

**Soulsbyville PTA Newsletter**  
**August 24, 2010**

Welcome back to school old and new. We are happy to have you here. This is our first PTA newsletter for the year. We will be sending one out monthly. We are here to provide support to our school for our children and teachers. The California State PTA's mission statement is as follows: PTA is the nation's oldest, largest and highest profile volunteer organization working on behalf of public schools, children and families. PTA volunteers work in their schools and communities to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth.

We want your input and help. We will be having monthly meetings where we discuss current issues in the school and community, set up committees for school activities, and vote on issues pertinent to PTA and our school. You are important to us, your child/children, and their teachers. We can make a difference! Please join us.

This year celebrates Soulsbyville's 75th year of PTA involvement. As a goal for our PTA we are hoping to get 75 volunteers to sign up for Soulsbyville's PTA by the end of September. The grade level that gets the most signups will receive a party from PTA. Please return the form attached with \$7 per joining member to the office or to your child's teacher.

We understand not everyone can make the meetings but if you could think about donating 3 hours of your time for the whole year, whether it be to make treats for family fun nights, help beautify the school, work at the Halloween carnival, volunteer at a Scholastic book fair, and/or set-up for school dances and chaperone it would make a difference for our school and the community.

Another **GREAT** way to help our school is to **purchase SCRIP**. For those of you who do not know, **SCRIP** is a method of fundraising that can bring in thousands of dollars for our school. Money that has already been raised through **SCRIP** in the past years has been used to pay for both school playgrounds, it has bought sport uniforms, and band equipment as well as added to teacher's classroom spending accounts.

The way it works is simple, **SCRIP** retailers such as Starbucks and Wal-Mart, offer gift certificates and gift cards to non-profit organizations, such as schools. The school then sells the gift cards to families, friends, and teachers who use them to make purchases. For example, you purchase a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card and the school will earn 4% of that value, which is \$2. The \$2 goes directly to the school **SCRIP** account where it can be used as needed. Currently, 50% of scrip will go

towards helping to purchase new school computers, 25% to extracurricular activities, i.e. band, sports, teacher funds, and 25% goes into family accounts. For each scrip order you make, a percentage of the rebate goes into an account to pay for your child's fieldtrips in the upper grades. The more scrip you buy and the earlier on in your child's education, the more money will accrue to help you pay for fieldtrips.

There are many merchants and retailers locally as well out of town that participate in SCRIP. Forms will be sent home which list all the businesses that participate. Your order and money are due on Monday and your gift cards can be picked up that same Friday. This service and opportunity has been way under used. It is easy and simple and it can bring in thousands of dollars for our school.

**A recipe to try: BALLS OF ENERGY**

These nutritious bites are easy to mass-produce and just as easy for players to pop in their mouths during halftime or whenever they need a boost.

Ingredients

- 1 small banana
- 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter
- 1/2 cup toasted wheat germ
- Finely chopped peanuts, mini-chocolate chips, or shredded coconut for coating

In a medium bowl, mash together the banana and the peanut butter.

Stir in the wheat germ. Roll individual tablespoons of the mixture into balls, then roll the balls in one, or a mix, of the coatings listed above. Chill until firm. Makes 14 balls.

Variation: For a peanut-free version, substitute sunflower-seed or soy-nut butter for the peanut butter, and omit the peanuts and chocolate chips (which can contain traces of peanut).

**Upcoming events:** **September** - lower grades will have an ice-cream social, upper grades will have a game night; **October** - Halloween Carnival; **November** - Talent show (start preparing NOW!); **December** - Crafts for Christmas presents

If you have any questions and/or comments, please feel free to call Celise at (209) 352-0831.