

Appreciating Teachers & Volunteers

Ways to Say "Thanks" to Those Who Help Our Children

PTA's success is based on help from volunteers and teachers who give their time and effort to improving the lives of children. We all realize that teachers are faced with many challenges that make their already taxing job even more difficult. They must deal with over crowding, declining budgets, and ever-changing curriculum. Our volunteers are no longer moms with nothing better to do; these guys have schedules that rival a corporate CEO. As PTA members we should take the time every once in a while to thank teachers & volunteers for their extraordinary patience, hard work and dedicated commitment. Sometimes all it takes is a simple card to make their day. Any time you **honor** teachers **include** custodians, cafeteria, **secretaries**, **ALL staff**.

Here are some ideas of things you can do that work well for teachers or volunteers:

Help students decorate a cake or cookies with words of appreciation.

Have students make poster and banners for all to see.

Include teachers' birthdays in your school calendar and PTA newsletter.

Have a gallery of teachers' baby pictures - make a contest to see who they are

Make paper flowers/write a kind word in the center of each, for a "thank-you" bouquet.

Produce/narrate a video or slide show that highlights teachers and volunteers working.

Take photos of teachers and subs and create a special "You're Our Hero" display.

Ask a local business to "adopt" a teacher for a week.

Wash the windows of the teachers' cars.

Begin a "Teacher Feature" on bulletin board near office, with pictures and profiles.

Don't forget to send the "Teacher Feature" to the local newspaper, with quotes & photos.

Have a school pep rally to honor teachers and/or volunteers.

Plant a tree, flower, or vegetable garden at school to honor a teacher or a group of teachers.

Develop a teacher scholarship for teacher study or for a graduating senior going into education.

Honor retiring teachers/volunteers by making a donation to a local Education Foundation.

Present ribbon-tied folders full of appreciation letters from parents and students during a recognition luncheon or breakfast.

Give teachers tickets to the movies, a lecture, or workshop at a local university.

Plan an assembly to honor volunteers or teachers.

Let students write, direct, and act out skits that portray "a typical day in the life of..." or "what would our day be like without Mrs....."

Help decrease their workload. Any help you can give is very much appreciated!!!!

Give them a boomerang with "Hope You Keep Coming Back" on it.

Volunteer to be a part of a school clean-up team or decorating team.

Let teachers know you are willing to act as co-instructor for special projects and activities.

Purchase a brick in TPTA's Recognition Square State Office in Austin with their name on it.

Honor them with a Life Membership in Texas PTA or Texas PTA Extended Service Award.

Donate money to the Texas PTA scholarship in honor of an outstanding teacher or volunteer.

Your teachers and volunteers give and expect nothing in return. No matter how you say "thank you" they will be glad to know how much you value their hard work and devotion to children. You don't have to do anything elaborate -just show these caring folks how much YOU care!

Don't forget when we honor teachers we honor all faculty & staff,not just teachers!