

The Parish School Annual Report 2006-2007

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The Parish School Board of Directors

Name	Member since	Committees
Max Comeau	2006	Development, Strategic Planning
Bill Clarke, Interim Treasurer	1994	Finance, Head of School Evaluation
Sarah Duckers	2005	Development
Eddie Goldsberry, President	2004	Executive, Finance*
Steve Gordon	2006	Finance
Julie Harris, Vice President	2004	Scholarship, Development
Henry Kollenberg	2006	Finance, Nominating
Lorena Kubera	2006	Strategic Planning*
Margaret Noecker	2004	Executive, Strategic Planning, Nominating
Bill Neuhaus III	2004	Development, Scholarship
Ann Neyland	2000	Scholarship, Head of School Evaluation*
Robbin Parish, Secretary	1983	Marketing*, Nominating
Cindy Pena	2004	Nominating, Marketing
George Pontikes	2001	Building and Grounds
Randy Riddell	1998	Scholarship
Katherine Schrock	2007	Development, Parent Auxiliary President
Tom Scott	1998	Executive, Finance, Building and Grounds*
Sandy Turner, Vice President	1998	Executive, Head of School Evaluation, Development, Nominating*, Strategic Planning
Temple Webber	2001	Scholarship*

* Chair

A Message from the President

It seems like a few short weeks since I had the privilege of becoming President of the Parish School Board. But, so much has happened, it had to be longer.



We are now settled into the new campus, and have had significant growth in numbers of students at Parish, and from those in need from the Carruth Center. These are not unrelated happenings. Robbin Parish's vision for the school can be seen in physical reality, and the appeal is undeniably there for all to see and then experience.

Yet this is not just about "presentation." Undergirding the attractiveness of the campus is real and continuing substance. Parish is a school intent upon maintaining its child- and family-friendly environment while striving to further become a nationally recognized center of excellence in development and education for children with speech and language learning differences.

Significant achievements in the last few months include:

- Maintaining tuition levels from 2006/2007 to 2007/2008. Thank you, Mary White, among others.
- Growth in numbers of students and families - both the school and the Carruth Center are at or near capacity.
- Increased teacher compensation, and implemented significant bonus programs.
- Principal Nancy Bewley recognized as Principal of the Year - Houston Society of CPAs.
- Excited, enthusiastic people joining the Board to further development of the school. New members will be challenged by retiring members such as Sandy Turner who has served at length and with excellence.
- Continued to experience strong commitment, participation and support from parents of current and former students.

Challenges include:

- The elephant in the room. We owe substantial money in capital debt to build the campus. It is expensive to carry, and carrying it as is makes it

difficult to consider how and when we might expand the campus facilities.

- The elephant behind the bushes – raising and managing scholarship funds for financially stressed families. Those who have been there and done that know that many families with Parish eligible children are already financially stressed from all the other costs related to their child's development and education. We need to have funds available to help those seriously in need, and to continue developing our processes so that we accurately identify those truly in need.
- The elephant in the swamp - containing tuition increases. Grants and fund-raising efforts already underwrite a big part of the cost of the school for all our families. Expansion gives us another opportunity to do so. Between these we hope to be able to continue to restrain tuition and fee increases.
- Out of elephant analogies – how to continue to hire and retain teachers and staff who teach and nurture our children with such excellence and devotion; and how to manage the demand for growth in the services from the Carruth Center.

In conclusion, my son, Joshua was a student at Parish at the old campus. He just turned 14. My wife told someone at his birthday party this past weekend that she was sure they “could find clawmarks in the woodwork at the old campus from her fingernails as Josh and we were dragged kicking and screaming from Parish” when it was time for him to leave. He thrives where he is now. And, he has several passions, including music, writing stories, drawing and video games. The first three came from Parish where he learned that music is cool and you can do your own thing, Good News was fun to write every day, and anyone can be an artist if they think they are. Josh understands that he sees things differently, but he has learned that seeing things differently is just OK, thank you very much. And, thank you , Robbin, and Parish School

Making Connections: The Year in Review

The theme for the 2006/2007 year was “making connections.” The goal was to continue to hone our skills as professionals to make connections with our students, their families, and the professionals that also work with “our kids.” In addition, we wanted to make the effort to connect with Houston community and get the word out about all the exciting things that are happening on our campus. Based on how the year ended, our efforts were well received.



Our new campus has provided Parish School the opportunity to grow in many different ways. With the growth we have experienced since moving to the campus in December 2004, we wanted to retain the unique qualities that helped us connect with the families that we serve. Close communication through the Good News Book and Parent Education, have been a very important part of connecting with families. Coffee Chats were added this year to provide yet another avenue to share ideas, concerns and information in a more informal way. Even though we are getting bigger we don't want to lose the emphasis on working closely with families to realize the growth that is possible when the entire team works together.

On the community level, the focus was to expand as a resource for both families and professionals. Being involved at many different levels in the community from visiting other schools, speaking on language development, providing high-quality professional development opportunities on campus, and hosting professional groups has gone a long way in helping the school make new connections.

The Carruth Center, the clinic on our campus, has doubled in the number of families served from the community in all the services offered. Attending national conferences and bringing nationally known speakers on campus for professional development workshops has helped us reach out to our community and beyond in a very meaningful way. Even on an international level we made connections with teachers from Norway who came for a week to learn more about how to address the needs of children with language/learning/social differences in a classroom setting. Working with volunteers from area high schools, boy scout groups and universities has been a wonderful way to connect with the community on yet another level, one we hope exposes up and coming leaders to the power of early intervention.

As we look forward to kicking off a year of celebrating 25 years of being the leaders in early intervention for children with language and learning differences in January 2008, we want to expand our theme from “making connections” to “making connections, past, present, and future.”

Carruth Center at The Parish School Annual Report: 2006-2007 Fiscal Year

The course of 2006-2007 consisted of laying a pathway for change and growth. This was the first year to track the changes resulting from the addition of a full-time Clinical Director, a full-time Speech Language Pathologist, and a full-time Occupational Therapist. Each presented an avenue to facilitate the growing needs at Carruth, Parish, and the community at large. Play/Behavior therapy and diagnostics continued to be facilitated by contract clinicians. Our clinicians provided both group, family and individual sessions. A decline in group participation was noted while individual services increased.

Over the fiscal year, Carruth Center clients received 1,120 clock hours of individual speech language therapy. One full-time and five part-time employees (Clinical Director facilitated therapy part-time) implemented all speech services. Services also included Social Skills groups. The two groups were created to serve preschool and elementary level children. Social Lights served the needs of approximately 37 children, meeting regularly over the Fall and Spring semester and offering four mini-camp sessions in July. Marina Rosales was a pivotal instrument in launching the Language Development Program for emergent language-level toddlers. This program ran concurrently Fall and Spring and facilitated seven children total. The program prepared four children to transition into The Parish School's Level A program in August, 2007.

Carruth discontinued its relationship with The Occupational Therapy Center (OTC) and the suite was vacated in May 2006. Plans for transitioning to a full-time therapist included a grant application and approval for \$15,000 salary support and \$10,000 set-up support for evaluations and materials. The generosity of the John S. Dunn Research Foundation was a key component to our successful first year. Cindy Hornsby, OTR joined Carruth in late August 2006 and throughout her first year she facilitated 657 hours of individual therapy. In January 2007 Tina Strautman, OTR joined Carruth on a contract basis. She facilitated 126 of hours and launched our Handwriting Without Tears Boot Camp programming which facilitated 13 children during a one-week camp in July 2007.

Together, Marina Rosales, Cindy Hornsby and Nicole Devens launched Carruth's first Mini-Camps. During November and December, clients were offered language-intense, sensory-motor programming. These groups provided interventions while most schools and/or clinics were closed. A total of 21 clients were facilitated.

Insurance support has grown significantly. Nicole Devens addressed formal insurance requests of 39 families which required over 100 letters of support or documentation. Insurance companies requested information regarding approximately 70 families which required documentation for support. Many other families received support through conversations regarding: determining benefits, seeking extensions of coverage, submitting appeals, and addressing other concerns.

This year we worked diligently to track demographics and hope to use these figures for grant applications, strategic planning, and business management.

Submitted by Nicole Devens, M.S., CCC-SLP

Demographics Breakdown for Major Services 2006-07

Service	Total Clients Documented	Parish School Affiliation	Community Affiliation
Individual Speech Therapy	69	37	32
Social Groups	37	23	14
Individual Occupational Therapy	53	34	19
Developmental Evaluations	31	10	21
Mental Health Group & Individual/Family	152	66	86
Total*	342	170 - 50%	172 – 50%

*Some clients are under the care of multiple therapists at Carruth &/or may transition between therapists at Carruth during the year.

Growth Comparison of 2005/06 and 2006/07 Major Therapy Categories Revenues & Total Revenues

Program Name	2005-2006	2006-2007
Individual Speech Therapy	\$113,975	\$124,456.30
Individual Occupational Therapy	OTC Lease Amount: \$20,000	\$89,247.50
Language Development Program	NA	\$50,290.00
Group Speech Therapy (Social Groups)	\$21,311.25	\$34,001.65
Mini-Camps	NA	\$6,000.00
Developmental Evaluations	\$22,510.00	\$54,662.00
Parish School Consults	\$31,890.00	\$38,550.00
Psychology/Mental Health Groups	\$109,989.00	\$83,325.00
Psychology/Mental Health Individual Treatment	\$43,715.00	\$66,714.50
Total Therapy Revenues	\$405,359.00	\$618,521.69 (52% increase)

Admissions and Family Services

ADMISSIONS

The school had 108 students enrolled on opening day, which included 29 new students. There were fluctuations in numbers of the students enrolled. There was a low of 108 and a high of 118 toward the end of the school year. Eleven withdrawals occurred throughout the year and enrollment continued through March.

Approximately 432 people contacted the school for information. A telephone interview is provided followed by the mailing of materials highlighting the school and the Carruth Center. We continue to provide individual touring of interested parties totaling 196 people, which included five professionals. Our admissions appointments continued throughout June and July and we continued to fill openings.

E-mail has proven to be an important communication tool for parents seeking information on the school. Our Web site is a valuable tool and the school is also listed on the Houston Association of Independent Schools Web site. We were advertised in Houston Family Magazine, The Kid's Directory, the Houston Chronicle, and the Yellow Pages.

We claimed a booth at the Private School Preview held at the JW Marriott in September to increase our visibility in the community. Families interested in the school as well as Educational Consultants and other referral sources sought information.

The Parish School was able to host our first school Counselor's meetings for the Houston Area Independent Schools Association (HAIS). All special needs schools were invited to be on a panel discussing their school, their mission, and who they serve. Including the panel, there were approximately 40 counselors and Heads of Schools represented. Tours were given before and after the luncheon.

FAMILY SERVICES

Throughout the year families and staff seek information and require services to address issues that are impacting their family and/or classroom. Fifteen families received counseling services either as a family unit or individually for their child.

There were 35 direct referrals to The Carruth Center from the Admissions and Family Services Department. Some of these referrals came from collaborations with teachers and coordinators serving on the child's team. Additionally, during the initial admissions interview, a need for a developmental assessment, OT, Speech, Group Psychotherapy, Group Language Therapy (social skills) becomes apparent. We recommend The Carruth Center along with a minimum of two other community service centers.

Submitted by Melanie N. Seigle, MA, CCC-SLP, LCSW

Financial Assistance

The Parish School
Financial Assistance Committee Report
2006-2007

Total Budget for 2006-2007	\$209,585
Total Allocations	\$205,991
Thirty (30) families applied for funds.	
Twenty-one (21) families were granted allocations.	
Three (3) families were denied.	
Six (6) families withdrew from school due to inadequate funds being available.	
Summer Camp 2007 allocated funds to nine (9) students	\$7,550

Carruth Center, Inc.
Financial Assistance Report
2006-2007

Funds available August 1, 2006:	\$43,668.00
Additional Scholarship Funds Received:	\$25,000.00
Total:	\$68,668.00
Funds allocated August 1, 2006 – July 31, 2007:	\$13,021.25*
Balance available 8/1/2007:	\$55,646.75

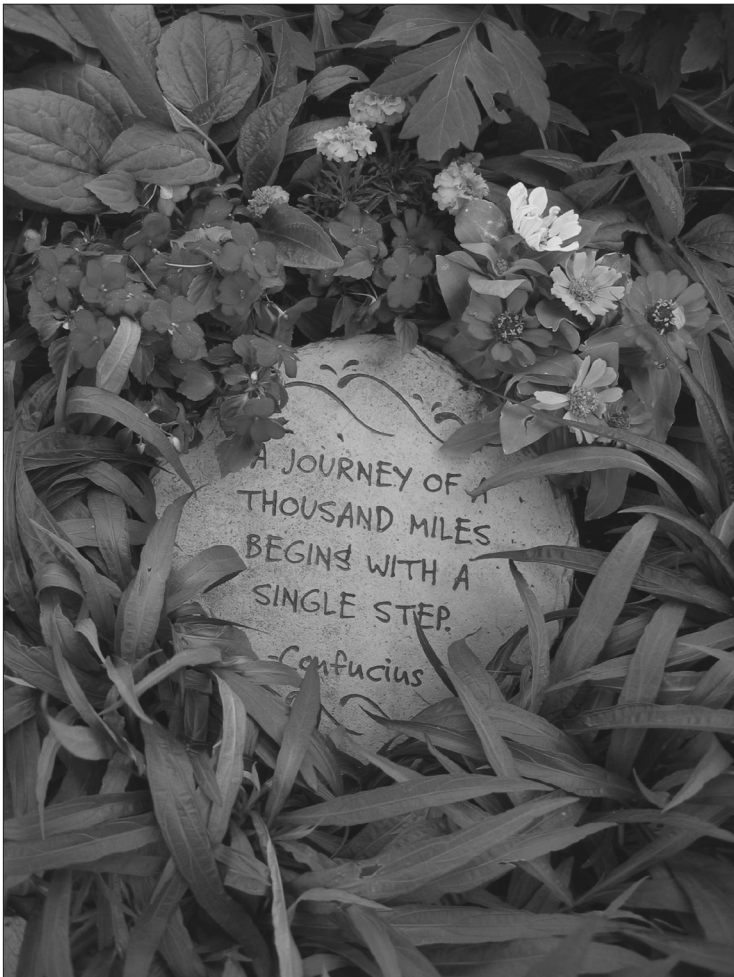
*Allocations Made for the following therapies:

Psychotherapy (Group and Individual)	\$7,420.00
Individual Speech Therapy	\$3,620.00
Developmental Building Blocks	\$1,700.00
Occupational Therapy	\$ 281.25

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign focus for 2006-07 included raising funds for Phase I Expansion and also matching a challenge grant of \$25,000 to raise revenue for the preschool playground. That challenge was exceeded and work on the playground is underway.

We received \$374,260 from area foundations and individuals in support of Phase I Expansion. The focus for 2007-08 will be to continue to retire this debt as we face the prospect of future expansion. A new campaign titled “Complete the Dream – Sow the Seeds” has been launched in an effort to encourage parents, board and staff to ask for contributions from their contacts. The Development Team will coordinate efforts for this campaign by providing the necessary tools to help our Parish families with this effort. We will continue to cultivate individual donors and foundations in an effort to reduce the capital debt.



Development

The fundraising goal for annual operations for 2006-07 was \$450,000 which represents an 8.5 percent increase over the actual revenue raised during the 2005-06 year. Although the economic climate has improved over recent years, stock market volatility continues to challenge the economy.

In addition the TPS Development Department experienced a total staff turnover. Despite that challenge, we finished the year almost \$18,000 over budget. Our efforts raised \$467,984 for operations, including scholarship funds.

Major fundraising activities include an Annual Campaign (Seeds for Growth), an annual gala, annual golf tournament and submitting requests to foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations and individuals to fund the financial assistance program as well as other projects/programs. In addition, efforts are made to solicit in-kind donations of goods and services in an effort to keep operating costs as low as possible.

Parent Volunteers Lead Fundraising Efforts at The Parish School!

Katherine Schrock won all of our hearts as Chair of the King and Queen of Hearts Gala. It was a great theme and a super committee gave their "hearts" to ensure a successful event. Dr. Daniel Williamson was the recipient of The Golden Oak Award for his dedicated care of the children in our community and his support of The Parish School. Net proceeds of the gala exceeded \$150,000 falling a bit short of the goal.

TPS Dads Jack Bellinger and Mark Heinz co-chaired the Golf Tournament, which netted almost \$25,000. In addition to a day of great golf, participants enjoyed a dinner provided by Lyle Hart and Outback Steakhouse.

The generosity of parents, board members, staff, friends and foundations helped us raise almost \$74,000 for Seeds for Growth, our annual campaign which exceeded the budgeted revenue by almost \$9,000.

Scholarship donations totalled more than \$185,000, which also exceeded our goal. This revenue, combined with the net proceeds of the Golf Tournament allowed us to achieve our goal of providing ten percent of the tuition budget to scholarships.

Thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Fox and Monica Benton Family Foundation, we met our goal to fund the preschool playground.

The Mighty Oak Bash (MOB) helped re-connect alumni in late March.

Marketing

The goals of the Marketing Committee for 2006-07 included increasing media coverage, increasing the number of visits by professionals to The Parish School campus, and expanding outreach to the community through speaking engagements and professional development. Progress was made toward each of these goals, and continues with the 2007-08 academic year.

The Parish School received media coverage in the ASHA Leader, The Memorial Examiner (x2), The Communicologist (TSHA Newsletter) and on KPRC Channel Two News.



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Piney Point finds new office

by NANCY KOWALAK
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The city of Piney Point Village appears to be a long time in the making. It was founded in 1907, but it wasn't until 1997 that the city was incorporated. The city council is currently in the process of finding a new office building for the city. The council has approved a bid for a new office building. The building is expected to be completed in the next few months. The city council will be meeting to discuss the bid in the next few weeks.

Hunters Creek receives funds for drainage project

by NANCY KOWALAK
 nkowal@memorial.com

The city of Hunters Creek Village has received a grant from the State of Texas to fund a drainage project. The project is expected to be completed in the next few months. The city council will be meeting to discuss the project in the next few weeks.



WHEN I GROW UP: The Parish School summer campers conduct experiments with color-changing gelatin in a science lab at the "When I Grow Up" fair Friday. During the event, the children had hands-on experience in such fields as art, writing, science and fire fighting.

Houston-area school supply drive begins

by HELEN TIZZANO
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The annual Operation School Supply Drive is under way in the Houston area. The drive is expected to be completed in the next few months. The city council will be meeting to discuss the drive in the next few weeks.

Locally, iPhone release goes off without a glitch

by VAN HIGGLOW
 vhigglow@memorial.com

Apple's iPhone was released in the Houston area without any major glitches. The release was a success. The city council will be meeting to discuss the release in the next few weeks.

Can same be said for latest techno-toy?

by VAN HIGGLOW
 vhigglow@memorial.com

The release of the iPhone in the Houston area was a success. The city council will be meeting to discuss the release in the next few weeks.



HOUSTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS
 Come with us as our newest operation leaves for the airport and start in a brand new way.
 Contact: Geneva Woods



Living history
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 Contact: [Name]



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ton area and beyond as a leading provider to services for children with average to above average learning potential who have communication and learning differences. A timeline and written goals are part of the plan.

The Michelle Garcia Winner workshop in January and the Association Methodist Workshop in July exposed the Houston Community to Parish School leadership in presenting cutting edge educational seminars.

Numerous groups and individuals toured the school including Bridges group from TCH, Town and Country Hospital and others. We hosted several professional group meetings, including Special Schools Panel for Houston Area Independent counselors and Special Schools Coalition, exposing their membership to The Parish School.

Teachers presented at the TSHA Conference and we participated in the Private School Preview.

A professional marketing package was developed. The Marketing Committee established goals for 2007-08 that focus on building an identity for The Parish School and Carruth Center in the greater Houston area and beyond.

W. Daniel Williamson, M.D.

Golden Oak Award Recipient 2006-2007



In keeping with the spirit of this honor, Dr. Danny Williamson is our Golden Oak Award recipient for all that he has done for furthering the understanding and treatment of children with speech, language and learning differences.

We are grateful for his continued support of The Parish School and its families and wish to recognize his contribution to the Houston Community. We are proud to extend the 2006-2007 Golden Oak Award to this distinguished professional.

Dr. Williamson received his medical degree from Louisiana State University. He also received a fellowship in Developmental Pediatrics from Baylor College of Medicine, which enhanced his knowledge and skills to diagnose and manage children with a broad spectrum of developmental disabilities. In 2007, Dr. Williamson joined the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston and the Dan L. Duncan Neurodevelopmental Center.

Boards and Professional Affiliations

Texas Pediatric Society Committee on Children with Disabilities

General Advisory Committee of the Texas Department of Health Chronically Ill and Disabled Children's Bureau

Texas Medical Association School Health Committee

Executive Board of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Children with Disabilities

AAP Committee on Children with Disabilities

Orton Dyslexia Society

Board of Directors of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston

Neuhaus Education Center

Regional Attention Deficit Disorder Association

The Parish School Advisory Board

Houston School for Deaf Children

Center for the Retarded

Houston Independent School District

Nominating

The Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the following new member:

Max Cameau

Max Cameau works as a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch's Global Wealth Management division. His work experience includes a background in energy, technology and financial services in such roles as process control engineer, field service engineer, project manager and product manager.

Mr. Cameau holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Science in Energy Management from New York Institute of Technology. He is a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP™) a designation he earned from The American College. He also holds a US patent relating to the use of steam temperature control as applied to a universal pressure boiler.

Mr. Cameau is fluent in French and is competent in Italian and Spanish. He has traveled extensively across the US, Europe, North Africa, the Caribbean and Central America.

Mr. Cameau is very active in the local community. In addition to serving on the Board of The Parish School , he is a member of the Greater Houston Partnership, where he serves on the International Business Initiatives Committee and he is a member of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following new member candidates:

Kathy Mankin

Kathy J. Mankin is the President of Ingenuity Works, LLC, a consulting practice. The firm focuses on helping the owners of privately held companies identify and implement the strategic, operational, and organizational changes necessary to maximize their exit value. A 25-year career in corporate finance and private equity investment has enabled Mankin to observe and work directly with hundreds of middle-market and small businesses. One of four founding partners at Brockway Moran & Partners, a \$200 million private equity fund, she participated in the acquisition of manufacturing service and distribution businesses by originating investment opportunities, leading negotiation and due diligence aspects of the transactions. She then provided strategic oversight to each management team as Chairman or member of the Board of Directors. From 1988 to 1997, Mankin was with middle-market lender, Heller Financial, ultimately serving as President of its largest business unit.

Mankin holds an MBA, with honors, from Indiana University and a BS in Accounting, with honors, from Purdue University. She and her husband, Gar Seifullin, have resided in Houston for the past several years.

James Prappas

James D. Prappas has over 20 years experience representing Fortune 500, middle market and emerging companies in U.S. immigration matters and transactions. He has a broad practice in a diverse range of immigration matters and has advised clients on strategic immigration planning and related transactional matters.

Mr. Prappas serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the British-American Business Council Houston and the Houston Grampian Association, and as a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of the Mexican Institute of Greater Houston. Previously he served as a Board Member of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Houston InterAmerican Chamber of Commerce, and the Texas - Israel Chamber of Commerce. He also has served as a volunteer with the Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts and as honorary legal counsel to the Consulate General of Mexico in Houston.

Mr. Prappas is also the parent of a former Parish School student.



Auxiliary

Mission Statement:

The Parish School Auxiliary is a membership of families and friends whose purpose is to augment and enhance the Parish families' experience at the school through service and activities which enrich the experiences of the children and provide unity, support, and fellowship for the parents.

Goals for 2007-2008 School Year:

Increase the amount of money raised by the auxiliary for the school's benefit. Make sure that participants on the auxiliary have fun and feel appreciated!

Finances:

The 2006-2007 Auxiliary raised close to \$11,000 which has been designated for purchasing a portable stage for ICATS, an HP color laser printer, a portable basketball hoop, an overhead projector and cart, a laptop projector, a DVD training for Oral Motor Therapy and two computers for the level VII/VIII and each teacher received an additional \$150 to spend for their classroom. Traditionally, the Auxiliary uses money raised throughout the year to fund projects having the greatest impact on students, faculty and staff.

The majority of our profit came from the following fundraising activities as follows: Sally Foster gift Wrap sales, Book Fair, directory ad sales, cookie dough sales, and Original Works.

Auxiliary Responsibilities:

Parent Social	Book Fair
Fall Festival	Sally Foster Gift Wrap Fundraiser
Year Book	Children's Garden
School Directory	Party Packs
Cookie Dough Fundraiser	Hospitality at Parent Ed Meetings
Teacher Appreciation Lunches/Parties	Garage Sale

Awards:

Heather Laetsch - Distinguished Service

Melinda Maillet - Behind the Scenes

Jaime Humphries - Above and Beyond Award

Katherine Schrock - Volunteer of the Year