

## **School of Excellence - Quotes from School Administrators**

### **APPLES Early Childhood Educational Center PTA, Connecticut**

“The Director of Curriculum (Assistant Principal) stated that she was amazed by the turnout and attendance of one of our events, stating that she saw families that she didn't expect to see because they either never came to events or didn't speak English. That was an accomplishment!”

### **Bar Nunn Elementary PTA, Wyoming**

“With the help of our Bar Nunn PTA we have been able to meet the educational, behavioral, and social/emotional needs of our entire student body. We have worked hand-in-hand to support students, families, and our school community through hands on activities, school gatherings, educational nights for students and families, and have created a supportive learning environment where all who enter can succeed.”

### **Barksdale Elementary PTA, Texas**

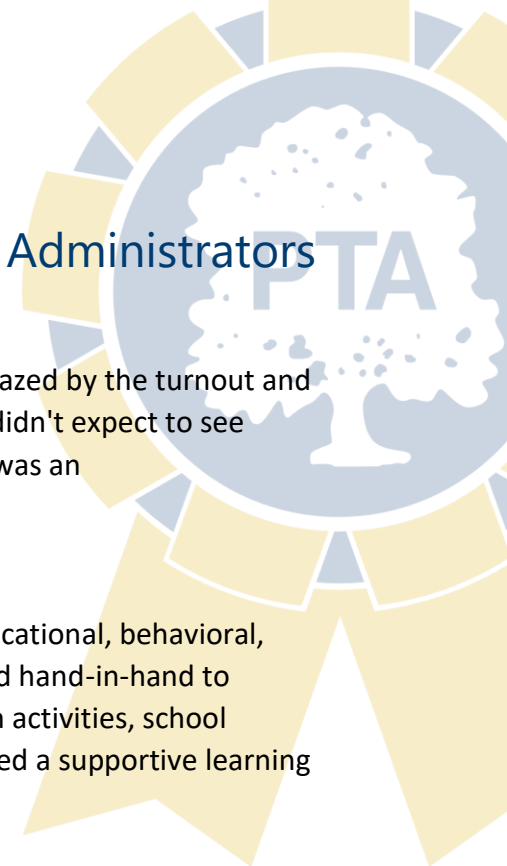
“The impact of parental involvement on a student’s success is one of the most important aspects of a child’s education. Building a strong relationship between the school system and parents is extremely vital. We have a strong school in which we are great at cultivating relationships, but we knew we were not reaching all our parents. Bringing together administration, teachers and ALL parents together for the betterment of our school, and when all three of these entities come together, takes what we do to another level. The parent feedback that was given to us helped us see that we needed to reach a population that may or may not feel comfortable volunteering or even coming to school to speak with their teacher. It was more than just building relationships with our parents, it was about reaching all parents in a way that we have not done so in the past. Having the data on how we can engage parents more, and then setting action steps on the findings will hopefully provide all parents the welcoming environment and comfort they deserve to feel when stepping into our school.”

### **Bear Path PTA, Connecticut**

“This program has helped the local PTA, parents, and faculty/staff come together to better communicate with children to help them navigate the ever-changing world of on-line media and social networks. In all, this Excellence program has made us aware of the things we do here at Bear Path daily that truly make us excellent!”

### **Big Creek Elementary School PTA, Ohio**

“This has been a fantastic addition to the Big Creek Program. Big Creek has approximately 16% of their students from India. The goal is to increase knowledge of various cultures, opportunities for positive interaction with different families, and increase student awareness of



diverse families. All these goals support the growth of students in academic, emotional and social aspect.”

**Brookview Elementary PTA, Ohio**

“The school of excellence program has boosted community moral and given our staff and families a sense of pride in their school.”

**C.C. Duff Elementary PTA, Texas**

“The opportunity to strategically examine the partnership between our PTA and the school will extend beyond this year... Strong schools build strong communities, and strong communities build strong students who impact the future collaboration that was encouraged and celebrated by the National PTA School of Excellence Program certainly is the bedrock of that impact!”

**Chickahominy Middle School PTA, Virginia**

“The School of Excellence program allowed us to understand the perceptions of our school community. This enabled us to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses and implement strategies that will strengthen our school-family partnerships.”

**Clermont Elementary PTA, Virginia**

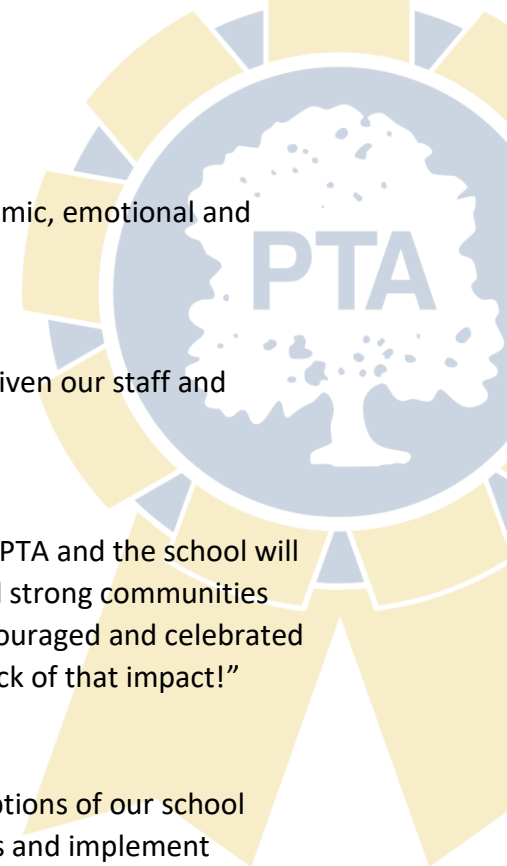
“The School of Excellence program has helped PTA members, staff, and students stay focused on creating a community in which everyone collaborates to support all students and build relationships among families and staff. As a result of this program, the PTA is continuously looking for ways to engage all families in opportunities to be involved in the school community. The recognition received through the program highlights the commitment of the Clermont community to support all children.”

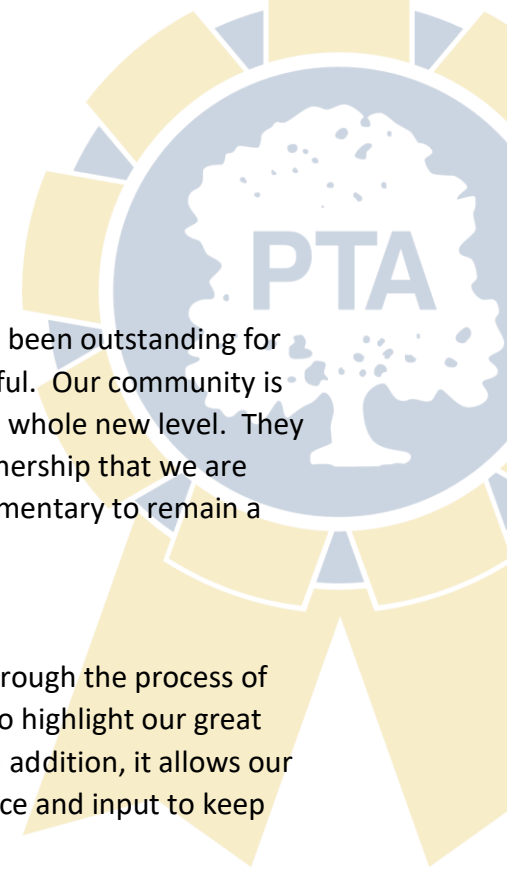
**Creekside Elementary PTA, California**

“Creekside has always valued our many volunteers, community connections, and family support. Through this School of Excellence application process, we have identified new venues of communication with our community - adding social media and signage around our school. We have a very diverse population who we celebrate, but we expanded our outreach to increase the stakeholder’s knowledge of the diversity - highlighting the many cultures and languages which make up our student body. This application process allowed us to explore new ways to make every family feel welcome and affirmed every day on our campus. We look forward to continuing this work next year.”

**Gene Pike Middle School PTA, Texas**

“The School of Excellence program gives a roadmap to success for families, PTA leaders and administrators to focus on the tenets of PTA, making every child's potential a reality. We are truly blessed to have such a program for our school!”





### **Donald Elementary PTA, Texas**

“Our PTA participating in the National School of Excellence program has been outstanding for our community. The partnership that has been forged has been impactful. Our community is collaborating and taking the importance of education and advocacy to a whole new level. They are becoming responsible for their learning and understanding the partnership that we are trying to create. I value the efforts that have been made for Donald Elementary to remain a National School of Excellence campus.”

### **Evers Elementary PTA, Texas**

“Our Principal, Mrs. Talia Hernandez, believes without a doubt, going through the process of becoming a PTA School of Excellence provides us with the opportunity to highlight our great campus happenings as well as evaluate areas we need to improve on. In addition, it allows our community to stay engaged with our school and provides them with voice and input to keep making our school a great place for learning!”

### **Heritage Elementary PTA, Texas**

“National School of Excellence surveys and objectives allowed us to explore and strengthen our way of communicating with parents through various methods, recognizing there is not a 'one size fits all.'”

### **Keith and Karen Hayes Elementary PTA, Nevada**

“Being selected as a National PTA School of Excellence would give our school more opportunities and resources to cultivate our dedication to enhancing and growing our partnerships with PTA, our families, and the community. This would be our public declaration that our school's success can only be made possible when all stakeholders (school staff, students, families, the community, etc.) work alongside one another to advance the critical work of teaching, developing, and nurturing our young learners.”

### **Mark Twain Elementary PTA, California**

“We all know that strong partnerships with PTA promote positive outcomes for all. This year, my journey and support with School of Excellence allowed Mark Twain to closely examine current structures, coordinating of parent volunteers, enhancement of special events, before, during school and after school. All done with pride and one purpose in mind: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.”

**Mount Morris PTSA, New York**

“This program has allowed parents to learn more about the school, access important information and guide them through the important transitions parents and students experience during their school years.”

**Mountain Gap PTA, Alabama**

“The PTA School Excellence program has been a vital part of the success of our PTA. The program provides an avenue for valuable stakeholder feedback which gives our PTA an opportunity to analyze the information, reflect, and make an actionable plan for continuous improvement. Our PTA is always looking for better ways to serve our school and community. The PTA School Excellence program has helped us to do just that.”

**Park Crest Elem PTA, Texas**

“Forming the School of Excellence Committee and going through the process of actually listening to the needs, desires, and wants of our parents has not only made Park Crest a better school but it has also made me a better principal. The parents genuinely know the teachers and administrators at Park Crest are here for them and their students, something which I don’t know I could have said before this process.”

**Pike Road High School at Georgia Washington Campus PTSA, Alabama**

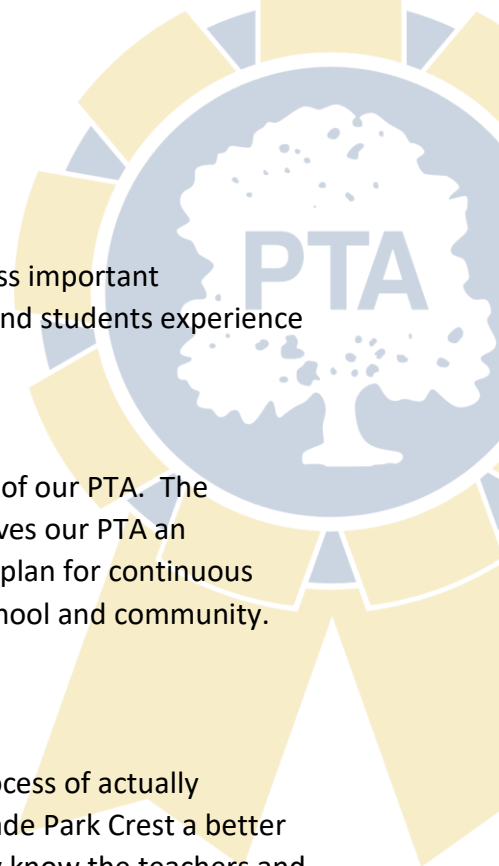
“The School of Excellence Program is a tool that allows the school/PTSA to look internally at ways to improve education. The program allowed us to meet our objective of facilitating consistent and meaningful two-way communication between families and our school.”

**Seminole Middle School PTSA, Florida**

“The PTA School of Excellence program serves as an effective framework to help schools enhance their family involvement programs. At Seminole Middle School, we placed an emphasis on increasing the involvement of fathers and male role models across our school community. The positive impact has been substantial and clearly displays the crucial roles that fathers can play partnering with their child’s school.”

**Sope Creek Elementary PTA, Georgia**

“Sope Creek Elementary values the strong relationship we have with our PTA. We know that much of the success our school and students experience are a direct result of the support we receive from our PTA and community partners. Participating in the PTA School of Excellence program was a valuable experience for the Leadership team at Sope Creek Elementary School. The leadership surveys and parent surveys provided us the unique opportunity to look at our school community from a different perspective. The feedback provided from the surveys allowed us to identify ways we can improve our school and our relationship with the community we serve. We learned that some parents were unaware of the services provided to



our non-English speaking families. This feedback encouraged us to increase our signage in multiple languages and to increase the number of parents who are official members of the School Council. It was our goal to better communicating school initiatives and to increases the power of our stakeholder voices in the decision making and governance of our school. Sope Creek Elementary thrives from data-driven decisions. The data from the PTA School of Excellence program is vitally important and has helped us shape our vision toward excellence and continued success. We are grateful for this opportunity.”

**Thomas B. Chinn PTA, Missouri**

“Our mission hasn’t changed over the years, and our core beliefs remain unwavering! The Chinn community strives to reach all students through building relationships, differentiating instruction, and holding high expectations to develop leaders who are Positive, Respectful, In Control, and Determined Every Day. It is not an accident that our mission statement spells out PRIDE. We are proud of our school diversity where 23 languages are spoken by our families, we are proud of the powerful impact that our PTA has on our school and we are proud of the PRIDE our students demonstrate every day. The School of Excellence Program is a powerful tool that can benefit everyone. It brings to light ways that the school/PTA can improve, but it also celebrates successes. It can be a visual reminder of everything we have accomplished together as a school and PTA. Our Chinn PTA strives for excellence and I am always proud to work with this amazing group.”

**Wyatt Elementary School PTA, Texas**

“The School of Excellence Program has provided our campus with valuable information that we have used to continuously improve as we foster the relationships with our families and community members in the support of our students and staff. At Wyatt, we strive for a positive learning culture which includes active parental involvement on many levels. We are proud of the partnerships that are formed between our students, teachers, and parents which ensures a successful educational journey for our students. In addition, we are excited about the arts initiative that our campus has adopted as we see the arts as a critical piece of our campus vision for success. Activating this part of the child not only promotes engagement throughout the school curriculum, but it also promotes a deep human need for expression and creativity. We greatly appreciate The School of Excellence Program for helping Wyatt achieve its vision for the success of all of our students specifically in understanding and developing family-community relationships as well as providing opportunities to grow our incredible arts program.”