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Calendar

- 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

I hope this newsletter finds you all with electricity and little or no damage from Hurricane Ike. I know we all are trying to get our lives and our schedules back in order. Please let us know if any of you need any help from Texas PTA. They have a link on their website for anyone needing assistance.

Council Meeting: October 7th will be our first Council meeting for the year. It will be at 11 am in the Board Room of the Administration Building. Our Superintendent, Dr. Duncan Klussman, is our keynote speaker. He will give us his "State of the District" address and answer any questions we might have. This should be an interesting and informative meeting, so please plan on attending. Your rsvp's should be given to Kay Kurisky. Her email address is kkurisky@sbcglobal.net. Lunch will also be served!

Fall Leadership training: Also October 7th at the Guthrie Center. The LOT will begin at 6:30 pm. Our Area 11 President, Becky Godell, will conduct the training. After the LOT there will be President, Secretary and Treasurer Workshops. We will also have information available for you about Parliamentary training.

Help Wanted: The Council is still in need of an Awards Chair. This is a very important position for Council and also a very rewarding one. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact me. Information is also available on the website.

See you October 7th for the General Meeting and Fall LOT!

SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION HAS MUCH TO REPORT

It was a busy summer for Spring Branch Education Foundation and fall promises to be just as busy!

First order of business is to offer a huge thank you to the PTA! Your efforts in getting our materials in the first day packets were instrumental in a very successful Parent Campaign. Thank you for helping us distribute:

Go To folders – Underwritten by Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, these folders are perfect for parents to keep at home so that all school forms for each child are at the ready when needed.

Magnetic calendars – These refrigerator calendars help keep early dismissals and student holidays straight – at least until Ike came through town. Thank you, First Community Credit Union.

SBEF Parent Letter appeal – This campaign raised \$24,295 for SBEF and programs for your children. Thank you, PTAs and parents!

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SBISD employees also rose to the occasion in the 2008 Employee Campaign. To date, pledges and one-time donations are \$55,163 – a 400 percent increase over last year! This will enable SBEF to significantly increase the number of scholarships awarded to SBISD employee’s children who are graduates of SBISD school. As SBEF Chair Warren Matthews so eloquently said, this is proof that “we take care of our own.”

Important up-coming dates:

Thursday, October 16, 2008, 4 p.m. – Deadline for Fall Call to Grants. Campuses and PTAs are invited to submit grant applications for campus-specific projects, up to \$5,000 each. Grants will be announced on November 24. Submit a grant application at: www.springbranchisd.com/sbef/forms/forms.htm

Sunday, October 26, 2008 – SBEF Golf Classic. This annual event, a four-person team scramble, will take place at River Ridge Golf Course. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available; deadline for recognition is October 14. You may register to play as late as October 23: teams, \$1600; individuals, \$400. Call the SBEF office, 713.365.4781, for registration forms and information.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

The Texas PTA wishes to extend an invitation to all students to join us in the 2008-2009 Environmental Awareness Program. The Theme this year is “I’ve got ENERGY!” The program is open to all students from PTA schools in grades Pre-K through 12. We hope students will develop high-level thinking skills in relation to environmental education through the TEKS.

The deadline for students to submit entries is March 15, 2009. Program information and Student Entry forms are available at <http://www.txpta.org/members/enviroRules.html>

The council is still in need of someone to chair this program. Are you concerned about the environment? Then you are the perfect candidate for this position. Coordinate the Texas PTA Environmental Awareness contest with local PTAs including arranging for judging of entries. Encourages participation by schools and PTAs of environmental programs such as recycling grants.

If you are interested in chairing this position, please contact Mary Kemick at mke-

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WEBSITES

SBISD PTA Council Website
www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.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)

Spring Branch ISD
www.springbranchisd.com

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—7:30 pm – LOT

- o 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.

7:30 pm—8:15 pm – OFFICER & CHAIRMAN WORKSHOPS

- o 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 Presidents or VPs who may have to step in.
- o 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.
- o Secretary - Do I have to record all that? Find out what to put in the minutes and general rules on record keeping.

RSVP to Lindy Tennet at ltennet@yahoo.com

* **THEATER ARTS/ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORKSHOP** *
* The 9th annual Theater Arts / Odyssey of the Mind Workshop will be held on October 25 from 8:30- *
* 2:30 at Spring Woods HS. The workshop, which includes lunch, costs \$20.00 and sessions include: *
* Improvitation, Performance, Dance, "Tools, Tips and Techniques", Make-up, Costumes/Props, Re- *
* verse Engineering, and Mime. *
* For registration forms contact Iris Story, PTA Odyssey Representative at Omers5@aol.com or *
* 713.690.1108. *

THE SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION FALL 2008 GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOUNDATION HAS EXTENDED THE GRANT APPLICATION DUE DATE TO OCTOBER 16, 2008 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Spring Branch Education Foundation is announcing their "Fall 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 and access the SBEF Grant Application Guidelines, Timeline for the Spring 2008 SBEF Grant Process and SBEF Grant Application, need to visit <http://www.springbranchisd.com/sbef/forms/forms.htm>

The Grant Application Form and the Grant Guidelines have changed - PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. ALL GRANTS MUST BE IN THE FOUNDATION'S OFFICE BY 4:00 P.M. ON OCTOBER 16, 2008

For Questions, please contact CeCe Thompson at cecilia.thompson@springbranchisd.com or call 713-365-4781.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WINNERS

A record number of SBISD Odyssey of the Mind teams competed in World Finals May 30-June 3 in College Park, Maryland. After having placed 1st or 2nd at Texas State finals the teams went up against the top teams from the United States as well as the best from all over the world. It was a marvelous experience that culminated in exciting results which we can all share pride in. Spring Forest MS placed 3rd in Division 3 for Problem 5! The team chose the humorous problem, The Eccentrics, and made the judges roll with laughter.

Spring Oaks MS team chose to be a buddy team to Poland, helping them cope with the language barrier and showing them Washington DC. They now have new lifelong friends.

Congratulations to our World Finalists:

Meadow Wood, Div. 1, "Road Rally", Harley Rowland, Hannah Stuart, Alessandro Frau, Douglas Baker, Scott Brown, Rebecca Williamson, Matthew Martin

Spring Forest Div 2, "The Eccentrics", Matthew Greene, Evan White, Austin Stephens, Isai Martinez, Sean McDermott, Will Lynde

Spring Oaks Div 2, "Tee Structure"; Mason Story, Ob Ready, Christian Alatorre, Kyle Guillemette, Laura Sagastume, Tracy Mockler

Westchester Academy, Div 2, "Dinostories", Garrett Hogue, Lex Freeman, Steve Krueger, Laura Mello, Helen Scott

Westchester Academy, Div 3, "Road Rally", Grant Williams, Laura Simons, Priscilla Cevallos, Justin West, Maddie Donaldson, Julian Breaux

Westchester Academy, Div 3, "Tee Structure"; Matt McMullin, David Glover, Michael Chiles, Nicholas Wike, Calum Mitchell, Cassie Hurst, Colin Gray

ATTENTION PTA TREASURERS

We are about two weeks away from the October 15th deadline for sending in your SBISD council dues of \$50. Please send to:

SBISD PTA Council Treasurer
955 Campbell Rd.
Houston, TX 77024

Also, this is a reminder that all PTAs must file a Federal Tax form 990 by 4 1/2 months after the end of your fiscal year. Those PTAs whose receipts are annually \$25,000 or less can file the 990-N electronically via the internet at <http://epostcard.form990.org>.

Please contact Mike Story, Council Treasurer, if you have any questions at 713-690-1108, or at storytunes@aol.com.

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 no later than 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>

TEENS AND RISKY BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

Palmer Drug Abuse Program & Memorial High School PTA Proudly Presents "Teens and Risky Behavior" hosted by Deborah Duncan, KHOU TV host - Great Day Houston on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the MHS Auditorium

This Program is open to all Spring Branch students and parents. For additional information on "Teens and Risky Behavior", and for information on the Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP), please contact John Will at 713-301-0516 or visit www.pdaphouston.org.

The Palmer Drug Abuse Program, the oldest substance abuse recovery program for youth in the Houston community, has operated continuously since 1971. A proven program, PDAP provides free prevention, education and counseling services to Houston area young people, ages 12-25, and their families. PDAP currently operates from five satellite offices that are based in space donated by area churches.

NATIONAL STUDENT/PARENT MOCK ELECTION

In November, Americans will be voting in the federal elections for president, vice president, 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 U.S. senators. In the state elections, we will be electing 11 governors and more than 6,500 state house and senate members, as well as mayors, regents, city council members, boards of supervisors, county officials and school board trustees.

November 2008 presents an educational opportunity for students to learn more about the election process and the intrinsic value of every vote.

The National Student/Parent Mock Election provides an excellent vehicle for this education. At their Web site at www.nationalmockelection.org/, parents, students and teachers can download a tool kit, curriculum, ballots and more to make this

Spring Branch Education Foundation thanks the SBISD community for a successful year. Please take a minute to read about our accomplishments.



Grants to SBISD – During the 2007-2008 school year the Foundation awarded grants that have a direct impact on students.

- Cedar Brook Elementary – Vegetable garden irrigation system
- Hunters Creek Elementary – Kindergarten Action Based Learning Lab
- Meadow Woods Elementary – PreK and kindergarten bicycle safety
- Pine Shadows Elementary – 5th grade after-school science camp
- Ridgecrest Elementary – Even Start summer program
- Spring Forest Middle – PM Forest after-school program
- Tiger Trail School – Rolling book baskets for PreK students
- Westchester Academy – Broadcasting studio
- Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum – Road Shows and study trips
- Edgewood Elementary – Supporting Young Scientists program
- Housman Elementary – After-school enrichment program
- Memorial Middle – Social Learning Through Video
- Memorial High – Algebra Rescue Program
- Rummel Creek Elementary – 10 Frames for primary mathematics
- Shadow Oaks Elementary – Primary science lab
- Spring Woods High – Aquatic Science hands-on lab
- Thornwood Elementary – Raising Lifelong Readers
- Treasure Forest Elementary – Voluntary reading program
- District projects:
 - Good Neighbor Program
 - J. Landon Short Mini-Grant Program
 - SpringBoard Mentoring Programs

Grants to SBEF – Thank you to these organizations for supporting extraordinary programs in SBISD.

- Aetna Foundation - \$10,000 – Good Neighbor Program
- Bass Foundation - \$10,000 – Academy of Science & Engineering
- Bridgeway Charitable Foundation - \$52,000 – J. Landon Short Mini Grant Program, Spring Forest Multicultural Festival and other SBISD programs
- Lyons Foundation - \$10,000 – SpringBoard Mentoring Program
- IME Grant - \$9,000 - Parent Education Classes
- Washington Mutual - \$15,000 – Principal’s Leadership Program at Harvard University

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The newsletters are published about the 1st of every month. Copies of published newsletters along with upcoming deadlines, can be found at www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/newsletter.htm. PTAs – feel free to send articles on your campus events. We welcome your information. Email your articles to pam@txreynolds.com. Thank you.

Scholarships funded by SBEF—Employee Campaign Scholarships – Generous donations to the SBISD Employee Campaign allowed SBEF to award scholarships to 14 SBISD graduates who are children of SBISD employees.

- Memorial High School – Molly Hicks
- Spring Woods High School – Alberto Cenicerros, Ashley Bliss Escobedo, Stephanie Garland Healy, Annette Santos
- Stratford High School – Jana Nicole Havey, Erin Jackson, Eric Johnson, Camille Keenan, Jade Isabella Mardirosian, Kayte Menotti, Hallie Schaper
- Westchester Academy for International Studies – Evani Garcia, Emily Minnis

Council of PTAs Student and Teacher Scholarships - Scholarships were awarded in May to a graduate from each SBISD high school and four teachers for professional development.

Students:

- The Guthrie Center – Julio Cesar Cornejo
- Memorial High School – Shelby Marin Reinhardt
- Northbrook High School – Oscar Antonio Delgado
- School of Choice – Roxana Bravo
- Spring Woods High School – Rachel Heidemann
- Stratford High School – Bryan Mazas
- Westchester Academy for International Studies – shared by Thomas Scott Cortner and Tracy Lean Cortner

Teachers:

- Karen Ferraro - Frostwood Elementary School
- Lorraine Klim-Drew - Memorial Drive Elementary
- Pattie Nommensen - Memorial High School
- Juan Suarez - Hollibrook Elementary

Monica Neubauer Scholarship for Memorial High School graduates interested in a career in education –

- Mary Grace Gleeson and Amanda Christine Kvinta

Fund-raisers – Through the tireless efforts of many volunteers the Foundation’s three signature events were the most successful ever.

- The 12th annual golf tournament, chaired by SBEF Board member Gary Cooper, attracted 33 teams and raised \$71,000.
- The Crystal Awards Gala, co-chaired by Patty and Bruce Busmire, raised \$105,000, the highest in the event’s 15-year history.
- Chaired by Patti Kroger, the 16th annual 5K Running for the Arts Run/Walk saw a 60 percent increase in participants and proceeds.

The SBEF Board and staff have worked through the summer to prepare for this school year. The Board offers is appreciation to Gary Junek for his tireless efforts as last year’s chair and welcomes Warren Matthews who accepts the role for the 2008-09 term.

As you read about the incredible programs the Foundation has funded, please consider making a donation. The Foundation provides donors with a vehicle for making tax-deductible gifts to SBISD. You may send a check to SBEF, 955 Campbell Road, Suite 206, Houston, TX 77024, or [click here](#) to make a donation electronically. Thank you!

Council of PTAs Calendar of Events 2008-2009

Date	Time	Location	Program
Tuesday October 7, 2008	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Program - Dr. Duncan Klusmann, 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	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Program - Mike Falick, Member, SBISD Board of Trustees ; 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	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Lunch will be provided by Council
Saturday May 2, 2009	8:00 a.m.	Memorial City Mall	Running for the Arts 5K Walk/Run
Tuesday May 5, 2009	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Board Room Admin. Bldg.	General Meeting; Lunch will be provided by Council
Wednesday May 6, 2009	6:30 p.m. to 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 12, 2009	11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.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