

Inside this Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Council Delegates Needed; President's Checklist
- 3 Chairman and Officer Training (LOT)
- 4 Free Webinars
- 5 SBISD Parent U; SBEF Needs your Help
- 6 Helpful Websites
- 7 Council Calendar of Events; Council Executive Board Members

Calendar

- Sep 27 SBISD Parent U, 8 am, Spring Woods High School
- Oct 7 Council General Meeting, 11 am, SBISD Board Rm
- Oct 7 Leadership Orientation Training, 6:30 pm, Guthrie Ctr
- Oct 26 SBEF Golf Classic
- Nov 4 Council General Meeting, 11 am, SBISD Board Rm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kemick, Council President

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a great summer with your families and, hopefully, had some time for PTA planning for 2008-2009. We are very excited to get this Council year in full swing, and look forward to working with you all.

One of the most important jobs of Council is to provide training and support to help make each local PTA unit stronger and more successful in achieving their goals. To this end, our Council pledges to be here to answer questions, help seek answers to questions, and support the schools and communities we represent. Council also serves as the link between the local PTA unit and the Area, State and National PTA to promote parent involvement, parent education and the wellbeing of all children. As PTA members, you have access to many resources. Please remember to visit www.txpta.org and www.pta.org to familiarize you with the many resources they offer.

Our first Council meeting will be October 7th. Dr. Klussman will be there to tell us about what's happening in the District. We will also have valuable information to share with you about Council events. Although the last thing any of us need is one more meeting, it is very important to try to attend so you can share the information with your local PTA units. Council meetings are also a great way to share information, ideas and concerns and develop district-wide contacts in PTA.

We all know that children have more success with more parental involvement. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year.

HELP WANTED

Environmental Chair: Are you concerned about the environment? Then you are the perfect candidate for this position. Coordinate the Texas PTA Environmental Awareness contest to local PTAs including arranging for judging of entries. Encourages participation by schools and PTAs of environmental programs such as recycling grants.

Arts and Education/Reflections: Liaisons with local PTA units to assist with developing their Reflections programs. Arranges for judging of council-level Reflections entries and presents awards at annual Council Awards Night in the spring.

If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Mary Kemick at mkemick@comcast.net.

COUNCIL DELEGATES NEEDED

The SBISD Council of PTAs By-Laws state that our voting body must consist of Council Officers, Committee Chairs, local Presidents, Principals, Superintendents and two accredited delegates from each local unit.

Please have your PTA appoint two (2) council delegates and send their names to our Council Secretary, Kay Kurisky at kkurisky@sbcglobal.net ASAP but definitely before October 31st. Appointing delegates ensures your school has a voice at every meeting and helps you, the President, in circumstances when you cannot attend our monthly Council meetings. For more information on the responsibilities of the delegates, visit <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/delegates.htm>

Young Audiences of Houston Educational Programs: Previews 2008

When & Where?

Saturday, September 20th, 9:30am- 1:00pm
High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA)
4001 Stanford, Houston, Texas 77006

Who is invited?

Teachers, School & Library Administrators, Home School Educators, Student Teachers, All Youth Program Planners, PTA/ PTO Members, Family, Friends, and Children!

What is Previews?

Previews is a dynamic annual event showcasing Young Audiences of Houston fine arts educational programs available for PK-12 school and community venues. Attendees will experience a morning filled with a vast array of unique presentations in visual and performing arts. Young Audiences of Houston staff and artists will be on hand to answer questions, discuss program planning, customization, and funding options.

Free Professional Development Credits?

Yes! Anyone seeking professional development credits may register on our website www.yahouston.org or call our office 713.520.9267 to receive three-hours of continuing professional education credit from Young Audiences of Houston for participating in and attending Previews.

Questions?

Young Audiences of Houston
1800 St. James Place, Suite 303, Houston, TX 77056
yahou@yahouston.org

President's Checklist

- Send all officer information to the Texas PTA office, www.txpta.org
- Send information to Council President:
 - o Copy of Local Officer Information Form
 - o Council Delegate contact information
 - o SBEF Liaison contact information
 - o Newsletter editor contact information and deadlines
- Remind all your volunteers to register online to become an approved SBISD volunteer. Go to www.springbranchisd.com
- Your treasurer's audit should be completed
- Treasurer should complete Form 990 and Schedules as appropriate. Return is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your PTA's fiscal year. Contact Council Treasurer for assistance.
- Prepare new budget for approval by Executive Board and adoption by general body – don't forget your plans of work!
- Review your bylaws. Do they need updating?
- Instruct officers that they must attend Leadership Orientation if they have not taken this course previously
- Make plans to attend Council's Officers' and Chairmen's Training with your officers and Chairmen

SBISD Council of PTAs
**INCOMING PTA CHAIRMAN WORKSHOPS
AND
OFFICER TRAINING (LOT)**



Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Guthrie Center
10660 Hammerly

VITAL for INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS!! All the info you need:

To Be Prepared To Be Effective To Do Great Things for your PTA

6:30 – 7:15 pm – OFFICER & CHAIRMAN WORKSHOPS

- President and 1st VP - Get all the information and tips to be a terrific president. We'll cover everything from financial management, to running a meeting and board leadership. This is essential training for 1st year presidents and a great review for returning or VPs who may have to step in.
- Treasurer - PTA is a small non-profit business and Treasurers need to know the requirements for maintaining non-profit status and specific PTA book-keeping practices. Get all the information to simplify budgets, money management, financial reporting, taxes, etc.
- Secretary - Do I have to record all that? Find out what to put in the minutes and general rules on record keeping.

7:15 – 8:15 pm – LOT & Continuation of Workshops (for those not attending LOT)

- LOT - Leadership Orientation Training - (Cost \$6.00) - Required course from Texas PTA for ALL incoming elected/appointed OFFICERS at least once in their PTA career, although all are welcome. This covers basic boardsmanship, problem-solving, goal-setting, financial requirements and controls, and parliamentary procedures.
- Officer Workshops (from above) – Continuation of workshops from the 6:00 pm session based on interest of participants.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The next newsletter will be published around October 1. Deadline for articles is September 29. PTAs – feel free to send articles on your campus events. We welcome your information. Email your articles to pam@txreynolds.com. Thank you.

Webinars for Online Dues, Free Websites, and Free E-Newsletters

Texas PTA has made it easy for any PTA leader to set up a website, receive dues payments online, send e-newsletters (AKA broadcast e-mail), do online fundraising, and promote PTA Member Benefits!

Upcoming Webinars (Free):

Online Dues Webinars, SchoolPay Webinar: August 14th, 9:00 AM, August 19th, 8:00 AM or 8:00 PM, click [here](#) to RSVP

Pay Our PTG Webinar: September 3rd, 9:00 AM or 4:00 PM. click [here](#) to RSVP

Free Websites and Online Newsletters Webinars* (reminder)

Beginners' Webinar: August 13th, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, click [here](#) to register

Advanced Users and Questions Webinar: August 13th, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM, click [here](#) to register

*webinars have been modified to no longer require dial-in for those with computer speakers

Online Dues: Make it easy for your web-savvy members to join online. Some online credit card processors (IE: Paypal, GooglePay), require you to set up an additional account for depositing your dues. Texas PTA found two dues processors that don't have this requirement, are free for your PTA to set up and use, and welcome the opportunity to serve Texas PTAs! Go [here](#) to find out more.

Free Websites: Designed just for parent teacher groups, the PTA Network sites are so easy to use your entire board will be able to add and update content, import members, add calendar events, etc. Or you can designate a specific person -- it's all up to you with the PTA Network. 968 PTAs have requested a site so far! Set up your site today - your web-savvy members will thank you for it!

Need help getting started or taking your site to the next level? Attend a free webinar (see above)!

Click [here](#) for frequently asked questions.

Click [here](#) to get started.

Free Online Newsletters: Why pay for a service to send out your broadcast e-mail when your free PTA Network website can do it for free? If your PTA is like most, you're either already sending broadcast e-mail or planning to. It's a great way to keep in touch with your web-savvy members without wasting paper or money. Sign up for a [free website](#) to get started.



Online Fundraising: Want a way to get the financial resources you need to accomplish your mission without taxing your volunteers' time and your members' willingness to give with traditional fundraisers? Try online fundraising with the Shop & Care program. This program from Texas PTA spotlights online fundraising companies as a way to free up volunteer time for more mission-oriented activities. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Promoting Member Benefits: To promote the member-only discounts your members are entitled to, you have two new tools this year! With your membership cards you receive two table-top signs for your use at back-to-school night and other events where people can join your PTA. There is also a flier for you to print and distribute posted on the member-only website [here](#). You may want to purchase a Membership Campaign poster from the Texas PTA Online Store [here](#) (now available in Spanish too)! Be sure and check out the Membership Campaign resources on the Texas PTA website [here](#).



Don't miss SBISD's Parent U, a half-day conference style event for SBISD parents, grandparents, volunteers and community members featuring over 75 one, two or three hour learning sessions designed to help you help your child succeed!

Parent U
September 27, 2008
8:00am to 12:30pm
[Spring Woods High School](#)

Be inspired. Learn from experts in the fields of education, the social services, youth development, health and wellness, and more. Leave with practical information and strategies for parenting and supporting your child academically, socially and developmentally whether he/she is a pre-schooler or preparing for college. Be educated. Over 75 sessions will address the information you need to know along six strategic tracks: Helping your child succeed academically, Health and Wellness, Parenting Strategies, College Readiness and Preparation, Support for the Special Needs Child, and Keeping Your Child Safe. Be there. Registration is easy. Register at your campus or the SBISD Administration Building, by fax at (713.365.478) or online at <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/parentu/parentu.htm>. Conference booklets, complete with course descriptions and registration forms in English and Spanish will be available in all campus offices beginning September 4th.

For more information, please contact SBISD Community Relations at 713.464.1511, ext 2287, or email partner@springbranchisd.com; or the SBISD Parent Center at 713.365.5589. SBISD's Parent U is hosted by the SBISD Community Relations Division and supported by the Spring Branch Education Foundation and the Spring Branch Council of PTA's. Generous underwriting has been provided by Houston Community College Northwest, Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement

SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION (SBEF) NEEDS YOUR HELP!



* Publicize SBEF 2008-2009 Signature Events. The revenue raised from these events funds some very significant projects in our schools and district including the SBEF J. Landon Short Mini Grant projects, the Community Network Project, the SBISD Mentoring Program, Scholarships for Students and Teachers, Art Partners Field Trips and individual campus projects. Your help in promoting the Foundation's events throughout your school community will assist us in raising funds for these worthwhile projects that benefit our students and teachers. Please announce these events and mark your calendars:

2008 Golf Classic	2009 Crystal Awards	2009 Running for the Arts
Sunday, October 26, 2008	Friday (evening), March 6, 2009	Saturday, May 2, 2009
River Ridge Golf Course	Westin Galleria	Memorial City Mall

* Send Campus Teacher of the Year to Crystal Awards: The SBEF began a wonderful tradition at the 2006 Crystal Awards by honoring SBISD's Teachers of the Year from each campus. Please consider budgeting the cost of a ticket for your school's Teacher of the Year and their guest (\$200), or in addition, include your principal and their guest (\$400.) Better yet, sponsor a table (\$1,000.) If your PTA would like to send your Teacher of the Year but doesn't have the funding, please contact Cece Thompson.

* Help Promote Running for the Arts: Add the following statement to the permission slips for all field trips paid for by Running for the Arts revenue: "This field trip is made possible by revenue generated from the 2007 Running for the Arts 5K Run/Walk. Running for the Arts is sponsored by

THE THEME FOR 2008-2009 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM IS "WOW".



The SBISD website is full of information for your local PTA's Reflections Chair to get started. You will be able to review online program information, get help establishing a calendar of key dates for your local program, get suggestions for recruitment of judges, and how to advertise your program. Go to <http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm> and click on the Reflections link.

Some key dates are listed below.

JUDGING LEVELS	ENTRY DEADLINE	JUDGING DATE	AWARDS – RECOGNITION
1 – Local	October 31, 2008 (suggested)	November	Local campus spearheads
2 – SBISD Council	December 3, 2008 Cornerstone Library (8am - 11:00 am)	December 1 st -5th	May, 2009
3 – District	January 2009 TBD by Area 11	January	Area 11 Awards Presentation TBA
4 – State	February 2009	March	Winners notified directly by the State office
5 - National	March (TBD)	May 6th	Winners notified directly by National

WEBSITES

SBISD PTA Council Website

http://www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta_council/pta_council_index.htm

Check out the Council website – it has been updated and includes more information about Council and PTA in general. One of the additions provides links to resources about PTA and parenting in Spanish. Check it out.

Texas PTA Web site

www.txpta.org

Be sure to visit the members' site – you will need the user name and password from the back of your membership card. Find officer and chairman guides, membership information and more.

National PTA website

www.pta.org

Check out the "PTA Great Idea Bank" under Leadership Resources – Local Leaders (you will need username and password here as well)

Council of PTAs Calendar of Events 2008-2009

Date	Time	Location	Program
Saturday September 27, 2008	8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Spring Woods High School	SBISD Parent U – a community day of learning
Tuesday October 7, 2008	11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Program - Dr. Duncan Klussmann, SBISD Superintendent: "State of the District" ; Lunch will be provided by Council
Tuesday October 7, 2008	6:30-p.m. to 8:15 p.m.	Guthrie Center	President's Roundtable; Treasurer & Secretary Training; Leadership Orientation Course
Sunday October 26, 2008		River Ridge Golf Course	SBEF Golf Classic
Tuesday November 4, 2008	11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Lunch will be provided by Council
Tuesday February 3, 2009	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Northbrook High School	Founder's Day Dinner
Friday March 6, 2009		Westin Galleria	Crystal Awards
Tuesday April 7, 2009	11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Lunch will be provided by Council
Saturday May 2, 2009	8:00a.m.	Memorial City Mall	Running for the Arts 5K Walk/Run
Tuesday May 5, 2009	11:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Lunch will be provided by Council
Wednesday May 6, 2009	6:30p.m. to 9:00p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	Council Awards Night 6:30 – 7:30 pm Elementary 8:00 – 9:00 pm Secondary
Tuesday May 12, 2009	11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	Executive Meeting; Council Officers/New President's Orientation and Luncheon

Council of PTAs Executive Board 2008-2009

Officer	Name	Email
President	Mark Kemick	mkemick@comcast.net
1 st VP Programs	Camille Tarics	cnt4456@aol.com
2 nd VP Leadership	Lindy Tennet	ltennet@yahoo.com
3 rd VP Membership	Laura Casanover	lcasanover@yahoo.com
Secretary	Kay Kurisky	kkurisky@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Mike Story	storytunes@aol.com
Parliamentarian	Lisa Lundquist	lisalundquist@sbcglobal.net
Historian	David Davenport	hodad1969@aol.com