

# COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

RRISD Council of PTAs Newsletter – September 2018 Edition

Parents, Teachers, ALL of US!

## FROM THE COUNCIL PTA PRESIDENT



**Welcome back to a new school year all y'all!!!**

I don't know about you, but I thought summer went by way too fast!! I'd like a "do over". By the time you read this newsletter the first month of school will be over and finished. How'd that happen???! September is here and with that comes the first RRISD Council PTA Delegate Luncheon Meeting!! The luncheon meetings are designed to be a special time for all local leaders, principals, district leadership, guests and community members, to come together and learn what's happening in the PTA, the District and school community, fortify best practices, inspire each other with our stories, spend time networking, and to recognize successes and accomplishments.

Some of you may be wondering what does a Council PTA do? Our Priorities are simple and guided by National and Texas PTA. They are to: #1 Support its local PTA leaders, #2 Operate as a Council PTA and #3 Promote National and Texas PTA. Texas PTA teaches its' leaders that one of the most important keys in being a successful organization is to have SMART goals (Smart, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely). Council PTA dedicated a lot of time and due diligence in revising its' goals for this year. We are proud to present the 2018-19 RRISD Council of PTAs Goals are:

- ❖ Champion School Safety
- ❖ Maintain a strong sense of commYOUunity between local PTAs, District leadership and the local community
- ❖ Energize local PTA leaders, District leadership and learning commYOUunities
- ❖ Empower a Legislative Voice
- ❖ Drive Membership Growth

Clearly there has been a shift in the focus, with our #1 Goal, to "Champion School Safety". Remembering that PTAs are service driven organizations who advocate for ALL CHILDREN, we have partnered with the Williamson County Sheriff's Department and the RRISD Director of Security and School Safety, Mario De La Rosa to provide parent education workshops. More details to follow shortly on this partnership and events.

You'll notice that the goal to drive membership has moved to 5<sup>th</sup> place. Let's keep in mind that while we are member-driven organization, whose primary focus will always be to "BACK THE FUTURE"... doing what is BEST AND RIGHT ALL KIDS!! We believe that in accomplishing goals 1-4, our MEMBERSHIP WILL GROW!! **PTAs don't exist without members (Y.O.U.), and volunteers (Y.O.U.) are PTAs #1 resource!!**

**THANK YOU ALL FOR DOING YOUR PART TO "MAKE EACH CHILDS POTENTIAL A REALITY!" #ONE FAMILYONEFUTURE**

*Dawn*



ROUND ROCK CHAMBER

**THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCH SPONSOR!!!**

## In this edition...

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**Contact [rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com)**



# Message from District Leadership

Steve Flores, Ph.D. Superintendent

What a wonderful start to the 2018-2019 school year! From [KickOff](#), to a visit from the Texas Commissioner of Education who announced that our District [earned an A](#) on the state's report card, to celebrating the first day of school, my calendar and my heart have been full.

I'm so excited for this new year, because every new year is a fresh opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children. I'm also happy to renew the opportunity to connect with our dedicated PTA members on a regular basis once again. Community is the backbone of our success in Round Rock ISD and we would not be the Destination District without the support of parents and community partners.

I spent the first day of school visiting campuses throughout the District—it's the best part of my job! Every time I have the opportunity to see students, teachers and campus leaders at work it re-energizes me. First days can be tough, but at the elementary, middle and high schools I visited, I saw happy students, enthusiastic teachers, administrators helping kids find their way and feel at home. Let's work together to keep that enthusiasm at "Day One" level! It's contagious, after all. If we love what we do and where we are, our students will love it, too.

On August 15, the day before classes resumed, Texas Commissioner of Education Mike Morath chose Round Rock ISD, of all the districts in Texas, to announce this year's accountability ratings and praise RRISD teachers and students for their stellar work and "A" designation. I am proud of the performance and grateful to the Commissioner for recognizing our educators, but I want you to know that in Round Rock ISD a test will never be our focus. Instead, we will continue to provide creative, enriching, engaging approaches to learning and will continue to advocate for an accountability system that fairly represents all schools and districts.

At KickOff, I shared Six Challenges with our educators—things that I'd like each student to hear in their first week of school. They are:

1. I believe in you!
2. We will have our best year ever!
3. You can count on me.
4. You are special.
5. I need you to give me your best, and together we can take care of the rest.
6. I have such high expectations for you.

And a bonus: Make sure I say and pronounce your name correctly!

These are statements my teachers shared with me many years ago at Reagan Elementary in San Angelo, Texas. If I hadn't heard them, there is no way I would be where I am today. My mother, Genoveva, had a third-grade education; my father, Porfirio, completed sixth grade. Yet, in my opinion, they had Ph.D.'s in common sense. My parents and teachers not only believed in me, they gave me the tools and the confidence to define and achieve my dreams. As parents and educators, we have the power to touch the future—for good or for ill. Our daily interactions have a lasting impact on a child. Let us all work together—no matter your role in the district—in the molding and nurturing of the "masterpieces" in every classroom on every campus in our Destination District. I have heard from dozens of teachers who say they have committed to this pledge and are seeing the positive results in their classrooms.

At this time of year, the end of the school year may feel a million miles away, and all that has to be accomplished between now and then can seem overwhelming. My advice to you is take it one moment at a time. Smile often and embrace the power of moments! And remember that one moment can change a life.

Be purposeful and joyful in all that you do. Thank you for all you do for all of our students, our teachers, administrators and support staff. We are one family with one future and I am so glad our more than 50,000 students are back on our campuses and that you are back to support them! We are better together than we are apart. Thank you for all you do and have a great year!

# Message from District Leadership

Diane M. Cox, Board of Trustees President

Dear Round Rock ISD PTA Community,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve this district as a Trustee for nearly 14 years. Round Rock ISD means so much to me. As a community member, a business professional and, most importantly, a mother and grandmother, I know the immeasurable value of exemplary public schools that offer world-class academic programs, top-notch athletic and extracurricular opportunities, and caring teachers, administrators and support staff.

Round Rock ISD schools offer that, and so much more. I have spent decades giving back to this district, as a parent, a PTA member and a school board member. I will always support our schools and be involved, but I've decided that it's time to step down from my position on the Board and am not seeking reelection in November.

Serving as a Board member and as President of the Board has given me such great respect for the mission of public education. While far from perfect, our American public education system is a huge part of what makes our country great. Our democratic values are embedded in this approach that every child, no matter where they come from or what their family income, *every child* has the right to an education and should have the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

As PTA members, you are part of that noble mission as well. You support teachers, staff and every student. Just as we need inspired school leaders and talented teachers, we need you and your support to continue the phenomenal success of Round Rock ISD. I am proud to say that I am a lifetime member of the Texas PTA and I will continue to serve beside you in making our schools the best they can be.

As you seek ways to support our schools, I want to encourage you to learn about our Bond 2018 proposition. You can find detailed information at <https://bond.roundrockisd.org>. Explore not only what may benefit your child's campus, but districtwide projects that touch all campuses as well. Study up on the impact to feeder patterns in your area. As PTA leaders, you are ambassadors for the school district so being informed is critical.

Thanks to excellent financial management at the District and the hard work of our Citizen Bond Committee members to prioritize projects, this Bond not only addresses growth, safety and security needs in our district, but it does so with **no increase to the school property tax rate**. I know there is information coming from many sources out there—people look to you to set the record straight. Take advantage of the information posted by the district, ask for a presentation to your PTA or any community organization. Make sure you are informed and that you vote and encourage others to do the same!

As someone who has held elected office since 2005, I would also implore you to carefully consider school board candidates and make an informed decision in November. School Boards make critically important decisions that affect Round Rock ISD's 50,000 students and chart the course for the future of our schools and our community. Please take the opportunity to educate yourselves on the issues and the candidates. When you find someone you can support, spread the word and let others know! Nothing is more important to our future than how we are educating our students today. Don't leave it up to chance!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you and our schools all these years. I look forward to a continued partnership and many great successes ahead for Round Rock ISD.

We are One Family, One Future.

# Council PTA Highlights

## MEMBERSHIP

Happy New Year! 2018-2019 is going to be a great year! Shout out to all of the membership chairs out there who have stood up to the challenge. You are awesome and RRISD will be better because of you. I thank you, RRISD thanks you and every child you've given a voice, thanks you!

We are looking forward to reaching our goal of 23,000 members this year! So, let's get this party started. Here are some tips to help increase memberships:

- Input your PTA's info into PT Avenue so that people can join on [JoinPTA.org](http://JoinPTA.org) and advertise it as an "easy" way to join.
- Have a membership table at all school and PTA events; I've sold memberships at sporting events!
- Set goals, put them in writing and display them around your school.
- Just ASK! You'll be surprised how many people respond.
- Have a collection box in the school office with membership forms close by to make it easy to join.

I am looking forward to working with all of you. Don't hesitate to ask if you have questions. Thank you for all you do!

LaKissa Bright, Council PTA 1st VP of Membership  
[rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com)

## COMMUNICATIONS

Please share your good news! Please send me photos at [rrisd.pta.vpcomm@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.vpcomm@gmail.com) with a short description regarding events and celebrations on your campus that we can share in our newsletters and on social media.

NEW - We are inviting local PTAs to share their "Good News and show PTA pride" at upcoming Round Rock ISD Board of Trustee meetings. Names of five (5) PTAs will be drawn, one from each learning community, to attend an upcoming Board meeting to highlight your PTA successes and what's happening on your campus. Stay tuned for more details!

Jen Johnson, Council PTA 3rd VP of Communications  
[rrisd.pta.vpcomm@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.vpcomm@gmail.com)

## DADS - Dads of Amazing Daughters and Sons!!

For as long as I can remember, PTA might as well have been called MTA (Moms Teachers Association). This is something that cannot go unnoticed or without extreme gratitude for the amazing Moms that have made our schools amazing for so long. But as the DADS Chair I am challenging our PTA's to reach out to the DADS of our schools.

For the most part Dads don't know what to do in the crafts, dance, and social gatherings. However, you run a woodworking fun day, sports evening, or a BBQ night and watch the Dads come out of the wood work (pun fully intended). The days of saying Mom does it because she doesn't work are over. All parents are equally busy today. We must change a stereotype here though and it will not be easy. Moms and Dads are both going to be of equal importance in the success or failure of future PTA's. My job throughout this year is to provide you any insight you need in getting Dads involved. I can be reached at [sethflowers@allstate.com](mailto:sethflowers@allstate.com) if you ever want to run ideas or setup a discussion. It is going to take some work and some thought to get the Dads out there but male role models are in a dire demand within our schools and we owe to all the kids to at least attempt it.

Seth Flowers, Council PTA DADS Chair

## CLOTHES CLOSET

This past year was great! Thanks to all the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, we were able to serve the families of 623 students last year.

The Clothes Closets have been open and busy since the first day of school. The next couple of months will be increasingly busy, therefore, volunteers from all our schools is very important.

Our wonderful volunteers have been a huge help sorting out the many donation we have received over the summer. Please make every effort to make sure your school sends a volunteer or two on the assigned day. Your schools continuing support keeps The Clothes Closet running smoothly and ensures we're able to give our clients a positive experience.

# Council PTA Highlights

Many hands make light work!

This year we hope to improve our closets and get the word out to even more clients. We could not do this without our wonderful volunteers lending their voices at their schools. Please inform your school about Clothes Closet. Let everyone know we are here to help families in need.

Angela Thibeault, Council PTA Clothes Closet Chair  
[rriisd.pta.councilcc@gmail.com](mailto:rriisd.pta.councilcc@gmail.com)

## LEGISLATIVE

Greetings PTA's! My name is Katrena Plummer and I am elated to be your Round Rock Council Legislative Chair for the 2018-2019 school year. This year we have a lot of ground to cover for our school district as well as the legislative session. Council PTA is planning three Bond Information Nights and three School Board Trustee Candidate Forums. Once the dates are confirmed an email will be set out. If you have not had an opportunity to sign-up for email from Texas PTA Under the Dome e-newsletter, please do so as soon as possible to get the latest updates on upcoming legislative initiatives. Texas PTA Rally Day is February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019!! Be on the lookout for more details.

If you are interested in hosting a Bond Information Night or a Trustee Board Forum, please contact myself [rriisd.pta.councillegchair@gmail.com](mailto:rriisd.pta.councillegchair@gmail.com) or Dawn Watson [rriisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com](mailto:rriisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com)

Katrena Plummer, Council PTA Legislative Chair

## WEBSITE

Welcome back, webmasters! As you are updating your PTA websites for fall, remember to check that your ecommerce information is up to date. If you are one of the many PTAs using a site through [www.ch2v.com\(my-pta.org\)](http://www.ch2v.com(my-pta.org)), that company has improved its ecommerce process this year so that users can easily update their treasurer or banking information on your site's admin page.

Also, check out the new option to use a credit card scanner with your my-pta.org site. This offers PTAs another way to process credit cards at events. Learn more about the card reader option and other site updates at this webinar:

<http://www.ch2v.com/videos/180812/video.html>.

Reminder – if your PTA would like to do e-commerce it has to be approved by your executive board and general membership. Refer to the Texas PTA E-Commerce Policy.

Shawn Dempsey, Council PTA Webmaster

## COUNCIL BUSINESS PARTNER

Hello, my name is Shavonne Martin (Jenkins). I am the Council Business Partner Chair this year. While your campus is working on expanding your business relationships and growing your membership, I want to encourage you to appreciate the existing supporters as well as the new ones you'll secure this year. Whether your partners are corporate or small businesses, they've made a financial commitment or used people resources for the benefit of your school because they are an active member of the community, have a person of interest on the campus, or possibly they are looking for a business partnership to help expand their business. Either way, be sure to look for opportunities to express gratitude, come from contribution, and offer a win/win reciprocal relationship that will ensure retention and growth. Throughout the year I will be looking for partners who are interested in joining the Council with our district in mind. If you have a great experience with a business and you think they'd be a great fit for a Council Partnership, please reach out to me at [realtor@shavonnemartin.com](mailto:realtor@shavonnemartin.com).

Thank you and have a successful school year!!

Shavonne Martin (Jenkins), Council Business Partner Chair

## Faculty Appreciation for the Alternative Campuses

We are planning on some spooky Halloween treats for our hardworking staff at Success, Goals and the RROC! We can't wait to treat the amazing staff!

Sandi Bone, Faculty Appreciation for the Alternative Campuses



# Council Highlights

## COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

Thank your all for your awesome contributions that make this newsletter possible!

Through this Council Connections PTA Newsletter, we try to reach the entire Round Rock ISD community via over 550 executive board members from our 52 PTAs and all Principals from across the entire district which spans 110 square miles.

Please write a brief article about what's going on with your PTA/PTSA. The 200 guests who attend the delegate luncheon meetings (including representatives from our Chambers of Commerce, Texas State PTA, and everyone that visits our RRISD Council of PTAs website) will be able to read about all of the incredible things our local units do.

You'll receive Council Connections Newsletter at each luncheon. After the delegate meetings it will be sent electronically, to all executive board members whose names have been uploaded to PTave. We ask that you share this product with your school communities.

If you would like to include an article, or know a business or individual who would like to sponsor this newsletter, please email the Council Connections PTA Newsletter Editor, Snehal Phirke at [rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com) or Council PTA President, Dawn Watson at [rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com).

During the months we do not have a delegatue luncheon meeting, a Digital Monthly Edition will be published. RRISD Council of PTAs is very large with lots of fantastic things going on at the local PTA units every day! Our goal is to share more often, rather than just five times a year. It is also our hope to increase communication across the District that we serve. This will allow us to provide more timely updates and resource information.

Please mark your calendars. We look forward to your articles and updates! Thank you!

**Be your kid's biggest fan.**  
**Be PTA.**

## IMPORTANT INFO!!!

**9/22 – PTA Executive Board Training at Ridgeview Middle School** = Officer positions and programs workshops begin at 9:30am. Lunch is served at 11:00am. FLO II is from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. Anyone serving in any capacity on a PTA executive board needs to take FLOI/II training. Questions? Contact Council PTA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Training, Jonathan Aylifee-Jessup at [jaj@gmail.com](mailto:jaj@gmail.com) THANK YOU!!

**Stay tuned for more details on the following...**

**Council PTA will be hosting Morning Coffee with the Superintendent.** We are in the process of securing locations in each learning community!!

**Bond Info Nights** – Council PTA is hosting three evenings over the next few weeks for the community to come out and learn about the 2018 Bond. Location/Date/Time TBD!

**School Board Candidate Forums** – Council PTA will be facilitating three forums where the community can learn more about the candidates running for school board. Location/Date/Time TBD! *Remember PTAs support issues, not candidates!*

**10/3 - Parent version of CRASE Program = Civilian Response to Active Shooter Engagement. It will be at the CRHS PAC from 9:30am to 12:00pm.** Council PTA will be holding this event three times throughout the District.

**10/11 - “Hey Dude Nice Shoes”** – Bullying Program. It will be held during the evening. Location TBD

# Community Spotlights



ROUND ROCK CHAMBER

## News from the Round Rock Chamber

### Externship Program Celebration

On August 2, the chamber and Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) celebrated the fourth annual Summer Externship Program for RRISD Educators. Mayor Craig Morgan joined chamber president and CEO Mike Odom and RRISD Superintendent Dr. Steve Flores in thanking and honoring this year's program participants with beautiful plaques. To see event photos, go [here](#). A total of seventy-four educators and fifty-nine employers participated in this year's program.

During the August 2 celebration, participating educators and business partners expressed their gratitude for the program, noting that the externship program allows our community to build a bridge between current industry trends and the classroom. The program is a win-win for everyone involved!

The externship program is a professional development opportunity for educators. The experience and knowledge gained in the field is brought back to the classroom via educator-developed strategies that integrate what they learned during their time "in the field." The goal is to match educators with employers in the teacher's subject matter area and/or a subject matter of interest. Funding for this program was awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission to the Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board (the Board) for the 2018 Summer Externship Program.

For more information or to get your company on the business partner list for next year's program, contact [Amy Mizcles](#), vice president of community enhancement.

### Leadership Round Rock

Applications are now open for the Leadership Round Rock program. The mission of Leadership Round Rock is to develop leadership skills in individuals and to promote awareness of issues and opportunities that impact Round Rock. It is designed to provide participants with important information about topics such as the area's history, infrastructure, and educational composition, as well as the significance of involvement in and support for the community. The deadline to apply is September 30. [Click here](#) for more information about Leadership Round Rock and for the application.

### Ascend Emerging Leaders Program

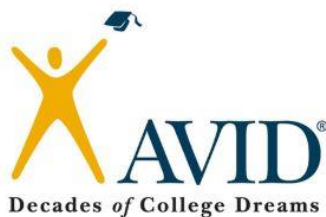
Applications are now open for the Ascend Emerging Leaders program. Ascend is a select group of committed individuals who are actively engaged in the issues facing the Round Rock community. Ascend applicants must be under forty, a graduate of Leadership Round Rock, and an investor in the Round Rock Chamber. The deadline to apply is September 30. [Click here](#) for more information about Ascend and for the application.

**THANK YOU AGAIN ROUND ROCK CHAMBER FOR SPONSORING THIS LUNCHEON!!**



# RRISD PARTNERSHIPS

## RRISD Community Education



### WANTED: College Readiness Tutors for RRISD AVID Program

- Do you have a passion for teaching?
- Can you see yourself working with high school and middle school students?
- Tutors earn \$10 per hour and can work up to 5 hours per day
- Tutoring takes place in the classroom during the Round Rock ISD school day
- Tutors work with small groups; the teacher is always present
- Tutors receive paid in-depth training before starting

Click here to learn more: [College Readiness Tutors](http://goo.gl/GQdMyL)  
( <http://goo.gl/GQdMyL> )

Call Margie Davis 512-464-5967  
Email [margie\\_davis@roundrockisd.org](mailto:margie_davis@roundrockisd.org)

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Advertise your PTA

by donating item(s) or volunteer hours to



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
**FOUNDATION**  
ROUND ROCK ISD

Upcoming Events:

**2018 Golf Classic**  
**Save The Date!**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15**  
**THE GOLF CLUB AT STAR RANCH**  
**12:30 PM SHOTGUN START**  
18 holes with cart, gifts, bar, lunch, Dinner & more!  
Sponsorship Info/Questions?  
Contact: 512.464.5600  
[Melissa\\_Schmalbach@rrisdeducationfoundation.org](mailto:Melissa_Schmalbach@rrisdeducationfoundation.org)  
Presenting Sponsor  
**St. David's** | **ROUND ROCK MEDICAL CENTER**

*An Evening in Paris*  
Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019  
@ Sheraton Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center

Please contact:

Marianne Reap, Executive Director,

[Marianne\\_Reap@rrisdeducationfoundation.org](mailto:Marianne_Reap@rrisdeducationfoundation.org)

OR

Melissa Schmalbach, Marketing & Fundraising Manager,

[Melissa\\_Schmalbach@rrisdeducationfoundation.org](mailto:Melissa_Schmalbach@rrisdeducationfoundation.org)

(512) 464-5600

Log on to: [www.rrisdeducationfoundation.org](http://www.rrisdeducationfoundation.org)

to learn more about the Foundation

# PTA PROGRAMS

## FAMILY GUIDES

National PTA, in partnership with the National Education Association, is pleased to offer newly updated Family Guides.

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Family-Guides>) These guides can help parents and caretakers find valuable tips for helping their child succeed in key learning areas.

PTA leaders, teachers, parents and families should use these guides to engage families in education throughout a child's academic career.

### Preparing Your Child for School



#### It's Never Too Early to Start

Starting school can be daunting for both parent and child—but there are steps you can take to make the transition as smooth as possible. Long before your child walks through a classroom door, you can begin instilling the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

Starting school can be daunting for both parents and child—but there are steps you can take to make the transition as smooth as possible. Long before your child walks through a classroom door, you can begin instilling the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

Many things influence how children learn, including their culture, their home, their personality, and their social and physical environment. These factors can help or hinder their learning. It's important to understand these factors and work with them to support your child's learning.

**Academic Readiness**

Starting a foundation for success in the classroom before children enter school. They should have a basic understanding of themselves, of the people, places and things around them, and how to interact with the world. They should also have a basic understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts.

**Language**

Encourage your child to learn how to read and write. They should have a basic understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts.

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### Starting Kindergarten Off Right

#### Help Your Child Make a Smooth Transition



**STARTING KINDERGARTEN OFF RIGHT**

Help your child make a smooth transition.

Your child is going to kindergarten! You may be very proud, but it's also natural to feel some anxiety. After all, it's the beginning of their formal education, and an important milestone both socially and academically. There are a number of things you can do to prepare your child, while keeping you both focused on the exciting aspects of this new adventure.

You may have heard that kindergarten is more of a play school than a formal school. The reality is that it is a formal school, and your child needs to be prepared to succeed. This guide provides tips for helping your child succeed in kindergarten, including how to prepare your child for the social and academic aspects of the new environment.

**Start preparing a year in advance**

Make sure your child is ready to start kindergarten. This includes having a good understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts. It also includes having a good understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts.

So, your child is going to kindergarten! You must be very proud. But it's also natural to feel some anxiety. After all, it's the beginning of their formal education, and an important milestone both socially and academically. There are a number of things you can do to prepare your child, while keeping you both focused on the exciting aspects of this new adventure. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

### Raising Ready Readers



**RAISING READY READERS**

The Key? Start Early and Practice Often

Long before they enter school and begin formal instruction, children can and should begin developing the basic language skills they need to become readers. These pre-literacy skills include letters, sounds, speaking, listening and understanding that the printed word has meaning.

Research shows that if you start to read to your child from the very beginning, you can help them develop the skills they need to become successful readers. This includes having a good understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts. It also includes having a good understanding of the world around them, including the natural and social sciences, and the arts.

**Raising a Successful Reader**

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#### The Key? Start Early and Practice Often

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### Making Sure Your Child Gets the Education They Deserve



#### A Guide for Parents

Your child has a right to attend and succeed in a great public school. Regardless of income, ethnicity, family circumstances, disability or school readiness, all children are entitled to an education that will help them reach their full academic, professional and personal potential. As a parent or guardian, you are the best advocate for ensuring this happens. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

**MAKING SURE YOUR CHILD GETS THE EDUCATION THEY DESERVE**

A Guide for Parents

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**The importance of a hardwon approach**

Today's high school graduates have a high level of academic achievement, but they also have a high level of financial need. This is because many of them are from low-income families, and they are facing a high level of financial need. This is because many of them are from low-income families, and they are facing a high level of financial need.

### Developing Your Child's Reading Skills



#### Tips for Every Age

**DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S READING SKILLS**

Tips for Every Age

Fostering a love and aptitude for reading is critical for your child's success, from the moment they start school all the way up to their high school graduation. Your child needs strong reading and comprehension skills to succeed—not just in English, but in science, math, social studies and various school activities as well. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

Use the following tips to support your child's reading skills. These tips are designed to help you create a reading-rich environment for your child, and to help them develop the skills they need to become successful readers.

**Reading with infants and toddlers**

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# PTA PROGRAMS

## Helping Your Child with Today's Math

Foster the Skills They Need to Succeed in School and Life



**What is "today's math"?**  
Today's math is designed to help your child integrate and use a variety of math skills to solve real-world problems. It focuses on problem-solving, critical thinking, and communication skills. It's not just about numbers and formulas, but about understanding how and why we use math in everyday life.

**Why is it so different from what you learned in school?**  
Today's math is more practical and applied. It focuses on real-world problems and encourages students to think critically and communicate their solutions. It's about using math to solve problems, not just to pass a test.

**What does today's math mean for my child?**  
Today's math is essential for success in school and in life. It helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in a world that is increasingly dependent on technology and data. It's about preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century.

The idea behind today's math is not just to do it, but also to understand how and why we do it. Students do not just learn numbers, equations, angles and theorems, but also put in context why these concepts matter in life. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

## Helping Your Teen Succeed in High School

From Study Habits to Social Media, They Need Your Support



**HELPING YOUR TEEN SUCCEED IN HIGH SCHOOL**  
From study habits to social media, they need your support.

High school can be one of the most exciting times in a young person's life, but also one of the most stressful. The number of new academic concepts, extracurricular activities and social pressures they face can be overwhelming. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

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## Raising a Scientifically Literate Child

How Science Sets the Stage for Lifelong Success



**RAISING A SCIENTIFICALLY LITERATE CHILD**  
How Science Sets the Stage for Lifelong Success

**Scientific Literacy: What It Is and Why It Matters**  
Science is not just a subject; it's a way of thinking. It's about understanding the world around us and using that knowledge to solve problems. It's about asking questions, testing hypotheses, and drawing conclusions. It's about being curious and open-minded.

**Science in Today's Classroom**  
Today's classrooms are more focused on critical thinking and problem-solving. Students are encouraged to ask questions and explore different perspectives. They are learning to work in teams and to communicate their findings.

**How are the things you should look for?**  
Look for your child to be curious and to ask questions. Look for them to be engaged in learning and to take an interest in science. Look for them to be able to explain scientific concepts and to apply them to real-world situations.

Developing scientific literacy should be a priority at every stage of your child's education—both inside and outside of the classroom. You play an important role. Encourage your child to explore and question the world around them, as well as continue with their science education. [View Guide \(en español\).](#)

## EMOTIONAL HEALTH

### The Facts: Early Detection, Treatment and Family-School Partnerships Work

- **Half of all lifetime cases of mental disorders begin by age 14.** While 21% of all children ages 9 to 17 in the United States have a diagnosable mental or addictive disorder 2, only 20% of them are identified and receive mental health services each year<sup>3</sup>.
- **Early detection and treatment of mental disorders is imperative for student success.** Half of all students ages 14 and older who live with a mental illness drop out of high school—the highest dropout rate of any disability group—and these youth also experience higher suicide and incarceration rates<sup>4</sup>.

Together, we can increase the percentage of students who receive the mental health services they need in order to succeed in school, continue to develop socially, and fully experience the purpose and joys of life.

### Learn More: Webinars for Families

- [The Link Between Kids' Stress Levels and Technology Use:](#) National PTA and the American Psychological Association co-hosted a webinar for families concerned about the stress constant technology use puts on kids.
- [Talking with Teens About Stress Management:](#) National PTA and the [American Psychological Association](#) partnered in featuring board certified clinical psychologist, Dr. David Palmiter on the impact of stress on teens' health and how you can model healthy stress management strategies.
- [How to Tell When a Kid is Emotionally Struggling:](#) National PTA partnered with the [American Psychological Association](#) to host an important conversation about the signs to look out for.

## Testing at Your Child's School



**TESTING AT YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**  
What you should know and how you can help.

There's no getting around it, tests are nerve-wracking for both kids and their parents. But they serve an important purpose—ensuring that your child is getting the education they need to succeed in school and in life.

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## Hit the Ground Running

Is it really time for back to school? The Texas heat may confuse us, but it is time to hit the ground running with Healthy Lifestyles. So, is it a marathon or a sprint? Definitely a marathon! A few simple action steps in your Plan of Work is all you need to get started. Creating healthy change can be a very hot topic, so don't forget to survey parents and staff for input. Would you like to see your PTA sell healthier fundraisers or increase parental awareness on other health topics such as bullying or hygiene? Remember, even if running an actual marathon is nowhere on your radar, a slow and steady pace is key to finishing the race.

If you have any questions or need guidance during the school year, please email me.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy start to the school year!

Karen Burnell  
Texas PTA Healthy Lifestyle Liaison  
[healthylifestyles@txpta.org](mailto:healthylifestyles@txpta.org)

For more information, visit [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

## Hot Topic at LAUNCH

LAUNCH this summer had robust information about all kinds of Healthy Lifestyles:

*BASICS Healthy Lifestyles* – Is your PTA ready to make a difference in the lives of your students? We learned about [Quick Start Actions](#), [How to Add a Healthy Lifestyles Chair](#), and a [Resource Guide](#) to support a Healthy Lifestyles Program in your PTA.

*It's More Than Just a Recess Policy* – Recess policy has been a hot topic for many [School Health Advisory Councils](#) (SHACs), but YOUR voice can go much further than that. Even if your PTA does not have a Healthy Lifestyles Chair, we learned more about [advocacy opportunities](#) at the campus and district level.

*But How Do We Pay for That?* – We reviewed the different grants that are available, who can apply, and how to write for those funds. We had a great panel of presenters share their program's funding opportunities and resources: [Action For Healthy Kids](#), [Parents For Healthy Kids](#), [Oliver Foundation](#), and [Fuel Up To Play 60](#).

*Bringing Healthy Back* – During this 'Leader2Leader' session, many ideas were shared about [healthy fundraising](#), how to plan a [wellness night](#), ways to promote [daily recess](#), and more. Make sure to check out next summer's [LAUNCH](#) for more Healthy Lifestyles presentations and resources.

## Whole Child Coordination Tip

Coordination is key! Check with your school to see if they have a wellness team and how your PTA can support the [Texas Coordinated School Health](#) requirements and the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model.

## September Observances

- Better Breakfast Month
- National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month
- National Chicken Month
- National Honey Month
- National Preparedness Month
- National Fruits and Veggies Month
- Texas Obesity Awareness Week (9/9-9/15)



**Reflections** is a rewarding experience for students, parents, and volunteers.

Our goal is to support our Leaders in maximizing the positive impact on students while providing tools to help guide you through the program from start to finish.

**Get started today!**

Visit <https://www.txpta.org/reflections-leader-resources> for more information.

## Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security issues report

Texas Senate Select Committee on Violence in Schools and School Security has issued a 32-page [interim report](#), after holding several meetings this summer to hear witness testimonial. The Committee issued a list of recommendations based on its four interim charges.

Among the recommendations in the Committee report were several that TexasPTA has been discussing with legislators, Governor's staff, and the Texas School Safety Center related to funding for implementation of enhanced physical security on campuses, requiring each school district and charter school to identify an administrator responsible for safety and security; and other items related to increasing the number of counselors that are available to work with students in need of mental health interventions, initiating the use of behavioral threat assessments to identify students in need of intervention, and increasing mental health supports in schools.

## Texas Public School Finance Subcommittee on Expenditures meets, considers recommendations

The Expenditures Working Group, a sub-committee of the Texas Public School Finance Commission (PSFC) charged with identifying more efficient ways to fund schools, met earlier this month to consider and take action on recommendations submitted to the working group to simplify the funding system. Over the next 30 days the costs or savings of each recommendation will be calculated by TEA. The working group will then present their recommendations to the full membership of the commission for a vote.

The other two working groups are the Revenues Working Group, charged with identifying revenue to pay for a new system of funding schools or for programs and approaches to improve public education without changing the existing system; and the Outcomes Working Group, charged with studying policies and programs that would have an impact on student outcomes such as literacy by third grade, post-secondary completion, and teacher quality.

No date has been set for a meeting of the

Revenue Working Group. The PSFC is charged with making recommendations to address issues related to the public school finance system, including:

1. The purpose of the public school finance system and the relationship between state and local funding in that system;
2. The appropriate levels of local maintenance and operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to implement a public school finance system that complies with the requirements under the Texas Constitution; and
3. Policy changes to the public school finance system necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic diversity in the state.

## Texas PTA partners with Annette Strauss Institute to increase student civic engagement

According to a recent Texas Civil Rights Project report, only 34% of Texas high schools requested voter registration forms from the Secretary of State from October 2016 to February 2018. 66% did not request forms for their students, the first step in registering to vote under the process mandated by state law.

While Texas law requires high schools to allow eligible students the opportunity for registration twice a school year, 82 of 232 counties in Texas, or 35% of all Texas counties, did not have a single high school request a voter registration form.

Leaders at Texas PTA have begun a conversation with the [Annette Strauss Institute](#) to enhance student civic engagement across the state through programs and student opportunities to learn about and to practice civic engagement. Stay tuned for more information.

## Attention Local and Council PTAs

Help your high schools turn out student voter registration by sharing these resources:

- [Voter Registration FAQs](#)
- [Take the Pledge](#)
- [Info on Student Election Clerks](#)

**A 1985 Texas law requires high schools to help students register to vote. But most don't** via The Dallas Morning News.

# FROM NATIONAL PTA

www.pta.org

## Federal Funds Eyed for School Guns



The Department of Education is currently considering allowing school districts to use Title IV-A funds to purchase guns for educators, according to the New York Times. Title IV-A funds are intended to be used to provide students with a well-rounded education, support safe and

healthy students, and support the effective use of technology in schools.

National PTA is opposed to the use of Title IV-A funds to purchase guns for educators and urges Congress to pass legislation that would prevent Title IV-A funds from being used for this purpose. Take action today and tell your members of Congress that Title IV-A funds should not be used to purchase guns.

## Join National PTA's Back to School Celebration!



Our back-to-school celebration is almost here! Visit our website and follow us on social media Sept. 17-21 to get awesome tools like this guide to hosting a site visit for a decisionmaker. And while you're in the back-to-school spirit, tell members of Congress why education funding matters to you by participating in the Committee for Education Funding's #HearOurEdStories social media campaign! Learn more.

- National PTA's Board of Directors adopted a new position statement on school safety—teachers and administrators should not be armed.
- The National PTA Nominating and Leadership Recruitment Committee is seeking candidates to stand for election at #PTACon19. Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EDT, Oct. 1.
- The National PTA Resolutions Committee is seeking resolutions for #PTACon19. Resolutions must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. EST, Nov. 15

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, Sept. 13 at 1 p.m. EDT.** Join the Nominating and Leadership Recruitment Committee on [our Facebook page](#) for a special PTA Live! all about the Letter of Interest process.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. EDT** Join us on [our Facebook page](#) to see if your PTA won a STEM + Families grant, plus a can't-miss special announcement!

## National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

PTA provides resources to implement the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships to help foster family engagement for every student.

**Standard 1: Welcoming All Families into the school community**—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

**Standard 2: Communicating Effectively**—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

**Standard 3: Supporting Student Success**—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

**Standard 4: Speaking Up for Every Child**—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

**Standard 5: Sharing Power**—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

**Standard 6: Collaborating with Community**—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

end of September. We are excited about everything that we have planned this 10th year of Callison PTA.

## Anderson Mill Elementary PTA

- Anderson Mill PTA has full fun fall schedule! We had a great turn out on Supply Drop off and Open House Nights and enjoyed welcoming record setting new members and old! After our Membership Meeting on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, AME PTA hosted a magic show with Peter the Adequate (he was Peter the Great but then his friends told him to be realistic). This was a free event for all of our scholars and their families.
- Tuesday, October 2, is our Annual National Night Out Sock Hop with a New Sock & Underwear Drive! Mark your calendar for the National Night Out Sock Hop. Bring a package of new socks or underwear to donate for the RRISD Council of PTA's Clothes Closet and enjoy the DJ, ice cream floats, and fun for all ages. Sock Hop appropriate costumes are welcome!
- There are also plans in the works for our first ever Sister School Fall Soccer Game with Spicewood Elementary and the AME PTA Carnival on Tuesday, November 13 that will be sure to bring in a crowd! It's going to be a great year for the Anderson Mill Community and the AME PTA.

## Caldwell Heights Elementary PTA

- We kicked off back to school by hosting a Burger Bar Lunch for our teachers on Wednesday. Tissues and Tea was hosted for our Pre-K and Kinder parents on Thursday. We offered refreshments and a friendly smile after student drop off. Our Administrators spoke and we introduced our PTA and answered lots of questions.
- Our VP of Fundraising is hard at work searching for community partners to join us this year in as we work towards building a strong community involvement and partnerships with local businesses and organizations.
- On Sept 6<sup>th</sup> we will host out Watch DOGS kick off - Floats with Fathers!!

## Callison Elementary PTA

- Callison PTA is off to a great start this 2018-19 school year!! This year is the 10th anniversary of Callison Elementary and PTA!! As of Sept 1, we have already reached our Golden Apple Award!!!!!!
- This month we are kicking off our Reflections Contest with a Family Art Night, and we will be kicking off our new parent volunteer initiative House Parents at the

## Canyon Vista Middle School PTA

- Fresh fruit, quiche, and muffins were the order of the day as Canyon Vista Middle School PTA welcomed back teachers and staff with an appreciation brunch on Thursday, August 9.
- Canyon Vista Middle School welcomed students and their families back to school with Student Days, August 10-13. Students visited campus to pick up schedules and pre-purchased school supplies, purchase PTA memberships, planners and CVMS wear and were encouraged to walk their schedules and explore the school. Thanks to our student and parent volunteers for helping make Student Days a great success AND Go Mustangs!
- PTA memberships are soaring at Canyon Vista Middle School as we continue to work to meet our membership goal. Membership awards received so far include a Head Start Award for 75% of the previous year's total, Golden Apple Award for 100% of CVMS faculty, President's Award for memberships of 50% of student enrollment AND a student award of 25 or more student members. Thanks to everyone for supporting the Canyon Vista Middle School PTA.
- Canyon Vista Middle School's first General PTA meeting takes place Tuesday, September 4 at 6:00pm. This will be followed by 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have Open Houses the following evening at 6:30-8:00pm.

## Cedar Ridge High School PTSA

- Cedar Ridge High School PTSA is excited about the things we have accomplished so far, and we anticipate many more throughout the school year.
- We welcomed our new principal, Jiae Kim, as she joined the Raider family! We had 3 board members attend LAUNCH. We established our new PTSA logo and have streamlined our social media and communication avenues. We introduced new items to our spirit market – Windshield Sun Shades, Flip Flops and our Homecoming t-shirt and we are looking at other items to expand our inventory. We attended Raider Renaissance & Meet the Raiders Night and held a Welcome Back to School Breakfast for our Raider Staff. We have invited Flavorlicious Shaved Ice on campus Wednesday's after school so students can purchase a cold treat on their way home from school and we've held our first Spirit Night at MaggieMoo's.
- Our upcoming events include Meet the Principal/Meet the Teacher night and Homecoming Week. We will have a table at both events to sell memberships and

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

spirit market items. We will also host a Voter Registration booth at our Homecoming Parade.

- We are looking forward to having a fun-filled year!

## Chandler Oaks Elementary PTA

- Things are off to a great start at Chandler Oaks Elementary! Our students, teachers, and PTA members are back and excited for a wonderful school year. COE's early morning School Supply Drop-Off, Meet your Teacher, and PTA Membership Drive was extremely successful.
- Our Watch DOGS Program is starting up again this year with our annual Kick-off Pizza Party this month, and we are looking forward to adding more father figures to our group this year.
- We are also excited to host a school Trunk-or-Treat and our first Dudes & Donuts event in October.

## Deerpark Middle School PTA

- Deerpark Middle School is off to a great start to the 2018-19 school year! In the first three weeks of school we have managed to sign up more members than we had last year altogether. We already have enough members to claim the MARS Award and the Students Award and have our eyes set on the Golden Apple.
- We are hosting our Annual Ranger Run 5k on September 29th in the Rattan Creek neighborhood park. Racers and volunteers can sign up online at <http://deerpark.my-pta.org/>. There is a Sleep-in Option if you just want to support the DMS PTA.
- We have an excellent team ready to see this year to success and I am so grateful to be working with each one of them!
- RANGER PRIDE NEVER DIES!

## Elsa England Elementary PTA

- Elsa England Elementary is off to their strongest start yet this school year! The school is in it's seventh year, having opened in 2012. The first class of Pre-K is now in fifth grade. We have already achieved a record number of PTA members due to several new strategies. We had pre-sale and start of school packages (online and at open house) with shirts, memberships, and a few other fun things like bumper stickers and pizza coupons for movie nights, included. The packages did great though we ran out of some shirt sizes before the school year even started- so we had to make another order which we were hoping not to do.

- We also have a requirement for all kids doing the Math Superstars program at our school (which is a very popular program and helps us recruit lots of new PTA volunteers) to have at least one parent as a PTA member. Spelling Bee Participants also need to have a parent or guardian member this year. Now the problem is having all of that information ready on hand when we start Math Superstars.
- We are excited for our first Membership Meeting later this month as we are going to have a representative from the school board present at the end of the meeting about the November bond to help arm our parents with more knowledge about the upcoming bond.

## Noel Grisham Middle School PTA

- Grisham Middle School PTA kicked off the year with a well-attended PTA Regular Association Meeting followed by a program about Social Media and Internet Safety. Canyon Creek PTA had hosted this program last year, and we knew we wanted to bring it to Grisham PTA when we heard about the great parent response to it. Compared to a couple years ago, we've increased attendance fourfold by holding some meetings in the evening and having a speaker afterwards. Our membership numbers are already higher year-to-date than they have been for the last three years despite a decrease in overall school enrollment.
- We're excited that our middle school PTA Executive Board pulls from five different RRISD elementary schools and represents all three grade levels. We've also added a Student Representative this year who must undergo an application process. Utilizing Google Drive has really helped share documents among the Executive Board.
- The big-ticket items Grisham PTA has approved so far include a couple two-way communication radios to improve school safety, a water bottle filler station and assisting with the cost of flowering landscape plants to beautify the school entry. We plan to explore new fundraising avenues such as Amazon Associates (in addition to Amazon Smile) and cultivating corporate sponsorships. Looking forward to a great year!

## Purple Sage Elementary PTA

- So many good things happening at Purple Sage Elementary PTA! Over the summer, several board members gave our teacher's lounge makeover! Using a combination of donated decor and some keen bargain shopping, we were able to give a much-needed refresh to the kitchen and coffee bar area. Our PTA enjoys a wonderful relationship with Purple



# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

Sage faculty and administrators, and it is a pleasure to be able to treat these hardworking professionals with an upgraded lounge space.

- Our upcoming fall events include a Watch D.O.G.S. breakfast, family movie night, 3rd Annual Rider Dash & Monster Mash fun run, and Las Posadas celebration.
- Great things ahead! Go Riders!

## Spicewood Elementary PTA

- Spicewood Elementary has started this school year off with enthusiasm!! The first day of school our Watch Dogs were hard at work making sure the kids and parents were safe and smiling as they entered the school. We also have a Breakfast for Dads this month that our students always enjoy.
- Our first big event of the year is Adventure Dash for the second year at Spicewood! This is a 10-day fundraiser that ends with a school wide Fun Run called Dash Day. Adventure Dash is a fun-filled interactive week in which students participate in daily fitness lessons during their PE times and then they are able to challenge themselves to complete the obstacle course on Dash Day. Parents come on Dash Day to cheer on our amazing students! I cannot wait to share what we raise!
- Our students will dive into a great book at this year's Ocean Adventures Scholastic Book Fair. We have an amazing team of volunteers that turn our library in to an ocean! We have an evening with Food Trucks and families that come to our school to enjoy our Spicewood community and pick up a book or two. We conclude the week with our KISS cookout. (Kids Invite Someone Special) This is a memorable time when kids can eat with someone special and walk through the Book Fair as well.

## Stony Point High School PTSA

- We had our Annual Welcome Back BBQ for our staff.
- PTSA Team makes baskets for the Silent Auction by our Principal Anthony Watson
- We love our teachers, staff lounge makeover.
- We are honored to be a center for the President's Volunteer Service Award!

## Teravista Elementary School PTA

- The new school year is off to a great start at Teravista Elementary!
- Our PTA welcomed our staff with a kickoff breakfast, and we gifted each staff member with a new shirt to

show off their tiger pride. Our kickoff membership drive has been a huge success, outpacing our record-breaking numbers from the same time last year.

- Planning is in the works for our annual Lighthouse Festival on October 20. This event is our major fundraiser of the year, with food trucks, carnival rides and games, and a silent auction filled with terrific items! We invite the entire community to attend and help us make this year's festival a success. Profits from the festival each year are put directly back into the school to purchase programs, tools and supplies to directly benefit our staff and students.

## Walsh Middle School PTA

- Walsh PTA welcomed the 2018-19 school year by hosting a staff breakfast in which the PTA membership drive was kicked off. Our school supply vendor, EPI, donated \$250 for breakfast tacos, and volunteers brought the rest. Faculty members who joined PTA that morning, were entered to a door prize drawing of school supply baskets. We had 83 teachers join PTA that morning.
- Walsh PTA Executive Board members, volunteers and student volunteers worked the week before school started to put together first day packets, organize school supply packs and help with sales at our Annual Camp Wildcat. In order to continue our sense of community at Walsh, PTA is promoting Spirit Wear & Directory sales and organizing Spirit Nights. We held our First Membership Meeting in conjunction with Parent Open House where we continued to promote our Membership Drive. We've also started calling for Reflections entries.
- To assist our teachers and campus, PTA has started the process to award Teacher Mini-grants, which are given in the fall and spring. We're also organizing volunteer needs on campus and finding help for the front office. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a wonderful school year! Go Wildcats!

## Westwood High School PTSA

- We are excited to announce our Membership Chair has already signed up over 500 members with a significant increase in the number of students who are choosing to become members.
- The Westwood PTSA hospitality team has hosted two events so far this school year for our teachers and staff! The first was a Welcome Back Snack Bar and the second was a Breakfast Taco Bar. Many thanks to Coffee Bean and Tea Leaves (183/Anderson Mill), who generously donated coffee/tea for this event!
- The PTSA has organized to have Volunteer Deputy Registrars come in and register eligible seniors to vote

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

three times so far this school year. The registered students will be able to vote in the upcoming November election. We plan to hold another event later in September to register students before the October 9 deadline.

- The PTSA have sponsored their first Principal's Coffee Chat of the year. The event was a huge success and many questions were asked and answered. Our parents appreciate having this interaction with our Principal hearing what is happening in the school. There were many questions about security at the school and the PTSA are helping by purchasing blinds for some of the classrooms to help with visibility concerns during lock downs.

Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.

You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's "Theory of Relativity" to serve... You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

## RRISD PTA COMMUNITY MEMBERS

On behalf of the RRISD Council of PTAs, we would like to recognize the following PTA Com **YOU**nity Members:

### PLATINUM LEVEL MEMBERSHIPS...

Platinum level members joined EVERY PTA in RRISD. Please share their name and logo on your local unit PTA website.

- Dawn Watson, RRISD Council PTA President



Round Rock: 512/910-4051

Round Rock: 512/736-7272

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

Shout-outs from the Campus Principals

## Live Oak Elementary PTA

Thanks to our amazing PTA for partnering up with the school and district to launch LiINK (Let's Inspire Innovation "N" Kids). We couldn't do it without your support (both financial and positive vocal support in our community). We are truly blessed to have parents that work with us to support the entire development of a child!

- Katie Holding, PROUD Principal, Live Oak Elementary

## Purple Sage Elementary PTA

Hats off to the Purple Sage PTA. They continue to amaze us year after year with their generous spirits, organizational talents and ability to spoil us to the max.

This summer, they out did themselves by taking on a remodel of our Saff Lounge. Our building was built in 1981 and our lounge was a reflection of its time. Our crew provided a cabinet face lift, a new coffee bar, stylish seating and even a real tile back splash.

Staff and parents oooh and aww as they walk into this newly designed space. It is one that would bring a tear to Chip and Joanna's eye.

We are forever thankful for our amazing PTA. We brag endlessly on our students and it's no doubt they have inherited their greatness from their parents. Thank you Purple Sage PTA for all that you do!

- Sara Nelson, Principal, Purple Sage Elementary

## Round Rock High School PTSA

RRHS has had a wonderful start to the 2018-2019 school year. We already have over 1,100 PTSA members and are trying to reach a goal of 2,000. Dragon Football beat Harker Heights, starting their year off with a win. Volleyball is having an amazing season so far with a record of 26-5, 2-1 (ranked top 10 in the state). Tennis has a winning record and are always showing signs of improvement. Cross Country has started off the season with some excellent times and Golf is not quite in full swing, get it?

Academically, Round Rock had an excellent 2017-2018 school year. We earned 5 TEA Distinctions (3 more than last year) and earned an A- on the new State of Texas rating system. Our AP and SAT scores saw gains as well. The foreign language department was awarded a \$25,000.00 Global Navigator Scholarship.

What a great place to work and grow. We could not have accomplished these amazing things without the help of our amazing partners like A+ FCU, the PIE Foundation, Bush's Chicken, and the best ever RRHS PTSA. We are looking forward to the wonderful things that this year's Dragons will accomplish!

- Matt Groff, Principal, Round Rock High School

## Teravista Elementary PTA

We have had an amazing start to our 2018-2019 school year with our PTA backing us 100%! Before the school year started, we had many Board Members at our New Tiger Orientation selling PTA memberships and t-shirts for our new Tigers. We had 56 new members sign up that night alone!

Before the teachers arrived on August 8th, we had 2 wonderful PTA members come to organize new shirts to give to all staff members. This is an annual treat that the PTA provides us and it is a great way to start the year!

Our PTA had a wonderful welcome back breakfast for all of our staff members on August 13th. Dozens of parents brought in food for our staff and they set up a splendid buffet with breakfast sandwiches, bagels, fruit, coffee, juice, and other goodies. Our staff felt so appreciated by their efforts.

At our Meet the Teacher Night, we had more Board Members selling memberships and t-shirts as our students and parents came in with smiling faces to see their new teacher for the first time. With lots of welcoming words from our members, it was another great example of their support and welcoming nature that makes the Teravista Elementary PTA such a great organization that supports our students, staff and community. We are VERY lucky to have such dedicated and loving people supporting us. Thank you!

- Michael Wakefield, Principal, Teravista Elementary

## Voigt PTA


For the past few school years, our Voigt PTA ensures every student on campus receives a school tshirt. They budget enough money from year to year to be able to provide a school shirt for students to wear to show their school spirit. Regardless of family income, ALL students receive a shirt. Students take pride wearing their school shirt each week. We love our PTA.

- Cheryl Hester, Principal, Voigt Arts Integration Academy



# ROUND ROCK ISD PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The #1 reason to join your PTA is to support your school and your students. As a BONUS, through your RRISD PTA membership you can also receive exclusive LOCAL offers and discounts! Must show your PTA membership card and picture ID. ALL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS VALID UNTIL July 31, 2019.

 <p>RRISD PTA Members will receive a 10% discount towards Reid's Cleaners services. Show PTA member card and photo ID. Valid at 9 locations in Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Lakeway, Austin and Steiner Ranch.</p>	<p><b>Spot AVAILABLE for a LOCAL Business Provider!!</b> Interested? Contact LaKissa Bright, lbright34@gmail, or Dawn Watson, rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com</p>
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## TEXAS PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Visit [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) for details – Go to Local PTA Leaders, click on Membership, then Member Benefits.



## NATIONAL PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for details – Go to About PTA / Member Benefits Providers

