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Calendar

- Mar 6 SBEF Crystal
Awards, 6:30 pm,
Westin Galleria
- Apr 7 Council General
Meeting, 11:30 am,
Admin Bldg. Board
Room
- May 2 Run for the Arts,
8:00 am
- May 5 Council General
Meeting, 11:30 am,
Altharetta Yeargin
Art Museum
- May 6 Council Awards
Night, 6:30 pm,
Admin Bldg. Board
Room

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Kemick, Council President

It was really wonderful seeing so many of you at Founder's Day! Congratulations to all the nominees and honorees. Congratulations to our School Bell Award winner, Roger Martinez. Mr. Martinez is a Fifth Grade teacher from Westwood Elementary School. Congratulation to Wayne Schaper Sr. who was our Council Life Award Recipient this year. A huge thank you goes to Misty Ellis who was our Founder's Day Chairman this year. Also, many thanks to Pam Reynolds, our Communications Chair, who graciously stepped up to serve as our Awards Chair in the absence of one this year.

I would also like to thank the Spring Branch Education Foundation for their donation to the Council Scholarship Fund. This generous gift allows Council to grant scholarships to well-deserving SBISD graduating seniors and educators pursuing educational opportunities. Application deadline for the scholarships is March 31st. The scholarships will be presented at Awards night May 6th.

Council is in the process of nominating a slate of officers for next year. There are many opportunities to serve on the District level. Many of these do not require a year-round commitment, nor do they require prior experience. What they do require is a heartfelt desire to volunteer for our District to benefit your children. Please consider offering to serve in some capacity whether big or small. We all have a good time and feel the experience is very rewarding. Plus, the meals aren't bad either! If you would like more information on any volunteer opportunities, please contact Lisa Lundquist, our nominating committee chair. Her email address is lisalundquist@sbcglobal.net.

Our next Council meeting is Tuesday, April 7th at 11:30 am. Dr. Jennifer Blaine and Ms. Rebecca Fuchs are our keynote speakers. This should be an interesting and informative meeting, so please plan on attending. Our last meeting of the year will be May 5th and the location has been changed. The Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum has graciously offered to host our last meeting. Details will follow as the date gets closer.

Please look closely at the articles and dates in our newsletter. As always, please contact me with any suggestions, questions or concerns.

Have a great week!

COUNCIL OF PTAs AWARDS

Each year, the PTA Council hands out numerous awards. Your PTA could be an award winner! But you can only win if you apply.

Applications for all Council awards can be obtained online at the Council website:
www.springbranchisd.com/partners/pta/pta.htm.

The deadline for the following Council awards is March 31, 2009.

- Outstanding Alcohol and Drug Education Program
- Outstanding PTA Communications Award
- Cultural Arts Program Award (elementary school)
- Cultural Arts Program Award (secondary school)
- Outstanding Membership Campaign
- Helen Huey Outstanding Newsletter Award (elementary school)
- Helen Huey Outstanding Newsletter Award (secondary school)
- Parent Education Program
- Outstanding PTA Award (elementary school)
- Outstanding PTA Award (secondary school)



The Following are awards given from Texas PTA. All awards entries are submitted electronically via the Texas PTA Web site at www.txpta.org no later than May 15, 2009. Each award recognizes PTAs at either the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. Submission forms will be available beginning April 1, 2009.

- Arts in Education Award
- Electronic Newsletter Award
- Healthy Lifestyles Achievement Award
- Legislative Action Award
- Membership Campaign Award
- Newsletter Award
- Parent Education Programming Award
- Parent Involvement Award
- Student Involvement Award
- Web Site Award

Go to www.txpta.org/members/awardslocal.html to find out information and the criteria for each award.

SPRING BRANCH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION PLANS 2009 CRYSTAL AWARD GALA



Make plans to attend the 2009 Crystal Award Gala on Friday, March 6th, 6:30 p.m. at The Westin Galleria when community members gather for "An Evening to Honor Teachers – Our Homegrown Heroes." Spring Branch Education Foundation has hosted this event since 1993 to acknowledge our exceptional teachers and to thank them for all they do.

Six Gulf Coast-area teachers have been selected to receive the 2009 Crystal Award, an honor that recognizes teachers who make a significant difference for students.

We are especially grateful for our Spring Branch winner – Mark Plunkett from Cornerstone Academy. Mark will retire at the end of this year, but his nominators (including 24 current and former students) couldn't let him go without this honor. As a 6th grade language arts teacher, Mark hosts a Shakespeare Cussing Tournament and CNN (Cornerstone News Network), among other fun activities. He has a fan club of former students on Facebook.

Other recipients are:

- ◆ Cindy Gause, Holy Trinity Episcopal School
- ◆ Susan Leining, Santa Fe High School, Santa Fe ISD
- ◆ Kasey Mathew, Benignus Elementary School, Klein ISD
- ◆ Christie McWilliams, Cy-Fair High School, Cy-Fair ISD
- ◆ David Vialard, River Oaks Elementary School, Houston ISD

Winners were selected from more than 1,000 nominations from private and public school districts in Harris and seven other Gulf Coast counties.

In addition to the Crystal Award winners, the evening will honor 46 Spring Branch ISD Teachers of the Year. Congratulations!

Elementary Schools:

Sydney Bermack, The Bear Boulevard School
Zaragosa (Sara) M. Estrada, The Lion Lane School
Jennifer Ruth Carney, The Panda Path School
Martha (Mimi) Winters Hines, The Tiger Trail School
Cary Davis, Wildcat Way School
Allison Birney, Bendwood Campus
Rebecca (Becky) Marr, Buffalo Creek Elementary
Jenny Lewis, Bunker Hill Elementary
James Charles Garrett V, Cedar Brook Elementary
Maria Solorzano, Edgewood Elementary
Lisa Mayer, Frostwood Elementary
Alfredo Delgado, Hollibrook Elementary
Dora Aschenbeck, Housman Elementary
Ann Martin, Hunters Creek Elementary
Amanda Jon Hill, Meadow Wood Elementary
Lorraine Klim-Drew, Memorial Drive Elementary

Rohonda LaJue De Leon, Nottingham Elementary
Ana Vazao, Pine Shadows Elementary
Irma Paredes, Ridgecrest Elementary
Helen Ann Brasher, Rummel Creek Elementary
Carlos Ortiz, Shadow Oaks Elementary
Assael Guzman, Sherwood Elementary
Holly Turkington, Spring Branch Elementary
Patrice Duronslet, Spring Shadows Elementary
Mary Huffman, Terrace Elementary
Carla Jean Rhoden-Climer, Thornwood Elementary
Alma Rosa Rodriguez, Treasure Forest Elementary
Kimberley Taylor, Valley Oaks Elementary
Arlene K. Reynolds, Westwood Elementary
Sara Jane Guillory, Wilchester Elementary
Talya Barbett Robertson, Woodview Elementary

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Secondary Schools

Maurine Richter, Cornerstone Academy
Trixie Tatum, Landrum Middle
David Leeder, Memorial High
Susan Trepagnier, Memorial Middle
Nancy Avila, Northbrook High
Arthur Ray Nevarez, Northbrook Middle
Amy Kathleen Spitnale, School of Choice
Lois Dianne Gebhardt, Spring Branch Middle

Stephanie Green-Thomas, Spring Forest Middle
Lonnie Oliver, Spring Oaks Middle
Holly Drews, Spring Woods High
Joyce Richardson-Lambert, Spring Woods Middle
Jennifer Steele, Stratford High
Stephen Whitt, The Guthrie Center
Stephen Shearer, Westchester Academy

Wal-Mart, the Gala's Platinum Underwriter, will honor 39 2008 Teachers of the Year from the region, including: *Gail Talbott*, Spring Oaks Middle School

SBEF is grateful to parents and community volunteers who will make the event a success.

- ◆ Chairs: Wendy and Ben Moreland
- ◆ SBEF Special Events Chair/Past Crystal Awards Chair: Patty Busmire
- ◆ Underwriting/Table Sales Chair: Debbie Slack
- ◆ Auction Chairs: Jennie Baker and Jill Heinrich
- ◆ Decorating Chair: Becky Robertson
- ◆ Raffle Chair: Clair Martin
- ◆ Public Relations Chair: Debra Aitken
- ◆ Board of Trustee Liaison: Mary Grace Landrum
- ◆ SBEF Executive Director: Cece Thompson

For more information on the 2009 Crystal Awards Celebration or to buy tickets, call 713.365.4781

PTAs are encouraged to honor and celebrate the achievements of their teachers.

- ◆ Purchase a table and host your school's Teacher of the Year, principal and their guests. Tables for 10, normally \$1500, are offered to PTAs for \$1000. Or purchase two tables and include additional faculty and PTA members.
- ◆ Sponsor your Teacher of the Year, principal and their guests by underwriting the cost of their seats (4) at \$100 each.
- ◆ Visit www.springbranchisd.com/sbef for other underwriting opportunities.
- ◆ Volunteer by calling 713.365.4781.

The evening's proceeds help SBEF provide educational and enrichment programs in Spring Branch ISD and benefit the Houston Chronicle's Readers Are Leaders program.

About Spring Branch Education Foundation

The Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of education for every student in Spring Branch Independent School District. Founded in 1993, SBEF provides donors with a vehicle for making tax-deductible gifts to the district. The Foundation has raised more than \$6 million and received the Houston Business Promise Award from the Greater Houston Partnership.



Council of PTAs Calendar of Events 2009

Date	Time	Location	Program
Friday March 6, 2009	6:30 p.m.	Westin Galleria	Crystal Awards
Tuesday April 7, 2009	11:30 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	Run for the Arts 5K Walk/Run
Tuesday May 5, 2009	11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Altharetta Yeargin Art Museum	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	11:30 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

HELPFUL 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