

What's in it for SCHOOLS?

Benefits of PTA Membership affect each child in the classroom, the individual members and the school community.

The following are PTA benefits for schools.

PTAs promote the building of a broad base of parent and community involvement. In both urban and rural areas, when parents and community members work as equal partners to improve schools, it is shown that positive results include:

- ♥ Upgraded school facilities;
- ♥ Improved school leadership and staffing;
- ♥ Resources to improve teaching and the curriculum;
- ♥ Funding for after-school programs and family supports; and
- ♥ Higher-quality learning programs. *

PTAs are effective in improving achievement when they are welcoming, honor members' strengths and contributions, and connect members to what their children are learning and doing in school. To sustain powerful family involvement, reports show that parents and school staff work together to:

- ♥ Focus on building personal relationships;
- ♥ Recognize and remove barriers to involvement, such as transportation and child care;
- ♥ Embrace partnership and share power, giving parents a voice in important decisions; and
- ♥ Address class and cultural differences. **

* From "Organizing for School Reform: How Communities are Finding Their Voices and Reclaiming Their Public Schools". Institute for Education and Social Policy, October 2002.

** From "Having Their Say: Parents Describe Why and How They are Engaged in Their Children's Education." Karen L. Mapp, *The School Community Journal*, Spring/Summer 2003

Resource: **Threshold**, *Beyond Bake Sales*; produced by Cable in the Classroom in partnership with PTA, Summer 2006

Download the brochure **Membership Benefits.... You, Students, Your School** at the California State PTA website, www.capta.org. To order free brochures (pay only postage) e-mail info@capta.org or call (916) 440-1985.