**Volunteering activities**

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General

* Visit the following website for a list of articles about how to generate and maintain parent involvement: <http://www.ptotoday.com/pto-today-articles/category/222-volunteers?limit=all>

School to Home

* Conduct a parent volunteer survey to find out how parents would like to contribute (Beyond the Bake Sale, pp. 308-310)
* Assign people to the role of parent liaison
* Develop role of parent partnership outreach coordinator
* Hold volunteer orientation meetings (interpreters, child care, transportation)
* Provide ID cards for volunteers
* Make sure Parent organizations reflect diversity of the school
* Month-by-Month Pre-planning Guide
* A designated spot for PTO related materials
* Have information about volunteer needs easily accessible
* Use online services to organize information
* Night before reminders
* Keep a spreadsheet of contact information
* Gather information before summer break so things do not get lost
* Do year-end evaluations and evaluations at the end of each project
* Institute a reading volunteer program inviting both parents and community members.
* Organize volunteers to serve as homeroom parents, neighborhood representatives, or sports and club contacts and establish telephone trees to help parents communicate with each other about school programs and events.
* Organize a corps of volunteers to offer a “welcome wagon” of information about the school to students and families who enroll during the school year.
* Make hours flexible for parents and other volunteers who work during the school day.
* Provide needed training for complex tasks
* Create opportunities and enable volunteers to contribute productively to the school, classroom, extracurricular, and after school programs
* Have families host family resource center
* School mascot goes to work with parents / extended family : disposable camera, journal
* Beautification day
* Resource directory for staff - parents provide their talents, time availability, task interested in, etc. . .

Home to school

* Let school know what your strengths / talents are, availability, and tasks interested in
* See volunteering as more than being at the school - what can you do from home?
* Think of volunteering activities not just with staff, but supporting other parents

RESOURCES:

Epstein, Joyce L & Associates. (2009). *School, Family, and Community Partnerships (3rd ed.)*. CA: Corwin Press.

Glasgow, Neal A. & Whitney, Paula J. (2009). *What Successful Schools Do To Involve Families: 55 Partnership Strategies*. CA: Corwin Press.

Henderson, Anne T., Mapp, Karen L., Johnson, Vivian R., & Davies, Don (2007). *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships.* NY: The New Press.

Turnbull, Ann, Turnbull, Rud, Erwin, Elizabeth J., Soodak, Leslie C., &Shogren, Karrie A. (2015). *Families, Professionals, and Exceptionality (7th ed.).* NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.