

October 26, 2009

Hello, my name is Gena Kraemer and I am the current PTA President at Franklin Elementary. We have quite an impressive team at Franklin Elementary. Parents, teachers and staff come together throughout the school year to build a strong community in our school. We have a number of events that are designed to bring families together to make connections and build relationships that create a positive environment for learning.

In September we welcomed everyone to a new school year with our annual Back to School Potluck Picnic. This is a free event for all of the children and their families—PTA supplies the hotdogs, burgers and drinks and attendees bring a dish to pass. The event was very well attended because we ran out of burgers & hotdogs! At Franklin, the PTA assigns grade levels to host each of our events. This gives the families some ownership in the event and provides a one-event opportunity for parents to help out. The classroom teachers are available at these social events which give way to more relaxed interactions for both parties. At our picnic, we had five classroom teachers who attended, three of which were not required to be there but attended as members of the school community.

Most recently, we hosted our Fall Costume Dance which was very well attended by over 200 students and even Mrs. Lyman, from our front office, was dressed as a witch and was a huge asset during set up and throughout the entire evening. In 2010, we have two academic family events that are planned and executed by the teachers and staff. We have a Family Fitness Night planned in February and the other event is still yet to be determined. In the past we have done a Reading Night, a Math Night or a Science Night. Our teachers also reach out to parents and the community in putting together our High Interest Day in May.

The overall goal of this year's Franklin PTA is to provide a friendly atmosphere that promotes the development of relationships necessary in building a strong community at Franklin Elementary School. For more information or if any board members would like to attend an event, please check out the Franklin PTA website at [www.franklin-pta.org](http://www.franklin-pta.org). Thank you.