

## Plano ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

October 2008

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Here's to celebrating 20 years of Plano PTA! We're turning 20 years old next week, and as the saying goes, we're not getting older, we're getting better! For 20 years, PTA Council has been a partner with PISD and has worked to train local PTA leaders and coordinate efforts of engaged parents. We've benefited from years of committed volunteers who have worked hard to build a strong parent program in our district. Many of those leaders have "graduated" out of PTA as their children graduated from high school, but remain involved volunteers in our district and community. Today, we stand proud as a "20 year old" with the title of Outstanding PTA Council (extra large size) for Texas PTA. Our PTA Council mission remains the same, and the fantastic work at our local PTAs shows that success. Thank you to all who served on the PTA Council board in the last 20 years. Because of your leadership and inspiration, you can know our best years are still ahead!

The [Council calendar](#) is on the Plano PTA website. If you are a google calendar user, you can easily add it to your personal calendar.

Happy birthday Plano PTA Council!

[Cara Mendelsohn](#)  
*President, Plano ISD Council of PTAs*

### Save the Date - PISD PTA Council Vendor Fair

The PISD PTA Council Vendor Fair is coming!

Date: **March 28th**  
Time: **9:00 - 1:00**

Parenting Programs, Fundraising, Speakers, Promotional Products, and School Supply Vendors will be at your disposal. We will also be giving away many raffle items for those who attend. All attendees will receive a special goodie bag & folder with great samples and ideas.



Save the date and tell your friends and family to attend.

\*\*Vendor information -- e-mail [waysandmeans@planopta.org](mailto:waysandmeans@planopta.org) for more information\*\*

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Save the Day for RoughRiders and PTA



PTA's RoughRiders Day will be Sunday, May 3, 2009! Sit with your school's PTA and enjoy the RoughRiders game, with all the PTAs in Plano's Council of PTAs as company! Watch for more information,



coming soon!

## Come Celebrate!

Join in the P-A-R-T-Y! On Tuesday, October 21, from 9:15-10:00 a.m. we will have a birthday reception in the lobby of the PISD Administration building. We'll have cake & coffee, old PTA Council scrapbooks, "vintage" PTA shirts and a commemorative photo taken! Our regular Council meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and there are sure to be a few dignitaries there to wish us well, but we'll get busy with important information you will want to take back to your PTA. All PTA members are welcome to join us for both the reception and meeting. Hope to see you there!



## Membership News



Hi folks,

Thank you to everybody that was able to attend the Fall Membership Coffee in September. We had a great turnout and I really enjoyed meeting everybody. Hopefully we covered everything everybody wanted to know about PTA membership - and more! If you have suggestions on how we can improve the training, I would love to hear from

you.

If you were not able to attend, let me know and I will send you the packet of information I handed out. Of course, I have already sent a hard copy to your PTA President so hopefully he/she has given it to you. It has important information and I hope you will take a few minutes to go through it. After you have looked it over, please email me if you have any questions and I will do my best to help you.

GREAT JOB on your membership campaigns! I hope you've had at least 5 minutes to relax, because now we've got more things to talk about! Below you will find information on our LIFE MEMBER BANQUET!!

What is missing is the results of the membership awards by Council because we're going to announce those at the November Regular Council meeting. You are welcome to attend - it is at 10 a.m. in the PISD Administration building, room 311. If you don't have a representative from your school there and you win an award, know that we cheered for your PTA and that I'll interoffice the award to you the next day. If you have any questions, please let me know!

Thank you to all the local Membership chairman who have worked so hard this year to encourage our parents to join PTA! You have had wonderful ideas and made great strides to reach out to all PISD parents. The fall membership campaign ended October 15 and we are waiting for our membership report from Texas PTA. Please submit your Plano PTA award Form with your Creative Membership Campaign to me by the 30th of October. Good Luck!

GREAT JOB EVERYBODY & THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS!!

Lisa Williams

*VP Membership, Plano ISD Council of PTAs*

## Life Member Banquet

Every year local PTAs have the opportunity to honor extraordinary volunteers, staff or community partners that have made a significant impact on their PTA at the Texas Life Member Banquet. The banquet is coordinated by the Plano ISD Council of PTAs and we are proud to have returning sponsor Class Act School Packs. This is a big affair and we expect over 600 guests! Invitations will go out to all the PTAs by the first week of January. Many PTAs purchase a whole table for honorees and guests (often spouses and principals), while others purchase one or two tickets per honoree. Our theme this year will revolve around the Centennial Celebration of the Texas PTA as well as trying to keep with the Be A Hero



Theme.

Many PTAs have specific guidelines on how they select their Texas PTA Life Members. Please check your bylaws or contact your local PTA president to get the process started. You will need to know who your honorees are by your December PTA meeting! Invitations to the banquet will be sent out the first week of January. Please make sure you get your RSVPs and checks in ASAP after receiving the invitation!

### Banquet Details

- Tuesday, February 17, 2009
- 6:30 p.m. @ [Plano Centre](#) (just east of Spring Creek & Central Expressway)
- \$25.00 per person, dinner included
- RSVP needed by the 15th of January - see details on invitation!

Most PTAs present a Texas Life Member Certificate and pin (or charm) to their honorees at the banquet. To ensure you have these items in time, you must order them on the [Texas PTA website](#) by the first week of January or mail in the form from this website.

### What Do I Need To Submit to Council?

By the 15th of January at the latest, you must submit information on your honorees to have them included in the keepsake program. Of course, we'd love to get this information as early as possible. This year, I am asking for specific information that you will email back to me on the form I will send out to you. [Email me](#) to be sure I have your email address in my file.

[Lisa Williams](#)

*VP Membership, Plano ISD Council of PTAs*

### Environmental Kudos!



A BIG HURRAY to the staff, students and Robin Maloney (Environmental Chair) of Mitchell Elementary for starting organic recycling. Their kick off was on Sept. 26th, and we celebrate their decision to join the other 34 schools in Plano ISD currently involved in making their schools more sustainable.

Daffron Elementary Kids for *Saving Earth* has won a national contest sponsored by the Cartoon Network and Kellogg's called "Eco-Venture"! They will be participating in creating a Blackland Prairie habitat for the entire community to learn from and enjoy. Congratulations!

### Protecting the Natural Spaces of North Texas

The Connemara Conservancy (a 72 acre nature preserve off of Alma near Hedgecoxe) is



[connemara conservancy](#)

re-opened for special events. Check out their [web site](#) for specific dates.

Connemara Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving and protecting open space and the natural beauty in North Texas for both present and future generations.

The Conservancy works with landowners and communities who share our love of the land to protect and conserve the critical natural landscapes remaining throughout North Texas.

### PTA to Float Plano's Boat



The Plano ISD Council of PTAs will have a float in the [36th Pancake Feed with Christmas Parade](#) on Saturday, December 6. The parade runs from 9:00 am to 11:00 am beginning at Plano Senior High School on Independence Parkway, starting at W. Park Blvd. It will flow north to Spring Creek Parkway and east to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on Round Rock.

The Plano Early Lions Club and First United Methodist Men host the pancake feed and

parade. The pancake breakfast starts at 6:30am in the Plano Senior High School cafeteria. All the pancakes you can eat plus sausage and choice of drink: coffee, hot cocoa, orange juice, or water. It costs \$5 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 12. Proceeds benefit Plano Santas and two Plano food pantries.

Park on the North or West side of school. Parking opens at 6:30am and closes at 8:30am. It will reopen at 10:30am. You can also park at the Aquatic Center on Westside Dr off Parkhaven from 6:00 am to 11:00 am.

Come enjoy the "small town" feeling that's such a defining quality of this Plano tradition. We hope to see you there!

### BRAND NEW Publicity Tools and More Info

Does your school have teenagers involved in any high school sports? NeighborsGo is looking for photos and stories for the HS Game Time section, which comes out every Friday in Plano/Murphy and West Plano NeighborsGo. The edition will appear within The Dallas Morning News and in Plano and Murphy Starbucks locations.



To get your school's sports news in print, post your content to [hsgametime.com/dfw](http://hsgametime.com/dfw). The HSGameTime editors will go on the site and pull this information for print. Make sure to post soon after the game so they can get your news in the paper in a timely manner.

The editor would like contacts from all high schools and all sports who would be willing to contribute photos, stories, and other news about school teams. Please send your contact name, email address, and phone number to [publicity@planopta.org](mailto:publicity@planopta.org) and we'll pass it on.



Another Collin County-focused resource for posting events is [rsvpcalendar.com](http://rsvpcalendar.com). To post an event, click "Submit your event" at the top of the page.

Remember, tell your PTA they can stay on top if PISD news by signing up with eNews. Colleagues, friends and neighbors may sign up for this free service and view archived messages on [our eNews website](http://our.eNews.website). Be sure to sign up to receive your school's news, too.



Publicity chairs, contact Meryl K. Evans at [publicity@planopta.org](mailto:publicity@planopta.org) for resources and help. The [publicity page](#) on the web site contains many resources. Also, please let Meryl know if you're the publicity chair at your school so she may add you to the chairs list to distribute timely and related information.

### 2008 - 2009 Reflections Program is Underway



WOW - Local schools have announced their 2008-2009 Reflections Program! The theme this year is "WOW" and we are really excited anticipating the entries we will be receiving. Once again, there are six art categories that students can enter: visual arts, literature, photography, music composition, dance choreography, and film/video production. Entry forms should be obtained from your local school since the form needs to include some school and PTA specific information. All rules are available in English and Spanish on the [National PTA website](#). For the first time this year, a Spanish entry form will also be available from your local Arts in Education Chairman this week.

Schools set their own deadlines; however, most will occur around October 31st. Check your individual PTA websites and newsletters for the exact date for your school. After the local judging occurs, up to the top 20% of each school's entries will advance to the Council level. All advancing entries are to be brought to the Sockwell Center on Monday, December 1st. Council judging will occur on December 2nd. Non-advancing entries need to be picked up on December 3rd. Any questions pertaining to individual schools should be addressed to the local PTA Arts in Education chairman. For all other

questions, contact Jan Barber at [janbarber@verizon.net](mailto:janbarber@verizon.net).

### School To Life

Destination College strives to ensure all students are prepared to succeed in higher education. Collin College, area school districts, businesses and service providers have partnered to increase access to information and educational opportunities for improved college readiness. Destination College resources will help students and their families become financially, academically and intellectually prepared for post-secondary education. Working collaboratively, we can meet the Texas goal of increased participation and success in higher education.



Please [click here](#) to visit the Destination College website, and get information about (and register for) upcoming programs for parents and students, find out about free online learning opportunities, and so much more!

### Plano International Festival Grew in Attendance, Scope, and Environmental Friendliness



*Attendance Doubled, New Activities Added, and Over 50% of Trash Recycled/Composted*

The 4th Annual Plano International Festival, held on October 4, 2008, in downtown Plano 's Haggard Park , celebrated Plano 's rich tapestry of cultures through music, dance, food, displays, activities and more. The Festival surpassed its goals in

attracting record attendance and expanding its scope of activities and attractions, all while minimizing the event's environmental impact.

Nearly 11,000 attendees visited Haggard Park on Saturday, more than double the number from the first event in 2004. "We were thrilled to welcome so many people to this year's Festival," states Festival President Graciela Katzer. "This is our goal, to educate and enlighten as many people as possible about Plano 's many cultures, so we can all learn from each other and enjoy each other's heritage," Ms. Katzer continues. "We expected 10,000 people, so this year was fantastic. And we're getting ready to welcome even more next year!"

The scope of the Festival increased, as well. Over 100 cultures were represented through the Festival's Parade of Nations, food court, on-stage performances, cultural booths and children's activities. New this year was an International Art Exhibit on display in the Courtyard Theater, featuring original works by local artists representing Austria , Brazil , Denmark , Poland , Puerto Rico , Spain , Sri Lanka , Turkey and USA . The exhibit is ongoing through October 19. The Festival's naturalization ceremony also grew-while the 2007 ceremony had 50 candidates, this year 75 people from over 40 countries were sworn in as new citizens.

Another new feature was a comprehensive program to make the Festival a Zero Waste Event. The Festival provided all food court vendors with 100% biodegradable plates, bowls and even utensils and asked all attendees to sort their trash into organic, recyclable and regular trash bins. The effort was a great success-over 50% of all Festival waste was recycled and composted, resulting in a tremendous reduction in landfill waste. The City of Plano is one of only two cities in Texas with organic waste removal and composting services.

The Festival educated the community about Plano 's many cultures through continuous on-stage performances, , Festival Passports for children, a Children's Workshops area, an ethnic food court, and cultural booths. Among the community organizations was the PTA Council booth, reaching out to a diverse group of parents and encouraging them to join and be active in PTA!

### NEW Plano ISD Education Foundation Honor Roll Program

Plano ISD Education Foundation is proud to kick off their annual community honor roll program. Please watch your mail for additional information regarding ways to participate in this fundraising and awareness campaign. All participants donating over \$100 will receive a yard sign to proudly display their support for Plano ISD.

The funds provided to the district by the Foundation remain in PISD and are NOT subject to recapture. Programs currently funded include: Grants to Educators, scholarships for 5th grade camp, emergency grants for PISD employees in need, college preparation programs such as AVID, Family Literacy Program and many more.

For additional information visit [the foundation's website](#), or call 469-752-8272. Every gift matters. The greatest investment any of us can make is in the future of our children. We appreciate your support of this important cause!

*It starts with  
YOU!*



## **PTA Mission**

**PTA is**

**A powerful voice for all children,  
A relevant resource for families and communities, and  
A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.**

## **PTA Vision**

**Making every child's potential a reality.**