

Mardi Gras Installation

Mardi Gras Carnival Season in New Orleans officially begins on the Twelfth Night (after Christmas) January 6 and continues till Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wed occurs 47 days before Easter. This year it is Feb 8th. The Carnival Season consists of Balls, banquets and parades. So our conference as you will see, fits right in.

The colors of Mardi-Gras were chosen in 1872 and they have special meaning. Green is for faith, purple is for justice and gold is for power. The PTA mission also goes with the Mardi Gras colors. As PTA members we have the Mardi Gras green which represents FAITH. It is the faith we have in our ability to effect positive change for all children that starts us on our journey as volunteers. The Mardi Gras purple represents justice and justice is just what we fight to bring to all issues related to children. And as a result of our faith and fight for justice we develop the power - as the Mardi Gras gold represents. The power to effect change for the betterment of all children. . "Every Child, One voice, it is what we as PTA members are all about.

Mardi Gras is steeped in tradition, dating back to medieval times in Europe. While not the oldest, the New Orleans Mardi Gras is certainly the most famous in the United States. Originating in the early 1700's, Mardi Gras is the climax of the festival or carnival which begins January 6 and runs until Fat Tuesday or in French "Mardi Gras. Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday which ushers in the Lent, a Christian season of atonement and abstinence.

The Mardi Gras parade is put on by organizations in New Orleans called "krewes" that often take their names from ancient mythology, famous people/places or a clever play on words. Each krewe has its king and some of the krewes that have been around the longest even have supporting royal courts. So tonight I install all the _____ PTA Board - Mardi Gras style.

We will begin the Carnival of Mardi Gras with the *Lord of Misrule*, the King of the 12th Night Revelers Krewe. This King and his Krewe open the carnival with the first ball.

_____ PTA's Lord of Misrule is our **Parliamentarian**, _____. It will be her job to run the PTA meetings with Roberts Rules of Order and never "miss a rule" or Bylaw. Therefore, I present our Parliamentarian with these **rulers** to help her gauge when we are getting off the mark and need a "ruling" from the Lord of Misrule.

Our **Auditor**, _____ has important role as one of the *Judges of Mardi Gras*. Unlike the Judges in New Orleans, she won't be judging anatomy but judging our PTA figures. The figures in our Books not board member figures thank goodness! And instead of giving Certificates of Exposure she'll be issuing is one stating that the books are in good order. To this hard working lady I give a **calculator** and a **magnifying glass (99 cents Store)** to check all those many figures.

Now with our rules and judge in place we are ready to begin. Leading off the parade is the king of the *Krewe of Kosmic Debris*, our **Historian**, _____. To her I present this **net** for it will be up to her collect and file all the volunteer hours, photos and correspondence that make up our PTA. And if any of this info should be hard to locate we give her this **binoculars** to help her find them. It is in all this debris that she will find the history of another busy year at our PTA. **(I used a little backyard bug catching set)**

Next is our **Treasurer**, the King of the *Krewe of Bacchus*. Bacchus is the god of vegetation and of wine. As our PTSA treasurer, _____ you will work with the green stuff that makes up our bank account and so we give you this **wise green vegetation known as sage. (small herb plant from Home Depot)** So, now that you are feeling competent you can join Bacchus in a glass or two of the **bubbly stuff (sparkling grape juice)** and keep those ten key fingers nimble.

And of course no treasurer could do her job without the help of a good **Financial Secretary**. So following Bacchus is the King of the *Krewe of Neptune*, _____. Like the god of the sea, Neptune controls the water, so will she control the effortless movement of the warrants and money through our financial books. To her I give **goggles and floaties** (99 Cents Store) to help her in her aquatic journey. And whenever she needs help to keep things flowing, I suggest that she work with Bacchus and take a belt of the good stuff.

Thanks to Bacchus and Neptune our Mardi Gras is really moving along. In the horizon I see the King of the *Krewe of Hermes*, _____ the **Corresponding Secretary**. Hermes is the winged messenger of the gods and well versed in communicating and conveying the information just as our secretary is. But Hermes has one thing _____ doesn't – **wings**. (angel wings from Party city). So here are yours. With their help and that of **your own winged creature**, (garden stake with a butterfly on the top) that correspondence ought to fly from you now....

Next in sight is another winged creature, the Greek horse represented by the *Krewe of Pegasus* and its king our **Recording Secretary**, _____. Now it was Pegasus' duty to carry lightening and thunderbolts through the sky for Zeus just as it is our recording secretary's job handle the words and motions of our PTA for the president. Since we all tend to go on and on, I have for her an **umbrella** (99 Cents Store) to protect her from these showers of words so she can record regardless of the working weather at the PTA meetings. And of course, she has an easy to find **pencil**. (extra large pencil - 99 Cents Store)

Now no parade would be complete without the *Krewe of Momus*, the god of mockery and good cheer. And no PTA could be without a **VP of Hospitality**. Our's is _____. The theme of this krewe is "while we live, let us live." But we feel

that this theme is only appropriate if this “living” involves cake – and we feel “while there’s cake, let us eat cake.” So to you Kings of Momus we give cake servers and more cake servers. (99 Cents Store) May you never run out of cake to serve!

Bringing our parade along is the glamorous king of the *Krewe of Proteus* represented by our **3rd VP**, _____. Proteus is the god of truth and we all know that there must be accuracy and truth in the communication and parent education that this vice president presides over. People came to this god when they wanted to know the past, present and the future. It sounds like it would take a gifted person to know all this, so for this officer we have a sorcerer's hat.

Our **2nd VP of Ways and Means**, _____ rules over the *Krewe of Iris* and is next up in our Mardi Gras parade. In mythological times Iris was the goddess of the rainbow and we all know what we hope is at the end of the rainbows – a pot of gold. So here are some sweet chocolate gold coins (Sees or Smart and Final) to help get you started in creating your own pot of gold for our PTA. It is thanks to your support that that our programs can exist.

Following in the parade route is *Krewe of Orpheus* It is led by our **1st VP** , _____. The god Orpheus was a poet and a musician who was known to enchant people with his words and melodies so much so that they would follow him anywhere. It is the job of this VP to excite the PTA members to assist, support and participate in the many great programs. So here is a flute (99cents store) for you to lead them in the merry dance that is the PTA.

Our next group, the wise old *Krewe of Babylon* which is made up of health care professionals. They, like our advisors _____ & _____, are concerned with the health and welfare of organizations that they serve. This krewe is

famous symbol is “flambeaux” or torch. (Get one from a drugstore, one of those wicker stake kind) These torches light the way of the merry Maskers, just as your assistance helps light the way of the _____ PTA.

Though not the oldest krewe, the King of the *Krewe of Rex* is considered the King of the Carnival/Mardi Gras and that person in our PTA is our **President**, _____.

Here is your fancy crown. (Burger King) Like the royal Rex, the President serves as the head of the PTA. She is supported and assisted by many wonderful Krewes of many wonderful people that make up the board.

The Krewe of Rex invented the Mardi gras colors. Each color signifies a special characteristic that they wanted both Mardi gras and their king to have. These qualities will surely help the president as she strives to her best.

- The *purple* stands for justice, a quality that she will try to give to all that the job entails. We hope this Gavel (with purple ribbon) will help you keep balance and perspective in your meetings and in the PTA organization. If not just use it to knock some sense into anyone that gives you any trouble.
- The gold represents power, the power we give to her to perform her duties as president. In this case we present Julie with this gold “Queen Bee” pin because she is truly the leader of our Organization.
- The *green* signifies the faith, the faith we show in her by asking her to lead our organization again as well as the faith she must find in herself to do so. As a sign of our faith and appreciation we present you with this green plant. May it, like the _____ PTA, continue to grow under your care.

Now our Mardi Gras parade has come to an end and I conclude that the officers of the _____ PTA are duly installed.