

# MONTAGUE PTA AWARDS & HONORS



2007

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## OCTOBER 2006 ARTICLE

*Written by Steve Novak-  
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MONTAGUE — Using kickball and dancing to get adults involved in education, the Montague Parent-Teacher Association has earned two state-level awards — for the second year in a row.

The group will be recognized by the state organization with the President's Award and the Parent Involvement Award at the state convention in November.

"These are very prestigious awards," said Sussex County PTA President Tina Rossi. "It speaks a lot about their PTA."

The Montague PTA was selected again for the awards because of their innovative programs, said Janice Hodge, principal and chief school administrator of Montague Elementary School.

The PTA hosted events such as a father-daughter dance, "mom and son" kickball and an election for the school's new mascot.

In addition to the two repeat awards, Montague will also receive an honorable mention for their participation in the NJPTA's "Father's Pride" program, which helps to get fathers involved in their children's education. Montague PTA President Rhodi Teufert said the group had an unprecedented showing of fathers at the PTA's events last year.

"We asked them to come and they did," Teufert said. "We told them it's not just a

'mom thing.' Last year's father-daughter dance was packed."

Parental involvement, particularly regarding the fathers of students, is the focus of Harry Capers, president of the NJPTA, who selected Montague to receive the award. Capers was not president when Montague was presented with the award last year.

"(The President's Award) looks for a PTA doing all the things that should be done on the local level," Capers said. "But it also looks for a PTA sponsoring programs above and beyond the call of duty to involve parents and community. It makes educators' jobs a lot easier when there's parental involvement.

"All in all, (the Montague PTA) did a superb job."

Montague PTA President Rhodi Teufert said the group receives strong support.

"I'm proud of (the awards) and I'm proud of the school board that works with us," Teufert said. "We have people all around working with us."

Principal Hodge said, "They really want to get more parents involved and more volunteers. That's been their focus."

This year, the Montague PTA has about 75 to 100 members, though the recruiting process is still under way. There are several events planned in October, including a tricky tray and a "trunk-or-treat" event where parents give out candy from decorated cars at the YMCA Camp Linwood-McDonald in Branchville.

"We're trying to do things that interest the kids as well as the parents," Teufert said.

### **Our Awards List:**

Sussex County President's Award 2006, 2005

Parent and Family Involvement 2006, 2005

Fatherhood Award 2006

NJPTA Awards: President's Award 2006, 2005

### **New Jersey PTA's Awards and Honors List for 2007:**

-President's Award

-Outstanding Local PTA Education Excellence Award

-Character Education Award

-Arts in Education Award

-Great IDEA Award

-School Funding & Facilities Award

-Environmental Award

-HIV/AIDS Education Award

-Operation Prom/Project Graduation Award

-Safety Award

-School Violence Prevention Award

-Substance Abuse Prevention Award

-Outstanding Membership Program Award

-Outstanding Achievement through Advocacy Award

-Parent/Family Involvement Award

-Outstanding Website Award

-Education Reform Award

-Nutrition Award

"Check out the "New Jersey PTA's 2007 Criteria PDF" on our About Montague PTA page.

Let's cross our fingers and hope this 2007-2008 season will be a winner for Montague PTA.

