



Contact: James Martinez
Cell: 773-339-4533
E-mail: jmartinez@pta.org

Local School Wins National Health Award
National PTA officials to present 'big check' at school tomorrow
Part of national effort to call attention to child health, wellness

CHICAGO (November 29, 2007)—National PTA will present a 'big check' tomorrow at noon to the Cooleemee Elementary School PTA (136 Marginal Street) in Cooleemee, NC. The award is part of a national effort to help thousands of students and families celebrate PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month, November.

"We're proud to honor Cooleemee Elementary School PTA as one of the top schools in the nation for calling attention to the importance of healthy lifestyles," said Chuck Saylor, PTA national president-elect. "For decades PTA members like those at this school have worked to improve child health and wellness by supporting child nutrition legislation, providing resources to parents on how to create healthy lifestyles at home and school, and by calling attention to child health through special campaigns like these."

The presentation of the \$500 check will be part of a Healthy Lifestyle Scavenger Hunt for kids. The event is part of the school's Healthy Lifestyle Plan for the year. It includes a home fitness program; family skate night, health education month (November), and a bike-a-thon.

PTA's national office awarded 40 PTA schools across the country for their efforts around PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month. The events promote health and wellness and parent involvement in their schools; emphasize the link between involvement and student achievement; and further PTA's mission. Hundreds of PTAs submitted proposals describing different family activities they have planned, such as walkathons, and health fairs, as well as yoga and cooking classes.

Research has shown that a healthy child is more likely to achieve in school, and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month gives schools and parents a way to strengthen their health and wellness activities. Visit www.pta.org for family resources on healthy lifestyles and more. PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month is supported by education and community leaders, including Action for Healthy Kids; National School Boards Association; National Association of School Nurses; National Association of Health Education Centers; and Family Voices.

About PTA

PTA comprises nearly 6 million parents and other concerned adults devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prides itself on being a powerful voice for children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who is concerned with the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.