

## **Welcome to The 2013-2014 School Year from the Deal PTA!**

### ***The Theme of this Coming School Year is: BUILDING COMMUNITY!***

We hope you are enjoying summer and getting ready to play an active role in our school's community. Deal's middle school program continues to be strong! The Deal PTA plays an important role in supporting this great school by working hard to provide the "extras" that enrich our children's educational experience.

PTA contributions: Your PTA contributions fund clubs, sports teams and the annual musical production. The PTA contributions also support important programs for all of our students throughout the year, from the Sixth-Grade Orientation and the annual team-building trip for our youngest students to the Eighth-Grade Promotion ceremony. PTA contributions provide grants to teachers to buy supplies to support classroom instruction, technology, Viking Time and other student activities. In addition, the PTA provides funding for the Deal directory, website, newsletters, Parent Education Workshops, books for the library and improvements to the building and grounds.

We can make all of this happen, with every family's support. To reach that goal and provide these important programs, activities, grants and supplies, we need to raise approximately \$170,000. That amount might sound astronomical; but, in fact, it represents only about \$15 per student per month over the upcoming school year. This is your PTA and we ask that you support the PTA and be as generous as possible. The suggested contribution is \$150 per student and we encourage you to give more if you can, however, no contribution is too small. It is your participation and support that ensures a great Deal and builds our sense of community for Deal's students, parents, families, faculty, administrators and staff.

In addition to fundraising, the Deal PTA also works to provide information and to open avenues of communication among Deal parents, the school administration and the larger community. There are many ways for you to find out what's happening at Deal:

- Go to the Deal website and click on "Join Our Email List" at the bottom of the page. This is the only way to receive the principal's indispensable weekly bulletin, and it will ensure that you get the PTA newsletter and announcements throughout the year.
- Read the PTA newsletter, which is published electronically quarterly.
- Visit the website, [www.alicedeal.org](http://www.alicedeal.org) for current news and information.

Last, but not least, get involved! This is a critical time in your child's development and education, and middle school students are not as easily accessible as elementary students. Unlike in elementary school, teachers are not asking for classroom volunteers or art assistants and parents are not meeting each other at the playground or after play dates. When parents volunteer for school activities at Deal, it gives them a chance to be the "fly on the wall," and get an inside view into their kids' school lives. The Deal PTA strives to provide many important opportunities to get involved.

Enclosed in this summer mailing is a wealth of information about the Deal PTA and how you can contribute. Please take a few minutes to read, complete, and return these materials to school. Be generous with your time and money, it will help us kick off the school year with an excellent start and ensure a successful year.

Our **first** PTA meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.**, prior to the sixth grade parent workshops. Please plan on joining us!

Subsequent PTA meetings are planned for **Wednesdays, Oct. 2nd and Nov. 20, 2013**, during the first semester, and **Wednesdays, March 19th and May 21, 2013**, during the second semester.

We will provide more detailed information about the agenda for each meeting on the Deal website: [www.alicedeal.org](http://www.alicedeal.org). Please join us! Every meeting gives you a chance to ask questions, make suggestions, meet and talk with other parents and hear important information about what is happening at Deal and in our community.

We look forward to a wonderful school year. If you have any questions, or want to get involved, please contact us. The PTA needs you: we always welcome new faces and new ideas!

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