

# From the President



## NISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

Let me begin by saying thank you and congratulations to Jo Ann Johnson and her committee for yet another fantastic Founders Day banquet. Planning for this event started way back in September and involved several meetings and the combined efforts of numerous people from throughout Northside. Their hard work and attention to details paid off with a beautifully executed evening.

Congratulations also to Cindy Santoskoy and her committee for the wildly successful silent auction. Of course, I would be remiss in not acknowledging our Local PTAs for their part in making Council's silent auction so successful. The baskets and donated items were wonderful! I know it took extra time to solicit and assemble the donations, so to those of you who generously donated and/or purchased the items, thank you very much!

We were honored this year to have two very important PTA dignitaries join us at our celebration: Mr. Chuck Saylor, National PTA President and Mrs. Jan Wilkerson, Texas PTA President. Earlier in the day Mr. Saylor (Chuck, as he prefers to be called) and a few Council members had the privilege of touring Colonies North Elementary where we were taken on a guided tour of the school. Many thanks to Principal Sonya Kirkham, Vice Principal Chris Cotton, and PTA President Ann Pruski for taking the time out of their busy schedules to show off the strides they have made in addressing the needs of their very special populations. Thank you also to Linda Reyes, Executive Director Elementary Instruction, for coming along to lend another perspective.

As Chuck mentioned in his speech, one of the things that struck him the most was the level of enthusiasm and partnership among the PTA and the district. To those of us who have been doing this for awhile, it comes as no surprise that he would make this comment. We are proud of Northside and proud of PTA's role in making Northside the successful district it is. Your work at the local level is invaluable!

As is tradition, Council PTA awards a

Life Membership to one or two persons who have positively impacted the lives of children not just at his or her school, but throughout the district as well. This year we were pleased to award a Texas Life Membership to Ann Gonsalves from Hobby Middle School. She is a person deserving of honor, indeed!

A newer tradition is the awarding of the Outstanding Principal and Vice/Assistant Principal of the Year Awards. Each year the committee struggles with choosing a winner among the very deserving nominees. This year Mark Rustan of Beard Elementary received the Outstanding Principal of the Year Award and Sallie Frederick of Hatchett Elementary was the recipient of the Outstanding Vice Principal of the Year Award. Congratulations to both of them!

Over the past few months Council held a series of Bylaws Bashes. If you attended one of these bashes, please remember that simply rewriting your bylaws does not make them official. The amendments must be first okayed by the general membership and then sent to Texas PTA for final review and approval. Feel free to contact a Council Board member if you have any questions.

By now most of you should have had the general meeting at which your nominating committee was elected. The nominating committee is the committee charged with finding the best qualified nominees for the elected offices of your Local Board. This committee is elected at the general meeting held just prior to your Local PTA's election meeting.

Election meetings will begin in March. Check your bylaws to see when your PTA is to have its election meeting. If your nominating committee was not able to identify a nominee for a position, hopefully someone will step forward when you take nominations from the floor during the election meeting. A

sample script for an election meeting may be found in the PTA Handbook on pages 221-222.

And speaking about elections, remember it is important to find the best person for each position.

Do not feel as if you must find someone, anyone, to fill a position. It is not unheard of for an elected position to not be filled at the election meeting. It is better to wait until you find a person



who has the time and commitment to follow through with the duties required rather than placing a "warm body" in a position.

As always, if you need help with your elections, or anything else related to PTA, please do not hesitate to ask a Council Board member for help. That's what we're here for. Thank you to all of you for your role in making NISD Council of PTAs a strong, active council.

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## Important Dates!

### March 4

Vendors Fair

Northside Activity Center 1:00-8:00pm

### March 4

Council PTA Election Meeting

Northside Activity Center 7:00pm

### April 14

Area 7 Election Meeting and Spring Training

Woodlawn Hills Elementary (SAISD)



4:30pm Leader Orientation Training

6:00pm Meeting

6:30pm Road Rules

### May 6

Jack C. Jordan Scholarship Reception

Northside Activity Center 6:00pm

### May 6

Council PTA Regular Meeting

Northside Activity Center 7:00pm

## 2009-2010 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM UPDATES

Thank you to everyone who worked to make our 2010 Reflections Program a success. On February 25th we gathered at Warren High School to honor the students who earned an Award of Excellence, Award of Merit, or Honorable Mention at the Council Level. Principals, teachers, parents, and PTA members joined us to recognize the students'

achievements. Dr. John Folks, Superintendent, and Mr. George Britton, School Board Member, were there to present the awards. The ceremony was followed by refreshments.

# BEAUTY

## IS...



## Treasurer's Corner

March and April are good months to form a budget committee and begin the process of creating a budget for the next fiscal year. If a new treasurer will be coming on board, it is a good idea to have them be part of the budget committee so they get the experience of the process. Remember, your general membership should approve your budget by May. This ensures having spending authorization for the summer time (for attending Summer Seminar in Austin) and the beginning of the school year. During the summer your ex-

ecutive board should meet and write plans of work to define the goals of the new fiscal year and possibly amend budgets at the first meeting in the fall.

In either March or April, remind your President about forming an audit committee that can meet during the summer to audit the books. This is very important. Remember that signers on the bank account



and the incoming treasurer cannot be on that committee. Guidelines for the audit are found in the Texas PTA Treasurers Guide.

Roland Garza  
Treasurer  
NISD Council of PTAs

# Membership

# GET BACK TO BASICS

Congratulations to all the PTAs which have earned Membership Awards so far this year. The membership awards are tangible proof of all the hard work, long hours and commitment of our dedicated Membership Chairs. Your efforts are much appreciated! However, please remember that membership recruiting is not over. The following awards are still available and achievable, but note some require a form to be submitted.

- Spring Membership Increase Award (postmarked by March 15th)  
Presented to each local PTA whose fall membership total for this year met or exceeded the membership total for the previous fall and who submitted dues and a membership roster for at least 25 additional members between that fall deadline and the spring deadline (postmarked by March 15). No form to submit.
- Golden Apple Award (Year Round Award—postmarked by March 15th)  
Presented to each local PTA that recruits 100% of school faculty. Texas PTA's definition of faculty is: principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, and aides employed at the campus full time. Appropriate award form must be submitted.
- Individual Hero Award (Year Round Award—postmarked by March 15th)  
Presented to any member who recruits 10 or more members. Appropriate award form must be submitted.
- Student Membership Achievement (Year Round Award—postmarked by March 15th)  
Presented to each local PTA that recruits 25 or more student members. Appropriate award form must be submitted.

As many of you who attended the Founders Day Banquet this year know, the awards were placed on your designated tables. I know of at least one PTA who did not pick up their envelope as another did so accidentally and kindly ponied it to the correct PTA. If that sounds familiar, please pony your incorrect envelope to the addressee as well. It's good to know that everyone is looking out for each other. If there has been an error with your PTA's membership awards or any other concerns please contact me asap so that it may be corrected or addressed in a timely manner. You can call me at 588-9413 or email me at membership@nisdpta.org.

Your Membership Chair, Deede Goethke



## Penny Drive



Thanks to your efforts, the 2009-2010 penny drive raised a total of \$20,660.64! A scholarship in the amount of \$2,400.00 will be awarded to one senior from each Northside ISD high school. On behalf of the graduating seniors who will benefit from these scholarship funds, thank you.

And now the Jack C. Jordan Scholarship Committee will turn its attention to reviewing applications from what is sure to be many deserving applicants. The interview process will begin in April and the scholarship winners will be announced at the General

Council Meeting in May.



Mary Hodde  
Jack C. Jordan  
Scholarship Committee Chairperson

## Your NISD Council of PTAs 2009-2010 Executive Board

President—Jody Weitman

1st Vice President - Donna Smith

2nd Vice President - Kim De Cock

3rd Vice President - Michelle Levell

Secretary - Geri Bartuch

Treasurer - Roland Garza

Historian - Celina Ibarra

Parliamentarian - Cindy Santoscoy

Arts in Education - Juliet Ray

Hospitality - Martha Zamarrripa

Membership - Deede Goethke

Ways and Means - Tisha Unger

Publications - Cynthia Prichard

Technology - Elizabeth Kalka

Aide-to-the-Treasurer - Nikki Brown

JCJ Scholarship Chair - Mary Hodde

Founders Day - Jo Ann Johnson

Legislation - Tracy Stallworth

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Meadow Village

Here at Meadow Village we are so excited about this year! In membership we had all the faculty become members (award #1), we increased our membership 10% (award #2), had lots of men join this year (award #3), and had one board member recruit lots of members (award #4).

For our Fall/Spring fundraiser we went with the company Fundraiser Etc...local company...and we were able to have a Kids Corner Store for Christmas...all the kids had the opportunity to buy at least one or more items...it was fun,



touching and AWESOME!

We could say that our kids had a GREAT Winter Break!!!

We are getting ready to do some SUPER NICE things for our TEACHERS (teacher appreciation week)!

Way to go BOBCATS!

NISD Council of PTAs would like to extend a special "Thank You" to The UPS Store located at 11844 Bandera Road for their support in getting our newsletter printed.



## Blattman Elementary Black Bears!

Our Blattman Elementary Black Bears and their families came through for our Sister School Villarreal Elementary this Holiday season. In November, our Student council held a Turkey Drive collecting well over 40 turkeys for deserving Villarreal families. The kids' creative posters alerted parents to the event during morning drop-off and carts of donated turkeys quickly filled up throughout the week. With packed trunks, the turkeys were delivered to Villarreal in time for Thanksgiving. Right on the heels of that project, another one was under way. The

Blattman PTA set up a Bear Angel Tree in the Blattman rotunda for our Holiday PTA Program. It was much like visiting the angel trees that pop-up around town for the holidays. We were thrilled to serve 65 children, including siblings, through Villarreal. The adoption of Bear Angels went smoothly as well as the bountiful return of gifts.



Again, with trunks and trucks packed to the gills, a delivery was made to Villarreal. They had several students on hand to help unload the wrapped clothes and toys which proved to be very helpful and efficient. The Blattman PTA looks forward to an on-going partnership with Villarreal Elementary and reaching, if not exceeding, our Benevolence Committee's goal of

## Jefferson Middle School Internet Safety and Sexting Program

Come join us at Jefferson Middle School (10900 Shaenfield Road) for a FREE and Informative Program on March 25th at 6:30pm.



Presented by: Jacqueline R. Redding, NISD Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities, NISD Middle School Prevention Counselor.

# SCHOOL NEWS

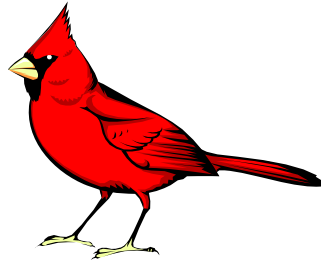
## Family Game Night with Carnahan PTA!!!

On February 11 the Carnahan PTA hosted a Family Game Night at the school. What a memorable night! Spear-headed by April Bailey, 1st VP-Programs, she recruited her husband to act as our host (aka Howie Mandel) for the Carnahan "Deal or No Deal". Using large silver gift bags, and a few students as the lovely assistants, contestants were chosen by ticket draws handed out during sign in. There were great family board games as prizes and pizza for dinner! This night was also our PTA General Meeting, which served as the "commercials" during the game.

After "Deal or No Deal" families had the

opportunity to sit at the tables and play a game as a family. (Families were re-quested to bring a board game.)

We were also joined that night by Game Truck Party. Some of you may remember that we received an email from Jody about this company. They have a "video room" on wheels that seats up to 16 people. Being that our



theme was "Family Game Night" they brought video games that can be played by up to 4 people. They also joined us in encouraging the parents to play these games with their kids instead of just watching the kids play. Each family had the opportunity to play that evening.

Each family walked away knowing how easy and fun it is to bring the family together for a game night, whether it be a board game or video game. What a successful event!

Geri Bartuch-Carnahan PTA President

## Braun Station Elementary PTA - Fun with Science Week

Braun Station Elementary PTA is excited to have just wrapped up two weeks of Science. Our PTA provided a hands-on "Fun with Science" week for all students grades K-5. Each class participated in a 45 minute hands-on lab where they rotated among five stations and participated in eleven hands-on experiments. This special lab was parent run and PTA funded. Three classes visited the lab each day over a two week period.



Some of the experiments included germs, energy and motion, oil and water, hot vs. cold molecules, and pH testing. Positive feedback was given from students, teachers and parents. Several teachers have even taken some of the experiments back to the classroom to further study the concepts.

A very special Thank You to all the volunteers who put in their time and enthusiasm to make this lab a very successful and special event for our students.

## Luna Middle School PTA

During Summer Seminar, Luna attended the "Look Before You Leap" session, particularly because they advertised relevance to middle school students. During the session, they introduced a book, SUCCESS for Teens, mentioning that it would be free to any non-profit organization who requested it. We were provided with several copies of the book for the Board Members to review and one for the Principal of Luna, Mrs. Pierson. SUCCESS for Teens discusses goals, small steps that can help to achieve goals and taking responsibility for one's actions and destiny. After reviewing the book, we decided to take them up on their offer and order a copy for every student at Luna. Within less than a week, they shipped a copy for each student with absolutely no charge. (Even the shipping was free!) During the last week of January, Luna students started reading the book during their advisory classes. Classes were discussing the material and were very enthusiastic



about the book. Teachers have been commenting that they are excited to have a worthwhile advisory project and students seem to be interested and enjoying SUCCESS for Teens.

Also this month, we decided to sponsor a "Change for Haiti" drive. We asked students to donate change for Haiti relief and explained that this was for charity, so there was no "prize" for the most donations—we also explained that 100% of the money would be distributed to "Harvest International" to help orphanages in Haiti, promoting a sort of "kids helping kids" theme. Parents collected the coins during advisory, then counted the donations. Luna students showed that they really care and want to make a difference—in just one week they donated \$2, 653.22!

## **In honor of O'Connor High School's much loved principal, Larry Martin.**

An O'Connor student and another friend from O'Connor who graduated last year are putting together a team at A&M for Relay for Life in honor of Mr. Martin.

The following information was posted on her Facebook:

To honor Mr. Martin, we have created a team for the Aggie Relay for Life. The purpose of Relay for Life is to raise money for the American Cancer Society to show our support for those battling cancer, to remember those who have been lost to cancer, and to honor the survivors. The event takes place on April 9th at Texas A&M. We need at least one team of 8-15 people to actually walk the track on this night. As a team, we have set a goal to raise \$1500. If you live in College Station, or would like to come to participate, please go to [aggierelay.tamu.edu](http://aggierelay.tamu.edu) and click on "Join A Team". Our team is called "O'Connor Aggies Honoring Mr. Martin". As a team member you can participate in the actual event and raise money. We are hoping that more than 15 people will participate so that multiple teams can be formed.

If you aren't able to join our team, please consider making a donation to our team by going to [aggierelay.tamu.edu](http://aggierelay.tamu.edu), and click on "Make a Donation". You will then be prompted to type in our team name, "O'Connor Aggies Honoring Mr. Martin", in order to directly donate to it.

We have created this team to remember and honor Mr. Martin, who has influenced every one of our lives in countless ways. Please join our team, and help us show Mr. Martin how much he will be missed. --He will be remembered always--

Thanks and Gig 'Em

Bekah Lopez and Sara Muldoon

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## **PTA and PROJECT GRADUATION**

Do you have questions about how Project Graduation and PTA can work together? If so, please contact Kim DeCock at [f4k@aol.com](mailto:f4k@aol.com) or 697-9692. We will be glad to come and meet with you about this.



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### **Official Call to the AREA 7 PTA Election Meeting and Spring Training Opportunities**

To: All Area 7 PTA Members

(Local PTA Members; Officers & Chairmen; Council Officers & Chairmen; Teachers & Administrators)

FROM: The Area 7 PTA Board of Directors

Lois Pearson, President

WHEN: Wednesday, April 14, 2010

WHERE: Woodlawn Hills Elementary (110 W. Quill Drive, San Antonio)

SCHEDULE: 4:30pm Leader Orientation Training

6:00pm Area 7 Election Meeting

6:30pm Road Rules presented by Karen Slay, Texas PTA 2nd VP

COST: Leader Orientation Training \$6.00 (payable to TXPTA)

Road Rules - No charge

RSVP: Margaret Placek, SAISD Council President, at [wowi\\_placek@att.net](mailto:wowi_placek@att.net) or 922-0609