

### Parent Education Network Hires Outreach Staff

November and December have kept us busy with new staff trainings! We are proud to introduce to you these great individuals and the areas that they will be serving:

**Deb Simon**—Thermopolis, Shoshoni and Worland

**Lisa Heimer**—Cody, Lovell, Powell, Greybull and Basin

**Marcy Elton-Meeks**—Casper, Glenrock, Douglas and Lusk

**Brenda Hatanelas**—Cheyenne, Laramie, Wheatland, and Torrington

We continue to look for great individuals to join our team in Riverton and Rock Springs. Hopefully in January we will have them on board and will be able to introduce them!  
See their full information at our [website!](#)

### Resources for Your School

You are an involved parent. You have made that extra effort to be the “go-to parent” for other parents to rely on. Because you are busy, we at the Parent Education Network strive to make your job easier. Check out these websites for great resources, ideas and success stories!

- **Parent Involvement Matters**—a grassroots group who believes in the power of parent involvement. [Check it out!](#)
- **PTO Today**—online resource for ideas, advice and message board to network with others groups! [Check it out!](#)
- **The Futures Channel**—connect learning to real-life applications! Science, math and movies live here! [Check it out!](#)
- **National Coalition for Parental Involvement in Education**—resources and information on parental involvement. [Check it out!](#)

### News You Can Use....

#### **The Home-School Team**

by James P. Comer, Norris Haynes

Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. [more](#)

#### **Cultivating Parent Leaders: One District's Story**

by Roberta Furger

As a confident Louise Dodson guides a roomful of parents through the steps toward becoming advocates for their children and leaders in their schools, it's hard to believe that just a few years ago she was an angry, frustrated mom struggling to obtain services for her young son. [more](#)

#### **Getting an Education in Parent Involvement**

by: Emily Graham

A few years ago Liz Gardner's worst nightmare was speaking into a microphone at a PTO meeting. The mother of two overcame her fear of speaking to groups, and this summer she presented her plan to raise parental involvement in academics to the Kentucky commissioner of education. [more](#)

#### **Teach Your Kids About Real Life**

by: Sacha Zimmerman

Learning values and character at home is as important as any schoolwork or extracurricular activity. [more](#)



### Good Apple Spotlight

Eastside Elementary in Cody, WY celebrated their BINGO for Books by working not only with their parents and teachers, but actively involved the ideas and creativity of their children. Kids made all invitations and posters for the event, giving them a great reason to bring their parents to the activity! Congrats to Ann and the Eastside crew for this month's Good Apple Spotlight Award.

### Activity Ideas

**Math Night**—bring your math curriculum to life! Help parents understand the why behind “Why do we need to learn this!”

**Science Night**—get down and dirty with science! Make learning fun by conducting experiments with your kids!

**Trick or Treat for Books**—spooktacular event where reading is the tasty treat!

**Tech the Halls**—catch up to your kids! Learn how technology is integrated into their day!

**Jammies and Jingles Night**—snuggle up with a good book and celebrate the reason for the season!

### Content Standards?

*“Some parents attending seemed shocked at the complexity/purpose of the standards!”*

-TG,

Westridge Elementary