

Section 8

INSPIRATIONS & INSTALLATIONS

Let Us Hold In Our Hearts

Margaret Borgen

Let us hold in our hearts

Children everywhere...children who are wanted and cherished and loved...and children who are rejected or neglected or abused.

Let us hold in our hearts

Children who learn easily and may take their intellect for granted...and children for who every lesson is difficult, who struggle just to keep up.

Let us hold in our hearts

Children with special needs...those who do not run or laugh or dance or smile... those who do not see or hear...those whose minds are slow or who cannot accept the love that comes.

Let us hold in our hearts

Parents everywhere...parents who are eager and confident and calm...and parents who are harried or insecure or worried or sometimes afraid...and who love their children very much.

Let us hold in our hearts

People who lose hotel keys...and drop contacts...and miss the honor role by one point...and are always late.

Let us hold in our hearts

Those who work the night shift and who are on call.

Let us hold in our hearts

The good-hearted bumlbers who suffer from foot-in-mouth disease...and those who suffer from the failure of best intentions.

Let us hold in our hearts

People delayed in airports...and people whose cars break down on the way to work...and those who wait in the rain for the bus.

Let us hold in our hearts

Those with bad colds, bad breath, who feet hurt...and whose load is too heavy.

Let us hold in our hearts

Old folks parked and forgotten...little people who get no attention...people who live in dark basements, cold apartments, dingy motels...or on the street.

Let us hold in our hearts

The servers in the restaurant...those who fight the problem of too much food...and those who face every day hungry.

Let us hold in our hearts

Those who are separated by miles...or by time...or anger...or death.

Let us hold in our hearts

Those who lack vision or whose vision is different from ours...those whom we do not fully understand.

Let us hold in our hearts

All those whom our lives touch...who need tenderness or strength or someone with whom to cry or laugh.

Kids Who Are Different

Digby Wolfe

Here's to the kids who are different
The kids who don't always get A's.
The kids who have ears twice the size of their peers,
And noses that go on for days...
Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids they call crazy or dumb,
The kids who don't fit in,
With the guts and the grit,
Who dance to the beat of a different drum...
Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids with the mischievous streak,
For when they have grown,
As history's shown,
It's their difference that makes them unique.

If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again

Diane Loomans

If I had my child to raise all over again.
I'd finger-paint more, and point the fingers less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with
my eyes.

I would care to know less and know to care
more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at
more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much
more.
I'd teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

We Think of Children

Ina Hughes

We think of children
Who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
Who like to be tickled,
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
Who sneak Popsicle's before supper,
Who erase holes in math workbooks,
Who never can find their shoes.
And we think of those
Who stare at photographers from behind barbed
wire,
Who can't bounce down the street
In a new pair of sneakers,
Who never "counted potatoes,"
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught
dead,
Who never go to the circus,
Who live in an X-rated world.

We think of children
Who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of
dandelions,

Who play with the dog and bury goldfish,
Who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch
money,
Who covers themselves with Band-Aids and sing
off-key,
Who squeeze their toothpaste all over the sink,
Who slurp their soup.
And we think of those
Who never get dessert,
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,
Who watch their parents watch them die,
Who can't find any bread to steal,
Who don't have rooms to clean up,
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,
Whose monsters are real.

We think of children
Who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store and
Pick at their food,
Who like ghost stories,
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed
And never rinse out the tub,
Who get visits from the tooth fairy,
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the
carpool,
Who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at,
And whose smiles can make us cry.
And we think of those
Whose nightmares come in the daytime,
Who will eat anything who have never seen a
dentist
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,
Who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to
sleep,
Who live and move, but have no being.

We think of children who want to be carried
And of those who must.
For those we never give up on
And for those who don't have a second chance,
For those we smother
...and those who will grab the hand of anybody
kind enough to offer it.

We think of children.

To Give a Child a Dream

Anne Campbell

You cannot practice for her every day
The knowledge that you give her will not stream
On her young mind in one bright, blind ray
But you can plant a dream.

Ah, you can plant a dream in her heart
A dream of excellence whose light will gleam
Upon her pathway as the years depart
Your words can plant a dream.

To sow a dream and see it spread and grow
To light a lamp and watch it brightness gleam
Here is a gift that is divine I know
To give a child a dream.

Children are A – Z

Meiji Stewart

Amazing, acknowledge them.
Believable, trust them.
Childlike, allow them.
Divine, honor them.
Energetic, nourish them.
Fallible, forgive them.
Gifts, treasure them.
Here and Now, be present with them.
Innocent, delight in them.
Joyful, have fun with them.
Kindhearted, learn from them.
Loveable, cherish them.
Magical, appreciate them.
Noble, esteem them.
Open-minded, respect them.
Precious, value them.
Questioners, encourage them.
Resourceful, believe in them.
Spontaneous, enjoy them.
Talented, nurture them.
Unique, affirm them.
Vulnerable, protect them.
Whole, recognize them.
Xtra-special, celebrate them.
Yummy, be affectionate with them.
Zany, listen to and love them.

Recipes for Success

Ann Beckett, Save the Children Foundation

A clean environment
With unpolluted air,
Water that's safe to drink
And food enough to spare,
Access to life supports
Like suitable healthcare,
And gentle cultivation
Of potential everywhere.
If we would save the future,
Then we must save the seeds
Of future generations
And not deny their needs.
There's no enduring value
In other worthwhile deeds
If no one saves the children,
For nothing else succeeds.

Speak Out for Children

Jean Warren

Come let us gather together
Come let us speak now as one.
Speak for the rights of the children;
Speak out the needs to be done.
Speak for the hearts that are hungry;
Speak for the hearts that are sad.
Speak for each child beginning;
That futures a heart ever glad.
Speak for a world where the children
Come first in each thought and each plan.
Speak for a world where the children
Have rights—no matter the land.
Come let us ring out our voices;
Come stand together and
Each child has the right to a future!
Each voice can help light the way!

Lifetime Memories...for Our Children

Dr. A. D. Witham

Pause with your child-when others hurry by;
Walk with your child-when others are running;
Talk with your child-when others prefer shouting;
Listen to your child-when others appear preoccupied;
Smile with your child-when others can find only frowns;
Play with your child-when others prefer to be entertained;
Praise your child-when others can find only fault;
Learn from your child-when others have forsaken curiosity;
Dream with your child-when others have become cynical;
Read with your child when others prefer television;
Pray with your child-when others have lost faith;
Apologize to your child-when others pretend perfection;
Discipline your child-when others fail to establish limits;
Hug your child-when others fail to sense the power of touch!

Bones of PTA

Author Unknown

There are the wish bones,
They are the ones who are always wishing but never doing;

And there are the jaw bones,
They do all the talking but do very little work.

And how about the knuckle bones,
Who knock everything that – that everyone else does?

And thank heaven for the back bones,
These are the ones who pick up the work and get the PTA job done.

WHAT'S A VOLUNTEER?

Pat Boyes

There is a job to be done,
Could be lots of fun.
Just give us a call,
And we'll have a ball
You must have a big heart.
It's always a help to be sorta smart.
The money is rare,
But the rewards are big in compare.

Happy Home Recipe

Found at "Aspiring to Greatness"

Ingredients:

4 cups of love
2 cups of loyalty
3 cups of forgiveness
1 cup of friendship
5 spoons of hope
2 spoons of tenderness
4 quarts of faith
1 barrel of laughter

"Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, kindness, and understanding.

Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with laughter. Bake it with sunshine.

Serve daily with generous helpings."

VOLUNTEER

Jolita Dorsett

V is for the vigor that you bring
O is for the opportunity to know you
L is for your life you share
U is for the unconditional love you have
N is for the nurturing you give
T is for the time you don't have
E is for the excitement you bring
E is for the energy you have
R is for the reason you're a volunteer!

What Is Life?

Author Unknown

Life is a gift...Accept It
Life is an adventure...Dare It
Life is a mystery...Unfold It
Life is a game...Play It
Life is a struggle...Face It
Life is beauty...Praise It
Life is a puzzle...Solve It
Life is an opportunity...Take It
Life is sorrowful...Experience It
Life is a song...Sing It
Life is a goal...Achieve It
Life is a mission...Fulfill It

The Rarest of Gifts

Author Unknown

Everyday is a reason for giving,
And giving is the key to living...
So let us give "ourselves" away
Not just today, but everyday...
And remember a kind and thoughtful deed
Or a hand outstretched in time of need
Is the rarest of gifts, for it is part
Not of the purse but a loving heart,
And he who gives of himself will find
True joy of heart, and peace of mind.

The Purpose of the Parent

Borrowed from the Kansas PTA

Is not to raise children easier, but to raise them better.
Is not to make money, but to make lives.
Is not to criticize the home, but to raise its standards.
Is not to ignore poor schools, but to secure good ones.
Is not to find fault, but to find facts.
Is not to make every child a prodigy, but to give him a chance.

Positive Parenting

Dr. Denis Waitley

Take a moment to listen today to what your children are trying to say.
Listen today whatever you do, or they won't be there to listen to you.
Listen to their problems, listen to their needs.
Praise their smallest triumphs.
Praise their smallest deeds.
Amplify their laughter.
Tolerate their chatter.
Find out what they're after.
Find out what's the matter.
But tell them that you love them every single night.
And although you scold them, make sure you hold them and tell them they're all right.
If we tell our children all the bad in them we see, they'll grow up exactly how we hope they'd never be.
But, if we tell our children we're so proud to wear their name, they'll grow up believing that they're winners in the game.

Another Year...Oh Dear!

Mrs. Thomas Lemley

Ideas for a program

Ways and means projects to plan.
A Membership drive to face.
Meetings that keep me at a busy pace.

Am I as eager as a year ago?
Yes, I think so.
For this year I'll take in stride,
And I'll wear my pin with pride.
I'm working with all my heart
For children to get a better start.
So that at some future day
They may grow up to say
"I'm helping my children through the PTA."

I wouldn't trade last year
For all the U.S. mint
For I'm proud I am
A second year president.

Priorities
Forest Witcraft

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child...

Someday I'll Tell My Children
Erma Bombeck

"You don't love me!" How many times have your kids laid that one on you? And how many times have you, as a parent, resisted the urge to tell them how much? Someday, when my children are old enough to understand the logic that motivates a mother, I'll tell them. I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going, with whom, and what time you would get home.

I love you enough to be silent and let you discover your handpicked friend was a creep. I loved you enough to make you return a Milky Way with a bite out of it to the drugstore and confess, "I stole this." I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your bedroom, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes. I loved you enough to not make excuses for your lack of respect or your bad manners. I loved you enough to ignore "what every other mother" did. I loved you enough to figure you would lie about the party being chaperoned but forgive you for it...after discovering I was right. I loved you enough to let you stumble, fall and fail so that you could learn to stand-alone. I loved you enough to accept you for what you are, and not what I wanted you to be. But most of all, I loved you enough to say no when you hated me for it, that was the hardest part of all.

I Hope You Do!
Author Unknown

I hope you woke up this morning with a big smile on your face...

I hope the sun is shining just for you and the birds are singing their very best songs...

I hope your coffee is hot and tastes just right and the cats are purring contentedly, and the mailman waves a cherry hello and there are no bills in the mailbox...

I hope that your day is filled with lovely surprises and friends call you up just to say I hope you feel on top of the world with a spring in your step all day...

I hope everything goes your way...

I hope everything is well with your world, a place for everything and everything in its place...

I hope you can enjoy all you do and you are complimented on the way you look and you can laugh and talk and share to your heart's content...

I hope you have all you wish for yourself and those dear to you, and all your dreams come true...

At the end of the day, I wish you a perfect moon shining just for you, a snug and cozy bed with the softest of pillows and I hope you sleep like a lamb with a smile on your face...

I hope you have a perfect end to the perfect day, and I hope that every day is just as wonderful in it's own way, I hope your day is...

Filled with love.

WHY AM I A MEMBER OF PTA?

Mrs. Ken Clayton

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of a child look at me as a parent, as a teacher, as a friend.

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of a child look at me and ask me to teach him to read.

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of a child look at me and ask me to provide a hot lunch, maybe the only hot meal that child will have that day.

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of a child look at me and, in returning the look, I glimpse the gifted child under a shag of tangled hair.

I am a PTA member because

The great blues of a pink and white angel dressed immaculately and expensively are opaque in a lost world of their own which maybe, just maybe, I might reach one day if I try hard enough.

I am a PTA member because

Luminous dark eyes twinkle at me in a setting where there is little to sparkle about.

I am a PTA member because

Adolescent eyes gaze levelly at me asking only that I act on my principles.

I am a PTA member because

A mother's shadowed eyes look to me for help when her energy is at ebb.

I am a PTA member because

Laugh-creased eyes momentarily saddened meet mine during a serious school crises and I realize this teacher and I must join forces to combat this and others to come.

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of my fellow school patrons turn to me for support of a school system that can survive only with my continuing interest and involvement.

I am a PTA member because

The eyes of over 6 million fellow PTA members look to me as the strongest link.

I am a PTA member BECAUSE.

To Cherish My Child

Sharon Terry

Look into your child's eyes and cherish what is there.

Cherish the seed of consciousness,
the seed of confidence,
the seed of creativity
the seeds that grow within.

Cherish your child with your eyes.
Do not do so only twice or thrice,
But forever—for childhood to the child seems forever.

Cherish your child with your heart
for therein lies the soul of your being
the child of long ago in a far away land
full of life and creative self-expression.

Open the forces around your being,
the breath of life itself,
the moments of truth revealed,
the lasting joy of the moment.

Teach not only with your mouth,
but with your action and being.

For who you really are is seen by your child,
and held up as a standard to look upon
for the quality of life.

Open your soul.

Cherish your child.

African Prayer

Let us take care of the children,
for they have a long way to go.
Let us take care of the elders,
for they have come a long way.
Let us take care of those in between
for they are doing the work.

“Be confident that you make a difference, don’t get overwhelmed . . . Try to take each day and each task as they come, breaking them down into manageable pieces for action while struggling to see the whole. And don’t think you have to ‘win’ immediately – or even at all – to make a difference.”

Marian Wright Edelman
Founder and President, Children’s Defense Fund

“How lovely to think that no one need wait a moment, we can start now, start slowly changing the world! How lovely that everyone, great and small, can make their contribution toward introducing justice straightaway . . . And you can always, always give something, even it is only kindness!”

-Anne Frank
Jewish Teenager, Diary-Keeper
Victim of the Holocaust

“Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next door neighbor . . . Let no one ever come to you without leaving better or happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile; kindness in your warm greeting.”

-Mother Teresa
Missionary, Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

“If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live.”

-Rachel Carson
Biologist, Writer, Ecologist

“There are two lasting bequests we can give our children: One is roots. The other is wings.

-Hodding Carter, Jr.
Awarding Winning Journalist and Commentator

“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.”

-Mahatma Gandhi
Indian Political and Spiritual Leader

“Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.
American Civil Rights Leader

“To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson
American Poet

“If nature has made you a giver, your hands are born open, and so is your heart. And though there may be times when your hands are empty, your heart is always full, and you can give things out of that.”

-Frances Hodgson Burrett
American Playwright and Author

“No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.”

-Aesop
Greek Fable Writer

We Say We Need More Dads

Barbara Justis

Virginia PTA 2002

We say we need more dads in PTA,
We are too many women still today.
But who do we find at home tonight,
With the little ones out of sight?

Gavel in hand, smile on his face,
He opens the meeting and sets the pace.
Old business, new business, its all fine,
He wants mom and dad home by nine.

Lined up around the back wall,
It is the dads who stand so tall.
Waiting for mom to give her report,
She sees his smile and feels the support.

Stroke of midnight, asleep in the chair,
You are still working it doesn't seem fair.
But 200 envelopes at his feet,
Are stuffed and stamped, a task complete.

To make the plans we meet and meet,
But its dad who cannot be beat.
For in the dunking booth he will be,
Dripping wet for all to see.

Nails and hammer in hand,
Soon there is a lemonade stand.
Climbing the ladder, for the planner,
A little right and then left, up goes banner.

Mom's taking tickets and tearing in half,
Dad and the kids come by with a laugh.
Two times around the cakewalk he goes,
He doesn't like the last cake he knows.

In his private domain, that garage or shop,
He makes hundreds of "doo-dads" nonstop.
He looks at the clock, its well past four,
Wants to go fishing, but has to make more.

Emails to answer, a meeting at ten,
No handball at lunch, shopping he has been.
To K-Mart and Walmart and ToysRus,
For many a prize, it's not such a fuss.

Loading the car for LTC he will do,
Looking forward to the game at two.
He will wave as you drive down the street,
Home alone, it is quite a treat.

Later that night, he writes the checks,
Paying the bills for all the projects.
A bank president he may be by day,
As PTA treasurer he receives no pay.

To the microphone he comes to speak,
Knowing a 'yes' vote is looking bleak.
Its his first Convention and must say,
What his position on the issue is today.

An invitation to sit on a committee at three,
Enters the room, no other man can he see.
The speaker is good, he listens and learns,
And speaks with confidence at his turn.

Saturday morning, he could be asleep,
It's the car he drives instead of the jeep.
No beach or BBQ, no day carefree,
Today he will give a workshop on the PLP.

Mom is away two days on PTA travel,
Hoping the days at home will not unravel.
A missing shoe, pack 3 lunches, he can adjust,
Quick kisses and hugs, they run for the bus.

Their involvement may not be a big display,
But Dad's are everywhere in PTA today.
Big or small, their parts are an important key,
To PTA success you must agree.

I am only one
But, still I am one.
I cannot do everything
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something that I can
do.
-Author Unknown

OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN

Kelly Morrison

On any given day you can pick up a newspaper or turn on the TV news and read or hear about someone who is making a difference. It could be a doctor who has performed a lifesaving surgery or a judge making a precedent setting decision. It could be a teacher touching the lives of students or a person willing to help at the scene of an accident. It could be someone who has abused their children, or someone selling drugs to kids.

All of these people are life changers. All of these people are also something else . . . They are somebody else's kids. I submit that we must care for other people's kids because the lives of our own children, or grandchildren, will be affected by contact with those other people's kids.

If, someday, your son needs a critical operation, someone else's child will be the surgeon. If, someday, your daughter is the victim of violent crime, someone else's child will be the judge. If your child strays, it may be someone else's child who leads him or her back.

We must care about other people's children and we must care for them too. We must be willing to make a difference in their lives while they are young, because someday they will be the ones making a difference in the lives of others.

The Rule of Three

Author Unknown

Three things to govern:
Temper, Tongue, and Conduct.
Three things to love:
Courage, Gentleness, and Affection.
Three things to hate:
Cruelty, Arrogance, and Ingratitude.
Three things to wish for:
Health, Friends, and a Cheerful
Spirit.

Lessons From Life

Ronald Russell

A child that lives with ridicule learns to be timid.
A child that lives with criticism learns to condemn.
A child that lives with distrust learns to be deceitful.
A child that lives with antagonism learns to be hostile.
A child that lives with affection learns to love.
A child that lives with encouragement learns confidence.
A child that lives with truth learns justice.
A child that lives with praise learns to appreciate.
A child that lives with sharing learns to be considerate.
A child that lives with knowledge learns wisdom.
A child that lives with patience learns to be tolerant.
A child that lives with happiness will find love and beauty.

Parenthood

Eleanor Graham Vance

I gaze with hope and pride and joy
Upon my graduating boy,
And know a sudden mute relief
As deep as love, as sharp as grief:
Sharing his victory today
I graduate from PTA!

Unity

Author Unknown

I dreamed I stood in a studio
and watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
and they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools he used
Were books and music and art.
One a parent with a guiding hand,
And a gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent labored by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.
And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had
wrought,
For the things they had molded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.
And each agreed he would have failed
If he had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.

I am only one
But, still I am one.
I cannot do everything
But still I can do something.
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do the something
that I can do.

-Author Unknown

A Father's Example

Edgar A. Guest

There are little eyes upon you,
And they're watching night and day;
There are little ears that listen
To every word you say.
There are little hands all eager
To do the things you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.
You're the little fellow's idol,
You're the wisest of the wise;
In his mind, about you
No suspicions ever rise.
He believes in you devoutly,
Holds that all you say and do;
He will say and do in your way
When he's grown up just like you.
There's a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you're always right;
And his ears are always open
As he watches day and night.
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

My Mother

Ann Taylor

Who ran to help me when I fell,
And would some pretty story tell,
Or kiss the place to make it well?
My Mother.

Children Learn What They Live

Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.

If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.

If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.

If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.

If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.

If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.

If children live with shame, they learn confidence.

If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.

If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.

If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.

If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.

If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.

If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.

If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.

If children live with fairness, they learn justice.

If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.

If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.

If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

You Never Know

Helen Louise Marshall

You never know when someone
May catch a dream from you.
You never know when a little word
Or something you may do
May open up the windows
Of a mind that seeks the light –
The way you live may not matter at all,
But you never know—it might.

And just in case it could be
That another's life, through you,
Might possibly change for the better
With a brighter and broader view,
It seems it might be worth a try,
At pointing the way to the right –
Of course it may not matter at all,
But then again—it might.

Child Like

George McKinsey Robinson

I'm just a little child, you see,
And you're so big and strong
I hate it when you yell at me
And point your finger long.

I would, I could, I know I should,
I'm good, I wish you knew,
That in my little learning heart
I yearn to be like you.

But I'm just a little child, you see,
And you're so hard to reach.
Come down and meet me eye to eye;
And talk with me; don't preach.

Within the space of face to face
My hope and courage soar.
I'm just a little child you see
Who now knows I'll be more.

This Child Not Mine

Donna M. Sawyer

There is a child on this earth

Who is not mine,
She's bright and cheery,
And just has this shine.

Her smile so bright,
And eyes so clear,
Just warms your heart,
Whenever she's near.

Her laugh is contagious,
Her teasing, nonstop,
She picks and giggles,
And just won't stop.

This child is special,
A one of a kind,
A heart of gold,
And a pure mind.

I love this child,
With all my heart,
And hope she knows,
Even though were apart.

I'll never forget her,
Nor she will me,
We'll always have love,
That's how it will be.

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK?

Borrowed from the Iowa PTA Bulletin

Did you ever stop to think just where we'd be
today,
If it weren't for the founding of our National
PTA?
Did you ever stop to think of schools in 1896
when there were not PTAs to meet, and lots of
things to fix?
Did you ever stop to think that we parents could
rejoice; for through our PTA work each member
has a voice . . .

Through Local, State, and National, our voices
can be heard,
And the outcome of our efforts will depend on
every word.

Did you ever stop to think just what it would be
like if parents and the teachers, too, all went out
on strike?

Be thankful for the PTA where we can be
involved in active work for better schools and
the problems can be solved.

Just a Teacher?

Gertrude Patterson

Today I was a nurse binding a hurt with the
white bandage of compassion;
A doctor healing a small, broken world;
A surgeon suturing a friendship together.

Today I was an architect planning a child's
future;
A mason laying the foundations of truth;
A builder using stones of knowledge.

Today I was an alchemist seeking gold in baser
metals;
A scientist answering endless whys;
A philosopher pondering elusive truths.

Today I was an entertainer refreshing young
minds with laughter;
A fisherman dangling learning as a bait;
A pilot guiding youth away from
ignorance.

Today I was a general campaigning against
intolerance;
A lawyer speaking out for brotherhood;
A juror weighing right from wrong.

Today I was a philanthropist sharing the wealth
of the past;
A parent wholly giving love.

Mine are such varied occupations.

I am not just a teacher

PTA Volunteers

Pat Hales

My feet are tired.
My back is bent.
My hair is straight and grey.
My body's bulging here and there.
Is all this from PTA?
My mind's all awlirl.
Am I sick?
Am I sane?
The past seems to be in a haze.
From dawn to dusk,
It all seems the same
As PTA fills up my days.
The car drives itself,
With nary a swerve
As it drives to the meeting alone.
There are boxes, brief cases
And papers galore.
As I finally head toward home.
As I drive to my house,
I think of my spouse
Who is keeping our home in one piece.
They are "heroes" you know
Who support us who go
While we do our best for our beliefs.
When I open the door
I see children galore.
Do they all belong to me?
I'll take a count soon
(at least by the next moon)
Those not mine, I'll send home C. O. D.!
My children have grown.
"Who are you?" I intone
As a child scampers out of my way.
"Why I'm Greg," said the child
With a fairly nice smile.
And I thought, "Well,
I guess I'm home".
In the corner there sat
A child on Don's lap
And his eyes seemed to be full of cheer.
He was pointing at me
With a face full of glee
And I heard him exclaim in Don's ear...
"Isn't that lady a little bit funny?
Isn't that lady a little bit weird?"

"Hush, my darling little child,
for that's your mother dear."
That's a signal to me
That it's time to stay home
To become re-acquainted with him
But a few days pass by
And I'm ready to try
To change the world again.
It's hard work, that is true,
And the pay's over due.
Is it really worth the price?
When you're feeling this way
Some time during the day
Look into the eyes of a child.
The pay, it's all there,
And your heart skips a beat,
For the future is there in his eyes.
Then you know
You'll do more
Whatever the chore
To safeguard this priceless prize.
The reason we roam
Away from our home
Is as simple as simple can be
For your child, for mine,
For all children divine,
Have a right to be safe, well, and free.

A Small Child

Tom Ryan

No business success,
No personal achievement,
Is half as rewarding
As when a small child
Climbs into your lap
And goes to sleep
In perfect Peace,
Confident in your love.

The PTA Garden

Adapted for PTA from the "Garden of Life"

It's Spring,

New Ground has been plowed
And it's time to plant
The _____ PTA Garden.

First, plant five rows of P's,

Presence
Promptness
Preparation
Perseverance
Politeness

Next, plant three rows of squash,

Squash indifference
Squash criticism
Squash gossip

Then plant five rows of lettuce,

Let us be faithful to duty
Let us be unselfish and loyal
Let us obey the rules and regulations
Let us be true to our obligations
Let us respect one another

No garden is complete without turnips,

Turn up for meetings
Turn up with a smile
Turn up with the determination to make
Everything we do count for
Something
Good and worthwhile for the
Children of _____.

Being a Parent Is a Special Gift

Deanne Laura Gilbert

Being a parent
is such a wonderful thing.
It's joy beyond compare,
a happiness no words can describe.
As you guide your child
through the problems of life,
And offer the encouragement
needed to achieve so many things,
You will need an abundance
of patience, kindness,
And understanding,
but everything you give
Will be returned tenfold
in love and appreciation.
Being a parent is a special gift
that blesses your life
With happiness, love,
and a lifetime of memories.

Wet Oatmeal Kisses

Author Unknown

The baby is teething. The children are fighting. Your husband just called and said, "Eat dinner without me."

One of these days you'll explode and shout to the kids, "Why don't you grow up and act your age?" And they will.

Or: "You guys get outside and find yourselves something to do. And don't slam the door!" And they don't.

You'll straighten their bedrooms all neat and tidy, toys displayed on the shelf, hangers in the closet, animals caged.

You'll say, "Now I want it to stay this way!" And it will.

You will prepare a perfect dinner with a salad that hasn't had all the olives picked out and a cake with no finger traces in the icing and you'll remark: "Now THIS is a meal for company." And you will eat it alone.

You'll shout, "I want complete privacy on the phone. No screaming. Do you hear me?" And no one will answer.

No more plastic tablecloths stained with spaghetti. No more dandelion bouquets. No more iron-on patches. No more wet, knotted shoelaces, muddy boots or rubber bands for ponytails.

Imagine. A lipstick with a point. No baby sitter for New Year's Eve, washing clothes only once a week, no PTA meetings or silly school plays where your child is a tree. No car pools, blaring stereos or forgotten lunch money.

No more Christmas presents made of library paste and toothpicks. No wet oatmeal kisses. No more tooth fairy. No more giggles in the dark, scraped knees to kiss or sticky fingers to clean. Only a voice asking: "Why don't you grow up?"

And the silence echoes: "I did."

AN INTALLATION POEM, BASED ON RUDYARD KIPLING'S "IF"

If you accept the work that goes with honor, if you hold high the PTA ideal,
The sturdy branches of the oak tree banner will symbolize the way your members feel,
For all the leaves and the branches of the oak tree, must work together for that tree's success,
And when on children's welfare all agree, we can assure the children's happiness,
If you can give authority to others, and trust that they will do their job okay,
If you can guide an earnest group of members, yet never boss, but merely show the way,
If you can give each other praise and credit you'll have successes every day,
If you can all be capable and eager, for the next year just as you are today,
If you can keep an active sense of humor, cooperating in a pleasant way,
If you can work with patient faith unswerving, and never from the rules of kindness stray,
You'll gain the rich rewards that come from serving,
You'll be good leaders of the _____ PTA (PTSA).

The installing officer then congratulates the officers individually, gives tokens of office if he wishes, and may say a few words to the assembly after the officers have resumed their seats.

The installing officer can also announce them "duly installed" after the poem, if that is the wish of the installing officer.

PASSWORD INSTALLATION

At the beginning of a new administration it is fitting that we give special recognition to the officers who have served so faithfully and capably during the term that is ending. We appreciate their unselfish service and the contribution they have made to the progress of our organization. We hope they will continue to serve in our association with their usual zeal and efficiency.

Will the incoming officers please come to the front in the following order and stand for the installation:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| President | (name) |
| Vice President(s) | (name) (s) |
| Recording Secretary | (name) |
| Corresponding Secretary | (name) |
| Treasurer | (name) |
| Historian | (name) |
| Parliamentarian | (name) |

For the lack of a better word, I shall call this a "Password Installation."

I shall give to each of you a number of words, each of which begins with the letter P T A. I expect these words to serve you as reminders to you of your duties and responsibilities in the office you are assuming.

To the President, _____

You will: Preside, Persist, Plan, Pray, Push, Pull, Prod

You will need: Tact, Time, Thought

Authority must be used wisely. Accept your full responsibility.

Acknowledge contributions of officers and members to the accomplishments of the administration. Allowances to the failures and shortcomings of others will be needed.

To the Vice President, _____

You will: Prepare to Preside
Train for service – thoughtfully help the president
Ablly cooperate. Aid where needed.

To the Recording Secretary, _____

Precision is necessary in recording minutes. Promptness is appreciated. Thoroughness is necessary. Action is needed in letting the President know of action arising from the minutes.

To the Corresponding Secretary, _____

Promptly handling correspondence is the best policy. Public relations are influenced by correspondence. Thoughtfulness as to content of communication is very important. Ability to express clearly the wishes and decisions of your association is an asset.

To the Treasurer, _____

Purse must be guarded. Pay bills. Transact business. Tighten purse when necessary. Be thankful when money is sufficient. Be accurate in accounts and see that an annual audit is made.

I now declare you duly installed, and may you be progressive, tenacious, and active.

(If there are other elected officers, e.g. historian – words beginning with PTA can be selected and another section added to include additional officers. When asked to be the installing officer, find out all details well in advance so that you will have time to prepare.)

WORKING TOGETHER

One evening last week a first grader told his mother, “I sure wish you’d let me take my bath in the morning instead of at night. Our teacher asks us if we’ve had a bath today, and I haven’t been able to say ‘yes’ all year.”

Parents do need to keep in touch with our schools. We need each other – to help our children. The school system can’t do everything for them and neither can we at home.

I challenge each of you to join the PTA’s efforts by getting actively involved. It will take a little of your time, but the children are worth it.

Your officers and your support are vital to the quality of your PTA’s work for children. In recognition of their willingness to serve, let’s greet your new officers: (bring officers forward).

Our purposes, as set forth by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, have guided us for many years. They continue to chart our course. Will you work toward the fulfillment of the purposes?

Members of _____ PTA, you have elected these leaders as your officers for the coming year. They need your encouragement and your willingness to help them carry forward the work of this association.

With faith in your leadership, will you as officers of this parent-teacher association hold the welfare of the children and youth paramount in all that you do?

As officers of PTA, you hold responsible positions. The duties and opportunities for service that await you will challenge your devoted effort. I acknowledge your intention to serve faithfully and to the best of your ability. With sincere pleasure in receiving you, I declare you duly installed officers of the _____ PTA, a local unit of the Virginia Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

LEARNING EVERLASTINGLY

INSTALLING OFFICER (to assembly): Solon, the great philosopher of Ancient Greece, said: "I grow old learning everlastingly." This is the feeling we have in the _____ PTA (PTSA). This constant learning is what we want for our children and for ourselves.

What is learning? For us it is a constant open-mindedness to change and to new ideas. It is keeping up with world affairs and progress in all areas, so that we can truly understand the world our children will live in. Learning more about our world and each other draws us closer together.

We need to learn more about PTA and how to work effectively for children and youth. The best guide is the statement of the Purposes. For more than sixty years these Purposes have sparked activities that have brought major benefits to our children.

Will you please rise while I read the Purposes? (Members rise and then are seated.)

We have learned much from our successes and failures. We learn by doing as well as by example. Our leaders should provide the example inspiring and teaching, so that we may each leave a small mark on PTA history. Leaders of ability follow good leaders everlastingly.

Will the officers for the _____ school year please come forward? (Calls positions and names.)

I am proud to present those who will lead the _____ PTA (PTSA) in the year ahead.

TO THE OFFICERS: Do you pledge to uphold the Purposes of the PTA and to lead wisely with courtesy and justice for all.

OFFICERS: I do.

INSTALLING OFFICERS (to members): Do you pledge your faithful assistance and encouragement to the officers you have elected willingly cooperating with them and accepting their leadership in the work for children and youth.

MEMBERS: I do.

INSTALLING OFFICER (to officers): I now declare you duly installed officers of the _____ PTA (PTSA).

A CHALLENGE

The elected officers may sit at the rear behind the installing officer.

INSTALLING OFFICER: (To assembly) The Parent Teacher Association (or PTSA) occupies a most worthy place in all communities. Through the years the aims and ideals have remained the same, but we always interpret them in terms of the ever-changing trends and demands of our time. Constantly, we must bring to our work new vision and new zeal. We need a steady growth and officers who, like their predecessors, will bring individuality and unique gifts to the tasks ahead. Give to them the fullest possible measure of your own special talents and you will grow and profit from the things you do together. You may not always see the results materially, but there will be an inward satisfaction and peace because the job was well done. Love of children and youth is the common tie, which unites us. In the children and youth, and our treatment of them, rests the solution of some of the problems of society. And our work, to borrow a phrase from Khaklil Gibran, is "love made visible."

Members of the _____ PTA (PTSA) you have indicated your faith and trust in these officers by electing them to serve you for the next year. They need wholehearted support from every member so that their work may develop and prosper. Do you pledge to your new officers your loyalty and active assistance in this program for children and youth? Please indicate it by saying "I do."

(If the officers have been seated behind the Installing Officer, they now move down beside him or her.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: The Purposes of the PTA are (read them). Will you work to uphold these Purposes? If so, please say "I will." (pause) Will you give to your different tasks the full measure of your ability? (pause) The members of your PTA have pledged their support as you work together as a team. Keep these promises and you will go far in your work for children and youth everywhere. I now declare you duly installed officers of the _____ PTA (PTSA).

(Installing Officer congratulates each officer individually . . . shakes hands . . . presents tokens of office (if any)).

Officers return to their seats and depending on the wishes of the membership and the agenda the Installing Officer may say a few words to the assembly.

BRIDGE INSTALLATION

INSTALLING OFFICER: The installation of a new PTA is a memorable event. The organization and planning for this new unit, reflects the interest and concern in giving our children the proper physical plant and the best curriculum for building citizenship. The installation of officers is a continuation of that effort. Our PTA will serve as a bridge between home and school, a bridge of understanding and cooperation. Tonight, we formally dedicate our PTA by installing its first officers. A basic plan is needed for a serviceable bridge. The basic plan for any PTA is found in the policies of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and in the local unit's bylaws.

We envy the historian of a unit. A clean white page is waiting to be filled with evidence of sterling accomplishment. Will _____ please come forward.

Keeping an eye on the tolls and maintenance expense of our bridge is the auditor. You _____ have been chosen for this job. Will you join us?

Now, we come to the person who collects the tolls and pays out the money. Our hope is that you receive many tolls and that you will be able to pay them promptly in order that the bridge can best serve its purpose. Will _____, our treasurer, join the group.

To record the traffic – the actions of this unit – and to handle correspondence is the work of the secretary. Will our secretary now accept the secretary's book and join us? As this slender book grows, the story will unfold of how this PTA truly bridged the ravine so often existing between home and school.

The vice-president will provide the support needed to make the bridge strong and enduring. Our vice-president will support us with programs of solid PTA value. Will you please join us?

Charged with the greatest responsibility is the person you have chosen as president of this association. He (She) will conduct meetings in accordance with PTA policies and recognize local problems and interests. Each member is an integral part of this bridge. The president will see that the interest now so evident is maintained through activities that will keep our bridge well traveled. Will _____ please come forward.

Now, please rise and repeat the Purposes together.

I now declare you duly installed officers of the _____ PTA (PTSA).

LOCAL UNIT INSTALLATION

PRESENTING MEMBER (to installing officer): I present to you these persons for installation as officers of the _____PTA.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Have you acquainted yourselves with the Purposes of ALL parent teacher associations as set forth by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers?

NEW OFFICERS: We have.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Will you repeat them with me? (NEW officers will repeat Purposes in unison.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Do you truly endorse and believe in these several Purposes, pledging yourselves to work faithfully for their attainment?

NEW OFFICERS: We do.

INSTALLING OFFICER: As workers in the PTA, do you desire the enduring welfare of all children and youth?

NEW OFFICERS: We do earnestly desire it.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Do you hold an abiding faith in the democratic way of life so that throughout your service as officers you will further the ideals of democracy, transmitting them, as far as lies within your power, to all with whom you come in contact?

NEW OFFICERS: We do.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Finally, will you represent the _____PTA and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers so that the dignity, justice, and worth of parent-teacher work may be upheld in the eyes of the world and to the justification of those who have elected you to serve?

NEW OFFICERS: We will strive earnestly to do so.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Your duties as officers of the PTA will place you in positions of high responsibility. There can be no greater charge, no higher challenge, than that which now confronts you. May you enter upon the work with the steadfast purpose of serving as only they can serve whose lives are consecrated to a lasting ideal. And now, in view of your avowed intention to so serve, and with sincere pleasure, I declare you duly installed officers of the _____PTA.

INSTALLATION FOR A COUNCIL

(Council officers sit on platform behind installing officer.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: In our council, the officers are the moving spirits behind an important movement – the movement to include more and more PTAs in our council family. The council officers must become familiar with all the local units in their areas, seeking to strengthen them in every way possible; they must be ever alert to the opening of new schools, making contracts within each new school community, especially with the principal.

At this time, we install our president, vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer for the coming year. (If other positions, such as Historian are also installed they may be listed, too.) As I call your names, will you please come forward?

(Calls names and positions of officers who come forward and group to the right of the installing officer.)

(Turns to officers): Officers, during your term of office it will be your responsibility to keep informed about the overall and specific programs of your council, of the state PTA, and of the National PTA, channeling information from them to the PTAs in your jurisdiction. At the end of the year, you will see that every local unit submits an annual report to your council president. (This is extremely important.) You will keep informed throughout the year on educational developments at all levels – local, city/county, state, and national. You will become familiar with sources of information about your work – council handbook, Local Unit Resource Guide, legislation data, and educational studies and trends. And finally, you will assume all responsibilities assigned to you by your council. Help us to go forward and attain our goals, give us the leadership we so vitally need as we try to extend PTA ideals into every school community.

(To all): The PTA Purposes continue to guide us. May we all rise as we rededicate ourselves to their fulfillment. (All rise and repeat the Purposes.) Please be seated.

Members of the _____ Council of Parent Teacher Association you have elected these officers as your leaders for the coming year. Do you, therefore, pledge them your loyalty and your willingness to help them carry forward the work of this council?

MEMBERS: We do.

INSTALLING OFFICER (to officers): I now declare you duly installed officers of the ____
_____ Council of Parent Teacher Associations.

REDEDICATION CEREMONY

I present to you for installations officers of the (name) Parent Teacher Association:
(read officers names & and positions).

The ideals upon which the Parent Teacher Association is founded remain current and worth striving for indeed in these unstable and chaotic times. There is a continued need for conscientious citizens to be aware of, and alert to, changing systems. Be courageous and innovative in your leadership. Take constructive action after thorough study and research.

Be rewarded in the knowledge that you are contributing to the excellence in education in our public schools.

Let us rededicate ourselves a new to our Purposes, which have guided us since 1897 and which continue to inspire us to greater efforts on behalf of children and youth. May we rise and recite them together

(Read Purposes)

With sincere pleasure in receiving you, I declare you duly installed officers of the (name) Parent Teacher Association, a local unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

INSTALLATION FOR A NEW UNIT

The installation for a new Parent Teacher Association is a memorable event. It signifies the determination of the citizens to create a bridge of understanding between home and school so that harmony may prevail and a climate created that will result in the maintenance of excellence in our public schools and contribute to the welfare of all the children. It is a pledge that the members of the Parent Teacher Association will look outward, beyond the boundaries of their own school and district and will work for the optimum opportunities for every child, realizing that a sustained intention to seek good for all is the basis of the work to which we have dedicated ourselves since the founding of our organization more than _____ years ago.

You have charged your officers with great responsibility, but they will not work alone for there is an army of dedicated men and women ready to assist them and to help them to be wise in the ways of leadership. Let us hope that your new unit will be an active one, participating in all that the Parent Teacher movement has to offer.

Now, please rise, and let us recite our Purposes together - the Purposes that have guided us well through the years and which will continue to chart our course.

(Recite the Purposes)

I, now declare you duly installed officers of the (name) PTA, a unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

GENERAL CEREMONY

I am honored to present to you your officers for the coming year. (Read their names and positions.) In accepting the responsibilities of office you are acting in the best tradition of democracy. We affirm here tonight that the strength and quality of society is determined by the moral integrity of the individuals who comprise it. For the steady recognition of the uniqueness of each fellow man and a sustained intention to seek his good is the basis of the work of the Parent Teacher Association. Freedom and charity go hand in hand and they both have to be learned. Where better than in the home, the school, and the community? And by whom better than the parents and the teachers? Though the coming year may bring its share of frustration, the knowledge that you are in no small way contributing to the maintenance of excellence in our public schools and to the welfare of our children and youth, our most precious resource and stake in the future, will sustain you to build "A future fit for children and children fit for the future".

Our Purposes, as set forth by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, have guided us well. They continue to chart our course. May we, then, all rise and dedicate ourselves anew to their fulfillment as we repeat them together.

(Recite Purposes)

(Signify audience may be seated and then continue.)

I acknowledge your intention to serve faithfully and to the best of your ability. It is with much pleasure that I declare you duly installed officers of the (name) Parent Teacher Association, a local unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY

May I present to you your officers for the coming year (give officers names and positions). They have signified their willingness to serve faithfully and uphold the Purposes of the National Congress that have guided us for well over (years). Let us all stand and recite them together so that we may rededicate ourselves to the service of children and youth.

(Recite Purposes)

Audience may be seated. (Turn to the officers to be installed.)

As officers of the Parent Teacher Association you hold responsible positions. The duties and opportunities for service that await you will challenge your devoted effort.

The leadership that you exert in your community is comparable in its way to that of the President and the Congress. For in a democracy, the country is only as good as the people who control it and these efforts for inspired citizenship start in the local community. Therefore, the responsibility that you bear is great, but so are the rewards. There will be frustrations and annoyances in the year ahead but believe me, they are worth it and you will be rewarded by the knowledge that you are in no small way contributing to the grass roots inspiration that we so sorely need in these perilous times.

I acknowledge your intention to serve faithfully, and to the best of your ability. With sincere pleasure in receiving you, and with grateful thanks for permitting me the honor of installing you, I declare you duly installed officers of the (name) Parent Teacher Association, a local unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

(Imposing candle in interesting holder should be in front of the installing officer. Elected officers sit behind installing officer. Installing officer addresses each elected officer in turn and lights a candle in a holder, from the main candle, and hands it to each officer as he speaks to them.)

Installing officer: This candle we see before us symbolizes the influence of the parent teacher movement since its beginning more than _____ years ago. Its light has brightened the path of countless children who, because of us, are happier and better developed physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

Our good deeds will go on shining, lighting the way for those who follow us, for as long as we have in our movement such dedicated leaders as those you have elected. Will the new officers please come forward as I call their names.

(To president, lighting candle and handing it to him/her): To you (name) I give the light of leadership. May you direct and advise us wisely.

(To first vice president): To you (name) our first vice president, I give the light of thoughtful service and loyalty to our president. You will assist him/her in all ways and be prepared to take his/her place when necessary.

(To second vice president): To you (name) the second vice president I give the light of understanding and the fire of enthusiasm to help you carry out the duties designated to you.

(To corresponding secretary): To you (name) the corresponding secretary, I give the light of joy. Your pride in this association and joy in its accomplishments will communicate itself to all those you contact.

(To recording secretary): To you (name) the recording secretary, I give the light of accuracy and good judgment. Your records will furnish precedents for our successors.

(To treasurer): To you (name) the treasurer, I give the light of abundance. You will oversee the funds that we raise and use, and will report on their status to the membership.

(To historian): To you (name) the historian, I give the candle whose light represents wisdom. You will record our achievements and the names of those who made them possible.

And all of us, like the new officers, can take example from those who preceded us in this work. To guide us in our endeavors, let us rise and recite our Purposes together.

(Recite Purposes)

I now declare you duly installed officers of (name) PTA, a unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

INSTALLATION FOR A HIGH SCHOOL PTA/PTSA

It gives me great pleasure to represent the _____ District and the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers this evening, and to install your officers for the coming school year

PTA is _____# years old but PTSA is relatively young. PTA began with parents who were concerned with the welfare of children and youth, but now through PTSA the youth and parents can work together toward common goals. Leadership at this level is quite different from that in the elementary school, since the high school level is concerned with young people about to become adults. This is the time of stress for the youths themselves and often for parents and teachers, too. Both generations need to foster mutual understanding and respect.

Through the PTSA, parents, teachers, and students may reach a better understanding of adolescent problems in the home, school, and community. It is necessary to constantly evaluate your plans to ensure that we help young people to realize their potential, enlist their assistance in plans and programs, remembering their untapped stores of energy and idealism, which are so valuable, if channeled into constructive directions. We must help make the PTSA a bridge between the generations, working together for mutual respect and understanding.

Now I would like the new officers to come forward: (Call officers up by names and positions.)

(To the membership): And now to you the members you have elected these officers as your leaders for the coming year. In doing so, you have pledged them your loyalty and willingness to help them carry forward the work of this unit Assist them in all their efforts and cheerfully volunteer your services when necessary. Let us remember - we achieve our goals by working together.

And to you the officers - by accepting these responsible positions, you have signified your willingness to accept the challenge that is before you. We know that you will carry forth your plans with dignity, wisdom, and courage. At times, there will be frustrations and annoyances, but they will be worth it, for you will be rewarded by the knowledge that you are, in no small way, contributing to the maintenance of excellence in our public schools, to the welfare of our youth, and ensuring that our high school community is well served.

I ask you, the officers - Will you uphold the Purposes of the PTA which are:

(Read Purposes)

Signify by saying: Yes, I will.

I now declare you installed officers of the (name) PTSA - a unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Each word like a sparkling light

To the treasurer (play money), don't try to spend this, but keep it as a reminder that you are the custodian of all of the funds of this association.

To the historian, (folder) I give you this folder so that you will have a place to store all the information for your report at the end of next year.

To the council delegates (if the position of council delegate is an elected officer position), I have nothing but advice, and that is to always be mindful that yours is a very important position - for you are the link between this unit and all the other units in the council. Know PTA policy, attend all executive board, general, and council meetings.

Remember - a council is a group of PTA's that have the power to solve community wide problems.

I now ask you all - will you uphold the Purposes of the PTA. which are: (Read Purposes)

Signify by saying: Yes, I will.

I acknowledge your intention to serve faithfully and to the best of your ability. It is with much pleasure that I declare you duly installed officers of the (Name) PTA, a local unit of the Virginia State Congress of Parents and Teachers and of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

DISTRICT HERB INSTALLATION

As we prepare to install new officers at this time, let us gratefully recognize our past achievements and extend our good wishes for success and further achievement to our new officers. At this time, would the _____ (years) slate of officers please come forward?

As installing officer, I have chosen the theme of spices and herbs. I'd like to quote from the book "Herbs - Healthy Cookery."

"What is it that attracts people to herbs? Is it the graceful look of the growing herbs, their lovely scent, their quaint and sweet sounding names and the charm of the herb garden?"

Herbs and spices are a useful flavorful, fragrant, valuable for preserving, helpful, and can contribute to our enjoyment of life. PTA can be all these things (well, maybe not fragrant!) and more and gives us the chance to help our children, parents, and schools.

A PTA board is the blending of many different personalities and talents.

_____ as Treasurer, you are the chives in our PTA herb blend. Chives are an excellent herb for flavoring and are said to have a stimulating effect on the appetite. Chives are also known as one of the most indispensable herbs for daily use, and so as treasurer, you are indispensable to the daily working of this PTA. Your accurate keeping of the financial records is essential to the PTA.

_____ as Secretary, you are the parsley in our PTA herb garden. Parsley is known for its versatility and is used in all types of cooking and is an attractive garnish. Parsley emphasizes the flavor of foods without itself adding a strong scent. So as secretary, you will read and send correspondence with emphasis and versatility. You will also, record and emphasize the flavor of the meetings but without interjecting your own accent or opinions. Parsley is the basis of most herb mixtures and so too are the minutes the basis of what occurs within this PTA.

_____ as Assistant Director, you are the Thyme in our PTA herb blend. Thyme is clove-like and is pungent and should be used with discretion. Thyme is outspoken in flavor and you will need to be outspoken at promoting the PTA word. Thyme was once considered the emblem of courage, and you will need it as you work with the local PTAs in your area.

_____ as Director, of the _____ PTA, I have chosen for you, basil. Basil is strong and powerful, and a king among herbs. It is used in curries and tomato dishes. It makes an impact on many dishes and so too will you make a major impact on your board. Herb books also say that "basil can procure a cheerful and merry heart; can be sweet and delicate, but also must be used carefully so it doesn't dominate the other flavors". So too as director, you must be encouraging, cheerful, strong, but not dominant and use your authority sparingly and to enhance, as basil does to foods.

On behalf of the _____ I now declare these officers duly installed. Congratulations and best wishes as you work together in the year ahead to promote the Purposes of the PTA.

RECIPE INSTALLATION

Recipe ingredients provide an excellent parallel to PTA. All of us have recipes. Some are family ones that have been passed down for generations. Some are newer ones that we have found in magazines and books, and some are even fat-free. In a recipe, every ingredient is significant to the outcome of a dish. In PTA, every officer and member is essential for the achievement of its goals.

According to Webster's Dictionary a recipe is "a list of materials and directions needed for preparing a dish". The list of materials or ingredients is most important. Just ask anyone who has forgotten an ingredient. The result can be disastrous. Likewise, the failure of an officer to fulfill the tasks of a particular office can create problems.

Tonight, the officers of the UNIT NAME PTA will be installed using a recipe theme. Just as a recipe has certain ingredients that must be included in order for a dish to be perfect, each officer has certain duties that must be performed in order for a PTA to be successful. The officers are vital ingredients and help members accomplish the Purposes of the PTA. At this time, will the newly elected officers please come forward?

NAME, the treasurer adds a cup of financial security to the PTA. Your duties include signing checks, collecting and depositing money, and giving regular financial statements. Your job is important and provides an essential ingredient to this PTA. The fulfillment of your duties will result in a delicious success for all members.

NAME, the secretary adds a dash of spice and a tablespoon of accuracy to the PTA. Your duties include taking minutes at all meetings, recording all business and actions, and keeping the PTAs historical records. Your job is important and provides an essential ingredient to this PTA. The realization of your duties will result in an appetizing year for all members.

NAME, the Vice President adds a heap of enthusiasm to the PTA. Your duty is to work closely with the president. Your job is important and provides an essential ingredient to this PTA. The accomplishment of your duties will result in a nourishing year for all members.

NAME, the President adds ounces of love and leadership to the PTA. Your duties include presiding at all meetings, following up on local unit matters, appointing committees and chairmen, representing the UNIT NAME PTA on behalf of the Virginia PTA/PTSA at many functions and listening to your member's concerns. The mastery of your duties will result in an aromatic and delectable year for all your officers and members.

The officers have now been installed for the year xxxx. However, I, you the members of the UNIT NAME PTA make up the final ingredient; in our recipe. You are the cups of support needed to make the UNIT NAME PTA recipe a success. Your duties will be assisting your officers so that, together, you can have a most scrumptious time in PTA.

And finally, I leave you with a recipe for a successful PTA.

2 cups of enthusiasm
1 cup of support
2 cup of responsibility

2 tablespoons of dedication
2 tablespoons of joy
pinch of flexibility

Mix gently until PTA goals are achieved. Then add one pound of happiness. Stir and watch a successful PTA year unfold.

Please join with me in congratulating this dedicated group of volunteers and wish them much success in their “Recipes for the Children of UNIT NAME”.

Note: Ceremonies can be adapted for use at the local, council, or district level.