

## **ALEDO PTO – “PAWS WITH A CAUSE”**

The Aledo PTO would like to welcome all new and returning students and families back to school!

For those who may not know, the PTO is an organization of parents and teachers of the Aledo ISD. The PTO's goal is to foster a nurturing and caring environment that strives for continued parent involvement in helping build a better educational environment for our children. We also promote a school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work with the resources we can provide and help make school fun. Through membership dues and fundraising efforts, the PTO is able to donate funds to purchase educational materials and equipment for the school as well as being involved in efforts to help the local community.

For the PTO to be effective and truly representative of the school, it is essential to have parental involvement from as many parents as possible. Many working parents feel that they cannot be included in the PTO because they cannot come to every meeting or be on campus during the day. There are endless possibilities in ways you can help. Whatever your own level of flexibility, Aledo PTO always appreciates their parent volunteers, as does our teachers and staff. Keep in mind that by volunteering, you will get to enjoy interacting with the kids, become friends with other parents, and accomplish things that truly make a difference.

You may be wondering just exactly what we do and what we have accomplished in the last year? Well, I am proud to tell you that we have done quite a bit to be proud of! The PTO was able raise \$8,000 for each of the three elementary schools, McAnally Intermediate, Aledo Middle, and Aledo High School. This money was allocated to areas of need by the teachers and staff of each school. In addition, the PTO was able to donate \$2,500 to the “Shattered Dreams” program which educated high school students on the effects and consequences of drinking and driving, as well as awarding four \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors, contributing to the Jumpin Jamboree, and Project Celebration. For the 2008-2009 school year, each campus, with the addition of the new McCall Elementary, will receive \$7,000. There will also be four scholarships available to graduating seniors. The schools are currently in the process of deciding where they would like to allocate their funds.

Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. We can match your time constraints and interests to needed tasks. We have many ways in which moms, dads, Aunts, Uncles, and Grandparents can contribute. Please consider volunteering, it really does make a difference in the lives of our children!

Membership is \$5 per family and everyone is welcome! As the year progresses and the committees come together, you will be contacted by phone and/or e-mail from committee chairpersons. Come and see first hand how the students benefit from so many programs and all of our/your hard work. Please come along and join us – this is your PTO and as a member you can help us achieve these goals. We need your ideas and energy.

WE NEED YOU!

Thanks so much!

Kristi Cheema, PTO President 2008-2010

