



# Pearland Council of PTAs Newsletter

February 2008

Website: [www.pearlandpta.org](http://www.pearlandpta.org)

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Greetings from the Council of PTAs President...

It is that time of year when most PTAs have nomination committees. These committees should be filling a slate of officers for their PTAs. Our council nominating committee is doing the same thing.

We are also going to be sending out information soon about forming a new PTA for Barry Miller Middle School. We will have an informational meeting, set up some committees and then organize at the second meeting. Please watch for a flyer and help us get another PTA started for our Pearland children.

### **\*\*Reminder\*\***

PTA Council Meeting

Monday, March 31, 2008

Executive Meeting 5:45  
Dinner Provided

General Meeting 6:30

Conference Rm D

Fay Watson  
PISD Council of PTAs President

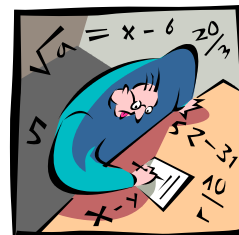


Don't forget to vote! Early voting is through February 29, 2008.  
Primary voting is on March 4, 2008.

## General Information

### SAT/ACT TESTING DATES:

SAT Testing	Registration	Late Registration (fees apply)
Test Dates		
March 1, 2008	Jan. 29, 2008	Feb. 7, 2008
May 3, 2008	April 1, 2008	April 10, 2008
June 7, 2008	May 6, 2008	May 1, 2008



For testing locations and information about the SAT, call 866.756.7346 Monday through Friday from 7a.m. to 8 p.m. or visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

ACT Testing	Registration	Late Registration (fees apply)
Test Dates		
April 12, 2008	March 7, 2008	March 8-21, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008	May 10-23, 2008

For testing locations and information about the ACT, call 319.337.1270 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or visit [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

You can always check with the PHS or Dawson Counselors' Offices for further information.

See your counselor for information concerning registration payments and test preparation.

### Scholarship News:

Notice to Pearland High School Seniors: The Pearland ISD Council of PTAs Scholarship deadline is February 28/29, 2008. Applications are available in the Pearland High School Counselors' Office.

Scholarships are available for students wishing to continue their education at trade/technical schools, two-year junior/community colleges and four-year colleges/universities. To be eligible for a scholarship the student must be a Pearland High School Senior at the time of application and have a GPA of 2.0 or better.

Address questions to the PHS Counselors' Office or Debbie Cooley, Pearland ISD Council of PTAs Scholarship Chairman: [debbiecooley@comcast.net](mailto:debbiecooley@comcast.net).

## Money Matters – Christie Gee

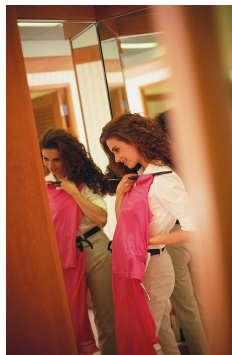
PTA Convention (Feb 22nd-24th)

Early Bird Registration is Due by December 20th so please email if interested in attending through Council. There is one extra room available. Contact me - [christiegee@comcast.net](mailto:christiegee@comcast.net) if you need a room.

### Community Closet/SWAP Shop Information

PTAs to provide at least two volunteers to work at the Community Closet/SWAP shop on the listed Tuesdays from 4-7pm. Email Ruth Theriot if your PTA can provide two volunteers for April or May. AND if you have people willing to volunteer at any other times please let Ruth Theriot know [lpajther@aol.com](mailto:lpajther@aol.com).

9-25-2007 Massey Ranch  
10-30-07 CJ Harris  
11-27-07 Shadycrest  
1-29-08 Magnolia  
2-26-08 Alexander  
3-25-08 Jamison  
4-29-08 [Lawhon](#)  
5-20-08 \_\_\_\_\_



News from the  
Carnivals  
**Rustic Oak Elementary PTA News**

Rustic Oak will be having their Carnival on April 12th from 11:00 - 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come and have fun!!!

Recycling program is still going on, on a monthly basis and we recycle aluminum cans, paper, cell phones, and ink cartridges. Each drive we have for aluminum cans brings in about \$100.00 and this money goes toward teacher mini-grants that they can "apply" for to use in their classroom and they do not have to spend their own money.

We will be selling our 2 cotton candy machines and if you are interested, please contact our PTA at [www.info@rusticoakpta.org](mailto:www.info@rusticoakpta.org).

Edna Darby, President

## Pearland Junior High South



Pearland Junior High South's PTA is attempting to collect more Box Tops than ever before. The campaign began with a flier that went out to all parents, teachers, and administrators. Students began bringing in the Box Tops on Monday, February 11 and will continue through Friday, March 14. The Box Tops come to the students' advisory teachers. The class collecting the most will receive a donut and juice party after Spring Break. The advisory teacher for the winning class will receive a prize. Since our teachers enjoy special treats, the competition is on. The executive board is looking forward to a very successful campaign.

Pearland Junior High South's PTA joined with the National Junior Honor Society to collect donations from parents and students to send to our soldiers in Iraq. Personal hygiene items along with hard candies, magazines, stationary, pens, and pencils were packaged into flat rate boxes and mailed. South's PTA paid postage for 78 boxes.

**Rose Pentecost**



## Pearland High School

PHS.... The Pearland High School PTA is looking for people like you to serve on the Executive Board for the next school year. Come join the fun and get involved at PHS. Your student will be graduating before you know it and we want your experience before you graduate also!! At the high school level, the administration, teachers and staff at PHS are very inviting and appreciate any and all the help that is provided. If you are interested please email Gayle Lee - [glee62@aol.com](mailto:glee62@aol.com)



### *The Last Word.....*

#### Email and Email Address Etiquette

As a leader of the Council of PTAs (and other large nonprofit organizations) that uses email to communicate to its members, I have a problem. Our organizations are made up of smaller groups over which I have no real authority. In this particular instance I have no control over how email addresses get used (or misused) and then harvested by private citizens.

In my capacity as President of the Pearland Council of PTAs my major role is as an advisor. In this capacity I can give my opinions but I have no direct authority over our individual local PTA units, and I have no vote at their meetings unless I have joined their specific PTA. During this current school year, I have had to admonish more than one PTA to be careful to guard its email lists. I have encouraged PTAs to use email services like "Constant Contact", or to at the very least to use the BCC (blind copy) address field. Using this approach, addresses in the BCC field do not appear in the email and will not be forwarded to the next round of recipients. Another word of caution is to be careful about whom emails are sent--after they leave your outbox they can land **anywhere!** AND each message will travel through many servers before finally arriving at its destination.

For the most part, any email from a PTA to its email list should be informational in nature and the content must be approved by the group's board. Sharing information about when the school board meets is acceptable, but it is not appropriate to support a single candidate running for office. Letting people know that your fundraiser kicks off the next day, that you need volunteers to help the librarian, or that you are having a parent involvement program next Thursday are all good uses of email. Remember that advocacy works best when both you and your message are positive and uplifting. Investing even a few moments to assess whether the message in question upholds the ideals of PTA and sends a positive message should help in your decision concerning what should be shared with a PTA email distribution list.

Within PISD, multiple PTA email lists have been harvested and are being used by individuals to advance non-PTA related agendas. As long as the email does not contain any references about the PTA or profess to come from or speak on behalf of a PTA an individual can do with those email addresses what they wish. More importantly, I as council president am not empowered to take any specific action. I really can only caution people to use common sense with regard to their lists. I am not in a position, nor am I interested in, preventing or otherwise interfering with any individual exercising his or her freedom of speech.

I frequently receive emails from individuals who I know have captured my email address at some point over the years (probably from some broadcast e-mail distribution list). Once this happens, the only redress any of us has is to block the offending sender using spam blocking software. I get literally **hundreds** of SPAM messages every day via my four different email addresses, so I believe strongly in their value. (I am happy to recommend one or more specific spam-blocking software packages if you contact me privately.) When someone sends an unsolicited email to you, it is always your right to ask the sender of the offending message to remove your address from that distribution list and to use the BCC address field in the future so that others are not able to collect email addresses in this fashion.

In any case, before I send out any email that is full of my opinion, or forward something humorous, I ask myself three simple questions: Who should get this? Would this offend anyone? AND is this a friend-only email? I caution anyone concerning the content of what they say in an email, most especially when an email has been composed in anger. As you all well understand, damaging emails can spread like wild fire (through forwards and cc's) and sound bites from audio files can be clipped and easily shared with multitudes of recipients. The internet, in short, holds enormous power for the dissemination of information, but it does not discriminate between fact and rumor, truth and innuendo, or praise and screed. Those fine distinctions remain solely human functions.

Fay Watson  
President

**Pearland Council**  
**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
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**Pearland, TX 77588**