

Dear Parents,

I am Karen Nelson, and I have recently been appointed as the new Parents' Association (PA) President for 2008-2009 School Year. I am really looking forward to serving you. If you do not know me, I am the mother of six children, 4 of whom are in school at Mother of God: Emily 7<sup>th</sup>, Maggie, 6<sup>th</sup>, Caroline, 4<sup>th</sup>, and John K.

I know we are all grateful for the hard work of those who led the Parents' Association this past year and all that was done for our children last year. Thanks to each of you for all your service.

For parents, the PA is our link to the school. It is our avenue to give and receive information, as well as provide fun activities for students and families. The PA should help to build a strong school community. My goal for the next year is to expand and involve a greater number of parents in the planning of and attendance at events sponsored by the PA. I need the energy and enthusiasm of all our parents to reach this goal.

One way to approach this is to reintroduce it to parents and ask parents to get involved. In the past, a successful mentoring program has been used to welcome new families to MOG. I would like to reinstate this program to help introduce the school, school activities, and other information to new families. Also, I see the need for a late summer activity event to welcome new and old families back to school.

To accomplish these two programs the PA needs your help. Parents can help by:

- Volunteering to become a mentor to a new family
- Volunteering to help organize a back-to-school activity for school families in late summer.

These volunteer positions will not require a large time commitment, but they will help us to energize our PA and build relationships in our school community. If you are willing to give a few hours of your time, please call or e-mail me.

Many of you have attended PA events in the past, such as the Harvest Party, the Father-Daughter Dance, and the End of the Year Picnic. We want to continue to host these events and others. This can only happen with input and help from school parents. As the mother of six children I will be able to lead you, but I cannot do everything. It is essential that parents get involved in the PA and offer to help organize these fun events. If there is a specific event you enjoy attending or if you have a suggestion for a new event, please contact me and volunteer to help organize it for the upcoming school year. Only through the work of school parents can we schedule and hold events.

I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you this coming year. Please feel free to e-mail me or call me any time with any comments, questions, or ideas you might have to improve our school for our children.

Karen Nelson  
301-972-0004  
[idtcorp@verizon.net](mailto:idtcorp@verizon.net)

P.S. We have received confirmation from the Board of Directors to change the name of the Parents' Association to the Home and School Association.