTA.

Scholastic Book Fairs help us share more books with more kids and foster the love of reading. In addition to connecting students with the latest and greatest titles across all genres, funds raised by our book fairs enable us to place more books in the Cobb library and classrooms. Led by Cindy Edwards, our fall book fair was a western themed event, "Wild Wild West Book Fair, Wanted: Readers," having total sales of \$5,888. Our spring book fair is space themed, "Reading: The Final Frontier," and is combining with our first Family Science Night.

Council Delegate

Melinda Samberson served as Cobb PTA's Council Representative. She attended the monthly Frisco ISD Council of PTA meetings and reported back information to our local chapter. Melinda provided information and updates in regard to our city and school board elections during the primary and municipal elections, as well as keeping our membership informed on Frisco ISD information.

Directory

Working with the school data clerk, Ms. Meece, to obtain student contact information, chairperson Becky Batman prepared the Cobb MS PTA online school directory. The password protected directory was made available through the Cobb MS PTA website for the students, parents, and staff that were PTA members in both Excel and PDF format. Updates were made two times this year to include new sponsorships, as well as new members were added and leaving members were removed.

Environmental

Christina Zahn served as Cobb MS PTA Environmental Chair. Cobb Middle School continued to participate in many of Frisco's recycling projects, including batteries, plastic bags and gently used shoes. Cobb MS PTA also promoted campus participation in the Fall's International Walk-to-School Day on October 4 and Bike-to-School Day on May 9, while educating students on the health, safety and environmental benefits of walking and bicycling.

Cobb Middle School's Beautification Day will be held on April 21, which coincides with Earth Day and the city of Frisco's "Clean It and Green It" campaign. Working with Cobb Middle School's NJHS, volunteers will be sprucing up the flowerbeds, pulling weeds around the front, and picking up any trash on the campus.

Festival

Lissa Clemens served as Cobb MS PTA's Festival Chair. She planned the Cyclone Celebration that will be held the evening of Thursday, May 17. It is a time for the Cobb MS community to celebrate another successful year by enjoying several inflatable activities, including basketball goals and an obstacle course, indoor laser tag, a rock climbing wall, a photo booth, and an indoor hungry hippo game. New this year, we will have "Human Foosball" outside at the center of the track. Not to be missed will be the DJ that will provide tunes in the gym

where the inflatables will be located. Lissa secured the In-N-Out food truck and Snowball Express to provide food to the families for the evening of fun.

Healthy Lifestyles

Cobb MS PTA's Healthy Lifestyles chair Stacy Thomas helped initiate a new event at Cobb Middle School. Healthy Hoops will incorporate the annual basketball game between students and teachers, but now also promote a healthy lifestyle through physical fitness, nutrition, and fun. Tickets will be sold for the event in May that will be held during a pep-rally time at the end of the school year.

Historian

The Cobb MS PTA Historian, Leslie Romike, was on the scene for our many wonderful and exciting Cobb PTA events this year. She attended most events and snapped photos to be compiled into a year-end scrapbook to commemorate the 2017-2018 school year.

Hospitality

Erin Bladon and her awesome volunteers worked together to provide multiple meals and treats for our wonderful Cobb MS faculty. These events included: Welcome Back Teacher Luncheon, monthly birthday treats and notes of encouragement, Teacher Appreciation Week lunches and treats, a holiday cookie exchange, Valentine's breakfast, Souper Bowl Luncheon, and STAAR snacks.

Inclusivity

Debbie Rajunov coordinated with Cobb Middle School's Diversity Team of staff to organize our annual Multicultural Night. Over 100 students and parents attended the event with booths that families organized from their heritage to include Thailand, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Germany, India, Cameroon, Philippines, Vietnam, Bolivia, Scotland, Mexico, England, France, Israel and the USA. Students in attendance traveled around the world, completing a passport and sampling foods & cultures from the different booths.

Membership

Alicia Autry served as 1st VP of Membership this year and helped Cobb MS PTA achieve recognition for the following awards:

- Head Start Award - 75% of previous year's total membership achieved by August 31
- Early Bird Award
- Fall Increase Award
- Honor Roll Award 750+ Club Award
- President's List Award
- Welcome Back Award
- Share the Love Award – Given to PTAs that acquires 14 new members between Feb. 1 – 28, and won a free registration to TX PTA Launch in Houston
- Golden Apple Award – 100% faculty joining PTA
- MARS Award (Men Are Really Super) – 300 men ore more joining PTA
- Community Award – 50 community members or more joining PTA
- Voice for Every Child: Gold Award – Membership equals 75% or more of enrollment
- Achieved Cobb's "All Time High" membership – 735 members
- Reaching High Award- 100% of previous year's membership and 2 years of consecutive growth
- Three Year High Award
- Student Membership Award

Officer Brent Armstrong, Cobb MS faculty member, and Leslie Romike, Cobb MS community member, will be recognized as our Honorary Life Members, one of Texas PTA's highest honors, at the Frisco ISD Council of PTAs banquet in May.

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian is “a person who is expert in the formal rules and procedures of deliberative assemblies and other formal organizations.” Blythe Talbott filled this important role for the Cobb MS PTA this school year. In October 2017, we amended our Bylaws for our Membership Annual Dues to be \$5.50 for individuals and fifty cents (\$0.50) for Cobb MS students. Also in April 2018, Blythe and the Bylaws Committee reviewed the Cobb MS PTA Standing Rules and Bylaws and submitted changes to Texas PTA.

President

Kimberly Baker presided over the Cobb MS PTA general membership and board meetings. In addition, she attended Texas PTA's LAUNCH training and the monthly Frisco ISD Council of PTA's meetings, then aided in reporting updates to the board and general membership, fielding questions for members and board chairs. Kimberly also initiated committees for the back-to-school events, student membership drive, the School of Excellence celebration, Family Science Night, and Healthy Hoops. As Cobb MS President, she also served in an adversary role on the Campus Improvement Team, working with Cobb MS staff and another parent representative to establish and review Cobb Middle School's educational goals, objectives, and classroom instructional programs.

In May, Kimberly will attend the Frisco Education Foundation's 2018 Scholarship Night to present the Robert Cobb Middle School PTA scholarships to two graduating seniors who are both former Cobb MS students.

Principal

Mrs. Theodore attended Cobb MS PTA's monthly board and general membership meetings, as well as Frisco ISD Council of PTA meetings to help inform the Cobb community, along with guiding Cobb MS PTA decisions. She communicated to achieve 100% of membership with the Cobb MS faculty and encouraged all parents and students to join PTA. With the help of Cobb MS PTA, Mrs. Theodore hosted the Breakfast with the Principal and Cobb 101 in the fall and will host the fourth annual alumni breakfast for former Cobb Middle School students.

A monumental celebration was also held in February, acknowledging Cobb MS PTA's achievement as a National PTA School of Excellence and the recipient of the Phoebe Apperson Hearst Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award. Cobb Middle School welcomed the National PTA President elect, Leslie Boggs, Texas PTA's Board of Directors member Heather Ashwell-Hair, as well as numerous district and city leaders to join the Cobb community in a celebration of this achievement. Mrs. Theodore will also attend the National PTA Convention this summer in New Orleans with Kimberly Baker and Melinda Samberson to receive the award on stage.

Programs

Ellen Schandlbauer served as 2nd VP of Programs, helping to secure several educational programs for students and families this school year. In October during Red Ribbon Week, a DEA agent delivered presentations to all grades regarding the dangers of drug use. In November, a Texas PTA speaker held a parent workshop entitled “Success Starts at Home” in the Cobb library. The interactive program empowers family members to build and strengthen their family assets. In December, Cobb MS PTA sponsored an abstinence program for 8th graders and their parents called “Aim for Success”.

In the fall, Cobb teachers were awarded approximately \$1,500 in grants. Teachers submitted applications for innovative items that were needed for classroom or school use. A committee reviewed all of the applications and then chose recipients for the grant money.

Family Science Night is the next program that is quickly approaching. It will be held the same night as the Book Fair on Tuesday, April 17, in the school entryway. There will be hands-on, science activities designed to generate enthusiasm for the district's science curriculum. Parents and students will be given an opportunity to explore principles of chemistry, biology, physics and earth sciences.

This year's final PTA-sponsored activity will be the 8th grade ice cream social and will take place on the last day of school.

Publicity

Cobb MS PTA Publicity chair, Gillian Alcalá, utilized social media outlets Facebook, Instagram & Twitter. Each account is updated with current information and useful information for Cobb MS parents and students. Social media was also used to encourage participation in school-sponsored events and district-wide events throughout Frisco ISD.

Secretary

Angela Mason, Cobb MS PTA Secretary, dedicated many volunteer hours to help record both the Cobb MS PTA general membership meetings and board meetings through the 2017-2018 school year. She prepared minutes, assisted the president in determining a quorum, and maintained a roll call record. She maintained the required documents, including signed ethics & conflict of interest policies, the records retention policy, and FLO training completion lists. Her organizational skills helped the board members to conduct meetings in a timely fashion.

Special and Gifted Education (SAGE)

Our SAGE chair, Melissa Abati, started the 2017-2018 school year by setting up monthly correspondence with district SAGE leaders. This provided opportunities to learn of updates and district SAGE events that could then be shared with our Cobb MS community. Melissa helped facilitate the sale of the annual SAGE t-shirts at Cobb MS via our website and our PTA's weekly newsletter.

Melissa continues to work with Cobb MS to help coordinate the purchasing of some much needed materials for the special education and gifted classrooms on our campus by the PTA. All SAGE news and events were communicated through our Cobb MS PTA weekly email blasts throughout the school year.

Spirit Wear

Under chair Jolene Lindsey, the Cobb MS community had access to both value-priced and high-end spirit wear and gear. The back-to-school sale held during schedule pick-up featured all the new designs for the school year. For the first time, Cobb MS PTA offered PE clothes and added a few, fun items like "Pop Sockets". The back-to-school sale was a huge success, with only a few of the shirts remaining!

The online, spirit wear store was offered in the fall, featuring a new girls shirt and all the shirts and gear offered at the beginning of the school year. The past year's remaining inventory was advertised at reduced prices and made available for sale at Cobb MS PTA events.

As a final service to our rising 6th graders, Jolene coordinated online sales of a "Class of 2025" t-shirt and advertised the web-based store to our three feeder elementary schools. The excited 5th graders will have the spirit wear in time to wear for the final week of school.

Talent Show

Cobb Middle School's "Old Hollywood" Talent Show was a great success this year. Our chair, Lisa Guindon, worked together with Tara Pfiffner, and our theatre teacher, Mr. Moore, to have a fun, Friday night event with twenty-two student acts. The whole set and sound was done by our multi-talented Cobb theatre tech students and two students emceeding. Not only did our students bring their amazing talents from beautiful voices, they performed wonderful tunes on the piano and marimbas and shared fun comedy skits and beatboxing. The highlight of the evening was the encouragement and cheers from fellow Cobb MS students, faculty, and parents in the audience.

Teacher Liaisons

Mr. Pittman and Ms. Yancey volunteered to serve as teacher liaisons for Cobb MS PTA this school year. The teachers provided an important line of communication between the PTA and the faculty along with valuable input for decisions made by the organization.

Treasurer

Renee Wyse served as the Cobb MS PTA treasurer, keeping books for the organization – a vital role which ensures funding for a variety of programs, assists with fundraising activities and supporting the Cobb MS PTA board. Chairing the Budget & Finance committee, she managed all planning communications, ensuring budgets were prepared accurately and then presented the budget to the Cobb MS PTA membership and board. In addition, she compiled the IRS and Texas state sales tax items and submitted the forms on time and in compliance with all rules and policies.

Volunteer Coordinator

Stephanie Leibengood helped the Cobb MS PTA coordinate the many activities, events, and functions this year. Using www.signupgenius.com, almost fifty volunteers signed up to help bring snacks, soups, breakfast items and donate time for teacher appreciation events, the book fairs, and our many other events. With her organizational talents, we received an abundance of items and volunteers needed to hold our many successful events.

Ways & Means

Michelle Cassano, our 3rd VP of Ways and Means, began soliciting local businesses in the fall for the Business Sponsorship program, which we successfully began a few years ago. She organized and effectively communicated the One & Done fundraiser, Cobb MS PTA's check-writing campaign, as well as five spirit days & nights, and the Kroger Rewards Program.

This year, she organized the reopening of the Cobb MS concession stand during all home volleyball and basketball games, netting over \$4000. She organized all volunteers and food purchases and was responsible for stocking the concession stand with food and drinks, while complying with state health code regulations and Frisco ISD policies.

Cobb MS PTA also had our first "Cyclone Shopping Extravaganza" in December, which was an online shopping event with eighteen vendors and a percentage of the profits returning to Cobb MS PTA.

The funds from all of these events were raised to support the many student and parent programs, the teacher mini-grants, the Reflections Program, our talent show, the Cyclone Celebration, and much more. Cobb MS PTA was able to surpass our fundraising goal of \$15,000. This includes our business sponsors iCare, Sarak K. Jones Realtor, and Buffalo Specialites, totaling \$3000. The restaurant spirit nights and the Kroger Rewards program raised \$2500, the concession stand raised \$4000, and the One and Done fundraiser raised \$6300.

Website

Judie Eggl maintained the Cobb PTA website and composed the Cobb MS PTA weekly email that the Cobb community received. The weekly email blast included information regarding meetings, activities, and events. The email was sent using MailChimp each Wednesday morning. Our Cobb MS PTA website, www.cobbpta.org, stayed current with news and information. Our membership and One & Done donation drives included a self-managed, online store on our website throughout the year. Information data was also collected through our website for parents to volunteer at Cobb through the many PTA activities.