

My name is Michelle Douglas and this is my 2nd year as PTA president at RES. I currently have 2 children here, 1 in f grade and 1 in 4th and have 1 in 6th grade, middle school. Our PTA like everything else has suffered these last couple of years, unfortunately, this year we had to pass on the cost to you the parents, of the planners. We just don't have the funds to cover them right now. Certainly when things pick up again we will go back to free planners.

The PTA pays for many things in the school and if you've read my letters you'll know that includes cultural events for the kids, weekly readers, time for kids and many more things. Earlier on this week I sent out a donation form to encourage parents/ guardians to send in a one time amount and we will hopefully not need to do any fundraisers for the PTA. At this time of year I am the world's most popular person with people from all kinds of fundraising companies calling me, wanting our business. I appreciate that they enable us to buy something from them but I have to say they must be making an awful lot of money from us when even after giving us 40 or 50% of the money WE make for them, they still want our business. If everyone could give a donation of a minimum of \$20 for each child in the school, we would not need to do the fundraisers and the school would benefit from 100% of your tax deductible donation. Unfortunately, if we don't get enough money, we will have to go back to fundraisers.

Our other need is for volunteers and I hope that many of you will pledge your 2 hours per year for the school, this is a great way to become involved in your children's school. I understand that everyone has different abilities, we don't always need people to help out at the school or even in school hours, sometimes we need help typing information into the computer or making signs, or making phone calls or translating into Spanish or Russian or any special teacher projects. We have a huge variety of opportunities to help out and your children and I really appreciate any help we can get. If you feel like pledging 2 hours of time per school year will work for you it will be very much appreciated.

I do want to also mention the yearbook and encourage you to send in pictures of any school events, the more pictures we have, the more variety end up in the book. I have to say that last years book was wonderful and would love to again see so many pictures of so many children this year.

Also, thank you to the 66 parents and teachers who have already joined the PTA, if you haven't joined the PTA yet please don't forget to do so, we have a table in the foyer. We meet on the first Wed of every month in the library at 6.30 PM. Ms Shields and Ms Owens, our new vice principal are always there and we always have a teacher representative. This is a great opportunity to address any questions in an informal environment and you may find answers to questions you didn't know you had. The other benefit to joining the PTA is the discounts that you have access to by logging into the PTA webpage. Lastly I would like to say thank you very much to all the parents who help out and to all the teachers who help us too, there is no way we could achieve anywhere near as much without their help.