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Calendar

- Dec 3 Reflections entries due to Council
- Jan 9 Photos for Founder's Day Dinner needed
- Jan 15 Deadline to submit entries for School Bell Award
- Jan 17 SBISD Parent U (rescheduled date)
- Feb 3 Founder's Day Dinner, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Northbrook HS
- Mar 6 SBEF Crystal Awards, Westin Galleria

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kemick, Council President

I hope this newsletter finds you all well fed after a long Thanksgiving weekend break. As you get ready for the upcoming holiday season, please remember that one of the best gifts you can give your child is that of involvement. Getting involved in your child's school and community benefits not only your child, but many other children as well. PTA gives us the opportunity for year-round involvement.

As the year winds up, let's take a moment to review where we are. I know many of our schools were affected by Hurricane Ike. If you have not already sent in your membership rosters and dues, it is not too late. We currently have 11 inactive schools on our roster. If you are one of them and need help with any information, please contact me.

2009 will offer many opportunities for everyone to support success. Council will host our annual Founder's Day Awards Dinner February 3, 2009. This event will recognize our outstanding educators as well as our PTA Life Members. Please be sure to submit your nominations for the School Bell Award as well as the name of your Life Members, so they can be honored at this event.

The Spring Branch Educational Foundation will host it's annual Crystal Awards on March 6, 2009. This is a wonderful event honoring outstanding teachers throughout the Gulf Coast. For information on either of these events, please visit the Spring Branch ISD website at

www.springbranchisd.com.

I have enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know so many of you talented and dedicated PTA leaders and members. I look forward to meeting many more of you. I encourage each of you to get involved on the Council level. It is a wonderful way to stay involved with your children and their communities. Our nominating committee is working to fill positions for next year. Consider volunteering on the council level, or just say "yes" if they call you. If you have any interest in a Council position for next school year, please let me know. The work load is minimal, and the rewards are great. Plus, we have a lot of fun!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday with your family and friends!

SCHOOL BELL AWARD

The School Bell Award deadline is quickly approaching. Before you leave for the holidays, start considering a candidate your PTA can nominate for the Council of PTAs School Bell Award.

The Deadline for entries is January 15, 2009. Entries forms can be found at www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/awards.htm.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

With the election over, are you missing all the talk about the “issues”? Well, good news – there are several issues being considered right now that could impact your students—Read on and consider voicing your opinion!

Pre-K Expansion Grant. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has announced new rules of eligibility for school districts to qualify for this grant which has provided about \$3 million a year to SBISD to help fund a full-day Pre-K program for 4 year olds.

- If enacted as drafted at this time, the new rules most likely will have a significant adverse impact on the district’s exemplary prekindergarten program.
- The TEA is accepting public feedback on the proposed rules. Email comments to rules@tea.state.tx.us. For more information, visit [Spring Branch ISD](#).

Uniform GPA - Update. The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is expected to vote on the Commissioner’s revised proposal during its January Board meeting.

- THECB was charged by the Texas Legislature to develop a uniform method of calculating the GPA of Texas high school students for use in admission decisions at state universities.
- An extra half credit (.5) has been proposed for Pre-AP/Pre-IB courses. The initial proposal did not award any extra points. AP and IB courses result in a full extra point of credit.
- Implementation is proposed to begin with this year’s eighth graders. Courses taken in middle school for high school credit are included in the computation.
- To learn more about the proposal, visit [THECB > Uniform GPA](#). To comment on this proposal, email Natalie Coffey at natalie.coffey@theccb.state.tx.us.

The Texas 81st Legislative Regular Session begins on January 13, 2009. Bills are already being filed. Visit [Texas Legislature Online](#) for more information. See the SBISD Board of Trustees’ Priorities and Positions at [Policy Administration / Governmental Engagement](#). See Texas PTA Legislative Priorities at www.txpta.org.

Diane Swan, Legislative Chair

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

REFLECTIONS NEWS

All Reflections entries moving on from the local level are to be brought to Cornerstone Academy Library this Wednesday, December 3rd, from 11 am to 2 pm.

Each entry must be accompanied by 3 entry forms (1 original and 2 copies). The first entry form must be attached to the entry; the other two should accompany your Local Participation form in a folder.

If you have any questions, contact Lisa Peterson at lisacp@earthlink.net.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Things are hopping now! Schools all over the district are watching their Odyssey of the Mind teams create marvelous inventions, props, costumes, membership signs, scripts and much more.

The teams are getting ready for a practice at Barnes & Noble on February 7 followed by Regions finals at Paul Revere MS on February 28. Plan on coming out to support and cheer your teams!

Spontaneous Problem Solving Workshop-The 11th annual Spontaneous Problem Solving Workshop will be held at Spring Oaks MS on January 31. It is open to 3rd-12th graders. You do not have to be on an Odyssey team to come. There will be an am and a pm session available. The cost is \$15.00 per child. For registration forms contact Iris Story at 713.690.1108 or email Omers5@aol.com

SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Thanks to all of the awesome PTA participants in PTA council for submitting your membership rosters to council.

We look forward to Springing into Action - Build into the Lives of our Children! Use this phrase to build membership in the Spring! *Spring Showers Grow Beautiful Flowers - Beautiful Minds Grow with Your Help.* These are just a couple of ideas to use to increase your PTA membership in the spring of 2009.

Do you know others who don't have children in our schools but share the same passion for education? Ask them to join to help shape the future of our country.

Laura Casanover, Membership Chair

NEEDED: YOUR SCHOOL'S PHOTOS

The Council's annual Founder's Day Awards Dinner will be February 3, 2009 to honor We will be compiling photos of all types of school events to include in the Founder's Day Dinner slide show. We'd love to include pictures of your school and PTA events. Please email jpeg files to pam@txreynolds.com.



Texans now have a new way to support higher education in the state with the purchase of Col-



lege for all Texans specialty license plates.

\$30* will get you a set of two plates. \$22 of that will go to a fund to match scholarships for Texas students. Go to www.CollegeForAllTexans.com for details on how to order yours. Show everyone that you support opportunities for all Texans to attend college and a way to help them pay for it.

**This cost is in addition to your annual auto registration fee. \$22 is tax deductible.*

www.CollegeforallTexans.com

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.

Join Us!
Saturday, January 17, 2009

2009

PARENT



A DAY
OF LEARNING



Spring Woods High School
2045 Gessner, Houston,
Texas 77080

EVENT
MAP >>



**'U' can make a
difference in your
child's success!**

Six learning tracks to choose from:

- Academics
- Parenting skills
- College readiness
- Health and wellness
- Safety
- Special needs

Print FAQs Sheet (.pdf)

Questions?

partner@springbranchisd.com

Email us right now!

Thank you Parent U underwriters!



Helping. Here.®



Robert Stevenson,
CPA



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT HOUSTON



Need more information?

SBISD Community Relations

713.464.1511, ext 2287,

partner@springbranchisd.com

SBISD Parent Center at 713.365.5589

Event Co-Sponsors



go to www.springbranchisd.com/partners/parentu/parentu.htm to register

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 SBISD Community Relations
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