

Volunteer Services Community Relations

Board Report 2017

Community Relations

Annually:

- District Profile - This thirty-six page booklet called Traditions contains information per building and also stats of the district. The profile's main purpose is to showcase our district and is used as a tool by administrators when promoting the district and all it has to offer. It is also available on the website to give parents and community members a quick glance of our entire district, updated annually.
- Fall and Winter/Spring Sports Guides - This is a collaborative effort between coaches and the community relations department highlighting not only student athletics but also their strong academics.
- Pictorial Directory - Many hours are spent creating this directory. What a great way to put a face with a name in a district of our size. Volunteers also copy and assemble the hundreds of district phone directories for district use.
- Maintain the volunteer website - This site shows all the ways volunteers and teachers work together using volunteer services.
- Alumni and District Facebook page - It's important to show all the positive happenings with our community. My administrative assistant, Andrea Rhoades, daily spends a great deal of time improving and supplying information for these pages.
- Reaching our community through Media - We send, almost daily, press releases to various media outlets in our community. Typically that includes five different local papers plus radio and TV stations when asked. This year we reached the community 225 times through press releases and most weeks we had our own school page. This number does not include the tips and suggestions to the papers for feature stories.
- Events Chair for the Foundation Elegant Evening - Fabulous event this year. A special thank you to the entire district staff in helping make this year's event the best yet! The Foundation also started progress on the Endowment Fund. I worked with Mr. Hendricks, John Blair and Susan Leslie. Along with Trenny Garrett, we hosted two dinners to get the word out as to possibly growing the Foundation's Endowment fund.

Quarterly:

- The Laker Letter has been a popular way to communicate school news in the community. Four letters are created and mailed each school year.
- First quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to **19,817** residents in October, and also available on the district website
- Second quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to **19,802** residents in January, and also on the district website
- Third quarter newsletter - 8 pages, mailed to **19,805** residents in March, and also on the district website
- Fourth quarter newsletter - 16 pages, graduation issue, full color and mailed to **19,856** residents in June, and also on district website.

One change to the district newsletter was the News From Your Local School Board. I have heard positive comments and appreciate the effort to get the page complete.

Also, I did take into consideration past board student advisor, Emily Zaretsky's, suggestions when designing the graduation issue. Hopefully the cleaner look is more eye appealing.

- Community relations provides the printed program for the TOY and EOY banquet as well as the monthly Excellence in Education poster which hangs in the administration office.
- Kiwanis Club of Camdenton's Terrific Kids Program - The club reached 224 students this past school year. Certificates are printed for each student awarded and presentations are made at Oak Ridge and Hurricane Deck school quarterly. We are looking at adding back OBE this next school year. The Kiwanis club also supports the volunteer program by packing buddy packs weekly at Dogwood.
- Looking Good Program - Local non-profit groups donate over \$2,250 which supports our teachers and nursing department with hygiene and clothing items. Daybreak Rotary just announced we will be receiving another \$2,250 gift in August and Harper Chapel and Kiwanis are also going to support the program as well.

Highlights:

- The Buddy Pack Program received a grant from The Community Foundation of the Lake of \$2,200 and also a very large contribution of \$5,400, from the Lake Presbyterian Church. We raised \$9,774 just through our office alone. This was an increase of \$4,944 from last year.

Volunteers in Public Schools

- Parent letters are sent to all parents throughout the year encouraging parent involvement. It is also important for the director to go out into the community and make presentations to groups building awareness and support of our schools. Press releases are also circulated and oftentimes I present a program to civic organizations in hopes to recruit new volunteers and provide further details on our buddy pack program along with other programs we offer in the district. The volunteer program also coordinates the Dogwood parent involvement portion for their week long reading week and assistance with Grandparents day and promotes businesses to assist with the Book for Bikes program.
- The volunteer program is proud of the 245+ volunteers who assisted in some way this school year. Out of the two hundred and forty-five volunteers, twenty-five volunteers reached the 100 or more hour mark for the very first time. Sixty-seven returning volunteers continued to give over 100 hours of services. Twenty-one volunteers were nominated to receive the Volunteer of the Year award. Mag Leahy from Dogwood Elementary earned the title of Volunteer of the Year. Over two hundred volunteers, staff members, and guests attended the annual dinner. *I especially want to thank each administrator who attended and assisted with this special evening. Photos and highlights of the banquet can be found on the district website under programs and then school volunteer program.*

Special Programs:

- OARS - Outstanding Adults Reading with Students, Oak Ridge Intermediate - 62 students in the interventions program were involved in this quarterly program. Each student was paired with an adult partner.
- Buddy Packs – 19,584 packs were sent home this past year. The number of schools served-(7): Dogwood 460 buddy packs per month, Hawthorn 416 buddy packs per month, Oak Ridge 240 buddy packs per month, Hurricane Deck 336 buddy packs per month, Osage Beach 228 buddy packs per month, Macks Creek 160 buddy packs weekly and Climax Springs 328 buddy packs weekly. Horizons, Middle School, and High School students also received a buddy pack when needed. Secondary students are referred to our office through the counseling department. All students were provided a buddy pack when requested. Summer school students also received a buddy pack through the month of June.

Again, local monetary donations received through my office were \$9,774.00. Additional food supplies were also received to serve students. The cost per student per year is \$180.00. Central Food Bank does provide the majority of the funding for our district. Without their support this program would not be available for our students.

I hope you were able to get a glimpse of all the great support the volunteer program has available to staff members and their students and also how effective the community relations department is. I can't say enough about the teachers who are just phenomenal using the great recourse of both departments. We try each day to touch the classroom, touch the community, and in our small way help us all grow as Lakers. It is always a great day in Laker Nation. Please feel free to visit our website. We try hard to put our touches out there for all to see.

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