

Mt. Mahogany News for Rams & Ewes

Website: <http://mahogany.alpinedistrict.org>

PTA Notes

Utah PTA will help every child realize his or her full potential and will advocate, involve, and develop.

PTA President

Our children are our future; they are our greatest investment and asset to family life. As a parent, you are the most important influence in your child's success in life and in school. Parent involvement is crucial to the development, health and well-being of a child. Parent involvement in childhood education allows children to perform better in school, and navigate more easily some of the challenges of life. Research proves that when parents are involved in their children's education: student achievement improves; teacher morale rises; communications among parents, teachers and administrators increase; family, school and community connections multiply. In today's changing economy the need for advanced skills and technical knowledge is growing. Showing our children that we value learning and education is important and will pay off in the long run as our children mature. PTA is committed to being the leading resource for parent involvement. We offer comprehensive resources for helping parents get involved and stay involved in the lives of their children. PTA also offers a number of annual campaigns and resources encouraging parental involvement. We urge you to help **A**ide, **I**nvolve and **D**evelop the life of children. Become part of our **TEAM**. Join PTA today. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our children; Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore. For more information about PTA visit the national and state PTA websites at www.pta.org and www.utahpta.org or contact the Mt. Mahogany PTA President Jamie Anderson at jjbanderson@msn.com. Thank You.

Jamie Anderson
Mt. Mahogany PTA President

PTA Liaison

This year PTA has launched an all new interactive website--JustBetweenFriends. We encourage ALL parents, whether PTA members or not to sign up. The ease of communication allowed us by this website will be a valuable tool to make the 2009-2010 school year the best ever. Visit www.justbetweenfriends.com and enter your token 170978tok to get started. Where JBF is a newly developed website we ask for your patience as we are still learning the system. Please report any problems to whosonfirst2009@gmail.com. Thank you.

Kate Merrill
PTA Liaison Coordinator

Family Life Commission

Parents encourage your child to create their own homework space at home and designate a regular homework time schedule, routine or materials needed to complete this challenge. Some students need more time for reading and others for math, big projects or test preparations. Be flexible in this routine as it may change from time to time but the key is to keep consistent! For those families with the internet at home google homework helps or UEN.Org. Often times these homework websites go with your child's grade and curriculum for the year. Another homework tip: Host your own Spelling/History/Science/Math Bee with all of the children in your family or with friends who are in the same grade (Most teachers at Mt. Mahogany work out their curriculum together and do the same thing at the same time) to aid your child in their homework at home. Also, consider some random rewards for 100% earned by your child in their class subjects this year. Parents may also reward things like just getting to school on time, being prepared or turning in homework/bringing homework home like reading logs. These habits also help ensure expected work completion and good study habits. Try a bingo card where the student can place a sticker on a homework habit if you don't want to reward everything and then when they get a BINGO! or a Black Out on the Bingo Board give the reward. Lastly, checking in on your child with their teacher before/after school hours may help your child academically improve as well.

Wendy Cook
Family Life Commissioner/Reflections Chair

September Calender

Health & Safety Month

- 1 - Vision Screening (9:15 am – 11:30 am)
- 4 - Spirit Friday
- 7 - Labor Day
- 8 - Room Mom Meeting 3:15 pm (Gym)
- 14 - PTA Board Meeting 2:30 pm (Library)
- 18 - Spirit Friday
- 21-25 - Health & Safety Week
- 24 - School Picture Day
- 24 - PG Council Meeting @ Valley View 10 am
- 26 - 1st Annual 5K Community Run Fundraiser

T-Shirts & Hoodies

It's back to school and time to get your Mount Mahogany T-shirt. The first shirt is \$8.00, the second is \$7.00 any additional T-shirts are \$6.00. Hoodies are \$20.00. As in years past we will be handing out treats/prizes for showing spirit by wearing the school shirt or colors on Fridays at lunch. So don't be left out and pick up your school shirt at the school open house, back to school night, or be looking for your order form the first couple weeks of school.

Stacey Goodman
School Spirit/T-Shirt Representative

RAMPAGE 5K Run/Walk

Farmers Insurance and Macey's have teamed up with a few other local companies to sponsor a first-annual Mount Mahogany **RAMPAGE 5K run/walk** as part of our Health and Safety Week. This will be a great event for the entire family. The race will take place on **Sept 26th at 8 a.m.** It will start and end at Macey's. There will be prizes for the winners. All ages can participate. If you would like to run or walk the RAMPAGE, please **register at the PG Macey's Service Desk**. If you register before Sept 16th, you will receive your RAMPAGE T-Shirt. ALL the funds will go to support the students at Mount Mahogany Elementary.

Macey's will have their famous pancake breakfast as part of the fundraiser following the race.

Farmers Insurance will have their M.I.L.K. kits for your children [Managing Information on Lost Kids]. **These kits are FREE to families**. The M.I.L.K. kits will register your child with the Amber Alert so that if the worst should happen, all you have to do is push a button on your computer and it will automatically send all the necessary information [current photo, age, description, etc] to the local news and police stations, And the Amber Alert to help you recover your child as quickly as possible. Farmers will give you the CD kit so you can update it each year. Again, this is FREE to you.

The Pleasant Grove Fire Department will bring their brand new Fire Truck with the 100 ft. ladder.

Please join us for a day of fun, Run the RAMPAGE 5K and enjoy the safety booths at the finish line.

Win a Bike with UDOT's "Walk More in Four"

On Aug. 26, 2009, UDOT's Student Neighborhood Access Program (SNAP)[™] will launch "Walk More in Four," a statewide initiative to encourage elementary-age children in Utah to walk and bike to school safely during the four weeks in September.

- Between Monday, Aug. 31 and Friday, Sept. 25, all Utah elementary students are encouraged to walk or bike to school at least three days a week, or 60 percent of the time. Bused students can walk or bike their neighborhood while practicing safe walking and biking habits.
- Students should keep track of the days they walk or bike to school on a chart that can be downloaded beginning Aug. 25 at www.udot.utah.gov/snap.
- To ensure safety, students should use the school's SNAP Map, which shows the safest walking and biking routes to school (obtain a copy from the school).

All students who walk or bike at least three days a week during those four weeks and return their chart to UDOT will be entered into a drawing to win bikes, helmets, backpacks, scooters and other great prizes donated by community supporters.

To be eligible for the drawing, students must mail their completed chart with a parent or guardian's signature to the following address on Sept. 28, 2009. The charts must be received by Oct. 5, 2009 (The drawing will take place on National Walk to School Day, Oct. 7, 2009):

SNAP/Walk More in Four
375 West 200 South, Suite 275
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

More information about SNAP, including helpful tips, is available at www.udot.utah.gov/SNAPParents. If you have any questions about "Walk More in Four," please contact Utah's Safe Routes to

School/SNAP Coordinator Cherissa Wood at
(801) 965-4486 or cwood@utah.gov.

Parent Volunteers needed in Lunch Room

This year we are in need of four parent volunteers to assist in the lunch room by checking each child's tray to ensure that they have a (full) reimbursable meal. There are two shifts available to choose from 11:00 am – 11:45 am and 11:45 am -12:30 pm. In return volunteers will receive a free daily lunch! Contact Barbara Sorenson in the lunchroom or a member of the PTA if you are available to help.

Legislative

PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation and has been responsible for great changes in our nation's schools, such as: the creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, a public health service, hot lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and mandatory immunization. Some parents, however, are hesitant to join PTA because they are not familiar with National PTA or Utah PTA's agendas. Here is a very brief overview of where PTA stands currently in the legislative forum:



2008-09 Legislative Priorities of Utah PTA	Priorities of National PTA (http://www.pta.org/PTA_Public_PolicyPDF_final.pdf)
1. Parental Involvement	1. Parental Involvement
2. Development of a Statewide Education Plan	2. Federal Funding for Education
3. Smaller Class Size	3. Chronic Early Absenteeism, Truancy, and Out-of-School Suspension
4. State School Board Nominating Process Reform	4. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
5. Safe School Environment	5. Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization
6. Family Physical Fitness	6. State Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Some *resolutions that Utah PTA is currently working on include: funding to improve early childhood services in the state; laws to protect children in all areas of child abuse, neglect, maltreatment, and exploitation; appropriate and equitable insurance coverage for autism treatments and further research and assistance for autism spectrum disorders; consideration of school proximity before UDOT plans new roadways. For more details, go to www.utahpta.org and click on advocacy issues.

*A resolution is a call for action. It is a statement that may give direction for that action. A resolution may also memorialize, commemorate, or express appreciation. Local PTAs, councils, region and Utah PTA commissions and committees may submit resolutions for consideration to the Utah PTA resolutions committee.

We hope an understanding of PTA Advocacy will encourage you to join Mt. Mahogany PTA this year and let your voice be heard when advocating for your child and all children in Utah and in the nation.

Christy Stevenson
Legislative VP

WIN FOR YOUR SCHOOL! WIN FOR YOU!
**We're giving away
1,000,000 Bonus Box Tops
to America's schools!**

One Grand Prize: 500,000 Bonus Box Tops (a \$50,000 value!)
Two First Prizes: 250,000 Bonus Box Tops (a \$25,000 value!)

ENTER "The BIG CLIP SWEEPSTAKES" AND "A BETTER BACK TO SCHOOL SWEEPSTAKES" @ www.boxtops4education.com. Our school could earn up to \$40,000 just by asking family, friends, grandparents neighbors and co-workers to cut out the Box Top labels on any number of items and brands (General Mills, Betty Crocker, Toaster Strudel, Kleenex, Huggies, Viva, Hamburger Helper, Totino's, Gogurts, Pillsbury etc...), by sending BOX TOPS to school and by registering online at boxtops4education.com. Just go to this website, click on Market Place, and enter Mount Mahogany as the school of choice. Even though it's only 10 cents a Box TOP, it adds up to make a big difference for our students. BOX TOP earnings can go towards upgrading technology, the purchasing of much needed school equipment and supplies, introducing accelerated math and reading programs, aiding the School Chorus, helping PTA fund various school programs and activities for our children, including rewards and incentives for students and teachers. Start collecting BOX TOPS TODAY. Each week there will be a prize drawing in the front office for participants. To be eligible for the weekly drawing send the BOX TOPS to school with your child's first & last name, teacher and grade written on the back. HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR YOUR SCHOOL JOIN BOX TOPS TODAY!