

Round Rock Council of PTA's

September
2016

Council Newsletter

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Isabel Johns

Welcome Back to School!

So excited about the continuing partnership we have with RRISD. We were asked to join the back to school broadcast for the teachers and staff. We were interviewed by one of our students and were able to promote PTA.

Our Goals this year are to reach 20,000 members, all campuses to achieve the Golden Apple Award, and for the Council to visit all campuses. This is a Legislative year, we plan on taking a large group to the State Capital for Rally Day. Plan on attending with us on February 27th 2017. Please check our updated Council of

PTAs website <http://rrisd.council.txpta.org/>. You can find a lot of resources, as well as contact information for our Council board members. Plus other forms you need; the Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy, Records Retention Policy, Social Media Policy, Treasurer and Membership information, as well as the division of schools among the VPs – there's a whole host of information that you may find useful. And if your PTA has a website, please send a link to our Council Webmaster, Becky Carrigan, so she can post it there. Another great resource is the Texas PTA website <http://www.txpta.org/>. It also has a few changes this year with forms being

updated and streamlined. The newsletter will be emailed out to all after our luncheon today. I hope that you will share it not only with your executive board, but with your association, so that they can see all the wonderful things that are going on across the District in PTA.

Your council is here to help you, please let us know if you have any questions. Together we will have a great year!

Wishing you the best!

Isabel Johns

President, RRISD Council of PTAs

Inside this Issue	
Council President	1
Board Reports	3
Membership	5
Treasurer	8
Reflections	9
Food Services	10
Time to Brag	11

<p>Officers Isabel Johns President Dawn Watson 1st VP-Membership Jessica Loewy 2nd VP-Roundtables Jill Strode 3rd VP-Training/Vendor Kasey McManus 4th VP- Hospitality Teryl Booth Treasurer Anne Berriman Secretary Michelle Carson Parliamentarian Hospitality: Ileana Cardenas Decorations Chair Pamela Anderson Reservations</p>	<p>Council Programs Monica Von Waaden-Clothes Closet Julie Leahy-Healthy Lifestyles OPEN-SEPAC Rep Kim Odell-Scholarships LeAnne Ohlenburger-Reflections Leslie Cullers-Parent Programs Lareina Slaughter RROC, Success and Goals</p>	<p>Communications Trish Baizer-Newsletter Jen Johnson--Directory Becky Carrigan -Website administrator RRISD/Partnership Dr. Steve Flores-Superintendent Rachel Brunson-Community Partnership Supervisor Kellyn Bradford-DLC Representative Isabel Johns-Foundation/PIE Rep Ron Buffum: Legislative Rep/School Board</p>
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Hospitality



LUNCHEON BUFFET:

SIDE SALAD (VEG/GF)

FRESH MIXED GREENS, CHERRY TOMATOES, PICKLED RED ONION, AND CUCUMBER SERVED WITH CHOICE OF OUR HOUSE-MADE DRESSINGS (RANCH, BLUE CHEESE, OR CITUS VINAIGRETTE)

HELLSTROM SWEDISH BEEF STEW (GF)

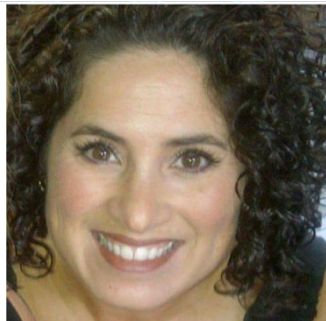
FEATURING OUR GRASS-FED, GRASS-FINISHED BEEF, COOKED IN A BROWN GRAVY WITH CARROTS, ONIONS AND ALL SPICE, SERVED OVER A BED OF MASHED POTATOES

PANSOTTI (VEG)

HOME-MADE PASTA WITH A SPRING VEGETABLE AND HOUSE RICOTTA FILLING, SERVED IN A CREAM SAUCE WITH PARSLEY AND PEA SHOOTS

ASSORTED COOKIES

FEATURING OUR GINGERSNAP COWS AND PEANUT BUTTER & OATMEAL FUDGE (GF)



RODAN+FIELDS®

Jennifer White

Thank you, Jennifer White, for providing today's door prizes

Board Reports

From the RRISD Council VP of Training

We had a great turnout at our Foundations: Leader Orientation (FLO) and Officer Training sessions on Saturday, August 27 and Wednesday, August 31. We had over 100 attendees representing 40 of our schools. Thank you to those who attended! Please find more training tips below.



Foundations: Leader Orientation:

All Executive Board Members must complete Foundations: Leader Orientation by October 15. If you have taken FLO (or the older version of LOT) in the past, you have met this requirement. Board members who have not met this requirement can take the online version by visiting <http://www.txpta.org/my-pta/training/notebook/>. Cost of the online class is \$10 and is a reimbursable expense by your local PTA.

Standards of Continuing Affiliation Changes: Effective August 1, 2016, the Texas PTA Board of Directors made changes to the Standards of Continuing Affiliation. . Those changes include the following:

990 Confirmation: Requirement number 4 now reads: 4. Annually file 990 tax return with the IRS **and** [notify Texas PTA of filing](#), within 60 days of fiscal year end.

Retention Plan: A Retention Plan was added to support PTAs and achieve “Good Standing” with Texas PTA.

Bylaws Changes: Effective August 1, 2016, the Texas PTA board of Directors made changes to the Local Bylaws Template. Request your revised template here:

<https://www.formsite.com/txpta/BylawsRequest/index.html>.

Executive Board Duties (Article X, section 6.H): duty added: H. comply with the legal filing requirements of state and federal government agencies.”

President Elect (Articles VII, VIII, X, XII): PTAs may choose to add President Elect as an (elected) Officer position. Note: This option restricts the term limit to one year for both President and President Elect and adds the President Elect as an ex-officio member to every committee. In order to elect a President Elect for the 2017-18 term, PTAs must adopt the required Bylaws amendment prior to Spring 2017 elections. President Elect is not available for the 2016-17 term.

Electronic Banking Policy (NEW REVISION):

Take a few moments to review the revised Electronic Banking Policy with your board. Effective August 1, 2016, **Texas PTA Board of Directors approved the use of credit/debit cards for PTA use.** If your board would like to use credit/debit cards you will want to add policies, procedures and parameters to your Standing Rules (not bylaws) and have your Membership approve the changes. The policy can be found here: <http://www.txpta.org/resources/> (under Treasurer’s Forms and Information, Resources for Treasurers).

Board Reports Cont.

Training Continued:

Records Retention Policy:

Make sure that your Executive Board and Membership have reviewed and adopted the Records Retention Policy for the 2016-17 school year. The policy can be found here:

<http://www.txpta.org/resources/> (under Forms and Documents, Miscellaneous Forms).

Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy Form:

Make sure your Executive Board has reviewed and signed the Ethics/Conflict of Interest Form. This Policy is in place to protect the integrity and 501(c) (3) status of your PTA. It may take several meetings to obtain every board member's signature but this is essential for a healthy PTA. The policy can be found here: <http://www.txpta.org/resources/> (under Forms and Documents, Officer Documents).

Social Media Policy:

It's always a good idea to review the Social Media Policy with anyone who has access to posting articles on behalf of your PTA. The policy can be found here: <http://www.txpta.org/my-pta/governance/bylaws/>

If you have questions or suggestions on what type of training you would like to see, please let me know.!

Jill Strode, VP Training jillastrode@gmail.com

Secretary's Report

A shout out to all of the secretaries out there. I hope your kids are all happy to be back into school and that you are ready to take up your role. There are a couple of items of housekeeping for you this month. If you have not already returned your Council of PTAs voting sheets, then please do so as soon as possible. You really do not want to miss out on the opportunity to vote this year

At this time you should all have got your Conflict of Interest forms signed. Please remember to update them if new parents join your team throughout the year.

In my opinion you are the most important person on the PTA team. If the IRS comes calling they will want to see your minutes.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. My email is anne@lamail.co.uk Have a great year everyone! **RRISD Council Secretary Anne Berriman**



Membership

PTA = Parents, Teachers, ALL of US... Backing the Future!

WHY? Because a child's success is everyone's business!!

BIG SHOUT OUTS to those of you that attended the Texas PTA Summer Leadership Seminar in July and the Council PTA Officer/Committee Chair training in August. Leadership comes from the top and we thank you for taking the time to "get educated" about your leadership role in PTA.

Our goals this year are two-fold. #1 Increase PTA membership in RRISD... **to over 20,000 members STRONG!!** And #2, create more "Youunity and a stronger sense of commYOUunity amongst all of the local RRISD PTAs. As your PTA moves forward into the school year, please remember to share **THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP**. It is:

LOCAL PTA

Connection between the school, community parents & students

Support for students and teachers

FREE Parent and student programs and education

Networking & Service to the campus

Campus programs and events

Local PTA recognition through awards

Local PTA scholarships for students and faculty!

Emergency Relief Fund for members

Community service projects

PTA MEMBERS RECEIVE local discounts!

(Let me know if you have a business that would like to partner with us and provide RRISD PTA Member ONLY Benefits.)

TEXAS PTA

Website: www.txpta.org

Representation and a "voice" at the Texas Legislature

One World Challenge environmental program

PTA recognition through awards

Monthly E-newsletters and quarterly membership publication

Resources available in Spanish

Legislative alerts

Sign up for publications and alerts at www.txpta.org

PTA MEMBERS RECEIVE discounts and special rates from our partners on products and services!

NATIONAL PTA

Website: www.pta.org (available in Spanish)

Online parenting resources and E-learning

National PTA Magazine – five times per year

Official Back to School Kit (includes Quick-Reference Guides)

Reflections Program

PTA Takes Action Network (parenting & legislative issues)

EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFITS AND SPONSOR OFFERS!

Membership is year-round. Set your goals high – reach for the stars! You never know where you'll end up! Share your ideas, Share your success stories and Share your “not so” successful stories. Throughout the year continue to educate your families and community members about the importance of being a PTA member and advocating for our children..... **EVERYONE** should **BACK THE FUTURE!!** Form a Membership Committee. Keep membership fresh in everyone's mind by changing up your membership theme. You can do this based on the seasons, the month, etc. You are only limited by your imagination.
HAVE FUN WITH IT!

Last year **35 out of 50** RRISD local PTAs were awarded the coveted **Golden Apple Award**. What is the Golden Apple Award???? It's when 100% campus faculty join their respective PTA. This includes principals, assistant principals, counselors, teachers and aides employed at the school FULL-TIME. It is crucial that the staff in this **AWESOME** District **BACK THE FUTURE**. The goal this year is that **EVERY PTA** will achieve this great honor. And to help you do that, as **OUR GIFT TO YOU**, every PTA that earns the Golden Apple will be given an **AMAZING** Golden Apple yard sign to be proudly displayed in the entrance of their school!! What Principal wouldn't want these bragging rights????!! The signs will be awarded at each Council Luncheon throughout the year and are yours to keep.

**Also, PTAs that achieve Golden Apple by October 15, will go into a drawing (elementary and secondary). The prize is that Council PTA will provide refreshments at your next Executive Board Meeting.

The **Community Membership Program** will continue again this year. Individuals and businesses have the opportunity to join multiple local PTAs. There are many levels a Community Member may choose from and can support as many schools as s/he would like. We have high school feeder pattern packages too that are based on the high school mascots! This program is a great way for our community partners to **BACK THE FUTURE!**

REMINDERS:

*Dues and rosters should be sent in to TX PTA by the 15th of each month.

*Membership cards are not optional; each member needs a card. How you disseminate them is up to you. However, mailing them can be an expensive option.

*Early Bird Award deadline is quickly approaching. This is awarded to PTAs that submit rosters and dues totaling at least 100% of their previous year's membership totals and is postmarked by September 30th.

*Honor Roll Award (100+, 250+, 500+, 750+ or 1000+ Club) deadline is October 30. PTAs that meet 100% of their previous year's membership totals and moves their membership to the next milestone. Deadlines are November 30th and April 30th

*Fall Membership Increase Award is presented to each local PTA when they have an increase in membership on postmarked by November 30.

Enjoy working with your campus Principals this year. They are your PTAs #1 Cheerleader!

If you have any questions, concerns, need a little help or want to brag on your PTA, please contact me. I am here to support Y.O.U.!!

Dawn Watson

RRISD Council PTA 1st VP Membership

<http://rrisd.council.my-pta.org>

rrisd.pta.membership@gmail.com OR Dawnenglishgirl@gmail.com

512/415-7090

TEXAS PTA Member Benefits



Purchase monthly specials at a members-only price, or customize a system and save 7% on top of advertised prices.



Enterprise rent-a-car extends a discount of 5% to 10% all Texas PTA members on all rentals across the nation.



Enjoy 20% off at locations within Texas, flat rate for single or double occupancy rooms. Save 15% when booking a hotel stay outside the state of Texas.



Contact your local Nationwide agent to ask about your “Texas PTA Affinity Discount”



Receive a substantial discount to both Six Flags Fiesta Texas and Six Flags Over Texas!



Receive discount for being a PTA member.



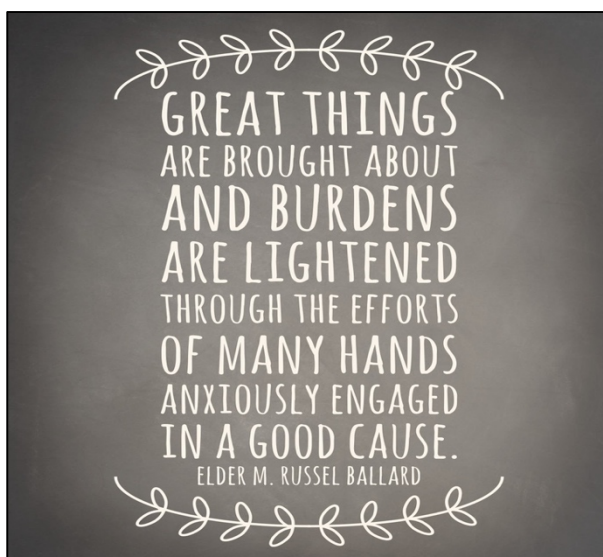
Members receive a 15% discount on admission when purchasing Schlitterbahn tickets online.



Receive a discount on Texas Rangers tickets throughout the season! *Some restrictions may apply.*

[Check the www.txpta.org for the latest Texas PTA member benefits.](http://www.txpta.org)

More discounts through National PTA www.pta.org!



Council Treasurer

Treasurer's Tips

Welcome to a new year! You have taken on a very important and valuable role in your PTA. As Council Treasurer, I am here to provide you with assistance and guidance. Here are a few reminders to help you get up and running this fall:

- Council dues are due no later than October 15th. To be a member of this council and participate in council activities, all local units must pay their local dues.
- When making your donation decisions this year, please remember we have 6 high schools! This means our Noel Grisham Scholarship fund will be supporting 6 graduates. Your additional voluntary donations will also help support our two Clothes Closet locations, Reflections and hospitality at our alternative campuses.
- Please check to make sure you have renewed your AIM insurance policy. Most policy renewals are due in September and October.
- Please ensure your 990 is completed. If your fiscal year ended May 31, your 990 is due October 15th. If your fiscal year ended June 30th, your 990 is due November 15th. And don't forget to submit the Annual Tax Exempt Confirmation to Texas PTA within 15 days of filing your 990.
- If you haven't already, take the time to find out how often you file your sales tax. Are you an annual filer? Quarterly filer? If your PTA files annually, sales tax is not due until January. However, if you file more frequently, please be aware of your due dates.

Texas PTA made some changes to policies and procedures in the Treasurer Resource Guides. These changes have to do with allowing PTAs to use credit and debit cards. Please be sure you either purchase or download the new guide as soon as it becomes available. It will be up to each individual PTA on whether or not to use credit/debit cards. A policy would need to be created regarding credit/debit card use, and this policy would need to be presented to and voted on by the executive board and general membership.

Please don't hesitate reaching out to me with any questions or concerns! We are in this together!

Teryl Booth

RRISD Council of PTAs Treasurer

tery19@gmail.com



Reflections 2016-17

Regardless of where we come from, we all have a story to tell. Each story is unique and diverse and deserves a chance to be told. As adults, our story has defined us into what we have become. As children, our story is just beginning.

This year's Reflections theme –**What is Your Story?** – is a great opportunity to let your students tell their story. Students can use the talents they have or discover new ones to create an inspiring display of visual art, photography, write an epic poem, story or song or even write an original piece of music.

Some ideas to share with students as they begin the creative process:

- ❖ Don't be critical of how it starts out - it doesn't have to be perfect.
- ❖ Don't worry about grammar or punctuation at first - just begin.
- ❖ Believe in yourself - you can do this!
- ❖ You don't have to take an art course to paint a picture - go for it!
- ❖ Use positive words to help them realize they have potential!
- ❖ Share the thought process of revision - when we revise something we create and then revise it again and again, it usually gets better and better!
- ❖ Everyone has talent - it is fun trying to do things you've never done before and finding what we like to do and what we are good at!

Remember, if your talent is unusual (maybe you're good at fixing things), you could write a story about it or take a picture. **Have your students share their story with the judges about why they created their entry for Reflections and put it on the entry form as the artist's statement.** The artist's statement is extremely important and is sometimes the driving factor behind a judge's decision.

I'm looking forward to working with each RRISD school and I can't wait to see what our students have to say.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

LeAnne Ohlenburger
Reflections Chairperson
RRISD Council of PTAs
leanne@ohlenburger.com



Healthu Lifestules

National Walk to School Day is October 5!

Let's walk to school! Walk to School Day can be the first step towards changing community culture and raising awareness of the benefits of walking to school. Why walk to school? It's fun, promotes physical activity, reduces traffic congestion and pollution, and improves neighborhood connections.

PTA can coordinate activities to the entire school body that promote walking to school. Some ideas to promote the benefits of walking to school and encourage participation in National Walk to School Day include:

- Organize a school-wide event to recognize National Walk to School Day, such as a party for the class with the most walkers or an assembly;
- Develop walking themes for each day of the week and have children wear clothes that correspond to that theme: safety colors day, green for the environment day, school colors day, etc.;
- Include walking safety tips and give reminders about National Walk to School Day on the morning announcements. Play music with lyrics about walking or bicycling;
- Make and display posters promoting the benefits of walking to school.

For more information, please see walkbiketoschool.org and saferoutesinfo.org.

RRISD Invites You to Take a Tour of the Cafeteria

RRISD Food Services will be conducting a tour of the district's kitchen on October 19, 2016. This is a great opportunity to take a behind the scenes look at what goes into preparing the meals that our children eat at school. Spaces on the tour are limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you would like to attend the tour, please RSVP at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080a4eabab2caa8-cafeteria>

or email the Healthy Lifestyles Chair,

Julie Leahy, at

julieleahytx@gmail.com.



Food Services



aramark

Dear RRISD Parent:

Welcome to a new school year! Healthy for Life™ is our commitment to create healthier environments and communities, by providing not only healthy foods but comprehensive nutrition and wellness education. The RRISD Food Service staff is looking forward to serving your children nutritious, great-tasting menus that support their achievements in school and promote healthy lifestyles.

We offer a variety of meal choices with one goal in mind: to provide outstanding service and high quality “kid-friendly” meals that meet or exceed the latest federal and state requirements. RRISD menus are designed to ensure that students receive a balanced meal, consisting of foods from all major food groups in the right proportions to meet calorie and other nutrient needs.

The products and the cooking methods we use conserve food quality and nutrients, while limiting the addition of fats, salt and sugar and eliminate frying. So although you may see popular items like pizza and chicken nuggets on your menus, be assured that your child’s school meal selections contain healthy whole grains and are lower in fat and salt than what you find in grocery stores or restaurants. We will also be offering some different foods that your children may not have tried before, so please encourage your child to taste these items. They just might become a new favorite!

- All of the breads and grain products served for breakfast and lunch are whole grain-rich, ensuring plenty of fiber and other essential nutrients. Added trans fats have been eliminated from all foods; and menus are planned to limit saturated fat and sodium to meet the new standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for school meals.
- Both the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal pattern and nutrition standards ensure that meals provide age-appropriate calorie levels; offer a wide variety of fruits and plenty of vegetables every day, with a focus on nutrient-dense dark green, red/orange and legume vegetable selections along with healthy grains and lean proteins.
- School meals are planned based on 3 grade groups (K-5, 6-8, and 9-12) that naturally align with children’s nutrition needs for growth and health.

We will continue to post signs on each service line to show students how to select a reimbursable meal, as well as to help them understand how their choices fit into the key food groups needed to ensure a balanced approach to healthy eating. In addition, we support CATCH and Fit Games. Twice a year we provide central kitchen tours for our community. We locally source ingredients through the Farm to Cafeteria program. Our Chef partnerships through the culinary academies and HUSSC.

We are proud to serve your child and encourage you to support our ongoing efforts to improve student health and well-being by participating in our Food Service program. For more information about our menus and programs, please visit <https://foodservices.roundrockisd.org/>; and to learn more about healthy school meals visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov>. Please feel free to call me at 512-464-8386 with any questions or comments.

Thank you!

Kelly Moreno

Marketing & Communication Manager

Time To Brag: Elementary

Elsa England Elementary

School has begun! Welcome back! And yes, England is blooming! Now we have more than 950 students. There are 3 portables in school to settle 2nd graders in. Students are getting used to the new classrooms so far.



Open House was held on August 19th. It was a great opportunity to meet teachers, friends, join PTA and get information for our students to get ready back to school. We were so glad to see so many kids and friends coming back from summer and to meet new families as well.

Membership Drive is doing good. We already have more than 200 members joined PTA for the first week of school. We will keep working on it. Our fantastic quote this year is: "Dive into another great school year. Be a DORYble member!"



Kathy Caraway Elementary

The 2016-2017 school year is starting off with a bang at Kathy Caraway Elementary! When the doors opened for new students on August 23, they were treated to beautiful new floors and fresh paint. Although the kids were most excited about our new playground equipment.

Caraway Elementary PTA hit the ground running this year. We are happy announce that by the second week of school we have close to 100 percent of teachers who are current PTA members. We are also very

encouraged to report that we are already at 36 percent of 2016-2017 parent PTA membership. We still have our fall PTA enrollment drive on the horizon so we are hoping to surpass last year's parent enrollment in Caraway PTA. The initiative that our school is most excited about is being a recipient of RRISD's Innovation Grant. Caraway Elementary received a Tier II grant for \$65,000. This money will be used to build an Innovation Lab for all Caraway students as part of our new enrichment program, Caraway Academy. It's great time to be a Caraway Owl!

Time To Brag: Elementary



Canyon Creek Elementary

We are excited to embark on another great year at Canyon Creek Elementary!! We spent the summer getting ready for another stellar year! First, we were very excited to welcome in our new principal, April Crawford. With her leadership we know that Canyon Creek will continue to flourish as an excellent campus.

The PTA's main focus this summer was supporting our teachers while they implemented our flexible classroom initiative. In the end, with the support from our Opt Out fund, we were able to purchase 36 stand up desks, 44 Hokki Stools, plus \$14,054.94 in grants to teachers to transform their rooms into flexible workspaces. It was awesome coming back into the school and seeing how each teacher was able to utilize the money to make the initiative work for their teaching style. To date we have given \$25,844.84 to this wonderful cause!!

Our Back To School Fair (BTSF) was another successful event, lead by Linda Benz and her team. With the online registration running smoothly we were able to cut down on the foot traffic in the cafeteria and had parents deem this one as the best one yet!! A very special thank you goes out to our families who joined the PTA at the BTSF and those who participated in the Opt-Out program!! It is with their donation that we are able to provide so many wonderful programs to our students! GO COMETS!!

As back to school starts settling down, we are excited to get our programs up and running. Our next event is our Annual Fun Run slated for October!

We are and always will be COMETS strong!

Jessica Loewy, PTA President



Time To Brag: Elementary



Deep Wood Elementary

The 2016-2017 School Year for Deep Wood Elementary is off to a DINomite start! We had a fantastic Meet The Teacher Night that led us to our current membership number which we are thrilled to say is already 34 members ABOVE last year's Membership total! We have set a high goal of DOUBLING our membership this year and we are off to a great start. We are planning on having a Membership Table at every event throughout the Entire year to share the PTAs goals and objectives for the school to helps us reach our goal.

Our PTA Inclusion Chair hosted our annual Boo Hoo breakfast for the Kindergarten Families on the 1st day of school and it was the best turn out we have seen in years! There were some sad faces, some happy faces but every face was a face of inclusion! It was great to watch people mingle and connect over the common bond of their children and Deep Wood!

We are also excited about our first big event of the year, we will be bringing back a Deep Wood Elementary Favorite for our Fall Fundraiser- Harvest Hoedown! The DWE Hoedown will begin with our first General PTA Meeting and then be followed by a night of Family Fun! It will be a community event with inflatables, games, face painting, food, costumes, Trunk or Treat and much more!

Cactus Ranch Elementary

Our PTA was hard at work getting ready for back to school!!! We were able to support our teachers and administration by providing them with three back to school lunches on the Friday before school started as well the first two days of school. We hosted CRE's annual Back to School Howdy. We enjoyed seeing the students connect with their teachers in the classroom. And on the first day of school, we welcomed parents back with coffee and donuts!



The month of September is full of fun family activities hosted by PTA including our annual WatchDOGS Pizza Kickoff Night, Kona Ice & Urban Air Spirit Day, Math Pentathlon and Take your Dad to Lunch Day. We continue to work hard to "Back the Future" this year and are up to 463 members and counting. We are so grateful for all of our wonderful volunteers at CRE and want to thank them for all that they do to make our school the best in the West. Go CRE Longhorns!!

Time To Brag: Elementary

Teravista Elementary celebrates Tigerific Times!

Our Kinder Camp and Back to School Nights were held August 17th and 18th with great success and lines out the door to buy spirit-wear and sign up for PTA. Our new spirit-wear design was well received and our traditional Lighthouse shirt also sold well. Looks like we might be doing another order to keep everyone happy!



PTA Membership is growing and TvE has already achieved the Headstart target along with MARS and Student Membership numbers. We are so close to last years numbers that we are sure we will achieve bigger and better things this year and earn lots of Texas PTA awards! We reduced our rates at the end of last year to bring us in line with our Feeder Schools and introduced a student and faculty rate to encourage and make it easier for more people to join, this seems to be working really well.

Our call for Volunteers has generated a large response and we plan to target our volunteers much more effectively this year. PTA is hosting a Volunteers Function so we can meet and greet everyone and put names to faces, we think this will make us much more productive as a PTA and mean that we have more than "5 people doing everything!"

Our Teachers and staff enjoyed their 'Back to School Breakfast' and our school community donated generously to make that happen. We are starting our Spirit Nights this year with dinner at Hat Creek Burgers in early September and our 3rd Annual Lighthouse Festival is scheduled for October 15th so planning for our biggest fundraiser for the year is well underway.

Voigt Elementary



The PTA was able to partner with Cheryl Hester, Principal at Xenia Voigt Elementary once again this school year and was able to provide school spirit t-shirts for the entire school!! What an accomplishment it is. Not only that the PTA was able to provide a Shade Structure for our black top to provide shade for the picnic tables for our wonderful students at Voigt!!

Voigt is truly The Place To Be!

Time To Brag: Elementary



Great Oaks Elementary is off to a fantastic start to our 20th year! We have 6 new teachers and a new Assistant Principal joining us, they are fitting in just great and the kids love them all! Help us welcome Laura Braun as our new AP, Taylor Sun in 2nd, Lindsay Trigg in 4th, Allison Solberg in TAG, Alyssa Oliver in Kinder, Megan Hutchings in Speech and Kaylin Cantwell in Music.

Due to our PTA's fantastic fundraising last year we were able to give back almost \$60,000 to our school! PTA helped pay for several grants submitted by teachers for new technology, new classroom set ups, new curriculum, new drums for music, new mats for wellness, and so much more! We are also breaking ground this month on our new Outdoor Learning Area, which will feature a beautiful new covered structure anchored on a slab in the back area of the school. We are also planning to have it equipped with some scientific devices such as solar panel, weather station and install a butterfly garden as well. This will create a wonderful outdoor area that teachers can use to bring science to life in many different lessons.

We have our new Next Gen Digital Classrooms in Art with 25 new iPads for student use and 5th grade with 25 new touchscreen Chromebooks for student use. We also received 2 new carts of laptops and 2 new carts of Chromebooks for all campus use with 24 devices in each cart...GOE now has a 1 to 2 ratio for devices to students. Fantastic!

Also we are so excited to announce that we will be holding our 20th Anniversary Celebration on October 21st and 22nd. We will have an in school ceremony on Friday with lots of memories shared and awards given, then on Saturday we will have a come and go picnic on the grounds for previous and current staff, students and families to come and enjoy. More information to come about what all will be happening!

Blackland Praire Elementary

We are so excited to start off another great school year here at Blackland Prairie Elementary! It has already been an amazing first two weeks. Students and parents were greeted by smiling teachers and staff, a supportive PTA community, and tons and tons of Wildcat pride!



There is so much to be proud of! We already have over 485 parents, family members, teachers, and staff join the 2016-17 BPE PTA. These numbers just keep on growing!

Blackland Prairie Continued

In just two weeks, Blackland Prairie Elementary and the BPE PTA have hosted numerous events including a Kindergarten Play Date, a "Welcome Back to School" staff breakfast for our faculty/staff members, and a "Welcome Tea" for new families. Over the next month we are planning many more fun events to bring together our BPE community including a BPE Spirit Night at Chipolte , we will welcome our Grandparent's to have lunch with their student(s), we will kick-off our Donation Drive, and host a Watch D.O.G.s pizza night. It's going to be a fun month on the Prairie!

Time To Brag: Middle School



Cedar Valley PTA is excited about how the 2016-17 school has started! We kicked off the year by having a breakfast for our awesome staff and raffling a set of donated office supplies. Our membership drive has been great and we're happy to have welcomed over 675 members so far and, of those, almost 100 are CeVMS staff members. CeVMS PTA volunteers worked to help stuff first day packets and assisted with sales of memberships and spirit items at our annual Jag Camp, as well as the 7th/8th Grade Schedule pick up times.

Over the summer, PTA worked with the CeVMS Admin Team to organize a surprise Library renovation that created a fun, bright new look for our student space, complete with new paint, new furniture, an updated MakerSpace that includes a Lego Wall, and a remodeled Circulation Desk...It also made for a very surprised and extremely happy Librarian!

We have many activities and events planned for the year and are looking forward to the incredible things that will come from continuing to work closely with administration to make our campus even better and continuing to build strong partnerships between our parents, staff, and students. Go Jags!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Time To Brag: Middle School



Walsh Middle School

Happy September! Walsh Middle School had a great first 2 weeks back to school! Walsh PTA welcomed our new principal, Dr. Brenda Agnew, with a Welcome Back breakfast for our staff the week before school started and had a record number of staff join PTA! PTA helped host Camp Wildcat for the new 6th graders and their families to our campus by delivering pre-ordered school supplies and selling PTA memberships, spirit wear & directories. On the Monday before school started, our 7th & 8th graders and their parents came to campus to pick up schedules and pre-ordered school supplies and purchase their PTA memberships, spirit wear & directories. Many thanks to the amazing Walsh volunteers for helping make these two events a great success! Walsh PTA has already qualified for the Head Start & Early Bird awards. The first Meeting of the Association will take place on Wednesday, September 7 at the 6th grade open house. Walsh PTA is looking forward to a successful year working with the faculty & staff at Walsh Middle School!

Canyon Vista Middle School

CVMS PTA had a fantastic start to the new school year!

Teacher Recognition - Our PTA Executive Board hosted two Welcome Back Breakfasts. One for the teachers and another one for the support staff and aides. Breakfast tacos, pastry, fruit and coffee was greatly appreciated by all the teachers and staff!

Student Days and Fabulous Friday - CVMS PTA had over 50 parents and students come out and volunteer to support PTA's Back to School initiatives! We stuffed first day packets, matched student schedules to IDs, set-up the gym and hallways, sold PTA memberships, planners, locks and school supplies. It was through the combined effort of our PTA parents, students, cheerleaders, student council and our very own Mustang Mascot that we welcomed 1400 students and their families back to school! ***Saving the best for last.....***

Membership! - We are excited to announce that CVMS PTA has kicked off our membership drive with a bang! We have achieved the following the Head Start, Men Are Really Super and Student Membership awards. We will continue to increase our membership but are very thankful to be part of such a great community.

Go Mustangs! *Jennifer Bibbo, Canyon Vista Middle School PTA President*



Time To Brag: Middle School

Chisholm Trail Middle School

CTMS PTA had a GREAT start to the new school year! A big THANK YOU to the wonderful parents, staff and students who supported our PTA and purchased memberships. We have earned the Head Start and Early Bird Award. Thank you Paige Heer, our awesome membership chair for helping us earn these awards!



Our fantastic Teacher Appreciation Committee organized a great Back to School Lunch for the teachers on the Monday before school started. We served Hoody's subs, sides and Bush's tea PLUS we were able to give away 6 large bags of school supplies as door prizes to 6 lucky teachers. We love our CTMS teachers and staff!

Cougar Camp and Cougar Round Up days were a big success. We had many volunteers working both days to sell PTA memberships, spirit wear and yard signs. We had volunteers helping to answer any questions new parents had and also to direct new families around the school. Many thanks to our wonderful spirit wear committee for designing and ordering our t-shirts, hoodies and draw string bags. They were a big hit with the kids and parents! We are excited about the 2016-2017 school year at CTMS, All of our great PTA programs and services are starting to get into full swing!

GO COUGARS! *Tricia Parker, PTA President*



Deerpark Middle School is off to a great new year! Our new Principal, Mr. Smith, has come in with a bang! Students now have groups called families. These families connect with all students on an individual level. He is creating a more parent friendly environment and sending Deerpark in a new and positive direction. Great things are happening at Deerpark Middle School. Our membership team is hard at work. As of date, we have over 335 PTA members! We have a huge student membership base this year also! It is very exciting to see our students wanting to be a part of our PTA.

Deerpark PTA and parents started our teachers off with a fabulous back to school breakfast. We also had a huge turnout for our 6th grade Ranger Round Up! It was the biggest one the school has seen in years! We are excited to see how large our 7th and 8th grade Open House turnout is as well.

Last, but definitely not least, be watching for our chip timed, registered, 5K Ranger Run! The Ranger Run is our PTA's largest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds go to our teachers, staff, and administration. Date, Sept. 24th at Rattan Creek Park. Start time is 9am. If you would like to register, please go to www.deerpark.my-pta.org.

Time To Brag: Middle School

Ridgeview Middle School

The Ridgeview MS PTA is excited to kick-start the beginning of our 2016-17 school year!

- Our W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs) Leaders invited our incoming 6th Graders to attend Panther Camp on August 10. They helped introduce them to other students, walked them through first day's activities, answered questions and addressed concerns.
- Our families were invited to attend Panther Welcome on August 16 to pick-up and walk their schedules while meeting their teachers and dropping off school supplies, meet with community businesses & purchase Panther Pride spirit wear and RMS PTA Memberships!
- We invited our teachers and staff to a Welcome Back to School breakfast on August 17 (and many showed their Panther Pride by joining RMS PTA!)
- We held 6th Grade Parent Orientation Night on August 29 and 7th/8th Grade Parent Orientation Night on August 30. This is a great opportunity for parents to walk their student's schedule, meet the teachers and learn about the expectations.
- We earned our Golden Apple Award on August 29 and treated our staff to dinner on Parent Orientation Nights! What a great accomplishment! We have also earned the following Membership Awards so far this year: Head Start, MARS, Student Membership, Student Involvement and we are striving to earn the Early Bird by September 30.
 - We held our first Spirit Day at Rosa's Café on August 31.

Events that we have coming up include:

- Watch D.O.G.S. Rally Night on September 8 to encourage father figures to help out around school
- Spirit Night at Austin Sports Arena on September 9
- Meeting of the Association on September 14 in conjunction with our SRO to talk about Social Media and what he is seeing from a legal perspective
- Panther Day of Service on September 17 where students, staff and parents come together and work on projects to enhance our school grounds
- 6th Grader Dance on September 30.

We are looking forward to having a fun-filled year!

Jill Strode, PTA President



Time To Brag: High School

Round Rock Opportunity Center

The RROC PTA is "Hands Down" off to a good start this year!! Won't you "Give Us a Hand" and join our organization this year. Membership dues are still only \$10 and we couldn't do it without Y.O.U.!



In 2016-17 we'd like to be able to grow our membership to 114, 10% more than last year. We do have a stretch goal of 140 members. If you "Lend Us a Hand"... WE CAN DO IT!!

It would be wonderful if during the course of the year, our fellow PTAs/PTSAs would partner with us to help with teacher appreciation events or send some volunteers with "Helping Hands". "Many Hands Make Light Work". The RROC is truly a unique place to be. If you have any questions, "Raise a Hand", send an email to Dawnenglishgirl@gmail.com or call Dawn Watson, the RROC PTA President @ 512/415-7090.

"You have two hands. ONE to help yourself, the OTHER TO HELP OTHERS."

Round Rock High School

The Round Rock High School PTSA has started the school year off Dragon Strong! We hosted a staff breakfast the week before school and was able to kick off our membership drive with nearly 50% teachers joining that day. We are well on our way to securing the Golden Apple Award. Our teachers ROCK!

Students also played a role in our great start. We are pleased to continue in the tradition of having two student leaders serving on our Executive Board. Twenty-five student volunteers showed up to stuff First Day packets. We completed the task in just a few hours. Students have also been turning in their Dragon Force summer volunteer hours. Our students ROCK!

Our parents volunteered the first two weeks of school supporting various school needs making student IDs, helping with Textbook & Laptop distribution as well as help in the Registrar's office with new student registration. Our parents ROCK!

We will be kicking off our fall mini grant process for staff at the end of September. RRHS PTSA is "Dragon Strong!" which by the way is also our spirit wear slogan this year.



Time To Brag: High School

Westwood High School

What a Great start to the Westwood HS 2016-2017 school year! Westwood continues to be committed to all online membership. We will continue to face some membership challenges as we stay with our online only membership but we are confident the Westwood parents will rise to the challenge.



Westwood was very excited to welcome our new principal, Mario Acosta. Principal Acosta has already made a huge positive impact on our campus and brought excitement to all that he does. Westwood has achieved the Golden Apple with all of our teachers joining PTSA. Principal Acosta is a huge supporter of PTSA, and we look forward to a long and successful partnership with our new principal.

PTSA was proud to host an orientation for parents at the New (to RRISD) Student Orientation. Westwood had 115 new students and Westwood PTSA helps the parents make the transition into the new school and environment by being a constant resource of information. PTSA also hosted the Volunteer Hospitality Room for the volunteers at the annual Freshman Fishbowl Event. Fishbowl invites all incoming freshman to a club fair, pep rally, and dance at Westwood. It is an opportunity to meet up with old friends, meet new friends, receive a tour of the school, and then enjoy snacks and refreshments provided by volunteers.

Finally to kick off the school year, the staff was treated to a "Grab & Go" breakfast at the end of the first week of school. Westwood is once again going to try for the Golden Apple Award so this is a good way to kick off our year with the teachers and staff.

Westwood PTSA started selling English books to the students during the back to school week. It is our only fundraiser and it is service for the students and parents. Westwood PTSA will continue to support the teachers and students and be a source for information for our community. Westwood PTSA will continue to support the students, parents and teachers through out the year but this year.