

Plano ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

May 2009

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Calendar & Contacts

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.

[Contacts](#) for the PTA Council board and information about each position can also be found on the website.

Quick Links...

[Plano PTA \(Our](#)

[Website\)](#)

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Greetings!

It is strange how the school year is winding down and yet things are gearing up at the same time. It has been a very busy school year filled with lots of fun and interesting events and projects. From the big events like the PTA Life Member Banquet and RoughRiders day, to PTA Day at the Capitol and training sessions for parents, and our advocacy project and Reflections participation, I am proud of the great job the Council board has done this year. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who served in local leadership positions, who went on field trips, helped with parties, wrote letters and made calls to legislators and more! Our PTAs combined have given about 200,000 hours to PISD - so really, you do make a huge difference!!!

But just the same, I can't help but look forward to the carefree days of summer break and the freshness of a new year.

The Plano PTA Council has already started planning for the 2009-10 year and we have stayed focused on the mission of PTA. We look forward to sharing all the details of our year with you as we go through the approval process and confirm dates and times. I hope you have also started planning... planning to be involved in your PTA in some way and planning to make a difference in your community. If you don't know where to start, call your local PTA president who will love to hear from you - make it part of your plan to help make your school great!

Sincerely,

Cara Mendelsohn

President, Plano ISD Council of PTAs

Training Time!



You've Said YES to a PTA Board Position, now it is time to get trained on what all board members need to know and information about your new position. Join us at Plano PTA Council's Officer and Chairmen Training on Tuesday, May 12th at PISD Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd., Plano, Texas 75093

Join Our Mailing List!

Upcoming Dates

5/12

PTA Officer & Chairman Training, 9 am, Sockwell Center *for all incoming PTA

9:00 a.m. Annual Regular Meeting of the Plano ISD Council of PTAs. During the meeting we will announce the participants and winner of the Plano ISD Council Outstanding Local Unit PTA Award!

9:30 a.m. The Council offers something new - group training for all board members (PTA/PISD policies and procedures the whole board needs to know).

11:00 a.m. Seven job specific sessions listed below (ideas, resources, policies, and procedures specific positions need to know).

board members

5/20
Putting PTA on Your
Resume

5/26
PTA Leadership
Orientation Training 6
pm, PISD Admin, *\$6,
elected officers are
required to attend
once in PTA career

5/27
PTA Leadership
Orientation Training
9:30 am, PISD Admin,
*\$6, elected officers
are required to attend
once in PTA career

7/24 - 7/26
Texas PTA Summer
Leadership Seminar

- President
- Treasurer
- Membership
- Volunteers
- Secretary
- Programs: including program resources and program planning, plus information from our Arts in Education, Diversity, Environmental, and SAGE chairmen.
- Ways and Means: including a "how to" for getting donations from your community

If a Board member is unable to attend these sessions, be sure to send representatives from your Board to take notes and gather information to take back to your local unit. Questions? Please contact Dana Bilbray at aide@planopta.org. No reservations required!

LOT Training

This is the training you've all heard about! It is an excellent introduction to all things PTA, taught by specially trained volunteers of Area 15. These trainings are provided by the Council of PTAs to fulfill your Bylaws requirement that all PTA officers must be trained once in their PTA career or by October 15, 2009. These sessions are open to all local unit PTA members.



May 26, 2009

Tuesday evening course
5:30-6 p.m. Registration
6:00-8 p.m. Training

May 27, 2009

Wednesday morning course
9:00- 9:30 a.m. Registration
9:30-11:30 a.m. Training

Cost: \$6.00 payable to Texas PTA, due at registration (receipt will be provided for reimbursement by your local unit). You may take a "refresher" course for free, but a handbook will not be provided.

Location: Both sessions will be held in the 1st floor Board Room of the Plano ISD Administration Building located at 2700 W. 15th St., Plano, 75075. Food and drink are not allowed in the Board Room.

Please R.S.V.P. or direct questions to:
Dana Bilbray, Council of PTAs Aide to the President
aide@planopta.org or 972-516-1557

Important Facts to Remember:

- Space is limited-please RSVP early
- Latecomers (5 minutes) will not be seated
- You must attend the entire 2 hour class to receive your credit
- Addition trainings will be offered outside of Plano - visit Area 15 website at <http://www.area15.txpta.net/> for listings

Back To Basics: We Want You!

The New Texas PTA Theme

The best PTA training in Texas!



If you are looking for the most comprehensive PTA training available, come to Austin July 24-26 for Texas PTA's Summer Leadership Seminar in Austin. You'll be joined by thousands of PTA members from across Texas for the finest array of job specific and parenting training you can find. Register at www.txpta.org. If you or someone from your PTA is planning to attend, please email Dana Bilbray, Council 1st VP, at aide@planopta.org so we can keep you up to date on Plano activities in Austin and get you a free Plano Council t-shirt to wear on Saturday.

The Plano ISD Council of PTAs SAGE Committee Presents



Tuesday, May 19
7:00 p.m.

Plano ISD Sockwell Center

6301 Chapel Hill Boulevard, Plano, TX 75093

*Presented by TJ Kroehle
of Life Planning for Families of Special Needs*

- Have you put together a comprehensive plan to ensure the financial security of your child with special needs?
- Do you want more information about GETTING AND MAINTAINING BENEFITS, CONTINUITY OF CARE AND SUPERVISION, LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, BUDGETING AND FUNDING YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE, Putting your HEART in their FUTURE?

For more information, contact Kelly Waterman, SAGE Chairman, at 972-378-9380 or RSVP to SAGE@PlanoPTA.org.

Helpful Year-End Information for Treasurers

Closing out the books for the year efficiently and confidently can be a real challenge. This article, reproduced with permission from Texas PTA, provides tips and reminders for Treasurers to help the process go more smoothly.

[Click here to read the entire article...](#)

Topics include:

- Carryovers in a nutshell
- Year-End Financial Procedures
- Completing Your Audit
- Where to find checklists and other resources
- Budget do's and do not's



We Need Your Help



Organic Recycling.....what is it and WHY is it SO important? In over 40 schools across the district students are taking their lunch scraps (the food, milk and paper from lunch) and doing something incredible. They are saving us MONEY, learning science and systems, and best of all, personal responsibility.

How? The average diversion rate for schools involved is 40% (that means that instead of food waste going to the landfill it goes into making Texas Pure which is sold throughout N. Texas).

Do you know how much it costs for PISD ...

...for every trash bin pick-up?	\$105.
...for a recycling bin pick-up?	\$40.
...for an organic bin pick-up?	\$0.

You got it. So if your trash bin is filled up with food that COULD be in an organic bin

then it is a total waste of money. Does it take extra time? Not much and students catch on quickly. Given the importance of all the lessons involved, it is an excellent use their time and a money saver for the community.

Come on....if your school is not involved already, get on board. The kids are watching and it's their future at stake.

Arts in Education News

Two key events took place since our last newsletter. The first was the Council Reflections Awards Presentation on Wednesday, April 1. Council award recipients and their families attended the Council Awards Presentation at the Sockwell Center. Plano ISD Council of PTA's President Cara Mendelsohn and First Vice President of Texas PTA Sharon Goldblatt presented the ribbons to the students. Mary Beth King, Plano ISD Board of Trustees, also attended.



The families enjoyed a gallery of Reflections artwork and photography while listening to music compositions by Plano students prior to the awards presentation. For those award recipients who were unable to attend, their ribbons were delivered to their schools to be distributed.

Of the 54 entries that Council sent on to State for judging, 34 received awards and one entry advanced to National, "Open Wide" by Michelle Cepelak, a Senior Plano West. Her entry received an Award of Merit at National. Congratulations, Michelle!

The theme for the 2009-2010 Reflections Program has been announced. It is "Beauty is..." It can be announced at your schools prior to the end of this school year so that the students can start working on ideas over the summer. Official rules should be available in June [at the Texas PTA website](#).

The second event was ArtCentre of Plano's "For the Love of Art", which occurred on May 8th at Park Place Lexus. The Plano PTA Reflections Program was nominated for the Cooper Clinic at Craig Ranch Volunteer Award. Cara Mendelsohn and Jan Barber attended. It was an honor to be recognized by the art community for the impact that the Reflections Program has on students and families in Plano.

Cultural Diversity



Congrats to Carpenter Middle School and Vines High School for their fantastic multicultural events. Very special Thank you to cultural diversity Chair Judy Dickinson (Carpenter) and Ms. Magda Levi (Spanish 2 and 3H Teacher, Vines) for their hard work and commitment to Diversity!

Kudos to Vines Multicultural Club for being awarded the PRINCENTON PRIZE!!!!

It's time again to budget Multicultural activities for next school year. Please work close to your PTA president and/or VP of programs to make sure you include Multicultural activities in the budget.

Cultural diversity should be all year around activities! Here some ideas/suggestions:

- Back to school: Cultural diversity programs could have a table with international crafts and a signing sheet to identified volunteers!
- Book Fair: you may invite an International Storyteller
- Opera in a box is a fantastic program for school Assembly. It could be done in collaboration with Arts in Education
- Multicultural family night: plan to have a PTA booth!!!!
- Olympic day
- Community Circles: a fantastic program to reach out to newcomers, diverse community and a great tool to increase PTA membership!
- Plan to have your campus involved in the Plano International Festival (Oct. 10), participating at the children's workshop, fashion show, parade of Nations, green ambassadors, community volunteer opportunity, etc.

Upcoming Events:

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP organized by MCOR (Multicultural Outreach Roundtable, City of Plano MAY 30, 2009 - 2pm to 4pm Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd, Plano, Texas 75093, is being provided by [Plano's Multi-Cultural Outreach Roundtable \(MCOR\)](#), as a service to immigrants who are not yet citizens.

Short presentations from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), FBI, English as 2nd Language Center, and Citizenship Class Centers will cover various aspects of becoming a USA Citizen. Citizenship Attorneys will provide brief consultations in various languages. CIS will provide assistance to complete Citizenship applications for those wishing to bring their documentation for completion on-site. The US Postal Service will be available on-site to mail completed applications and issue money orders for application fees.

Hospitality will include light refreshments; however, no childcare facilities will be provided.

Get Assistance from:

- Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) with filing the citizenship applications
- US Postal Service to sell money orders & mail your application.
- Immigration Attorneys consultations in multiple languages.

Light refreshments available; however, no childcare facilities will be provided.

Learn about:

- Who can apply for Citizenship
- How do you apply
- When can you apply
- Benefits of Citizenship

Hear from:

- CIS describing their policies.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation about background checks.
- English as a Second Language providers in the area.
- Citizenship courses offered by nonprofit organizations.

Join Plano's MCOR to:

- Inform the Plano City Council about the needs of all residents
- Plan and carry out programs (like this) to benefit everyone
- Encourage all cultures to participate in municipal government
- [Promote diversity in Plano](#)

Council of PTAs will have a table. If you would like to volunteer please contact me at: diversity@planopta.org

Putting PTA on Your Resume

Plano Council's last program of the year is a timely training class for those looking for a job outside the home now or sometime soon. Join us on May 20th from 1-2:30 at the PISD Administration building, room 311, as we learn from an expert on how to translate the skills and responsibilities from PTA and other non-profits into important elements of your resume. No RSVP needed.



Calling All Former Sigler Elementary Families!



Sigler Elementary and the Sigler Elementary PTA cordially invite you to stop by our Open House on May 12th, 2009 from 5:30 to 7:00. Reminisce with old friends, enjoy a short program, take one last walk down the halls of our dear old Sigler Elementary and catch a



glimpse of our new beautiful building which is in the last stages of construction, directly behind our school. Our choir will give a brief concert, beginning at 5:15, followed by a short program. At 6:50 we will retire the flag. We hope you can join us as we say "goodbye" to the past and "hello" to the future.

PISD Education Foundation - Your Opinions Matter!

Please take a couple of minutes to share your opinions on a brief survey from the Plano ISD Education Foundation. The foundation is a local non-profit organization which serves the children of our local community. In this survey, they only ask your opinion, not your name or any other personally identifiable information. Your responses are anonymous. To begin the survey, click the following link, or type it into the address bar of your web browser: <http://alturl.com/n8u8>

*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.