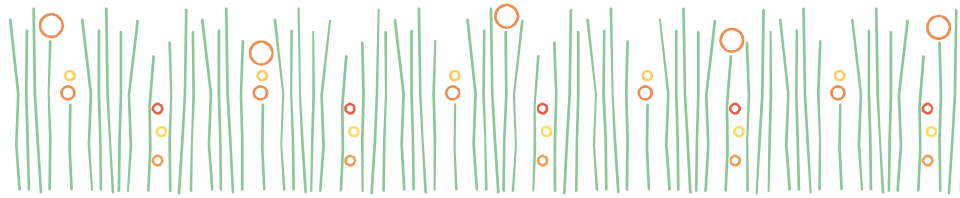


# NISD COUNCIL OF PTAS NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2009



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

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May- the last full month of school. It's the time of year when kids (and you?) start counting down the days until the end of school. It's a time of looking back on all that has been accomplished and wondering how the year managed to go so fast. Countless hours have been logged by PTA board members and volunteers, and our PTAs have much of which to be proud. You'll have a chance to read about some of our Local PTAs' successes elsewhere in this newsletter.

Most of you have had your elections by now. As a reminder, State PTA requires each Local PTA to submit a *Local Officer Information Form*. Even if you do not have a full board yet, submit what you do have! The form can be found at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org). You may mail, fax, or e-mail it. Submission details are on the Local Officer Information form.

Additionally, please submit a copy of your *Local Officer Information Form* to me for Council's records. You may e-mail it to me at

[sjweit@aol.com](mailto:sjweit@aol.com) or fax it to my home fax 695-6651. As an incentive, if you submit your form before or at the general meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>, you will be eligible to be included for an Early Bird Registration to Summer Leadership Seminar. That's a \$75 prize!

Speaking of Summer Seminar, this year it will be held July 24-26<sup>th</sup> at the Austin Convention Center. Texas PTA-sponsored Summer Leadership Seminar gives attendees the opportunity to network, gain leadership skills, and attend workshops. Workshops are available for all elected positions in addition to membership, volunteers, fundraising, and legislation just to name a few. There are also workshops on different aspects of parenting and education. Early Bird Registration is \$75. More information can be found on the Texas PTA website. You will find the training you receive at Summer Seminar invaluable. I highly recommend attending!

Council also offers training. Training workshops are scheduled in May for

President, Treasurer, Membership, and Fundraising. Two Leader Orientation Training sessions are also scheduled during this month. Leader Orientation is *required* for all officers of your board, but we highly encourage chairmen to attend as well. The dates are listed under our "Dates to Remember" section of this newsletter.

A Council training survey was sent out via e-mail to all the presidents for distribution to their board members. The Council Board is very interested in hearing everyone's opinion on the training workshops we hosted and materials we distributed in addition to knowing what training you would like to see that wasn't offered this year. We want to know how we can most help you and your PTAs be successful. If you have not submitted your survey yet, one can be downloaded from Council's website <http://www.nisdpta.org>.

We are serious about wanting to know how we can better help you, so if you turn in your survey prior to or at the general

Council meeting, you will be given a ticket (since these surveys are anonymous) for a chance at an Early Bird Registration for Summer Seminar. If you have already submitted a survey via e-mail or pony, we will be sure you get entered as well!

Presidents, be sure you have appointed your audit committees. An audit **MUST** be completed at the close of every *fiscal* year (not school year). Check your bylaws to see when your fiscal year ends. An *Audit Committee Cheat Sheet* will be forwarded to the presidents, and anyone else who is interested, the first week of May.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to my wonderful, hard-working Board Members for a successful and productive year. And thank you to each of you who have given of your time, energies, and talents to better the lives of the children whose lives we touch every day. Have a great summer!

-Jody Weitman  
President

### 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  
Technology - Michelle Levell  
New School Liaison - (Open)

**Check out the new and improved Council PTA website at [www.nisdpta.org](http://www.nisdpta.org) !**

## IMPORTANT DATES!



*May 7th*  
NISD Council of PTAs  
JCJ Scholarship Reception  
6:00pm NAC

*May 7th*  
General Council Meeting  
7:00pm NAC

*May 12th*  
Training: Leadership Orientation\*  
7:00-9:00pm NAC

*May 19th*  
Training: President, Treasurer,  
Membership, Fundraising  
9:00-11:00am NAC

*May 30th*  
Training: Leadership Orientation\*,  
President, Treasurer, Membership,  
Fundraising  
9:00-11:00am NAC

*June 4th*  
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

*July 24th-26th*  
Summer Leadership Seminar  
Austin Convention Center

(\*see next article)

## UPCOMING TRAINING DATES

Each year Council PTA offers training for the different positions on a PTA Board. These training workshops, while recommended, are not required. There is no cost associated with the position-specific workshops.

Council also offers *Leader Orientation Training (LOT)* sessions. LOT is *required* by the Texas PTA of officers of a PTA Board; however, committee chairpersons are also invited and encouraged to attend. The deadline to attend an LOT is October 15<sup>th</sup>. It is *recommended* that a person attends one of these sessions at least every 5 years. The cost is \$6.00 per person, reimbursable by the Local PTA they are representing.

All training will be held at the Northside Activity Center (NAC) located inside Loop 410 off Culebra (7001 Culebra Road).

Dates are listed to the left, under Important Dates! If you are interested in attending, contact Jody Weitman at [sjweit@aol.com](mailto:sjweit@aol.com) at least 2 weeks prior, so that supplies can be ordered\*



## Jack C. Jordan Scholarship

All of the Recipients for the scholarship have been chosen. Each of the applicants was more than deserving and AMAZING young adults who are currently helping to change the world around them. I am confident they will be among the future leaders of our community.

Thank you to all of the committee members who made this a successful endeavor. Without your help, this would not have been such a rewarding mission.

The crowning glory of this committee will be the May 7<sup>th</sup> reception for the recipients and their families at 6:00pm at NAC. The student scholars will be presented at the NISD Council of PTAs General Meeting that same night, at 7:00pm, to all in attendance.

I look forward to serving as the committee chair for the 2009-2010 school year. As we will be adding schools to our roster and losing some committee members to other responsibilities and volunteer opportunities, please contact me at [melodykob@aol.com](mailto:melodykob@aol.com) or Jody Weitman if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Again, thank you to everyone.

Melody Kob, JCJ Scholarship Chair



NISD Council of PTAs received 48 Environmental Awareness Program entries last month from the following PTAs: Fernandez, Steubing, Stinson, Thornton and Ward. Thirty-six entries advanced to Texas PTA where they are currently being judged. NISD Council of PTAs results will be on our website soon, and the list of winners will also be available at the next Council meeting. Thanks to all who participated and to their PTAs who promoted the program.



Deede Goethke, Arts in Education Chair



Starting July 1, 2009, Local PTAs will be required to remit \$4.00 per member for State and National dues. (an increase of \$1.00)

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Deede Goethke, Arts in Education Chair

“WOW” the Reflections Program had a great year and we celebrated with our annual Awards Ceremony on April 16<sup>th</sup>. An estimated 350 attendees gathered at Warren High School Auditorium where a total of 206 awards were presented. We would like to thank Dr. Folks and Trustee Lynn Britton who took time from their busy schedules and presented the awards to all of our talented young artists.

The ceremony was a great success due to the hard work of many and NISD Council of PTAs is grateful to all the members of the Reflections Committee and other volunteers:

Pete Araiza (Neff PTA), Wendy Haralson (Galm PTA), Pete Escobar (Scobee PTA), Renee Wood (Steubing PTA), Faviola Zarate (Leon Valley PTA), Linda Miller (Leon Springs PTA), Martha Zamarippa (Anson Jones PTA and Council PTA), Evelyn Thomas (Jay PTSA and Council PTA), Kim DeCock (Council PTA and Health Careers PTSA), Julie Eversole (O'Connor PTSA and Council PTA), Marte Casso (Krueger PTA), JoAnn Johnson (Knowlton PTA and Council PTA), Leslie Anderson (Helotes PTA), Kellan Rhodes (Clark PTSA), Sandra Proffitt-Marsteller (O'Connor PTSA), Danni MacNeil (Burke PTA), Susie Blazi (May PTA), Mirtha Vaughn and Joanne Jackson; Elaine Asbell (John Jay/Science Academy NHS Co-Sponsor) and the John Jay NHS volunteers. The volunteers demonstrated excellence in service and citizenship.

We also need to thank Miguel Orozco and Rachel Martinez from NISD Printing Services; Stinson Principal Mr. Frantzen and his secretary, Esther Lopez; staff at Warren High School, Vice Principal Valarie La Cour, Plant Manager Marco Rodriguez and Theatre Arts Teacher David Nanny.

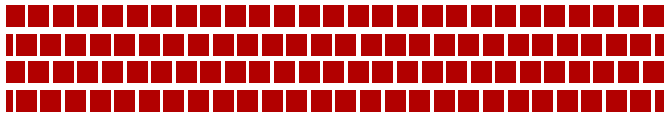
We extend our appreciation to our generous contributors; Rhodes Electrical Contracting (Bill and Kellan Rhodes), Javier C. Leal, Felix Silva from Rosemary Delivers, Half Price Books at The Strand, HEB at Bandera Pointe, WalMart at DeZavala, San Antonio Museum of Art, Santikos Theatres, Fast Frame at Bandera Point (Tom and Jan Beer), UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, and Costco at UTSA Blvd.

Congratulations to all our wonderful young artists!! Three students have art entries that are currently being exhibited in Austin.

A literature entry from Evers entitled “No One Seems to See Me” has advanced to National PTA. We are so proud of this second grade author. Way to go!!!

While the student names could not be included here, the Texas PTA Reflections results are online at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

NISD Council of PTAs would like to thank all our administrators, teachers, and parents who promoted and encouraged our students to create these wonderful art works. This year we had over 1200 entries from 43 participating PTAs. We are so proud of our students and hope to see more entries next year. The 2009-2010 Reflections theme is “Beauty is.....”.

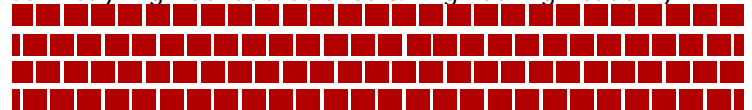


On March 27, 2009, the John Jay High School/ Science & Engineering Academy PTSA established its Wall of Fame with the induction of Dr. Mary Ann Gonzales, MD. Dr. Gonzales is the first recipient and was chosen through the nomination and selection process.

Dr. Gonzales gave a motivational speech to the young ladies of the Jay GRACE (Girls Reaching for Academics, Confidence, and Excellence) Club. After the speech, the induction ceremony took place, followed by a luncheon. Former teachers remembered Dr. Gonzales with their comments during "A Trip Down Memory Lane." Dr. Gonzales' family, friends, and former classmates attended the event as well as Jay Administration.

The purpose of the Wall of Fame is to expose students to positive role models in hopes that after seeing the accomplishments of Wall of Fame honorees the students will be determined to succeed and aspire to be like these alumni. Two other Jay alumni, Mr. Wallace B. Jefferson and Mr. Thomas Lott were recognized and honored by PTSA and were added to the Wall of Fame. Mr. Jefferson was the first African American ever to serve as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Texas. In 2004 Justice Jefferson was promoted as Chief Justice by Governor Perry. Mr. Thomas Lott is a former Oklahoma University athlete, an NFL star, and an inductee of the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame. He is currently a teacher for Dallas ISD.

Evelyn Thomas, PTSA President  
John Jay High School/ Science & Engineering Academy



### Membership News

*As this school year winds down and summer approaches, it is still a great time to join PTA! If your school has new families moving in, or if your middle school is hosting an event for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders this summer, begin your membership activities now. Also, four new schools opening in the fall are hosting charter meetings in May. All who join PTA now will be doing so for the 2009-10 school year. End of year/summer recruitment is a great way to activate your PTA for the fall and to get a head start on your membership awards for next year. Any questions regarding membership can be directed to the membership chair through the NISD Council of PTAs website. Beth Bath, Membership Chair*

### National PTA President's Visit to NISD!

On February 4th, National PTA President, Jan Harp Domene, spent a full day visiting with students, local PTA members, and administrators of NISD. Whisked off in a limousine donated by a friend of PTA, her first visit was to Forester Elementary. Principal Jeff Davenport welcomed Mrs. Domene and guests to a cafeteria full of parents watching a delightful musical performance by students and teachers. Afterwards, Madam President spoke to students and parents about how the National PTA works for them. She was interviewed by the NISD communications department for an upcoming TV segment, and then we headed to Stevens High School.

At Stevens, the group was met by Principal Harold Maldonado, Academic Dean Michelle Craig and proceeded through an arch of raised sabers provided by the JROTC. The local PTSA officers and international students welcomed Mrs. Domene, after she toured the campus and met with students in the Career Center. Mrs. Domene and her local hosts were then driven to the Northside Activity Center. Mr. Brian Woods, Mr. George Torres, Dr. Linda Mora and Dr. John Folks were able to meet with Mrs. Domene and discuss concerns facing school districts. Madam President discussed National PTA's efforts toward its most important responsibility: working with the Presidential Education Commission to

formulate how best to help students. After the visit to Stevens, Mrs. Domene and a group of PTA supporters met for lunch at Acadiana Café.

Thank you to Mr. Faylor, owner, for generously hosting and donating the lunch.

The final visit was to John Jay High School. Upon arrival, the group was greeted by Jay's decorated Mariachi Band (in full regalia), which played several lively arrangements. Mrs. Domene toured the library, hosted by Mrs. Strawn, viewed JROTC drills, lead by Colonel Dennis Levan, and heard from the Choir and Strings Ensemble.

Throughout the day, Mrs. Domene expressed genuine interest in the students. Her first inclination was to meet

each one personally and talk with them. She wanted to learn their names, what they were doing in school, and what they planned on doing with their education. She was very concerned with what was happening with the students on their campuses. They, in turn, were drawn to this very important woman whose career responsibility is to help them succeed.

To conclude the day, Mrs. Domene attended the district's Founders Day program and dinner. NISD was honored by Mrs. Domene's visit, and she was impressed with our district. We as PTA members are very fortunate to have such an energetic, knowledgeable advocate for our schools, teachers, parents, and students.

Evelyn Thomas  
Council Historian

# BRAGGING IN BRIEF



*I am proud that our PTA surpassed every goal we had set for ourselves this year! Thank You to Council for all of your help through the year.*

*Jennifer L. Roach, PTA President, Murnin Elementary*



The PTA published our first newsletter recently! Four students were given Awards of Excellence at the local level for their WOW entries. Staff member (Ms Pellegrino) was honored with a Texas PTA Lifetime Membership Award.

*Doris Cabezas, PTA President, Burke Elementary*



*Dr. Martha Mead Elementary had a large increase in membership. Excluding our teachers and staff, of which we always have 100 %, we increased our membership from 23 last year, to over 70 this year!!*

*Glenda Hemphill, PTA President*



Fernandez Elementary PTA is proud of the student and adult volunteers who stepped up to help out this year and into next fall. We're excited that organizations from three high schools helped at our annual carnival, and both current and incoming kindergarten parents have volunteered for open board positions!

*Lynne Davila, PTA President*



*This is my last year as PTA President.....I am proud to have worked with a great group of people who helped raise \$30,000 for Driggers PTA the past two years. Not bad for a brand new school!*

*Abraham Diaz, PTA President*



Scobee had its annual carnival and did better than expected!! We far exceeded our goal which has enabled us to earmark some contributions to our school for next year: fund all of the field trips, continue to support our NEW outdoor classroom, and continue our classroom libraries plus add accelerated reading. In all, we had a very successful year even with the economy issues!!

*Shannon J. Gibbs, PTA President*



*Our first year has been a fantastic and fun-filled learning experience! We are so proud of the teamwork involved from not only the board, but the parents, staff and community as well. Thank you all!*

*Shelly Guinn, PTA President, Scarborough Elementary*



Most recently Carlos Coon Elementary had their 30<sup>th</sup> year celebration. The PTA supported the Art Departments tile project, creating a beautiful color tile area just off the main hallway, with tiles decorated by the 5th graders. They included a tile that thanks the PTA for its support. The PTA provided further support to the project's celebration with greenery and flowers for the front lobby, and helped with the food that was served to guests. Dr. Folks and others from central office came to the celebration.

PTA sponsored the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual bike rodeo and provided hot coffee and breakfast snacks to the Carlos Coon parents that volunteered for the event. The PTA has lent support to the different departments, for example, Math night and others, and provided a lot of support to Teacher (food, gifts, and special attention during Teacher Appreciation week)!

*Estela Gosset, PTA President*





*Aue Elementary had a great year, including a 10% increase in membership. The PTA also decided to have its first annual Gatorfest festival instead of catalog sales and it proved to be not only financially successful, but it also brought our school and community together.*

*Monica Godkin, PTA President*



Bob Beard Elementary PTA is proud to have earned \$17,000 on our very first Walk-a-thon. The PTA also sent every Beard student (1,200) on a field trip and included every student in our annual Art Show. The PTA introduced monthly Staff Surprises, in addition to providing four staff meals throughout the year. We placed second in the San Antonio City Council Green Team Challenge and fourth in Project Re-Directory. And the volunteers clocked more than 2,300

volunteer hours by mid-February!  
Susan Gallaway, PTA President



*Zachry Middle School PTA is proud to have a team of committed volunteers to serve the needs of our school. In addition, we have many parents/families/teachers who volunteer their time to help with the programs Zachry brings to our students and families throughout the year.*

*Cathy Canales, PTA President*



Stevenson MS's membership chair, Donnis Carpenter, did an awesome job with our membership this year. Because of her out-of-the-box thinking, we beat last year's member roster by 100, plus more members this year.

Regina Headrick, PTA President



## Congratulations to the 2009-2010 NISD Council of PTAs Elected Officers

President-Jody Weitman  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-Donna Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President-Kim De Cock  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President-Michelle Levell  
Secretary-Kristi Loy  
Treasurer-Roland Garza