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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello to everyone and I hope all is going well. Spring time is almost upon us and I don't know about you but I am excited.

To kick off spring activities, and in honor of the PTA Centennial, the Pearland Council will be hosting a **Community Health Fair** on Saturday February 13, 2010 at the Sheryl Searcy Ninth Grade Center, starting at 10am-2pm. Please join us for what is sure to be a fun-filled day of activities, prizes, snacks, and a host of other healthy lifestyle events. See also the last page of this newsletter for a flyer with details concerning a blood drive that will be held in conjunction with this wonderful event. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to show your support and share a day with your family, neighbors and friends.

Also, the nominating committee has been selected. If you are interested in serving on Council, please forward your information and I will pass it along to the committee.



--Rose Terry, President
pao40r@aol.com
January 30th, 2010

HAPPENINGS

Call to Convention:

Texas PTA hereby calls its membership to send duly accredited delegates and representatives to meet at the 101st Texas PTA Annual Convention, **February 26 – 28, 2010** at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel Bayfront Tower, Corpus Christi, Texas.

Important Issues:

- Please refer to the Texas PTA Web site for candidate biographies.
- Please refer to the Texas PTA Web site concerning legislative positions and resolutions for consideration.
- Please refer to the Texas PTA Web site concerning proposed amendments to Texas PTA Bylaws.
- Please refer to the Texas PTA Web site for Convention 2010 Rules.
- Please refer to the Texas PTA Web site for workshop information.

Your voice is needed and your opinion matters. All voting delegates will have an opportunity to vote on these issues. Please remember to have your membership card and credential card with you at convention

Follow Texas PTA:

twitter

(<http://twitter.com/txstatepta>)

or Facebook

(<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=116358178759>)

The Winter 2010 issue of *The Voice* is now published on-line at:

<http://www.txpta.org/documents/PTA%20Resources/voice/2010/winter2010.pdf>

LOCAL UNIT NEWS

PHS and SNGC

The PTA parents honored the teachers and staff of both campuses (PHS and SNGC) with a holiday reception just before the break. Parents provided treats to include: cookies, cakes, brownies, breads, candy, hot chocolate, fruit and paper products. Thanks to the parents who volunteered to set up, serve, and cleanup; and thanks to those that provided the treats. As always, the staff was very thankful and appreciative and look forward to this event every year.

David McDavid Nissan is offering our PTA \$100 for every automobile that is purchased by any PTA member. Please mention our name to the Sales Manager should you purchase a vehicle there.

PTA volunteers spend many hours each week helping teachers copy items for their classroom use. Thanks to all of our parents who help with this large on-going project. If you are interested in volunteering, please notify our CopyCat Chairman, Kathy Ross at kathyross@comcast.net.

We want to thank all who have already joined the PHS PTA. We have collected 528 memberships so far and received an award from the State for signing over 500 PTA members.

The PTA members are gearing up to help several special school programs aimed at

alcohol and drug awareness for high school students in May – just in time for Prom and Graduation. The first is Shattered Dreams, which is a reenactment of an alcohol or drug-related accident that involves City services such as Fire and Police. Senior students are involved and witness first-hand; younger classmen view the video. The second is Project Graduation, which is a drug and alcohol free party for Seniors on graduation night. It's an all-nighter, and parents of younger classmen students are asked to help setup (begins days in advance), prepare, supervise and run activities, and cleanup. For more information on how you can help with these programs, please contact Troy Mauldin at tbtmauldin@sbcglobal.net.

PTA Regular Association Meetings – All members welcome:

March 1, 6:30 p.m., located at SNGC campus library (North Campus) – Elections
May 3, 6:30 p.m., located at SNGC campus library (North Campus)

--Rhonda Pool, Publicity and News Chair

Silvercrest Elementary

Mark your calendars for our big spring fundraiser...the **Fun Run & Pancake Breakfast** is coming on **March 27!** This year's theme is "Rock Around the Block". Information on run registration will be coming soon. In the meantime, we are looking for sponsors (local businesses and families) for this event. Please contact Laura Wilson at 713-436-5006 if you are interested in sponsorship. We will also be in need of silent auction items (sports & concert tickets, vacation homes, etc...) There will be a student art contest for the t-shirt design. Proceeds from this event will go towards technology upgrades for our teachers.

We need pictures for the yearbook! Calling all parents and teachers, staff and family members who have taken pictures throughout the fall...please share your students' pictures with the yearbook so we may have an enriched album of all the fun activities that have taken place this year at Silvercrest. Pictures can be turned in on CD, Memory Stick, hard copy, or e-mailed to moebes514@att.net. You can send these with your child to school in a clearly marked envelope.

The third and fourth graders will be treated to a performance of "Meet the U.S. Presidents" in February in conjunction with President's Day. Presidents of the past are going to come to life and share how they became president and what happened while they were in office. The students will have a fun time learning about the executive branch of our government.

We have several contests coming up! The Spring Box Top contest is here and will run February 1 through 12. Remember to save and turn in your Box Tops, Campbell's Soup and Tyson chicken labels! The class in each grade with the most labels will win a treat party. Then, Environmental Committee will have a Juice Pouch contest the week of March 8-12. The PTA will earn 3 cents for every pouch turned in that week. The winning class will win the opportunity to plant a tree in the Outdoor Learning Center in April. The PTA Meeting in March will be an Environmental Night.

Important dates coming up:

February:

- 1st-12th—Spring Box Tops Contest
- 4th—Which Wich day
- 1st-12th—Spring Box Tops contest

- 11th—Valentine Make & Take in the cafeteria, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- 16th—Mooyah day
- 24th—Spring Box Top Party for winning classes

March:

- 8th—Disabilities Week; Juice Pouch contest
- 10th—Cold Stone Teacher Scoop Night
- 27th—Fun Run & Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- 31st—Fuddrucker's Night

Remember to keep saving your Box Tops, Campbell's Soup and Tyson chicken labels! The spring contest runs February 1 through 12. The class in each grade with the most labels will win a treat party.

--Angela Dennis



*Making Every Child's
Potential a Reality*

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Texas PTA Clean School Bus Program

More than 36,000 buses carrying an estimated 1.3 million students hit the roads of Texas each school day. A little more than one-third of these buses are more than 10 years old. Older vehicles emit more pollution than do newer models. Exposure to diesel exhaust from school buses can aggravate respiratory problems, asthma and allergies. An easy retrofit of buses with clean-technology devices can reduce emissions by up to 85 percent.

The Texas Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Clean School Bus Program is a comprehensive program de-signed to improve the health of schoolchildren and bus drivers by reducing emissions of diesel exhaust from school buses. The program, offered by a division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in partnership with Texas PTA, is designed to:

- Award grants for eligible projects that reduce pollutants from diesel exhaust.
- Educate school district personnel about options that can improve the school bus fleet and benefit health and the environment.
- Educate school district personnel about the emissions and potential health impacts associated with diesel bus idling, with a goal of eliminat-ing unnecessary idling.

Funding is available through the Texas PTA Clean School Bus Program to all school districts and charter schools in Texas that operate one or more diesel-powered school buses, or a transportation system provided by a countywide school district. The grant funds cover the purchase and retrofiting of emission-reduction devices.

All sizes of diesel-powered school buses are eligible for grant funding. The bus proposed for retrofit must operate on a regular daily route to and from a school and have at least five years of remaining useful life, unless the applicant agrees to remove the retrofit device at the end of the life of the bus and install the device on a different eligible bus. The program encourages applicants to reuse an operational retrofit device on another vehicle when retiring a retrofitted bus. Applicants must certify in the application that each specific bus

retrofit project meets the eligibility requirements.

Texas PTA currently has over \$500,000 available to retrofit school buses in areas of Texas. Please contact Alex Peterson, Texas PTA Director of Finance at 512-476-6769 or 800-TALK-PTA to see if funding is available in your area. For additional information regarding the benefits of retrofitting school buses, please visit the Texas PTA Web site's Legislative Environmental page or contact the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at 512-239-3100 or visit their Web site at www.texascleanschoolbus.org.

Select Committee On Public School Finance Announced

(AUSTIN) - On Thursday, January 21, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst and Texas House Speaker Joe Straus (San Antonio) announced appointments to the Select Committee on Public School Finance Weights, Allotments and Adjustments. The state's goal of post-secondary readiness and a continued focus on accountability and closing the achievement gap between socioeconomic groups are important to the future of Texas students and the state's economic health. The committee will review the 20-year-old funding formulas to ensure alignment moving forward.

The Select Committee on Public School Finance Weights, Allotments and Adjustments will engage the public in thoughtful discussions on topics that touch every Texan – public education and appropriate stewardship of taxpayer resources. These important discussions during this legislative interim will lay the groundwork for funding decisions during the 2011 session. During the 2009 legislative session, the Select Committee on Public School Finance, Weights, Allotments and Adjustments was

established to conduct a comprehensive review of funding formulas under the public school finance system. The committee will conduct a series of public hearings throughout the state and solicit information from parents of public school children and other community members. At least one public hearing will also be held at a public school to include students in the discussion. The Select Committee will release a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2010.

GUEST BLOGGER'S THOUGHTS

What To Do During An In-Service Day?

For the most part my children look forward to teacher in-service days, as a day to play more video games, read books or watch movies. Sometimes they get inspired to go running or throw a football with their friends. But just like a typical Sunday, they avoid homework until they are forced to think about it. As the "extra" day off closes they have to get ready for the next school day. School Districts build these extra days into their calendar, days that are used in a variety of ways including teacher and staff development and other activities that do not directly involve students. For some teachers this translates into time to catch up on their lesson plans, go to extra training, and of course these days also give the teachers and staff members an opportunity to experience a duty-free, and in some cases a longer, lunch break (and often a chance to actually go off campus).

During the recent January teacher and staff in-service day in Pearland Independent School District the band directors at my son's school used the day to help their students and then gave the students an opportunity to help them. I found it a little

surprising that Zachary wanted to go to school on his day off. He told me that he really needed to spend time at the school and practice his solo and work on his ensemble part for the upcoming junior high solo and ensemble contest. It sounded like a great idea to me, because he rarely finds time to squeeze in practice time during the week. So, I dropped him off at his junior high a little before 10:00AM. I went back around 12:20PM and he had been fed pizza and was helping move risers around. He was having a blast, and he had practiced for over an hour. He begged to stay and work some more.

I think that teachers who can get 7th and 8th graders to come to school on their day off and get them to work are just awesome! AND to make practice and work fun, that is a big feat. I am sure that there are similar stories from other schools around Pearland, because amongst our schools are many devoted and caring teachers. This past Saturday was the solo and ensemble contest for PISD junior high kids. Zachary's solo was scheduled for late in the day near the end of the event. When we arrived to pick him up he had a smile on his face. Every junior high and middle school band director from across the district was still there, and they were all smiling.

Thank you to these wonderful people who are inspiring our children to play instruments, and who are teaching them the value of working hard while having fun!

Link to original blog posting:

<http://faywatson.spaces.live.com/blog/cns!7E99A5A4F25596CC!540.entry>

--Fay Watson, Webmaster
Pearland Council of PTAs
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Health -n- Fitness Fair



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

10AM – 2PM

**Sheryl Searcy Ninth Grade Center
3775 South Main, Pearland, TX**



**10AM MORNING FUN RUN - HEALTH SCREENINGS
NFL PLAY 60 - BLOOD DRIVE - PHYSICAL FITNESS DEMOS**



**PEARLAND EMS - BIKE DECORATING CONTEST & RODEO
!!PRIZES AND FREE GIFTS!! - BRING YOUR BIKE AND HELMET!!!!**

Bring your family and friends and join us for a FREE Community Health and Fitness Fair in celebration of Texas PTA Centennial Year. Our local PTAs and community businesses have joined together to provide booths with fun and educational activities that emphasis a healthy lifestyle. A fun filled day that can Change Your Life. There will be free gifts at each booth and prizes! Start your day with our Fun Run beginning at 10:00am and DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BIKES AND A HELMET.

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Walgreens

HEB, Black Belt Karate, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, The Heart of Imaging, Texas Children's Hospital Center for Prevention of Childhood Injury, JumpStartAHeart

Hosted by Pearland Council of PTAs 



Pearland PTA Health Fair

Blood Drive

Saturday, February 13

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donor Coach

To schedule an appointment, visit www.giveblood.org and login to Digital Donor. Enter sponsor code T025 or contact Lisa Campo at (713) 205-3593.

