

August 2009

Dear Commonwealth Family:

As the 2009-2010 school year begins, the PTA is pleased to welcome you back to our remarkable school. Commonwealth Elementary provides a nurturing atmosphere where academic, social and emotional development is at a maximum. This is made possible by the dedication of our teachers, administrators, and parents working together to provide the best education and environment for our children.

CWE PTA provides and funds many programs and services for our school that would not otherwise exist. These programs require financial resources beyond the amount received from the District. Seven years ago, we made the decision to streamline the fundraising process through the **Cougar Pride Drive** that replaced product sales by the students. The **Cougar Pride Drive** allows each CWE Family to donate money directly to the PTA through a tax deductible<sup>1</sup> contribution instead of having our children sell products door to door. The seventh annual **Cougar Pride Drive** kicks off **August 19, 2009**.

The **Cougar Pride Drive** has been chosen for the following reasons:

- ❖ 100% of donations go directly to our PTA with no fees being paid to outside companies (fees can often be 65% of proceeds)
- ❖ Positive feedback from parents, administrators and teachers
- ❖ No door-to-door sales by our children
- ❖ No sales competitions for our children
- ❖ Donations are tax deductible<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Donations are eligible for corporate matching programs
- ❖ Success of prior years **Cougar Pride Drive**
- ❖ Allows us to redirect volunteer efforts toward classroom and extracurricular support to better serve our students, staff and families

In addition to the **Cougar Pride Drive**, the PTA participates in “free money” fundraising, such as General Mills Box Tops for Education, Tyson Project A+, and Kroger and Randall’s share cards. Although these other programs provide additional funds to support the PTA operating budget, **Cougar Pride Drive** is the only major fundraiser for our PTA programs and services.

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<sup>1</sup>  
CWE-PTA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor for your individual tax consequences.

Your donation to **Cougar Pride Drive** will go directly to the PTA's current year operating budget, which includes:

- ❖ Grade Level Enrichment Funds
- ❖ Student Agendas/Tuesday Folders
- ❖ Library Resources
- ❖ Cultural Arts Programs
- ❖ Music, Art and PE Enrichment
- ❖ Math and Science Enrichment
- ❖ Field Day and Field Trips
- ❖ Student Directories

The PTA's goal is to raise \$31,000 this year through the **Cougar Pride Drive**, and increase our Cougar Family participation to 100%. Again, these funds will go directly to the items listed above – for PTA's operating budget. Every donation is important, regardless of the amount. Please note that the names of individual donors will not be published this year; all names and donation amounts will be kept confidential.

In conjunction with our Cougar Pride Drive, we invite and encourage you to join the PTA and become involved. PTA membership is \$10.00. Benefits of being a PTA member include access to a password-protected area on our CWE PTA website, voting privileges, and various retail discounts for Texas PTA members.

We have enclosed a **Cougar Pride Drive** donation and **PTA Membership Drive** form. Please help kick off our 2009 - 2010 school year by bringing your completed form and contribution to **New Family Night on August 19<sup>th</sup>, Kinder Camp and Meet N Greet on August 20<sup>th</sup>**. We need your participation and donations to continue our impressive legacy at CWE.

Thank you so much for your involvement and support. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Kabot, Cougar Pride Drive Chairman at (281)494-1320 or e-mail at [mattshe1@aol.com](mailto:mattshe1@aol.com).

Charmaine Hobin  
Principal

Sharise Amante  
PTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Sheila Kabot  
Cougar Pride Drive Chair