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## Calendar

- 1/28 Leadership Orientation Training at Thornwood Elementary at 7 pm
- 2/5 Founders Day Dinner at Northbrook HS 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- 2/22-2/24 Texas PTA State Convention in The Woodlands
- 2/27 SBISD Celebration of Sharing Appreciation Breakfast for Partners, Donors & Volunteers 7:30 – 9:30 am Memorial City Mall
- 2/29 – 2008 Crystal Awards 6:30 pm at Westin Oaks
- 3/01 TxPTA Environmental Awareness Contest entries due
- 3/04 PTA Council General Meeting 11 am – 1 pm Admin Bldg

## President's Message

*Diane Swan, Council President*



Happy 2008! Hope everyone had a great holiday and is back in the swing of things. SBISD PTA Council is off to a busy start helping our new PTAs get up and running. What enthusiasm and what a great thing for these schools and their students!

Next on the agenda is Founders Day where PTAs across the United States celebrate the founding of PTA on February 17, 1897. This celebration is an opportunity for us to remember that we are a part of a long history of parent involvement – congratulations on carrying on the tradition! SBISD PTA Council celebrates with a dinner honoring the previous year's Texas PTA Life Members. In addition, we present the School Bell Award nominees and winner. This award is presented to an outstanding SBISD educator who promotes the objects of PTA and is an advocate for all children. Each year, I am fascinated to hear all the wonderful things our educators are doing for our students at each campus. Please be sure to attend on February 5<sup>th</sup> (see details inside this newsletter).

The PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. Once again, SBISD students demonstrated their talents. Congratulations to all who participated and thank you to all the Reflections Chairman. Special thanks to Terri Garcia for coordinating for Council. The entries forwarded to Area are included at the end of this newsletter (email version only). Don't miss the Texas PTA Environmental Awareness Contest which provides students another opportunity for self-expression. Entries are due to Council on March 1.

All PTAs should be in the process of electing nominating committees. In addition, it's a good time to review your Bylaws and Standing Rules. I have included some information in this newsletter on both topics. Council is also in the process of nominating a slate of officers for next year. Please consider volunteering at the Council level and continuing our commitment to provide mentoring, coordination and communication services to all our PTAs. It is a wonderful opportunity to share all you have learned in your PTA career.

Please plan on attending the SBEF Crystal Awards on February 29<sup>th</sup> where many educators will be honored including all the SBISD Teachers of the Year. Also, consider attending the Texas PTA convention which is in The Woodlands this year on February 22-24. Many great sessions are offered and it includes elections for Texas PTA officers and the Texas PTA Legislative Positions. **Looking forward to seeing you on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Founders Day!**

## President's Checklist



- Make plans to attend Founders Day on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Northbrook HS from 6 – 8 pm. Send in your RSVPs and checks to Camille Tarics. See article on this page for more info.
- Submit entries for Texas PTA Environmental Awareness Contest to Council by March 1, 2008. See article on this page for more info.
- Nominate your PTA for a Texas PTA or National PTA award. Applications can be found at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org). Deadline is March 1.
- Contact Kay Kurisky at [kkurisky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkurisky@sbcglobal.net) to nominate yourself or someone else for a position on Council for 2008/2009.
- Complete the SBISD PTA Council Awards applications. The packet can be found online on the Council website under Awards <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm>. Deadline is March 31.
- Make plans to attend the Crystal Awards with your campus Teacher of the Year on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Register for Texas PTA Convention in The Woodlands February 22-24 at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)
- Establish Nominating Committees for 2008/2009 officers.
- Consider updating your bylaws and standing rules. See article on page 7 for more info.

## COME AND CELEBRATE FOUNDER'S DAY!

February 5, 2008

6:00 pm 8:00 pm

Northbrook High School

Please send your RSVPs and checks for dinner to Founder's Day Chair, Camille Tarics by January 25<sup>th</sup>. Checks can be made payable to SBISD Council of PTAs.

Dr. Klussmann will be on hand to hand out awards to the 2006/2007 Texas PTA Life Members. In addition, the School Bell Award nominees will be honored at this event, and the winner announced that night.

Proceeds from Founders Day go into the Council Scholarship Fund. These scholarships benefit graduating seniors from all our high schools and our teachers. The scholarships will be presented at Council's annual Awards Night, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Camille at [cnt4456@aol.com](mailto:cnt4456@aol.com) or 713-461-9490 for more information.

## TEXAS PTA ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CONTEST – "What Can I Do?"

Encourage your students participate in the Texas PTA 2007-2008 Environmental Awareness Contest. This contest is open to all students from PTA schools in grades Pre-K through 12.

Students will think of an idea involving the contest theme "What Can I Do?" and write a newspaper article, design a newsletter, draw media art or design a print advertisement, photograph or produce a 30 second public service announcement in audio (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) or video format (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>).

**Your school's winners, determined in accordance with Texas PTA criteria, are due at the Council level on March 1, 2008.**

Properly labeled/packaged entries must be delivered by March 1, 2008 to: Allison Michaud, 11715 Pecan Creek Dr. Houston, TX 77043

For forms and information about the contest, visit <http://www.txpta.org/enviro.html>

Contact Allison Michaud, Council Environmental Chair for details and questions at 281.589.2772 or e-mail at [a.michaud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:a.michaud@sbcglobal.net).

**REFLECTIONS NEWS**

Thanks to those schools that participated in Reflections this year. Thank you to all the Reflections Chairs who coordinated the contest on each campus.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Terri Garcia who made all the necessary preparations and submittals for Council. Great job Terri!!

Council received 241 entries from 19 schools and 20% of that total was forwarded on to Area judging. Those entries moving up to the Area judging are posted at the end of the newsletter. (In the interest of safety, these will not be included on the website version.)

**WIN A PTA AWARD! 2007/2008 SBISD COUNCIL OF PTAs AND TEXAS PTA AWARDS**



Each year, the PTA hands out numerous awards at all levels - Council, Area, State and National. Your PTA could be an award winner! But you can only win if you apply.

Applications for Council awards were provided to Presidents in October. In addition, applications for all Council awards can be obtained online at the Council website

[www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm](http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm) .

The deadline for those awards is March 31, 2008.

Area and Texas PTA awards applications can be found on the Texas PTA web site – [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org).

National PTA award applications can be found on the National PTA web site – [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

*If you have questions about awards, please contact Debbie Slack at [debbieslack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:debbieslack@sbcglobal.net)*

**LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH PTAS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT? SBISD Council Of PTAs Has Plenty Of Options!**

The Nominating Committee for the 2008/2009 Council of PTAs Officers has been formed. If you are interested, have any questions about the position duties or would like to nominate that special person, please contact Kay Kurisky at [kkurisky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kkurisky@sbcglobal.net).

**LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION TRAINING January 28 7 pm Thornwood Elementary**

All officers must be a graduate of the Texas PTA Leader Orientation. If you have any officers who have not had the training, this evening will be another opportunity for them to complete the training. Please contact Diane Swan at [swandive@earthlink.net](mailto:swandive@earthlink.net) if you have any interested members.

**SUPPORT COUNCIL WITH YOUR HOUSTON CHRONICLE SUBSCRIPTION**



The Houston Chronicle has partnered with the SBISD Council of PTAs to donate funds to the Council’s School Supply and Scholarship Programs through its subscription service for both new and renewing subscriptions. The Chronicle will donate \$30 for each new subscription and \$15 for each renewal it receives – no additional donation required from the subscriber.

Visit the Council website to download the form  
<http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm>

**AREA 11 HOSTING 2008  
CONVENTION**



Area 11 will be hosting the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Texas PTA February 22- 24, 2008 in The Woodlands! Visit [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) to register.

- For the slate of Texas PTA officers, refer to <http://www.txpta.org/slate.htm>
- For information on Positions/Resolutions for Consideration at 2008 Convention, see <http://www.txpta.org/members/Convention08ResPositions.doc>



**PTA TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO SCHOOL WEEK  
FEBRUARY 10-16, 2008**

*PTA Take Your Family to School Week* is easy to implement, but more importantly, the event embodies one of PTA's founding principles: When it comes to children's education, the best way to get involved is to become part of the school community.

For more information including a Planning Guide, visit [http://www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool\\_landing.html](http://www.pta.org/familytoschool/familytoschool_landing.html)

**TEXAS PTA ANNOUNCES SHOP & CARE  
Easy, nontraditional fundraisers**



Shop and Care is a brand new program from Texas PTA that showcases easy, nontraditional fundraisers for your PTA to use. Nontraditional fundraisers are a great way to support your PTA's financial goals without taxing your volunteer pool or expending your members' willingness to give.

Shop & Care fundraisers:

- Easy to do
- Sell things people were going to buy anyway
- The more Shop and Care fundraisers you participate in, the more money you'll make
- Benefits Texas PTA as well which benefits your PTA too

Here are the Shop and Card participants so far:

- Magazines
- Online Mall
- Electricity
- Adventures in the Arts Book & CD
- Online Dues and Donations

For more information, check the Texas PTA website [www.txpta.org/Shop&Care.html](http://www.txpta.org/Shop&Care.html)



**2008 CRYSTAL AWARDS  
FEBRUARY 29, 2008  
WESTIN OAKS 6:30 P.M.**



The 2008 Crystal Awards – a not-to-be-missed event – is planned for Friday, February 29, 6:30 p.m., at the Westin Oaks. Chairs Patty and Bruce Busmire have selected the theme “An Evening to Honor Teachers, Our Gulf Coast Gems.” Six outstanding Gulf Coast teachers will be recognized, along with the 2007 Teachers of the Year from each SBISD school.

The awards dinner is presented by Spring Branch Education Foundation (SBEF) and the Houston Chronicle. Wal-Mart is the Platinum Crystal Underwriter. All proceeds benefit SBISD’s 32,000 students through SBEF.

Auction chairs, Heidi and David Doll, are collecting auction items that will keep the bidding lively. Several auction parties will lead up to the evening; stay tuned for more information on the “Duncan and Doughnuts” events.

You can help make the dinner a success. PTAs are encouraged to:

- Purchase a table and invite, as your guests, your school’s Teacher of the Year and guest and your principal and guest.
- Volunteer – donate auction items or help with a variety of details. Call 713.365.4781.

We look forward to your involvement and to seeing you on February 29!



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Each year, the SBISD Council of PTAs, along with the Spring Branch Education Foundation, awards scholarships to:

- Graduating Seniors for college courses to further their education
- SBISD Educators for seminars that directly benefit our students

Applications can be found on the Council’s website at [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com), select Community, then PTA Council.

In addition, the Spring Branch Education Foundation sponsors an Employee Campaign which funds the Spring Branch Education Foundation Scholarship Fund. This fund provides scholarships for Spring Branch ISD students of Spring Branch ISD employees. Applications can be found at [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com), select Community, then Education Foundation.

Texas PTA also offers scholarships for graduating seniors as well as teachers and administrators.

For students:

- Texas PTA High School Senior Scholarship; deadline March 1
- Texas PTA Arts in Education Scholarship; deadline May 1

For teachers/administrators:

- Texas PTA Teacher/Administrator Scholarship Grant; deadline March 1

Applications and more information can be found at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) (To access the member’s section, you must enter the username and password on your membership card.)

**SBISD OFFERS ONLINE ATOMIC LEARNING  
OPTION TO PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF**



Scenario: Your child is working on a school project using the computer. He/she can't remember how to do something and you're drawing a blank as well. You've tried the Help screen but found it not so helpful. Wouldn't it be great if you had some tech help at your fingertips so your child can get done and you can go to bed? Atomic Learning can provide that help in minutes. Example: Your child wants to insert clipart into his Powerpoint presentation. You go to the tutorial on Atomic Learning and in one minute, eleven seconds, you have been walked through the process.

SBISD now offers access to this web-based software training program to students, parents and staff members. Atomic Learning provides training in more than 110 software applications, including Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop and Apple's iMovie video editing program. There are even tutorials on using the iPod. Tutorials are offered in English and Spanish.

Atomic Learning's content includes:

- **Web-based software training** available 24/7
- More than **30,000 tutorial movies** on more than 110 of the most common software applications
- More than 500 **new tutorials** added every 45 days
- **AL's Weekly Tech Tips** and e-newsletters that keep readers up-to-date on frequently asked questions, news and the latest tutorial releases

Visit the Atomic Learning homepage at <http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/home>

For more information on how to log in and begin using Atomic Learning tutorials, please contact your child's campus librarian or call SBISD Educational Technology at 713-464-1511, ext. 2329.

**100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed**

*The PTA Parent –*

There are many ways that you can help your child succeed! Here are a few that you can do this week:

- Make an effort to meet your child's friends and get to know their parents.  
*Conozca a los amigos de sus hijos y a sus padres.*
- Take advantage of family programs and resources offered at the school.  
*Aproveche los programas y recursos que se ofrecen en la escuela para la familia.*
- Make local agencies and businesses aware of what's happening at your school.  
*(Hagales saber a los organismos y negocios locales que sucede en su escuela.)*
- Help coordinate and participate in events that support community groups.  
*(Ayude a coordinar y participe en acontecimientos que brindan apoyo a grupos comunitarios.)*

NOMINATE NOW!

## Nominating Committee

- The nominating committee reviews the bylaws and standing rules for duties of officers and finds qualified members to serve as leaders for the next school year. Only officers named in the bylaws are slated.
- According to Local PTA bylaws Article VIII, Section 3.a., "There shall be a nominating committee elected by the general body at a regular meeting at least one month prior to the election of officers." The bylaws go on to say how many members and alternates shall be elected.
- The Local PTA president cannot serve nor does he appoint a member of this committee. The principal of the school does not serve on this committee unless he is elected.
- The committee members meet immediately following their election to choose a chairman and the meeting dates and times based on when the majority can meet.
- All discussion of the nominating committee is strictly confidential and should not be shared.
- The nominees should be contacted by the chairman to ensure they are willing to accept if elected. A nominating committee member may be considered for a position. If a slated nominee withdraws prior to the election meeting the nominating committee reconvenes and chooses another nominee. If a nominee cannot be found, and the position is vacant when the slate is published, the president will ask for nominations from the floor at the election meeting.
- The slate is distributed through regular publicity channels as provided in Local PTA bylaws, Article VIII, Section 3.
- All nominating committee members should sign the nominating committee report if they agree with the slate of officers.
- The executive board does not approve the slate of officers. They do accept the report of the nominating committee.



## Bylaws and Standing Rules

Now is a good time to consider appointing a committee to review bylaws and standing rules and recommend revisions or amendments if needed. The Bylaws template was updated for 2007 by Texas PTA and you may want to consider updating just for these changes (no vote required). If you do not have standing rules, you might want to consider drafting them. Standing rules relate to the details of administration and procedures for carrying out the bylaws. Please contact Diane Swan at [swandive@earthlink.net](mailto:swandive@earthlink.net) for samples of Standing Rules.

**ADMINISTRATION HOLIDAY  
APPRECIATION LUNCHEON – THANK YOU**

Thank you to all the PTAs who provided food and donations for the luncheon. It was a great feast and a real treat for the employees in the Administration Building. Special thanks to Mary Kemick and Teresa Zabrek for organizing the event. Also, thank you to our helpers, Kay Kurisky and Becky Funderburk.

Diane Swan  
PTA Council President



**Duncan F. Klussmann, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

December 5, 2007

Dear Diane:

On behalf of everyone in the central administration building, I would like to thank the Spring Branch PTA Council and school PTAs for providing the wonderful "Holiday Appreciation Luncheon" for the employees in the central administration building.

Everything was very festive and the food was delicious. Please let the council members and PTA presidents know how much we appreciate their thoughtfulness and hospitality.

Have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Klussmann', written over a horizontal line.

Duncan F. Klussmann, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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**DISTRICT AND CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT TEAMS SEEK VOLUNTEERS FOR 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR**

New members are needed as parent representatives on the SBISD District Improvement Team (DIT) and as parent, community and business representatives on each school's Campus Improvement Teams (CIT).

A lottery will be held soon for DIT parent representative positions. For more information about CIT openings, please contact SBISD campuses or district administrators.

**2007/2008 SBISD PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR**  
(As of November 27, 2007)



| <b>Date</b>             | <b>Time</b>              | <b>Location</b>            | <b>Program</b>  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Tuesday<br>Feb. 5, 2008 | 6:00 p.m.-<br>8:00 p.m.  | Northbrook<br>High School  | Founder's Day Dinner  |
| Tuesday<br>Mar. 4, 2008 | 11:00a.m. -<br>1:00 p.m. | Board Room<br>Admin. Bldg. | General Meeting   |
| Tuesday<br>Apr. 1, 2008 | 6:00-p.m.<br>9:00 p.m.   | Guthrie<br>Center          | Executive Board Meeting (15 minutes);<br>General Meeting & Election; President's Thank You Dinner; Leadership<br>Orientation Training |
| Tuesday<br>May 6, 2008  | 6:30-p.m.<br>9:00 p.m.   | Board Room<br>Admin. Bldg. | Council Awards Night<br>6:30 – 7:30 pm Elementary<br>8:00 – 9:00 pm Secondary   |
| Tuesday<br>May 13, 2008 | 11:00a.m. -<br>1:00 p.m. | Board Room<br>Admin. Bldg. | Executive Board Meeting (15 minutes);<br>Council Officers/New Presidents Orientation & Luncheon                                       |

| <b>Council of PTAs Executive Board 2007/2008</b> |                 |  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| President  | Diane Swan      | <a href="mailto:swandive@earthlink.net">swandive@earthlink.net</a>   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> VP Programs                      | Terri Garcia    | <a href="mailto:tntgarcia@sbcglobal.net">tntgarcia@sbcglobal.net</a> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Leadership                    | Patty Blome     | <a href="mailto:bblome@comcast.net">bblome@comcast.net</a>           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP Membership                    | Suzanne Doler   | <a href="mailto:mandsdoler@hotmail.com">mandsdoler@hotmail.com</a>   |
| Secretary  | Kay Kurisky     | <a href="mailto:kkurisky@sbcglobal.net">kkurisky@sbcglobal.net</a>   |
| Treasurer  | David Davenport | <a href="mailto:Hodad1969@aol.com">Hodad1969@aol.com</a>             |
| Parliamentarian                                  | Pamela Wike     | <a href="mailto:thewikes@earthlink.net">thewikes@earthlink.net</a>   |

**WEBSITES**

SBISD PTA Council Website <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm>

Texas PTA Web site [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

National PTA [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

Spring Branch ISD [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

*The next newsletter will be published around February 12. Deadline for articles is February 5. PTAs – feel free to send articles on your campus events. We welcome your information. Email your articles to [swandive@earthlink.net](mailto:swandive@earthlink.net). Thank you*

**2007-2008 REFLECTIONS  
SBISD COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS**

(Included in email version only)