

# Council Connections

## Parents, Teachers, All of Us

### Message from Our Council President

Winter break is almost here!!!

2020 has been a one of a kind year indeed! It unfolded like no one ever could have imagined and asked each of us to dig deeper and focus on what truly matters! It revealed our vulnerabilities and asked us to look for opportunities. The new “normal” highlighted what we took for granted and compelled us to make a commitment to look for ways of making new “better”.

As we get ready to wrap up 2020, let me take a moment to congratulate each and every one of you!!! Each one of you is a ROCKSTAR! Your awesome leadership and hard work have indeed helped your commyounities come through stronger than ever—resilient and ready to succeed for generations to come! Make sure to celebrate and give yourself that well-deserved pat on the back. I know like me, many in this community are grateful for all that you do!! Thank you!!!

2021 is right there on the horizon and I know many of you have already started planning for your awesome PTA commyounities. Your Council PTA Team also has some exciting things planned for you all as well and we can’t wait to get back from the break to share them with you all! Stay tuned!!!

And before we begin 2021 with a big bang, let us take some time to relax, recharge and enjoy with our families!

Wishing you all a Safe, Healthy, and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,  
Snehal Phirke  
President, RRISD Council of PTAs

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# 2020-21 Council PTA Executive Board Roster

President	Snehal Phirke	president@rrisdpta.org
1st VP of Membership	Randall Goltzman	membership@rrisdpta.org
2nd VP of Training	Jill Strode	training@rrisdpta.org
3rd VP of Communications	OPEN	communications@rrisdpta.org
4th VP of Hospitality	Melissa Schmalbach	hospitality@rrisdpta.org
5th VP of Programs	Melissa Hoskin	programs@rrisdpta.org
6th VP of Fundraising	OPEN	fundraising@rrisdpta.org
Treasurer	Liz Cantrell	treasurer@rrisdpta.org
Secretary	Beth Fitzmaurice	secretary@rrisdpta.org
Parliamentarian	Laura Podnar	parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Advocacy	Heather Lawrence	advocacy@rrisdpta.org
Business Partner	OPEN	businesspartner@rrisdpta.org
Clothes Closet Chair	Cecelia Zapalac	clothescloset@rrisdpta.org
DADS (Dads of Amazing Daughters/Sons)	OPEN	DADS@rrisdpta.org
Diversity	Estevan Zarate	diversity@rrisdpta.org
Healthy Lifestyles	Kristen Hullum	healthylifestyles@rrisdpta.org
Philanthropy	Jerry Vasquez	philanthropy@rrisdpta.org
Reflections/Arts in Education	Monica Welch	reflections@rrisdpta.org
Scholarships	Tangelia Pruitt	scholarships@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Directory	OPEN	directory@rrisdpta.org
Newsletter	Sara Gandaria-Escamilla	newsletter@rrisdpta.org
Webmaster	Michele Chan-Thomson	webmaster@rrisdpta.org
National PTA Liaison	Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert	PTAliason@rrisdpta.org
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		
Decorations Chair	Lori Cortez	decorations@rrisdpta.org
<b>RRISD &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
Acting Superintendent	Dr. Daniel Presley	superintendent_rrisd@roundrockisd.org
Community Partnership Sup	Rachael Sefton	rachael_sefton@roundrockisd.org
Coordinator, Title 1 Parent Programs	Sibyl Lee	sibyl_lee@roundrockisd.org
PIE Foundation	Marianne Reap	marianne_reap@rrisdeducationfoundation.org
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce	Jason Ball	jball@roundrockchamber.org

# 2020-21 Council PTA Officer Assignments

If you are in need of assistance, please contact the Officer listed for your campus. Our officers have or are currently serving as local PTA board members and are eager to help you succeed. Please also feel free to contact Council President, Snehal Phirke, 972.375.6377.

## **Randall Goltzman, 1st VP**

**membership@rrisdpta.org 512.632.7490**

[Anderson Mill ES](#)

[Caldwell Heights ES](#)

[CD Fulkes MS](#)

Cedar Ridge HS

Kathy Caraway ES

Laurel Mountain ES

Pearson Ranch MS

## **Jill Strode, 2nd VP**

**training@rrisdpta.org 512.423.4741**

Canyon Vista MS

Chandler Oaks ES

[Double File Trail ES](#)

[Live Oak ES](#)

McNeil HS

Old Town ES

Ridgeview MS

## **OPEN, 3rd VP**

**communications@rrisdpta.org**

Cedar Valley MS

Deep Wood ES

[Forest North ES](#)

Pond Springs ES

Round Rock HS

[Union Hill ES](#)

Walsh MS

## **Melissa Schmalbach, 4th VP**

**hospitality@rrisdpta.org 512.300.8329**

[Berkman ES](#)

[Bluebonnet ES](#)

Chisholm Trail MS

Elsa England ES

Fern Bluff ES

Stony Point HS

## **Melissa Hoskin, 5th VP**

**programs@rrisdpta.org 512.731.0791**

Brushy Creek ES

[Deerpark MS](#)

Great Oaks ES

Patsy Sommer ES

Robertson ES

Success HS

[Voigt ES](#)

## **OPEN**

**fundraising@rrisdpta.org**

Blackland Prairie ES

[Callison ES](#)

Herrington ES

Noel Grisham MS

Spicewood ES

[Wells Branch ES](#)

Westwood HS

## **Beth Fitzmaurice, Secretary**

**secretary@rrisdpta.org 512.769.2299**

Cactus Ranch ES

Forest Creek ES

[Gattis ES](#)

[Hernandez MS](#)

Purple Sage ES

RROC

## **Laura Podnar, Parliamentarian**

**parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org 512.574.5023**

Canyon Creek ES

Early College HS

Hopewell MS

[Joe Lee Johnson ES](#)

[Jollyville ES](#)

Teravista ES

BLUE = Title 1 Campus

# Message from District Leadership

Acting RRISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Daniel Presley



The year 2020 has been like no other and I know our teachers, administrators, and support staff — as well as our students and parents — are looking forward to a well-deserved winter break. I want to personally thank our PTA volunteers who have found creative ways to serve our campuses as we all navigate these challenging circumstances.

It has been a year of transition as well, as our longtime superintendent, Dr. Steve Flores, has stepped down from his role. Dr. Flores served as Round Rock ISD's leader for more than seven years and in that time has done an exceptional job steering our Destination District as we have grown and achieved new heights. Just this year the Texas PTA named Dr. Flores the Texas Superintendent of the Year. He certainly leaves big shoes to fill and we will miss him greatly, but we all wish him well on his next chapter.

The Board of Trustees is beginning the process of selecting a search firm to identify our next Superintendent. We expect to award a contract by the end of January and launch the search sometime in February. We will provide more information to the community as the process evolves.

We are all watching the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines with great hope and anticipation. In the meantime, we know we must remain vigilant to protect the health and safety of our staff, students and community. We are now updating our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) each day, Monday through Friday, and will also have a system in place for parents and staff to report positive or probable cases over the winter break.

We expect classes for all students, both in person and virtual, to resume on Wednesday, Jan. 6. You will be able to see updated information on the COVID-19 Dashboard on Monday, Jan. 4. We are extending the option to on-campus students to go virtual January 6 – 8 without losing their on-campus spot. If this is the best option for your student, please inform your campus by 5 p.m. Monday, January 4.

Everyone at Round Rock ISD, from district leaders to campus administrators to teachers and support staff, is working diligently to keep our campus environments safe and to make the school experience, whether in-person or virtual, as engaging as possible. Like you, we are looking forward to the day when we can return, not just back to normal, but, as Dr. Flores liked to say, back to better. We miss having all of our students on campus and participating in the activities that make Round Rock ISD a Destination District. I believe those days are in the not-too-distant future. Thanks for all you do for our students. I hope you have a wonderful and peaceful holiday season.

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD School Board

Amy Weir, President, Place 5



November saw big changes for the Board of Trustees. We said good-bye to four members; Chad Chadwell, Nikki Gonzales, Steve Math, and Mason Moses. We also accepted Dr. Flores's resignation after 7 years as superintendent. We wish him well on all his future endeavors, not the least of which is spending more time with his baby granddaughter, Luna.

We welcomed our newly elected trustees; Dr. Mary Bone, Tiffanie Harrison, Danielle Weston, and Dr. Jun Xiao. The board also appointed Dr. Daniel Presley as the Acting Superintendent, having full faith and confidence that he can help lead us through this transition time.

On December 10th, the board will begin the process of hiring a firm to start the search for our next superintendent. Word is already spreading nationwide, so please know that Round Rock ISD will have our choice of the very best applicants that Texas and the nation have to offer. It will be an exciting time for the district. This board is committed to a fair, open, and transparent process with community input. So please be on the lookout in the coming months for ways that you can be a part of this process.

Though finding a new superintendent is a top priority, know that this new team of 8 is committed to addressing the many challenges facing the district right now. We plan to have at least 2 meetings each month for the foreseeable future so there is sufficient time to discuss the concerns related to Covid, student achievement, mental health, the legislative session, and other important topics. Moreover, we plan to use the Message Board so that our deliberations aren't limited to meetings. We welcome your feedback and plan to offer more two way communication opportunities.

Please stay safe and have a wonderful winter break. We look forward to a spring semester that will bring new growth and new possibilities on every front!

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### RRISD SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are usually held on the third Thursday of each month unless scheduled otherwise. The Board normally meets in closed session at 6:00 p.m., followed by a public session starting at 7:00 p.m.

These meetings take place in the Round Rock High School Lecture Hall  
at 300 Lake Creek Drive in Round Rock, Texas.

# Council PTA News

## COUNCIL CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

PTA leaders, Principals, District Leadership, District Partners, Business and Community PTA members, are all encouraged to submit a written contribution to our Council Connections Newsletter.

If you would like to be included, email a brief, 1/4 page length, article to the Council Connections PTA Newsletter Editor, Sara Gandaría-Escamilla at [newsletter@rrisdpta.org](mailto:newsletter@rrisdpta.org)

**Submission for the next Newsletter is due  
Friday, January 15th 2021**

A hard copy of the newsletter is distributed at each Delegate Luncheon Meeting and sent electronically to all executive board members whose names have been uploaded to Texas PTA Two Step. During the months when we do not have a Delegate Luncheon Meeting, a digital edition will be published and distributed by email.

**Have you joined the private  
RRISD PTA Facebook Group?**

**Find it by searching:  
RRISD Local PTA  
Board Q&A**

**It's a great place to share  
ideas and ask questions.**

### Stay Connected with your RRISD Council of PTAs



Website: <http://rrisdpta.org>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RRISDPTA>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RRISDPTA>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rrisdpta/>

# Council PTA COVID-19 Highlights

Tackling COVID-19 Together   

[RRISD COVID-19 Webpage](#)

[RRISD Home Learning HUB](#)

[RRISD Behavioral Health Support](#)

[Tips on Talking with Elementary Students](#)

[Tips on Talking with Secondary Students](#)

[Family Resources from National PTA](#)

[Guidelines for Meetings per Texas PTA](#)

[Virtual Meeting FAQs](#)

[Texas PTA Guidelines for Virtual Meetings](#)

[Overview of Guidelines Video](#)



Parents ... Teachers ... ALL of us!



# Council PTA Highlights

## Reflections 2020: A Success!

by Monica Welch Reflections Chair  
RRISD Council of PTAs

This year's theme for the Reflections Arts Contest was "I Matter Because." Even with a shift to remote/online systems for entry, 30+ schools sponsored contests and sent 343 entries to the Council level for judging!



Council Judging is usually a day-long, in-person event. Due to the shift to remote, it will take place over the course of a week, after which results will be tabulated. We will be excited to share the results, so stay tuned. Up to 30 students will have the opportunity for their artwork to advance to Tx PTA State Level judging!

A huge THANK YOU to the many PTA Reflections chairs, Presidents, Principals and volunteers who made Reflections happen this year. You have shown our student artists that, even during challenging times, they each matter. Thank you!

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## Message From Our Treasurer

by Liz Cantrell, Treasurer  
RRISD Council of PTAs

Happy December, Fellow Treasurers!

December means the holiday season is upon us, and before we know it, 2020 will be coming to a close. The new year brings tax filing season, so let's talk about sales tax.

If your PTA holds a sales tax permit, sales tax returns are due January 20, 2021 to the Texas

State Comptroller. **The return must be filed if you have a permit, even if you have no sales tax due during the reporting period.** The Texas State Comptroller charges a fee for filing late, so be sure to have your return in the mail on time.

Start gathering the information you need to complete the return. If your PTA files quarterly, you'll need information on sales and taxes collected from October-December. If your PTA files annually, you'll need sales info for the entire calendar year, January through December, so you'll need the sales tax info from the second half of the previous fiscal year as well as the first half of this fiscal year. Here is a spreadsheet tool I use when determining sales tax due. I complete this spreadsheet, print and put it in my binder with a copy of the sales tax return filed, or a copy of the Comptroller's website confirmation of filing when I file online. I hope you find it helpful! [Blank - 2020 Fundraising Activity Report for Sales Tax Return](#)

Several people have asked about tax free days. Each PTA is allowed two tax-free days **per calendar year**. Whether you are filing for the entire year, or just for October-December, you should check tax returns and sales for the whole of 2020 to see if your PTA has already claimed any tax-free days in 2020. Tax-free days must be voted on **prior** to the event. More information on tax-free days, collecting sales tax, and completing your sales tax return can be found in the [BASICS Treasurer Resource Guide](#) at [txpta.org/treasurer](http://txpta.org/treasurer). To find information on your PTA's filing period or sales tax permit status, visit the TX State Comptroller's website: [www.comptroller.texas.gov](http://www.comptroller.texas.gov).

Keep an eye out for treasurer training dates coming soon, and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays!



# Council PTA Highlights

## Advocacy Update

by Heather Lawrence, Advocacy Chair, RRISD Council of PTAs

Rally day is coming in February 2021! Rally day is the day PTA members from across Texas come to the state capital during the state Congress session to support the Texas PTA legislative priorities. This year it will be virtual. It's time to advocate for our community on the issues we care about and let our voices be heard. In preparation, Texas PTA has announced their 2020-21 Legislative Priorities. As Round Rock ISD Council of PTA's Advocacy Committee is preparing for February 22nd Rally Day, we would like to know.

What are your THREE most important priorities for the RRISD Community? Please fill out this simple form to give your opinion. The Advocacy Committee thanks you for your input!

I would like to draw your attention to one of the Legislative Priorities, Public School Funding System Reform. The passing of HB 3 in 2019 was a "sweeping and historic" school finance bill that provides money for classrooms, teachers and helps ease property taxes. It included \$6.5 billion of new funding, increasing the base allotment per student from \$5,140 to \$6,160. To put that into perspective, Texas is 43rd in the nation for school funding. It would take an additional 44 billion dollars in funding to bring us to 25th in the Nation, and that is only 50%! Texas schools need every penny, especially during the pandemic. The COVID crisis

endangers RRISD from receiving the funding that was budgeted due to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) penalizing school districts on pandemic enrollment numbers.

Please consider letting your elected officials know your opinion on maintaining our funding for the 2020-21 school year. Go to Greg Abbott's help page and copy this into the comments section:

*After careful examination of the issue, along with the recently released first grading period failure rates and an average 4% drop in enrollment rates across Texas, I urge you to direct Commissioner Morath to fund Texas schools at a hold-harmless level for the 2020-21 school year. Student safety, mental health, and educational standards cannot be met during this time without proper support. Funding our schools at the approved 2020-21 levels allows stability for the students, teachers, and staff to smoothly recover student enrollment while maintaining pre-pandemic educational goals. Thank you.*

Also, you can copy and paste the above and send and email to [mike.morath@tea.texas.gov](mailto:mike.morath@tea.texas.gov)

Cc: [dan.patrick@ltgov.texas.gov](mailto:dan.patrick@ltgov.texas.gov),  
[tom@maynardfortexas.com](mailto:tom@maynardfortexas.com),  
[James.Talarico@house.texas.gov](mailto:James.Talarico@house.texas.gov),  
[John.Bucy@house.texas.gov](mailto:John.Bucy@house.texas.gov),  
[Vikki.Goodwin@house.texas.gov](mailto:Vikki.Goodwin@house.texas.gov),  
[Celia.Israel@house.texas.gov](mailto:Celia.Israel@house.texas.gov),  
[Charles.Schwertner@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Charles.Schwertner@senate.texas.gov),  
[Sarah.Eckhardt@senate.texas.gov](mailto:Sarah.Eckhardt@senate.texas.gov)

Subject line: Secure Funding for Texas Public Schools



Staying civically engaged in a socially distanced world.  
Join us virtually February 22, 2021

# Council PTA Highlights

## National & State PTA News You Can Use: Updates, Helpful Tips & Resources

by Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert

National PTA Liaison

RRISD Council of PTAs

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National PTA is providing helpful information for students, parents, guardians, and faculty. These educational support resources are here for YOU and are easily accessible at PTA.org. At the website, you can also subscribe to e-newsletters and find resources in Español. Listed below, are timely current resources, upcoming events, and reminders.

National PTA's Membership Campaign "PTA For Your Child" and Local Leader Kit provide ways to encourage Membership and spread the word about PTA's insightful work and resources. National PTA has helpful information for Local PTAs to effectively lead Virtual PTA meetings, fundraisers, membership, advocacy, and more. These easy-to-access and useful resources are here for you to Lead a PTA Virtually.

National PTA provides Grant and Award opportunities throughout the year. Award nominations are currently being accepted for the Life Achievement Award and 2021 Advocacy Awards (deadline of January 4, 2021): Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Award; Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award; Outstanding Youth Advocate Award; Outstanding State PTA Advocacy Award; and, Outstanding Local PTA Advocacy Award. Information about all available grants and awards can be accessed here: National PTA Grants & Awards. Grant and award opportunities

are often announced on National PTA's Facebook page too, so make sure to check National PTA's website and social media regularly for grant and award updates.

National PTA is encouraging and informing PTA leaders, students, families, and faculty about how everyone can work together to build a more equitable society and public education experience. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion is at the forefront of PTA's work. Information and resources on Building a More Diverse, Equitable, & Inclusive PTA are available HERE in both English and Spanish. Also, make sure and tune in for December's "Notes from the Backpack" podcast, Episode 37: How to Help LGBTQ Youth Thrive.

Check out the National PTA Event Calendar for a comprehensive list of what's going on and coming up. Some upcoming events to note for 2021, are: Take Your Family to School Week in February, LegCon (Legislative Conference) in March, and Reflections' deadlines. And, don't forget to easily look for upcoming National PTA Events on the website or at the National PTA Events app.

Helpful Parent, Student, and Educator Resources including: COVID-19 information, the Center for Family Engagement with a Toolkit to Facilitate Family/School Listening Sessions (available in multiple languages), Health & Safety News, Special Education Toolkits, the Parents' Guide to Student Success, and College & Career Readiness news are all accessible, here. The insightful Notes from the Backpack podcast series is also available. And, don't forget to check out National PTA's Our Children Magazine.

## Council PTA Highlights

### Holiday Hazards in 2020

By Kristen Hullum, MSN, RN  
Healthy Lifestyle's Chair  
RRISD Council of PTAs

Like virtually everything else this year, holiday celebrations will certainly be different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Healthy Lifestyle's PTA chair offers the following tips to keep you and your family healthy and safe during the holidays:

#### Cars and pedestrians

Many holiday events will be hosted outside to accommodate social distancing recommendations, presenting an increased risk for pedestrian injuries.

If driving, don't be distracted by holiday lights or decorations where you could miss a pedestrian in front of your vehicle.

Pedestrians should be cautious while walking around these types of events and make themselves visible by using flashlights or wearing reflective clothing.

As always, if you are driving, do not consume alcohol. Having even one or two drinks can impair your judgment and slow your motor skills.

#### Fire Hazards

Candles should never be left unattended and should be placed on a sturdy base away from anything that can catch fire. Consider using battery-operated LED candles as a safe alternative to traditional candles.

Dried out trees present a serious fire hazard, so it is important to keep real trees hydrated by keeping the tree stand full of water. If you pre-

fer using an artificial tree, look for a fire-resistant label, and always keep your tree away from fireplaces and heaters.

#### Injury Prevention with Gifts

When giving gifts to small children under the age of 4, keep in mind that any small item can be a choking hazard at this age. Button batteries are particularly dangerous if swallowed. It may be difficult to give a gift to an older child if a smaller sibling is present in the home.

When gifting items like scooters, hoverboards, skateboards, and bicycles, please remember to gift the safety equipment, too!

Helmets and pads can prevent lots of the injuries that bring children to the ER during the holidays.

**Conversations with a  
SCHOOL COUNSELOR**

Tuesday Evenings at 6 pm - [Zoom Link](https://zoom.us/j/95021840613?pwd=H3FYM3FueVh4dUk2TTZkdjZkZjZj09)

School counselors from across Round Rock ISD will be present at each session to discuss the various topics and answer questions from attendees.

**15 MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Transitioning from Middle School to High School November 3, 2020	Balancing School Work and Personal Time November 17, 2020	FAFSA/TASFA Presentation – Guest Presenter – December 1, 2020
FAFSA/TASFA Parent Support Sessions December 7-9 2020	Transitioning from Elementary to Middle School January 5, 2021	Building Healthy Relationships February 2, 2021
Staying Motivated March 2, 2021	Building Resiliency April 6, 2021	Transitioning to Life After High School May 4, 2021

Recordings available the next day on the [Round Rock ISD Counseling Services website](https://roundrockisd.org/counselorservices)  
Appointment required for FAFSA/TASFA Support. Make an appointment at: <https://roundrockisd.org/counselorservices>



# RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners

On behalf of the RRISD Council of PTAs, we would like to recognize the following PTA ComYOUity Partners:

## Platinum (\$1000 donation)

Individuals and/or businesses joined EVERY PTA in RRISD!



## Bronze (\$250 donation)

Individuals and/or businesses joined 3 PTAs in RRISD!

## Raise Your Hand Texas



Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs

### 2020-21 ComYOUity Partnership Program

Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs is thankful for the partnerships and the support provided by our local businesses. Council funds district-wide programs such as our local Clothes Closets, Senior Scholarships, Reflections, Parent Information sessions and workshops throughout the school year. With our partners' support, we are able to invest in the programs that benefit our schools, teachers, children and families in RRISD.

If you are interested in finding out more or have questions about these opportunities, please contact Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of Membership at [membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)

ComYOUity Partnership Program	Platinum \$1000	Gold \$750	Silver \$500	Bronze \$250
Marvelous ComYOUity Membership	*	*	*	*
Certificate for your business to display	*	*	*	*
ComYOUity decal for your business to display	*	*	*	*
Logo on Council website Partner page	*	*	*	*
Shoutout on Council social media pages	*	*	*	*
Logo on monthly newsletters	*	*	*	*
Website link, contact information & byline included with logo on Partner page	*	*	*	*
2 min informational at Delegate Meeting	*	*	*	*
Logo on Council website Home page	*	*	*	*

\* Where opportunities may be available throughout the year depending on virtually versus in-person learning.

### PLATINUM PARTNER \$1000

- 3 minute informational at one virtual Delegate Meeting
- Logo on Council website Home page
- Website link, contact & byline included with logo on Partner page
- Full page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Platinum Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to ALL 53 PTAs

### GOLD PARTNER \$750

- Website link, contact & byline included with logo on Partner page
- 1/2 page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Gold Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to our 17 PTAs in need

### SILVER PARTNER \$500

- 1/4 page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Silver Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to 7 PTAs of your choice

### BRONZE PARTNER \$250

- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Bronze Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to 3 PTAs of your choice

Please complete this section and mail it in to: RRISD Council of PTAs, PO Box 17046, Round Rock, TX 78680 or visit our online store at [www.rrisdpta.org](http://www.rrisdpta.org)

Name(s) _____	Cell _____
Business Name _____	
Email _____	Website _____
Partnership Level: _____	

Become a ComYOUity Partner and receive the benefits below.

For more information email

Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of membership at  
[membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Canyon Creek PTA

- Our virtual classes (Yoga, Chess, and Mandarin) are successfully under way and we've started monthly virtual themed "craft nights" for students.
- 2020 has really brought out the best in CCE students, parents, and the community at large. We recently provided delicious sweets for our CCE teachers, administrators, and staff which were greatly appreciated.
- Our Reflections program garnered some truly thoughtful and creative entries for the "I Matter Because" theme. We are so proud of all our Comets who entered and wish all the best for those Award of Excellence winners who moved on to the next level.
- Our service programs (Brown Santa, Coats for Kids) are up and running and we had a great turn out for "Operation Turkey". We are so grateful for the CCE Community and how they lead by example in giving back to the Texas community.
- Community Partnerships! We have developed several partnerships with local businesses who are providing a percentage of the proceeds they get from the various campaigns we are promoting. From Schools Love Local, Kelly's Kitchen Creation, to Papa Johns with more to come.
- Our school and PTA are continually looking for ways for students, teachers, and parents to connect. We are living up to our Spirit Wear t-shirts theme of "Canyon Creek Comets Together". We are truly united and "together".
- We welcomed a new PTA board member and committee and program leads:

Ashish Mehta - Treasurer

Suma Adapala - Healthy Lifestyles

Chair and Yoga Program Lead

Kelly Larson - Faculty Friday Feast Program Lead

Julie Rysenga - Reflections Program Lead

Russell Friesenhahn - PTA Council Representative

Julianne Bamford - Teacher Representative

Ellie Qu - Family Support Specialist

### Chandler Oaks PTA

- COE PTA awarded \$3,145.60 to Chandler Oaks teachers through our Fall Mini Grant program. We love supporting new and innovative ideas to help our students learn!
- COE PTA is starting a monthly booklist that highlights diversity, equity, and inclusion books available to our COE students from the COE library, as well as digital resources available to students.
- We hosted a Thanksgiving pie drive for our wonderful teachers and staff in November. In December, we're giving all staff a cookie gift and we're hosting a card drive so students and families can show teachers and staff just how much we appreciate them, even when we can't see them in person.
- COE PTA recently purchased a new shed for our reading garden and new furniture for our library. Students and staff will get to start enjoying these purchases very soon.



**everyone can  
back the future**  
Because anyone can join PTA

#YouCanPTA

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Grisham PTA

- We received \$5,000 from the National PTA to address food insecurity at GMS. We partnered with Full Cart who provides boxes of delicious meal prep boxes delivered straight to folks' doors. These meal prep boxes provide dinner for a family of four for the entire month! The grant funded 120 boxes. Our generous community sponsored over 100 more boxes. What a joy to be part of a small school with a BIG heart.
- The GMS PTA received \$4,000 from Dollar General to support literacy for students who struggle with reading. With these funds we purchased Playaways and print books for the library. Playaways are self-contained audio books that students can check out and listen to. The device is portable and is smaller than a cell phone, making these devices perfect for all adolescent readers. Students can even follow along with a print book. Thank you to Dollar General for supporting literacy for struggling readers at Grisham!
- The GMS teachers approached the PTA requesting technology to help them manage simultaneous virtual and in person learning. Our PTA members' generosity made it possible to provide 20 high quality computer monitors to teachers who requested them. Thank you, Discount Electronics, for extending a business-to-business discount.
- Teacher hospitality has been different but fun this year. We provided breakfast tacos to teachers on the way in the school door, a Grisham Middle School safety mask, brunch hosted by Dream Dinners (Check them out! Super great food!), and pies for Thanksgiving. More yummy acts of care coming your way, GMS teachers!
- Thank you to our Grisham Middle School corporate Sponsors! Shipwash Contracting is owned by a RRISD family. Their work is gorgeous! Contact them at

[www.shipwashcontracting.com](http://www.shipwashcontracting.com).

Dream Dinners is a delicious way to receive prepared meals during this crazy-busy time. \$99 gets you 6 meals for a family of 3! They are a family-owned business who has supported GMS teacher hospitality for a long time. Contact them at <https://dreamdinners.com>

### Wells Branch PTA

- Our Move-a-Thon fundraiser was a big success, which allowed us to purchase new recess gym equipment.
- We agreed to purchase Equity-related books for the school library.
- We conducted a virtual International Fair with photos and recipes.
- Our next general PTA meeting, on Dec 8, will be a forum with our District 50 Texas House Rep, Celia Israel.
- Virtual coffee chats are every other Friday morning, feel free to join us!

### RRISD Council of PTAs Delegate Luncheons

Thursday January 28, 2021  
Friday, March 26, 2021  
Thursday, April 22, 2021

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Westwood PTSA

- Westwood High School PTSA is so grateful to our generous and supportive community! We have been able to fill in multiple need gaps.
- One of our main focus points this semester was to provide as much support to help the teachers by funding face masks, snacks, breakfast tacos, lunch, scones, cocoa, and gift card donations.
- Special kudos go to Ann Okamura and our fabulous Hospitality Team for their determination.
- Heidi Schoenberger-Colbert, Katie Berkaw, and Sally Dewhurst have built a strong sustainable foundation for Membership and Fundraising.
- High five goes out to Jeti Nasrallah, for coordinating our annual Sock & Underwear Drive. Our community donated FIVE overflowing lawn sized trash bags of underwear and socks for the RRISD Clothes Closet!
- Brinda Roy, led the charge for our successful Reflections Program this year.
- Our Programs Committee lead by Heather Lawrence is actively working with our Student Reps on some exciting Winter and Spring virtual programming.
- A special thank you to Dr. Acosta, for his support, hosting coffee chats, and time he gives to the PTSA.
- We are looking forward to continuing our service to Westwood in 2021!

**YOUR DADS CAN STILL HELP.  
NOW MORE THAN EVER.**



- Health Ambassador
- Remind Students about masks and distance
- Help with bus and car rider drop-off and pick-up
- Help teachers and students at recess
- Model healthy behavior

888-540-DOGS • [dadsofgreatstudents.com](http://dadsofgreatstudents.com)

### Social Media Tip

When asking members for photos be sure to include the following disclaimer:

*Photo/Video Release: Please note that by submitting your photo/video to [insert PTA name], you give [insert PTA name] the permission to use it on the [insert PTA name] website, newsletter, social media outlets, or any other [insert PTA name] communication channels.*





# RRISD Partners News and Tips

## New Social Workers

by Amy Grosso, PhD

Director of Behavioral Health Services  
Round Rock Independent School District  
Amy\_Grosso@roundrockisd.org

In the August the Board of Trustees approved funding for ten social workers to be hired. I am happy to report the first five have hit the ground running and are working with students, families, and staff. In January 2021, the next five will be joining our team. In addition to the work they do every day in the schools, they also are available to do parent presentations!

Please reach out to the social worker for your Learning Community if you are interested!

### Cedar Ridge Learning Community

Bree Borgseadt, LCSW-S  
bree\_borgsteadt@roundrockisd.org

### Mc Neil Learning Community

Breanna De Moulin, LMSW  
breanna\_demoulin@roundrockisd.org

### Round Rock Learning Community

Larissa Gomez, LCSW  
larissa\_gomez@roundrockisd.org

### Stony Point Learning Community

Wendy Castillo, LCSW-S  
wendy\_castillo@roundrockisd.org

### Westwood Learning Community

Eden Males, LCSW  
eden\_males@roundrockisd.org

2020-2021

*Online Family Connections*


## Home School Families

Linking families with their children's education through  
online sessions, workshops, videos and more

<b>Early Literacy - PreK/K</b> Laying a strong foundation for learning LIVE SESSIONS, TIPS & VIDEOS October - April	<b>Building Resilient Kids - PreK-8th</b> Strategies to strengthen your child's emotional intelligence LIVE SESSIONS, VIDEOS & MORE November - April
<b>Early Math Skills - PreK/K</b> Raise confidence and reinforce the learning at home LIVE SESSIONS November - April	<b>Digital Citizenship - K-8th</b> Be safe and smart in the virtual world LIVE SESSIONS, TIPS, VIDEOS December - May
<b>Writing Skills - "Prose Pros"</b> Anyone can be a writer. Let's sharpen those skills and fall in love with writing. VIDEOS & TIPS November - January	<b>Transitions - 5th &amp; 8th</b> Getting ready for middle and high school LIVE SESSION & PARENT GUIDE December 8

Scan to register  
<https://tinyurl.com/rrisdparentprogram>

Questions? Email us at  
parent\_programs@roundrockisd.org



ROUND ROCK ISD  
PARENT PROGRAM



Check out the Podcast [Here](#)

## RRISD Partners News and Tips

### Online Enrichment Classes



### [Register now for new online enrichment classes!](#)

- After-school activities held virtually
- Classes are hands-on and interactive
- Prices starting as low as \$10.00 per class
- Classes for students in grades K - 12
- Most spring classes start January 25th
- Most classes are held for 6-12 weeks

(To Register go [HERE](#))

1/19/21

**Free Tools for Planning: How to Pay for College**

1/19/21

**Social & Emotional Learning 3 Simple Words, 1 Big Impact**

1/19/21

**PSAT, SAT, & ACT:  
Increasing College Readiness**

2/16/21

**Career Exploration**

3/23/21

**Apprenticeships: How They Work and How You Find One**

3/23/21

**The Real Deal: Job Shadowing & Internships**

4/20/21

**College Admissions Panel**

4/20/21

**Banking Basics**



**RRISD Announces Chief Equity Officer**  
Read all about it [HERE](#)

## RRISD Partners News and Tips

### Round Rock Chamber Updates

by Jason Ball, President

Round Rock Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber has had a very busy close of the year. Like many businesses and organizations, we have completed our 2021 Operational Plan as well as updated our three-year strategic plan. Likewise, the Chamber has reviewed and approved our operating budget.

The coming year will be challenging in many respects. The continuing prevalence of the coronavirus and the necessary mitigation make it difficult for organizations like the Chamber to gather community stakeholders as we normally would like. The Chamber typically holds its annual banquet in January to begin the year celebrating the achievements of, and leaders within, the business community. That event will be entirely virtual this year.

The Chamber will be very active during the coming legislative session. The impact of the pandemic-induced economic slowdown will make the state budget process difficult for legislators this year, and as a result, the business community has prioritized funding related issues. These priority issues include continued investment in state funding for education, with particular focus on K-12.

In spite of the challenges presented by 2020, the Round Rock Chamber still ends the year in a strong and successful position. The community celebrated the opening of the Kalahari resort and conference center, the Chamber supported seven new businesses establishing operations in Round Rock – creating another 1,100+ jobs, and Chamber investors remain committed to the program and our mission.

Like so many others, we eagerly look forward to a return to normal business operations soon as the vaccine is deployed in the first half of 2021, which will be the surest way to again return to business.

### December Observances

- National Intoxicated Driving Prevention Month
- Safe Toys and Gift Month
- Universal Human Rights Month
- National Handwashing Awareness Week 12/1-12/7
- Inclusive Schools Week 12/7-12/13
- Rosa Parks Day 12/1
- Giving Tuesday 12/1
- World Aids Day 12/1
- International Day Abolition of Slavery 12/2
- International Day of Disabled Persons 12/3
- National Cookie Day 12/4
- International Volunteer Day 12/5
- Pearl Harbor Day 12/7
- International Human Rights Day 12/10
- First Day of Hanukkah 12/11
- National App Day 12/11
- Universal Health Coverage Day 12/12
- Worldwide Candle Lighting Day 12/13
- Christmas 12/25
- Kwanza Begins 12/26
- New Year's Eve 12/31

# RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners



## ***School promotion opportunity: Fall Welcome Back Offer FREE KIDS' SUNDAE FOR ALL ROUND ROCK ISD STUDENTS***

### THE OFFER

***Andy's Frozen Custard in Round Rock would like to offer ALL students of Round Rock ISD a FREE Kids' Sundae!***

School is back in session and it's time for a break... a family break at Andy's that is! Load up the kiddos, head to Andy's, pop the tailgate or bring some lawn chairs to enjoy the world's finest frozen custard under the bright lights and Texas stars!

### HOW IT WORKS

Download the Andy's app and use promo code 'RROCKISD' at sign-up to receive their free Kids' Sundae! Families have from 10/26/2020 to 11/8/2020 to download app and enter promo code. Free treats will be loaded to accounts on 11/9/2020.

#### **Download App Now!**

iOS: <https://bit.ly/Andysapp>

Google: <https://bit.ly/Andysgoogle>

DOWNLOAD  
APP!



CODE  
RROCKISD

DOWNLOAD PROMO  
10/26/20 – 11/8/20

FREE TREATS  
ADDED  
11/9/2020

### HOW TO PROMOTE

[Click Here for ideas on how to promote.](#)

#### **Assets available for promotion**

- Flyer / eBlast graphic
- Social media posts

*For either external or internal promotional platforms*

- Initial promo post
- Thank you Andy's / Reminder to Download
- 5 Days / Last call for free treat post
- Enjoy! Free Treats Added – Redeem Now!

### FOR EXISTING APP USERS

For families that already have the Andy's app or have multiple students – send an email to [customerservicectx@eatandys.com](mailto:customerservicectx@eatandys.com) with subject line 'RROCKISD' and Andy's will make sure to get account loaded with the free Kids' Sundae!



# RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Partners



## SNACKS THAT GIVE BACK FRIOS PARTNERS WITH SCHOOLS!

"We started offering Frios at our school, and it's the best fundraiser we've ever had. We all look forward to enjoying a Frios pop, and love that it helps our school, too!"

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

### WHY FRIOS GOURMET POPS?

- Frios gives back 20% to schools
- Frios is a safe, prepackaged product to enjoy in a COVID world
- Frios is fast to serve! Kids can enjoy their treat and get back focused on learning.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Melissa & Michael Brown  
P: 512.300.8292 • [pville@friospops.com](mailto:pville@friospops.com)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - @friospflugerville

# RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Partners

## JODY ALLEN REALTOR®

### About Me:

*I am a fifth-generation Texan and have lived in the Round Rock/Austin area since 1989. Although not born here, I got here as fast as I could.*

*Having graduated from Westwood High School, attended Texas State University (back then better known as Southwest Texas State), and being a resident of the Austin area for several decades, I have my finger on the pulse of the local community!*

*I have been in the real estate space since 2006. First starting out as a loan officer with residential lending and then transitioning into an Investor and now a licensed REALTOR® with All City Real Estate. My network of contacts in the real estate world is second to none.*

*With my go-getter attitude, honesty, and eagerness to help others, I am the ideal agent to assist in all your real estate goals.*

*Whatever the need, I will go the extra mile for you as my client.*

## I WILL DONATE 15% BACK TO PTA!

As a partner with RRISD PTA, I will donate 15% of my broker fees back to the PTA of your choice!

That's right! With any referral from my fellow PTA members, we will be giving back to our children's future! It can be Yourself, Relative, Neighbors, Co-workers, etc.

Anyone that is referred my way through a PTA contact will qualify for the donation!

Call or Text me today  
to discuss!  
**512-736-JODY (5639)**

# JA

#736JODY SJODYALLENREALTOR

ALL CITY  
REAL ESTATE

## CONTACT JODY

512-736-JODY (5639)

Jody@736Jody.com

#736JODY

@JodyAllenRealtor



## RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
ROUND ROCK ISD

**PRESENTS**

# EVENING ON THE DIAMOND

**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shining Stars Gala**  
**April 24, 2021 ~ Dell Diamond**

**WIN CASH FOR YOUR**  
**PTA/CAMPUS**

**NEW**  
**PRIZES \* VENUE \* THEME**

*More details to come*  
*on how to enter the*  
*Gala Auction Basket Contest*



# RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners



**apex virtual**

safe • effective • flexible fundraising

*\*if the school allows it,  
we still offer our incredible  
on-campus experience,  
or even a hybrid of the two!*

## REIMAGINE YOUR NEXT FUNDRAISER WITH APEX **VIRTUAL**

A safe and effective full-service fundraising solution  
that can be adapted to any situation



## CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Perfect for distance learning, hybrid models, and everything in between.



### ADAPTABLE

Apex Virtual is adaptable to any model of learning to ensure your school has a safe and successful experience.



### ALL-INCLUSIVE

All students, on campus and at home, are included in every aspect of the leadership program and our celebratory fitness event.



### CONTACTLESS

Apex's superior pledging site and technology allows fundraising to be sensitive, far-reaching, and completely contactless.

## RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Partners



**Based in Austin, TX we are a true homegrown printing company that now serves the entire US, but we don't forget or local customers and relationships we forged from the beginning.**

**600+ companies/organizations and over a million customers trust and depend on BuildASign as partners to fulfill their different printing needs.**

David Curry  
Enterprise Sales Manager  
[david.curry@buildesign.com](mailto:david.curry@buildesign.com)





# RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Mem-

## Marvelous Platinum ComYOUunity Members

(Joined all PTAs)

Dart 'Em UP

## Marvelous ComYOUunity Members

(Joined 3 PTAs)

Michelle Stanley  
Lisa Shultz



**Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs**  
**Marvelous Community Membership Program**

As a Marvelous Community PTA Member, you support our mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

As a Marvelous Community PTA Member, you will receive a certificate to proudly hang in your home, office, or business; a window decal for your car or business window; and acknowledgement at our delegate meeting, website & newsletter. Local PTAs may choose to honor you as well!

To be a Marvelous Community PTA Member join at least 3 local PTAs of your choice. You also have the opportunity to select any of the Marvelous Community Membership packages listed below.

Marvelous Community Membership Packages	
Platinum (Join ALL PTAs)	\$460.00
Gold (Join 17 PTAs in Need of Community Support - look for *)	\$124.50
Silver (Join 10 PTAs of Your Choice - price based on PTAs selected)	
Bronze (Join 5 PTAs of Your Choice - price based on PTAs selected)	
Alternative Packages (EOPS, RRDC, Soccer - look for +)	\$30.00
Dragons (Join RRHS + 14 RRHS Feeder Schools - look for [R])	\$122.00
Mavericks (Join MHS + 14 MHS Feeder Schools - look for [M])	\$132.50
Warriors (Join CHS + 8 CHS Feeder Schools - look for [C])	\$72.50
Tigers (Join SHS + 10 SHS Feeder Schools - look for [S])	\$94.50
Warriors (Join WHS + 9 WHS Feeder Schools - look for [W])	\$88.50

Please mail this form to RRISD Council of PTAs, PO Box 1746, Round Rock, 78660 or visit our online store at [www.rrisdpta.org](http://www.rrisdpta.org). If you have questions, contact Randall Goltzman, VP Membership, at [membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org).

Elementary Schools			
Anderson MS* (M/W)	\$1.50	Griffin (C)	\$33.00
Barkman (C)	\$7.00	Great Oaks (R)	\$8.00
Blackland Prairie (C)	\$6.00	Harrington (S)	\$55.00
Blanton* (R)	\$6.00	Joe Lee Johnson* (M/W)	\$8.00
Brushy Creek (M/R)	\$7.50	Jollyville (M/W)	\$7.00
Carlin Ranch (R)	\$7.00	Laurel Mountain (W)	\$6.00
Chamber Heights* (S)	\$7.00	Live Oak* (W)	\$6.50
Callison* (C)	\$7.00	Old Town (R)	\$8.00
Canyon Creek (W)	\$6.00	Pine Springs (W)	\$33.00
Caraway (W)	\$6.00	Purple Sage (M/W)	\$33.00
Chandler Oaks (S)	\$10.00	Robertson* (S)	\$7.00
Deep Wood (R)	\$7.50	Sommer (M/R)	\$8.00
Freddie Vile* (C)	\$7.50	Splaiswood (W)	\$33.00
Engle* (M/R)	\$10.00	Yerxa (S)	\$8.00
Fox Wolf (R)	\$7.00	Union Hill* (S)	\$6.00
Forest Creek (S)	\$6.00	Vaughn* (S)	\$6.50
Forest North* (M)	\$7.00	Wells Branch* (W)	\$8.00

Middle Schools			
C. D. Fisher* (C)	\$8.00	Hernandez* (S)	\$9.00
Carson Vista (W)	\$10.00	Hopewell (S)	\$33.00
Center Valley (M/R)	\$10.50	Peasano Ranch (W)	\$33.00
Chisholm Trail (R)	\$10.00	Ridgeview (S)	\$4.00
Deerport* (M)	\$10.00	Walsh (R/S)	\$33.00
Northam (W)	\$13.00		

High Schools			
Center Ridge (S)	\$10.00	RR Opportunity Center +	\$33.00
Early College +	\$10.00	Stony Point (S)	\$33.00
McNeil (W)	\$10.00	Success +	\$33.00
Round Rock (R)	\$11.00	Westwood (W)	\$33.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you an Honorary Lifetime Member? Y/N

Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Become a ComYOUunity PTA Member with one of our Membership packages described below.

For more information email

Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of membership at  
[membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)



## COUNCIL PTA PRIORITIES

- ♦ Support Local PTA Leader
- ♦ Conduct Business of the Council PTA
- ♦ Promote PTA

# Texas PTA News & Tips



## TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

87TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM REFORM

Maintain funding for all components of House Bill 3, the comprehensive public school legislation adopted by the 86th Texas Legislature.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Monitor TEA's Special Education Strategic Plan — corrective action taken after an investigation by the Department of Education.

#### DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

Pursue legislation and funding to ensure all Texas public school students have digital connectivity and devices.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

#### SCHOOL SAFETY

Monitor school safety legislation, both implementation of laws enacted in 2019 and legislation filed in the 87th legislative session.

#### VAPING REGULATION AND FLAVOR BAN

Pursue passage of legislation to ban flavors in e-cigarettes and combustible tobacco, and to tax e-cigarettes; and increase the tax on traditional cigarettes.

### CYBERBULLYING

Monitor implementation of David's Law and any other legislation related to cyberbullying.

### STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Monitor implementation of mental health legislation, including programs and services designed to help keep students mentally strong and prepared to cope, as well as systems to identify students in need of intervention. Monitor mental health legislation that is filed in the 87th legislative session.

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Support policies that reduce childhood obesity through education, healthy food choices, and physical activity.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Support legislation to increase the age of adult criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, and monitor funding for students in Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs.

### CAMPUS IMMUNIZATION REPORTING

Support legislation requiring school districts to report the number of unvaccinated students in each school so families can make the safest school-placement decision for medically vulnerable children.

### CHILD AND YOUTH TRAFFICKING

Support legislation that waives criminal responsibility for children and youth when criminal activity results from exploitation by a trafficker. Monitor the state's 2019 clemency initiative for victims of human trafficking.

### MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

#### A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Monitor legislation impacting the state's A-F system. Advocate for an accountability system that more broadly reviews school performance and includes a family engagement component.

### STATE ASSESSMENT

Advocate for reduced emphasis on state-mandated testing that penalizes the student rather than guide instruction and identify learning problems.

### STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### KEEP PUBLIC DOLLARS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Oppose legislation that authorizes state funds be used to pay for private school tuition and related costs.

### LEGISLATION CAN'T WAIT ON A PANDEMIC



We might not know what Rally Day will look like quite yet, but one thing is for sure — when the Texas Legislature convenes for regular session in January, decisions will be made and laws will pass. The 87th legislative session will prove to be very decisive for our children and schools as our state still reels from a public health crisis. Next session, we need every possible Texan counted in PTA's thunderous voice. Let your community know: **#YouCanPTA**. If they're not sure where to start, invite your family, friends, and neighbors to visit [JoinPTA.org](https://JoinPTA.org) — joining made easy in a world gone virtual.



## Texas PTA News & Tips



Over the course of four weeks and 10 bonus days, PTAs across the state worked hard to recover 2020. The pandemic may have impacted membership, but it never slowed our drive to succeed. Thanks to your phone calls, emails, and posts online, Texas PTA gained over 60,000 new members in a little over a month. Reaching 27% of our goal is not defeat but triumph. This one number equals teamwork and perseverance. So, as we close the book on 2020, I am very optimistic about what is to come. There is still more work to be done, but as we can see, our community is up to the challenge! Keep up the good work and don't forget about this month's early deadline for the Shining Star Award on December 19.

Many thanks for all that you do,

Suzi Kennon, President, Texas PTA

### TEXAS-WIDE PROGRESS REPORT FINAL TALLY

**27%** **60,760**  
new members



**Congratulations to  
Anderson Mill PTA  
for being the  
3rd Place winner in the  
4th Week of the Contest.**

# Texas PTA News & Tips



## LOCAL PTA MEMBERSHIP AWARDS 2020-2021

To qualify for each award, you must mail membership rosters and dues to Texas PTA postmarked by the listed deadline. In addition, members who join through JoinPTA.org prior to or within the deadline are added to the PTA's count. Track JoinPTA.org members through your PTAEZ account.  
🌐 [txpta.org/awards-grants](https://txpta.org/awards-grants)

### AUGUST

#### Head Start Award

Jump-start the PTA year with 75% or more of the previous year's total membership.

Deadline: August 31

### SEPTEMBER

#### Early Bird Achievement Award

Reach 100% of the previous year's total membership!

Deadline: September 30

### OCTOBER



#### Snappy Increase Award

Achieve more than 100% of the previous year.

Deadline: October 31

### NOVEMBER



#### Three Year High Award

Show more than 100% of the previous year and reach a 3-year high in membership.

Deadline: November 30

### DECEMBER

#### Shining Star Award

Stand out with more than 100% of the previous year and achieve Good Standing. Special recognition in the Superintendent's Report Card.

Deadline: December 19



Get LAUNCH 2021 bling!

### JANUARY

#### Welcome Back Award

Keep up momentum with 10 new members.

January 1 – January 31

### FEBRUARY

#### XOXO Award

Share the love of PTA with 14 new members.

February 1 – February 28

### MARCH

#### Lucky Leprechaun Award

What's at the end of the PTA rainbow? 17 lucky new members!

March 1 – March 31

### APRIL

#### April Showers Award

Don't get caught in the rain! Welcome 15 new members.

April 1 – April 30

### MAY

#### May Flowers Award

Tend to your garden and watch it grow with 10 new members.

May 1 – May 31

### JUNE

#### Membership Increase Award

Achieve more than 100% of the previous year.

Deadline: June 30

## VOICE FOR EVERY CHILD AWARDS

Texas PTA's most prestigious membership award for Local PTAs that strive to have one voice for every child on their campus.  
Deadline: June 30



**Silver:** Recruit members equal to at least 50% of campus student enrollment.



**Gold:** Recruit members equal to at least 75% of campus student enrollment.



**Platinum:** Recruit members equal to at least 100% of campus student enrollment.

## SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARDS

### Golden Apple Award



Recruit 100% of school faculty as members.  
Form deadline: February 28th

Texas PTA's definition of faculty is principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, and instructional assistants employed at the campus full-time.

### Student Membership Award

Recruit at least 25 student members.  
Form deadline: February 28th

### Preschool, MARS (Men Are Really Super), Community, Generations Membership Awards

Recruit at least 50 members from any category to qualify for that award.  
Form deadline: February 28th

### Student, Preschool, MARS (Men Are Really Super), Community, Generations Involvement Awards

Appoint or elect one member from any category to serve on the Executive Board to qualify for that award.  
Form deadline: February 28th

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE A RETURN TO FUNDAMENTALS



Local PTAs that meet all of the following criteria will qualify for the 2020-2021 President's Challenge.  
New: PTAs will be required to submit a form with their principal's signature. Deadline: June 30

1. Meet with campus principal to set common goals.
2. Participate in the **back the future** campaign. (Watch for more!)
3. Host a family engagement program.
4. Have a membership increase.

# Texas PTA News & Tips

## Stay in Touch with Texas PTA

Sign up for one or more of Texas PTA Newsletters Here:  
<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1768473/1715664/>

- √ General Interest Texas PTA
- √ Healthy Lifestyles Newsletter
- √ The Review (Arts in Education Newsletter)
- √ Under the Dome (Legislative Newsletter)

## Keep up with Texas PTA online Magazine



<https://thevoice.txpta.org/>

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## Two Ways to Share Your Ideas with Texas PTA

### Did you know that you can share your successes with Texas PTA?

Texas PTA is proud of the amazing programs and services offered by our Local and Council PTAs throughout the state!

One of the most important benefits of PTA is access to a strong network of innovative and successful PTA Leaders, and we're excited to collect and share some of the best success stories out there.

They're all the *Talk of Texas!*

Submit Here:

<https://fs1.formsite.com/txpta/form615/index.ht>

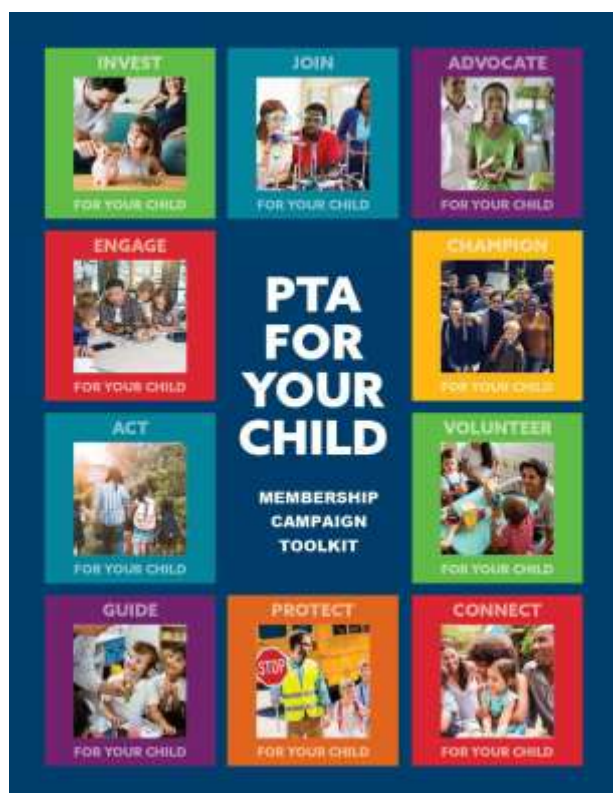




## National PTA News & Tips



### PTA is Speaking Up for You [PTA Letters to Policy Makers](#)



### [National PTA's Membership Campaign](#) ["PTA For Your Child"](#) [and Local Leader Kit](#)

Provides great ways to encourage  
Membership and spread the word about  
PTA's insightful work and resources.



Join in on a Learning Lab to engage with  
experts to get new and helpful ideas.  
Check out upcoming topics here

### Tips for making your PTA Virtual

- ✓ [Get Great Examples](#)
- ✓ [Leadership Training](#)
- ✓ [Grow Your Membership](#)
- ✓ [Easy Online Programs](#)
- ✓ [Socially Distanced Family Engagement](#)



[Check out the One Voice Blog](#)

One Voice



## National PTA News & Tips



### Real Experts. Real Parents. Real Conversations.

We are excited to introduce—*Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast* for busy parents (like you!) who have a lot to keep up with at home and throughout the school year.

Each 30-minute podcast will give you the inside scoop on how to help your child succeed in and out of school. You'll hear unique perspectives from experts, parents and educator guests who will give you real-life advice and ideas you can use!

Just search for "Notes from the Backpack" on your favorite podcast app and subscribe!

For more information visit: <https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack>

**Don't miss National PTA's Notes From the Backpack Podcast on Raising Lifelong Voters featuring Congresswoman Jahana Hayes.**

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### Helpful Parent Resources available on the National PTA website.

- ♦ [Center for Family Engagement](#)
- ♦ [Parent Guide to Student Success](#)
  - ♦ [Family Guides](#)
- ♦ [College and Career Readiness](#)
  - ♦ [Health Tips](#)
  - ♦ [Safety News](#)
- ♦ [Special Education Toolkit](#)
- ♦ [Our Children Magazine](#)



# PTA Member Benefits



Gain access to discounts and benefits through your membership with Texas PTA! For details and discount codes, visit [txpta.org/member-perks](https://txpta.org/member-perks). Some restrictions may apply. For questions, contact Member Services at [memberservices@txpta.org](mailto:memberservices@txpta.org).



There's no better place to order flowers online than 1-800-Flowers.com. We have the highest quality blooms and the most talented florists who can create exactly what you order.



With special employee discounts and the highest levels of service, there's never been a better reason to rent with Avis! Save up to 25% off.



Better World Club is the country's only 24/7 pro-environmental club for autos, bikes, RVs, and motorcycles. Join for emergency roadside assistance and get a 15% discount!



Budget-Rent-A-Car is one of the leading, most trusted providers of affordable and reliable car rental for the value-minded consumer. Get up to 25% off!



Join Costco as a new member and receive exclusive coupons valued at \$60 including three FREE items.



Purchase monthly specials at a members-only price, or customize a system and save 7% on top of advertised prices.



Enterprise rent-a-car extends a 5-10% discount to all Texas PTA members on all rentals across the nation.



With Great Wolf Perks, Texas PTA members will receive up to 30% off room bookings.



Hertz offers savings and benefits wherever you rent — with 1,000 airport locations and over 1,000 locations across the country. Save up to 25% off.



Hotels.com has over 145,000 hotels in more than 60 countries. Whether you are traveling last minute as a family or need a hotel for business, we have the right hotel deal for you.



The HP Employee Purchase Program (EPP) offers HP consumer products at discounts, instant rebates, coupons, and HP Home & Home Office sales promotions!



Healthy habits start at home and Marathon Kids makes it simple, fun, and effective!



Save up to 35% on your Orlando vacation! Orlando Employee Discounts offers exclusive pricing on hotels and vacation homes in or nearby Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando. Discounts on other parks are also available. Visit [txpta.org/member-perks](https://txpta.org/member-perks) for a full list!



Discounts are available for admission, season passes, retail, food and beverage items, accommodations, and more.



Receive a substantial discount to Six Flags Over Texas! When you purchase your tickets online, you will have the chance to immediately access them.



Receive a discount on Texas Rangers tickets throughout the season!



Enjoy a discount at locations within Texas, flat rate for single or double occupancy rooms.

More discounts available through National PTA. Visit [PTA.org](https://pta.org) and navigate to Member Benefits under the "About PTA" tab.