

# NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2008



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Greetings to all! After the flurry of the beginning-of-the-year activities things are starting to slow down and most of you are settling into your positions as board members. You have dedicated long hours both in and out of school already. Thank you!

The Council Board was busy too. Since summer, we have held a total of 18 board position trainings and 4 Leader Orientation Training sessions, of which over 60 schools have taken advantage. In addition, we have met with a number of board members one-on-one and answered scores of e-mails and phone calls. Our role as a Council Board is to help you be successful in your positions, so please do not hesitate to contact us!

To further help your board be successful, we are offering Local Board Orientations. If you ask, one of us will come to your school, sit down with your Board, and go through the best practices for your PTA. Even though we're a couple months into the school year, if your board needs a little boost or refresher course, a Local Board Orientation can help! This allows everyone

to hear the same message at the same time by the same person.

I have sent out e-mails to all the presidents on audits, proper procedures for opening bank statements, PTA financial paperwork that should be sent to Central Office, things to do at your first board and general meetings, and a sample meeting script. If you are a president and are not getting my e-mails, please let me know. I know there are a few of you who do not have an e-mail address. If you are without access to e-mail it would be to your advantage to ask a fellow Board member if you can use his/her e-mail as a point of contact. With 88 schools for Council to assist, I'm sure you can appreciate how much easier it is to get out information with just one mass e-mail.

A recent e-mail requested the name of your PTA's Council Delegate and the name of his/her alternate. According to your bylaws, you are to have one. The role of Council Delegate is to attend the general Council meetings and report back to your local Board.

If the position of Council Delegate is listed in your bylaws as being a member of your Board, then it is a separate position. If it is not listed, then you can have someone already on the Board volunteer to take on that duty. Each local PTA is expected to have three representatives attend each general Council meeting: Principal (or alternate); President (or alternate); Council Delegate (or alternate). Please submit the name of your PTA's Council Delegate and alternate to the Council Secretary, Kristi Loy [kloy@satx.rr.com](mailto:kloy@satx.rr.com) no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> (also stipulated in your bylaws).

Speaking of bylaws, do you know where yours are? Even more importantly, have you read them? Do each of your board members have a copy of them? Knowledge of your bylaws is invaluable. Your bylaws tell you, among many other things, who is on your board, how much your dues should be, when you should have your general meetings and how many people need to be present at them for a quorum, and when you should have your elections.

If your bylaws are missing-in-action, contact Texas PTA at 1-800-TALK-PTA and ask them for a copy. They'll have them!

At our Council meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup> we were honored to have past Texas PTA President Michelle Humphreys present a program entitled *Principals and PTA Presidents: Common Goal, Uncommon Teamwork*. Her presentation addressed the roles of principals, presidents, and board members and how we can all work together to help achieve PTA's Vision Statement of "making every child's potential a reality".

As President, I have the privilege of hearing about the many achievements of Northside's PTAs. I wanted you to have that privilege as well, so we've included a few success stories from PTAs in our district. We hope they give you some good ideas.

Thanks again for all you do!

Jody Weitman  
NISD Council of PTAs  
President  
695-1680  
[sjweit@aol.com](mailto:sjweit@aol.com)

### Your NISD Council of PTAs 2008 - 2009 Executive Board

President - Jody Weitman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Donna Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Kim DeCock  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President - (Open)  
Secretary - Kristi Loy  
Treasurer - Roland Garza

Historian - Evelyn Thomas  
Parliamentarian - Julie Eversole  
JCJ Scholarship Chair - Melody Kob  
Founders Day Chair - Jo Ann Johnson  
Membership - Beth Bath  
Hospitality - Martha Zamarripa

Arts in Education - Deede Goethke  
Ways and Means - Tisha Unger  
Publications - Maureen Concklin  
New School Liaison - (Open)

## IMPORTANT DATES!



**October 15**  
Council Dues due to Roland Garza, Council Treasurer

**October 15**  
Membership list to State PTA

**October 15**  
990N, 990EZ, or 990 due to IRS if end of fiscal year is May 31<sup>st</sup>

**October 15**  
Council Delegate name due to Kristi Loy, Council Secretary

**November 6**  
7:00pm NISD Council of PTAs General Meeting NAC

**November 10**  
7:00pm Presidents' Roundtable NAC

**November 14**  
Reflections Turn-In Date NAC

**November 14**  
Penny Drive Ends

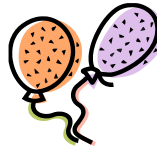
**November 15**  
990N, 990EZ, or 990 dues to IRS if end of fiscal year is June 30<sup>th</sup>

**November 19**  
7:00pm Founders Day Meeting Knowlton Elementary

**January 8**  
7:00pm NISD Council of PTAs General Meeting NAC

## "100 for 100"

How many times have you been able to celebrate a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday? As many of you may or may not know, Texas PTA is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year! In honor of this historic event, the NISD Council of PTAs set a goal of having 100 Northside PTA members attend the Texas PTA Convention in Austin, TX, February 27 - March 1, 2009. We are calling it "100 for 100" and we would really like to see 100 NISD PTA members' smiling faces at the convention this year. So mark your calendars and start making plans now to attend, and be sure to check your budgets and amend them as needed so you will have the funds to go.



NISD Council of PTAs set up a 100 for 100 Fund for PTAs that might need help with registration. Please contact us to apply for Convention Registration fees from this fund. *If your PTA has a little extra and would like to donate to this fund, please contact us. See you in Austin!*

## NISD Council of PTAs Jack C. Jordan Scholarship

The NISD PTA Council has been in existence and awarding scholarships for over 40 years. 230 graduates of NISD high schools have received PTA scholarships, totaling over \$195,000 in financial aid to date.

In order to receive a Jack C. Jordan Scholarship, a student must file the application according to the procedures outlined in the application packet and must be a member, or a parent must be a member, of a local PTA.

Applications are available in high school counselors' offices and are due February 6th. One recipient and an alternate are selected from each NISD high school with a graduating class.

Finalists will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee in April, and recipients will be announced at the May 2009 PTA Council Meeting.

Criteria for receiving a Jack C. Jordan Scholarship are listed below. The recipient must:

- Be a graduate of a NISD high school
- Attend a regionally accredited two/three/four year college or university (e.g. SAC)
- Exhibit the NISD Pillars of Character
- Need financial assistance
- Have a scholastic record satisfactory to the Committee
- Be a member, or a parent must be a member, of a local PTA

*The monetary value of the scholarship is up to \$2,400. Payments of \$600 are paid annually in two installments, \$300 for each semester. Checks are mailed directly to the colleges or universities.*

Continuance of the scholarship each semester is at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and is contingent upon the recipient being responsible for the following:

- Requesting renewal in writing to the Committee
- Taking at least 12 course hours each semester
- Maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA each semester
- Maintaining continuous enrollment in the fall and spring semesters
- Submitting copies of grades each semester in a timely manner

For further information about this scholarship, please contact your school counselor or high school career center.

**-Melody Kob**  
**Scholarship Chairperson**



All contributions benefit the NISD Council of PTAs Jack C Jordan Scholarship Fund  
 Contact Melody Kob, Scholarship Chairperson, with any questions you may have.

## FOUNDERS DAY

The Founders Day meeting was held at Knowlton Elementary at 7:00pm on September 30th. We had 29 in attendance. Listed are some of the highlights and updates.

Event Details: Our theme for this year is *100 Years Strong!!!*

Founders Day will be held on February 05, 2009 at The Norris Convention Center at the Norris Conference Center in Crossroads Mall. The time will be as follows: 5:30pm mingling-6:15pm serving line opens (ushers to direct) – 7:00pm promptly program will begin. Please note-tables can be set up earlier that day starting at 8:00 am.

We are still in the process of picking a caterer. Because of the rising price of *everything* we are getting offers from different businesses. Thanks to the people who have sent me contacts of catering companies in the area.

The program cover contest will be open to all schools. Contest dates are October 20 through November 14. All schools should be receiving the contest flyer by October 13. Please copy and distribute to all students. They should be brought to our next meeting and turned in to our cover contest chairperson, Evelyn Zinda, of Leon Valley E.S.

Michelle Levell of Scarborough E.S. has volunteered to use her expertise in doing the invitations and programs. Thank you, and if anyone else would like to help, please feel free to give me a call.

All schools are asked to make a display showing what your PTA has accomplished over the last 100 years. This should be on a regular sized poster board (22x28). It can be drawn, a collection of pictures, or a collage of newspaper articles what ever you decide. The poster board needs to be laminated so it can be

posted around the room. Thanks to Vice Principal Lisa Morris and Laura Liesman of Fisher E.S. for volunteering to bring helpers to decorate the ballroom. They will be joined by Ernestine Ovalle from Hobby M.S.

Clark H.S. will be doing the entertainment in the form of the National Anthem and the Presentation of Colors. This will be coordinated by Anna Werland.

The highlight of the evening will be our guest speaker, Jan Harp Domene, National PTA President. Evelyn Garcia is in the process of getting someone to do the invocation for the evening.

Neil Kalinowski will be the coordinator for our volunteers and servers. If you have a group or organization who needs community hours and would be interested in helping please give me a call (682-3992) or e-mail [joannjohnson3992@yahoo.com](mailto:joannjohnson3992@yahoo.com)

Tickets will go on sale at the Council meeting on January 8th. We are giving each school the opportunity to purchase at

least 10 tickets. Any excess tickets will be sold on a first come first served basis. The price of the tickets will be between \$13.00 and \$15.00. With the growth of Northside School District we needed to get a facility that would have enough room to accommodate all of us without being uncomfortable. The Norris Conference Center gave us a great rate, but it did cost. Again, as soon as we finalize the price of the meal we will let you know the exact cost. Please start adjusting your local budgets accordingly.

Our next meeting is November 19, 2008 at 7:00pm at Knowlton Elementary. Please bring your Program Cover Contest winning entry to the meeting.

In closing, remember we are Northside Independent School District PTAs and we expect nothing less than exemplary.

*Jo Ann Johnson*  
 NISD Council of PTAs  
 Founders Day Chairperson

# SCHOOL NEWS



## Lawrence Powell Elementary PTA Presents

- On September 25<sup>th</sup>, in honor of CASA Family Day, a movement to inform parents that the parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance free. We held a *free* pizza dinner at the school cafeteria, and provided arts & craft activity for the families to enjoy after their meal. – CASA Family Day created by **National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University**.
- We invited the San Antonio Public Library, Forest Hills Branch to be present on CASA Family Day to speak on behalf of National Library Card Sign-up Month. Many parents were able to sign their child up for their first library card!
- In honor of Thanksgiving, we will join the Boy Scout Troop 538 during the month of November for a Food Drive benefiting the Epicenter Charity Ministry, one of our neighborhood community churches.
- On October 16<sup>th</sup> we will co-sponsor with our Title I Program, Learning Tree, a family fun event in honor of National Lights On, celebrating after-school programs. We have invited the Sol Ross Student Council, Holmes High-School cheerleaders & color guard, Holmes HS Mariachi Band, as well as our own Powell Student Council. We plan on having booths for face painting, balloon characters, food & games. - **“Research tells us that students who participate in extracurricular activities have better grades, feel greater attachment to school, have lower truancy rates and reach higher levels of achievement in college.”** - West Virginia Superintendent of Schools Steve Paine.

--- Submitted by the PTA Board Members of L. Powell Elementary



## Scarborough Elementary

Scarborough Elementary PTA has started their first year with success. We would like to thank the PTAs and contributors such as Ward Elementary, Helotes Elementary, Timberwilde Elementary, Jefferson Middle School, Costco, HEB and other private individuals who have donated. Without their generous contributions, we would not have been able to achieve goals such as beginning our new PALS program and supporting our teachers and staff with a Welcome Luncheon. We have had several opportunities to successfully surpass our membership and with your donations we have had the means to begin our year with financial stability. We look forward to our Dedication Day on November 8th at 2:00.

Shelly Guinn

Scarborough PTA President

## Jefferson Middle School PTA

What began with a simple question – “Will you join our PTA?” has turned into an amazing Parent Volunteer Program. An abundance of volunteers is the norm for elementary schools, but this year Jefferson Middle School PTA has already reached 100 volunteers and counting! What do you do with parent volunteers at this level, you ask? We started with scheduling workroom hours for those who are able to devote time during the day, and this has taken off. Our teachers appreciate our volunteers and are so thankful to have the extra help. We also have a website for scheduling volunteer time for dances, book fairs, fundraisers, and family nights. Our counselors are now training another volunteer group for the mentor program. We are excited to say our Eagle Volunteers have taken flight and will continue to soar throughout the year!

For more information contact Rosalinda Tomlin, Volunteer Chairperson, or Nikki Brown, President, at [eaglespta@yahoo.com](mailto:eaglespta@yahoo.com) or leave a voice mail at 397-3749.

-Nikki Brown, PTA President