



COUNCIL NEWS



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Calendar

- 3/27 RFA Kick-Off Lunch
12:00 pm Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum
- 3/27 SBEF Grant Applications Due
- 3/31 Council Award applications Due
- 3/31 Student & Teacher Council Scholarship Applications Due
- 4/01 Leadership Orientation Training/Officer Workshops/Election Meeting
6:30 pm The Guthrie Center
- 5/03 Running for the Arts, Memorial City Mall
- 5/06 Council Awards Night, Admin Bldg; 6:30 – 7:30pm – Elementary; 8-9 pm – Secondary
- 5/13 Council General meeting and Orientation, 11am-1pm, Admin Bldg

President's Message

Diane Swan, Council President



Thanks to the Nominating Committee for all their work putting together a **Slate of Officers** for next year's Council of PTAs. The slate was presented at the March 6th meeting (See slate on page 2). Elections will be held on April 1st at the LOT. We will need a quorum to hold the election so please be sure to attend or send a representative for your campus.

That brings me to my next two topics. Please encourage your officers to attend the **Leadership Orientation Training** and Officer Workshops on April 1st (details on page 3). This training will certainly help your new officers get off to a good start. Remember, all PTA officers must attend the LOT training at least once during their PTA career. Please RSVP!

Council hosted a LOT in Spanish this week and our Spanish-speaking members who attended really enjoyed the opportunity to be trained in their native language. Many were going back to their campus to encourage others to attend as well as to look into bringing some training to their campus. If this is something your campus might like to investigate further, please let me know.

Secondly, please consider accepting a **chairmanship** or serving on a committee at the **Council** level. It is a very rewarding experience to get to work with different PTAs and staff from around the district. (See page 2).

At our last Council meeting, we had a roundtable discussion about a **"sister school"** concept. There seems to be some interest and Council could be helpful in the coordination of this type of initiative. Partnering with another school should be established as a win-win situation for both schools. Activities might involve things like community service, financial and /or volunteer assistance as well as opportunities to help some of our PTAs grow. If this is something that may be of interest to your PTA, please contact me at swandive@earthlink.net for more information. Also, thank your Dr. Blaine for your informative presentation on 5 Year plan and task forces at the meeting.

The last **Council meeting** of the year will be on May 13th. Please make plans to attend. We will have Council Orientation and lunch to welcome our new PTA presidents. We will be voting on changes to our Bylaws so please attend so you can vote (see proposed changes on page 3). We will also have a speaker from *Raise Your Hand Texas*, a bipartisan group of business and community leaders, parents and tax payers dedicated to strengthening and improving our public schools.

Looking forward to seeing and meeting you at LOT and Workshops!



President's Checklist

- RSVP for Leadership Orientation Training to Kay Kurisky at kkurisky@sbcglobal.net.
- Complete the SBISD PTA Council Awards applications. The packet can be found online on the Council website under Awards. Deadline is March 31st. <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm>.
- Contact Kay Kurisky if you or someone you know is interested in a chairman position for Council for 2008/2009.
- Nominate your 2008 Life Members
- Start publicizing participation or sponsorship for Running for the Arts be held May 3rd. For more information, please contact Patty Kroger at pkroger@msn.com.
- Appoint a Budget Committee.
- Local Officer Information Forms are due to Texas PTA by May 1st.
- Nominate your PTA for a Texas PTA or National PTA award. Applications can be found at www.txpta.org. Deadline for most are May 15.

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

The Nominated Officers for the 2008/2009 Council of PTAs have been slated. If you are interested, have any questions about the position duties or would like to nominate that special person for a chairmanship, please contact Kay Kurisky at kkurisky@sbcglobal.net.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers:

- President: Mary Kemick
- 1st VP-Programs: Camille Tarics
- 2nd VP-Leadership: Lindy Tennant
- 3rd VP-Membership: Laura Casanover
- Secretary: Kay Kurisky
- Treasurer: Mike Story

Elections will be held at the Leadership Orientation Training on April 1st.

Please make sure there you or a representative from your school is there that evening so we have a quorum! Thanks.

WIN A PTA AWARD! 2007/2008 SBISD COUNCIL OF PTAs AND TEXAS PTA AWARDS DEADLINE IS MARCH 31ST!



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. Deadline is March 31, 2008. www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm.

Area and Texas PTA awards applications can be found on the Texas PTA web site – www.txpta.org. Deadline for most of these is May 15th.

National PTA award applications can be found on the National PTA web site – www.pta.org. If you have questions about awards, please contact Debbie Slack at debbieslack@sbcglobal.net

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

Changes to bylaws:

1. Reduce the number of general meetings and executive meetings to 4 meetings per year (October, November, April and May)
 - o Suggested:
 - September: LOT/Workshops
 - October: General meeting (Duncan)
 - November: General Meeting (elect nominating committee)
 - December: none
 - January: none
 - February: Founders Day
 - March: none
 - April: Election/Spring LOT
 - May: Awards Night/Installation
General Meeting/Board Orientation
2. Add Executive Committee Section
3. Lower quorum to 15%
4. Reduce nominating committee from 5 members with 2 alternates to 3 members and 1 alternate
5. Add tiered dues schedule
 - o > 300 members: \$75
 - o > 100 members: \$50
 - o <= 100 members: \$25

Changes to standing rules:

1. Scholarship funding deadline: February 1st two calendar years after date of award (Ex. Awarded May 1, 2008; deadline is February 1, 2010.)
2. Treasurer will send invoice to locals for dues based on May 31 Texas PTA roster
3. A responsibility of each officer/chairman should be speaking to assigned schools about Council services
4. Allocation of Chronicle funds to operating expenses first, then scholarships

NOTE: Draft of each document is available upon request. Vote on proposed changes will occur at May 13 General Meeting.

Contact Diane Swan at swandive@earthlink.net or Pamela Wike at thewikes@earthlink.net with any questions/comments.

LEADERSHIP ORIENTATION TRAINING

The SBISD Council of PTAs presents:

Tuesday, April 1
The Guthrie Center
10660 Hammerly Blvd.

**General Meeting/Council
Elections/Speaker: Joe Kolenda, Director,
The Guthrie Center**
6:30 – 7:00 pm
Leadership Orientation Training*
7:00 – 8:30 pm
**Presidents' Workshop/Roundtable,
Treasurer, and Membership Workshops**
7:00 – 8:00 pm

*This is the course required by the Texas PTA for all PTA Board Members. If you are an incoming PTA officer or board member or are just interested, please join us for this very informative session.

Cost is \$6.00 per person – Make your check payable to Texas PTA.

Please RSVP by March 27th to Kay Kurisky at kkurisky@sbcglobal.net

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>

ATTENTION PTA TREASURERS!!

All PTAs are required to file a 990, 990N, or a 990 EZ
4 ½ Months after the end of your fiscal year end!

It is the responsibility of the outgoing treasurer to file the 990-N, 990 or 990-EZ in a timely manner.

Form 990-N (NEW)

Beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations, who previously were not required to file a return, may be required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, *Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ*. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006. PTAs whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less are not required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. With the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, these PTAs will now be required to file an electronic Form 990-N with the IRS annually. Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, must be filed electronically. There will be no paper form. The IRS will deliver a simple, Internet based process for filing the e-Postcard, and anticipates that organizations that do not have access to a computer can go to places such as their local library to file the e-Postcard. Because the system will be Internet based, organizations should not need to purchase software to file the e-Postcard. Beginning in 2008, the e-Postcard will be due every year by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax period. For example if your tax period or fiscal year ends on May 31, 2007, the e-Postcard is due October 15, 2008.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 added this filing requirement to improve transparency within the non-profit sector. The information will ensure that donors, who may want to contribute to your PTA, and the IRS have current information about your PTA. If your PTA prefers to file an information return, Form 990 or 990-EZ, the entire return must be completed. An incomplete or partially completed Form 990 or 990-EZ will not satisfy the annual filing requirement. The Pension Protection Act requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization who fails to meet their annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, **PTAs who do not file the e-Postcard or an information return, Form 990 or 990-EZ, for three consecutive years will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.**

Form 990-EZ

Under the terms of our group ruling, the Texas PTA and its local units and councils are required to file Form 990-EZ if the **average of gross receipts** for the past three fiscal years (including the year for which the return would be filed) is over \$25,000. **Schedule A must be completed and attached to the Form 990/990-EZ.** Due to the group nature of our exemption, all PTAs are considered nonprofit for the same reason. Therefore, all PTAs **must** check box 12 in Part IV of Schedule A indicating the reason for nonprivate foundation status. **Some local units may be required to file a Schedule B if they meet the requirements.**

The Form 990-EZ is an informational return only. No tax will be due if filed timely and accurately. If your gross receipts are less than \$100,000, you may use Form 990-EZ. If gross receipts are equal to or greater than \$100,000, you will need Form 990.

If you are assessed *penalties* for failure to file, contact the Texas PTA Office for assistance prior to paying. (See sample letter Appendix, page A-42.)

If you have questions, please refer to Texas PTA Treasurer's Guide or National PTA's *Money Matters* or contact David Davenport, Council Treasurer, at hodad1969@aol.com or 713 984-1385.

SBISD PTA COUNCIL CANDIDATES FORUM

Wednesday, April 23rd
7:00 pm

Woodview Elementary

9749 Cedardale 77055

(Just north of I-10 on Bunker Hill and Cedardale, south of Westview)

The next election for two positions on the Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Saturday, May 10. The Trustee positions for the upcoming election are Position 1, which is currently held by incumbent Wayne F. Schaper Sr., and Position 2, which is held by incumbent Mary Grace Landrum. This is an excellent chance to listen and ask your questions of the candidates about present and upcoming issues facing our school district in this Q&A forum. Early voting begins April 28th. Questions regarding the Forum may be directed to Leslie Conrads at leslie@bunkersteel.com or 713-868-3188.

ANNUAL RUNNING FOR THE ARTS May 3, 2008 (Kickoff Lunch: March 27th)



The Arts Partners is a citywide collaboration between the cultural arts community of Houston and the Houston area school districts. SBEF's annual "Running for the Arts" is a 5k walk/run that raises funds to allow SBISD students, grades 2-9, to attend field trips to cultural arts performances.

There is a Kick-off Luncheon for RFA and/or SBEF liaisons on March 27th to obtain all the details so make sure your Liaisons have gotten your school's information and start promoting the event to your students. This is a win/win event: kids can have fun participating in a healthy event and raise money so they can go on an arts field trip next year. Stay tuned for more information!



COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS



Each year Council hosts an Awards Night to:

- Announce the names of the graduating seniors and teachers who have won scholarships.
- Honor our Odyssey of the Mind, Reflection, and Environmental Contest winners.
- Recognize the PTAs who have won Council Awards this year.

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor these extraordinary students and PTAs. Please plan on attending and bring your children. This year the event will be split into two separate times to better accommodate families.

PTA Council Awards Night

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Administration Building, Board Room

Elementary Student Awards: 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Secondary Student Awards and Scholarships:

8:00 – 9:00 pm

MAKE YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND TEXAS PTA SUMMER SEMINAR

SLS 2008

July 25-27, 2008

Austin Convention Center

Austin, TX

This is a great opportunity to get some PTA training and ideas. Have all your officers attend and get a great start on some planning for the Fall. Check the Texas PTA website for details to come.

INNOVATIVE SCHOOLS

If you would like to see what innovative schools are doing (maybe yours is one of them) you can go to www.publicschoolinsights.org. This site, hosted by the Learning First Alliance, provides success stories of public school programs that are helping students succeed. Parents can share success stories from their own schools and districts, too.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND HEADS FOR STATE



Saturday, March 8, 43 Spring Branch teams competed at the Region tournament for Odyssey of the Mind. Teams represented Westchester Academy, Memorial MS, Cornerstone Academy, Spring Forest MS, Spring Oaks MS, Valley Oaks, Terrace, Westwood, Meadow Wood, Rummel Creek, Memorial Drive, Spring Shadows, Bunkerhill, Nottingham and Frostwood. The advancing teams are listed below. Rummel Creek's Road Rally Team B was awarded the very special award for outstanding teamwork called, The Omer Award.

At the Odyssey of the Mind State finals, these teams will be competing for a chance to represent the United States at World Finals in College Park, Maryland. Two teams from each problem and division will be chosen to go to World Finals. Come out at any time between 9-4 to cheer our schools on. **GOOD LUCK TEAMS!**

Odyssey of the Mind State Finals
April 5th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Spring Woods HS

Advancing teams in each of the five problems include:

Road Rally (The vehicle problem)

Rummel Creek Team A 2nd
Rummel Creek Team B 4th
Meadow Wood 6th
Memorial MS 1st
Spring Forest MS 3rd
Westchester Academy 1st

DinoStories

Memorial Drive Team A 2nd
Westchester Academy 2nd
Cornerstone Academy 3rd
Spring Oaks MS 6th
Westchester 1st

The Wonderful Muses

Rummel Creek 2nd
Terrace 5th
Valley Oaks 6th

Tee Structure

Valley Oaks 2nd
Meadow Wood 5th
Terrace 6th
Spring Oaks MS 1st
Spring Forest MS 5th
Westchester 1st

The Eccentrics!

Memorial Drive 5th
Valley Oaks 6th
Spring Forest MS 2nd



You may not be aware of this, but teachers on average in the US will spend more than \$800 of their own money each year to purchase classroom materials to benefit our children's education! They do this because they are committed to helping our children reach their fullest potential. Yet we can't help but believe that classroom supplies shouldn't have to come from teachers' paychecks.

Texas PTA is proud to showcase an exciting new way for your PTA to help parents provide the classroom supplies your teachers need.

Support your Teacher.org (SYT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping teachers with the classroom supplies they typically purchase with their own money. SYT offers a way for teachers to identify the specific items needed for their classroom through an online "wish list." Then parents can purchase classroom supplies needed for their own child's classroom directly from that list.

The supplies are delivered right to the classroom - at no cost to the teacher - and the purchase is a tax-deductible, charitable donation for parents.

There's no cost to join the SYT program, and it takes just minutes for teachers to register online. To help you introduce SYT to parents and teachers at your school, just send a letter and flier to your teachers, and in a few weeks, another letter and flier to your parents. This outline walks you through the process step by step, or you can find more information at www.supportyourteacher.org.



A simple way to get involved in PTA and your child's education is through PTA Three for Me. Commit three hours of your time to school-related activities and see the difference it can make for your child, your family, and your school. To learn more, contact your local PTA or check out www.three4me.com. THREE FOR ME—A LITTLE MEANS A LOT!

2008 SPRINT AHEAD FOR EDUCATION GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Through the Sprint Ahead for Education grant program, the Sprint Foundation will accept applications for Character Education programs that promote youth leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. With a national reach, the program is open to all U.S. public schools (K-12) and U.S. public school districts.

The Sprint Ahead for Education initiative will award individual school grants up to \$5,000 and school district grants up to \$25,000. In 2008 the Sprint Foundation plans to award up to \$600,000 in combined grants to schools and school districts. The grant application period will run from March 3-April 15 2008. Applications for funding must be [submitted online](#). Sprint was the recipient of PTA's 2006 Commitment to America's Children Award.

Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

-Harold Whitman



**SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION
SPRING 2008
GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
DEADLINE: MARCH 27TH**

The Spring Branch Education Foundation is announcing its "Spring 2008 Call for Grants" to all SBISD Teachers, Staff, and PTA Representatives.

All Applicants who wish to apply for a Spring Branch Education Foundation Grant should visit the following website <http://www.springbranchisd.com/sbef/forms/forms.htm> to access the information and forms listed below:

The Grant Application Form and the Grant Guidelines have changed - PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

- SBEF Grant Application Guidelines
- Timeline for the Spring 2008 SBEF Grant Process
- SBEF Grant Application

For Questions please call 713-365-4781



**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
DEADLINE: MARCH 31ST**

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, 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, 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 (To access the member's section, you must enter the username and password on your membership card.)

Our best chance for happiness is education.

-Mark Van Doren

100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed

The PTA Parent –

There are many ways that you can help your child succeed! A few small activities each week will pay huge dividends over the course of the year. Here are a few that you can do this week:

- Discuss your child's school day and homework daily.
Hable con su hijo sobre como le fue en la escuela y last areas todos los dias.
- Know your child's academic strengths and weaknesses.
Conozca las fortalezas y debilidades academicas de su hijo.
- Work with others to develop volunteer job descriptions and evaluations.
Trabaje con otras personas para desarrollar descripciones de trabajos voluntarios y evaluaciones de quienes participan en estos.
- Assist school staff in recruiting parents and community members as volunteers.
Ayude al personal de la escuela a seleccionar padres y miembros de la comunidad como voluntarios.

TEXAS PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the 99th annual convention of the Texas PTA held February 22-24 at the Marriott Convention Center in The Woodlands, the following new Texas PTA Board of Directors was elected:

President: Jan Wilkerson
1st Vice President: Sharon Goldblatt
2nd Vice President: Karen Slay
Secretary: Becky Reynolds
Treasurer: Kathy Coffman
Region I Vice President: Rosie Wilkinson
Region II Vice President: Lisa Holbrook (our region)
Region IV Vice President: Chris Lloyd
Region V Vice President: Renee Walker
Region VI Vice President: Kari Blocher
Member at Large: Becky Godell (our Area President)

2007/2008 SBISD PTA COUNCIL CALENDAR



Date	Time	Location	Program
Tuesday Apr. 1, 2008	6:30-p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Guthrie Center	Executive Board Meeting (15 minutes); General Meeting & Election; Leadership Orientation Training
Tuesday May 6, 2008	6:30-p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	Council Awards Night 6:30 – 7:30 pm Elementary 8:00 – 9:00 pm Secondary
Tuesday May 13, 2008	11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	Executive Board Meeting (15 minutes); General Meeting; Council Officers/New Presidents Orientation & Luncheon

Council of PTAs Executive Board 2007/2008

President	Diane Swan	swandive@earthlink.net
1 st VP Programs	Terri Garcia	tntgarcia@sbcglobal.net
2 nd VP Leadership	Patty Blome	bblome@comcast.net
3 rd VP Membership	Suzanne Doler	mandsdoler@hotmail.com
Secretary	Kay Kurisky	kkurisky@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	David Davenport	Hodad1969@aol.com
Parliamentarian	Pamela Wike	thewikes@earthlink.net

WEBSITES

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

Texas PTA Web site www.txpta.org

National PTA www.pta.org

Spring Branch ISD www.springbranchisd.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next newsletter will be published around April 29. Deadline for articles is April 22. PTAs – feel free to send articles on your campus events. We welcome your information. Email your articles to swandive@earthlink.net. Thank you