

# Council Connections

Parents, Teachers, All of Us



*This newsletter was written prior to the school closure. Please keep in mind that some events may have been postponed or canceled.*

## Message from Our Council President

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

What a Spring!! This Spring indeed made us spring into some uncharted territories!!! We are in these unprecedented times, where change and uncertainty have become the new norm. With everything moved at home, many of us are trying to juggle multiple things. I know it gets difficult and exhausting sometimes and yet the contagious compassion never fails to warm our hearts filling us up with hope - the hope for a better, safer, healthier tomorrow.

Things are different for our PTA business too. We are having to make adjustments as necessary to keep everyone safe. Sometimes it may mean canceling/postponing meetings/events like we had to do with our March Delegate meeting, and sometimes it may mean finding new ways of supporting our PTA Mission. However, there is no doubt that our mighty PTA spirit will get us through all this together.

We are in this new world of social distancing, but we still have a lot in our control!!! Take a moment to reflect on the hard work that you all have put in all year towards making every child's potential a reality - backing the future! Take a moment to remember our PTA Values - Collaboration, Commitment, Diversity, Respect, Accountability - they continue to guide us. And now with our PTA mission and values in mind, take a moment to embrace creativity and look for opportunities to further our commitment to every child and entire PTA commYOUity. Yes, we can do this!!! And we will do it together!

THANK YOU ALL for continuing to lead your fronts ( virtually ) like the Superheroes that you truly are!!! Big Thank You to our awesome District and our amazing partners as well for their incredible leadership and support!!!

Stay tuned to the communication from Texas PTA, and stay connected with us on Social Media.

And most importantly, keep up that #AWESOME PTA Spirit!!

Not only will we persevere, but we will come out STRONGER TOGETHER!!!

-Snehal Phirke

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# 2019-20 Council PTA Executive Board Roster

President	Snehal Phirke	president@rrisdpta.org
1st VP of Membership	Shawn Dempsey	membership@rrisdpta.org
2nd VP of Training	Dawn Watson	training@rrisdpta.org
3rd VP of Communications	Jill Strode	communications@rrisdpta.org
4th VP of Hospitality	Melissa Schmalbach	hospitality@rrisdpta.org
Treasurer	Liz Cantrell	treasurer@rrisdpta.org
Secretary	LaKissa Bright	secretary@rrisdpta.org
Parliamentarian	Jenn Griffith	parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Clothes Closet Chair	Cecelia Zapalac	clothescloset@rrisdpta.org
DADS (Dads of Amazing Daughters/Sons)	Randall Goltzman	DADS@rrisdpta.org
Diversity	Estevan Zarate	diversity@rrisdpta.org
Healthy Lifestyles	Kristen Hullum	healthylifestyles@rrisdpta.org
Parent Programs	Melissa Hoskins	parentprograms@rrisdpta.org
Philanthropy	Jerry Vasquez	philanthropy@rrisdpta.org
Reflections/Arts in Education	Monica Welch	reflections@rrisdpta.org
Senior Scholarships	Edward Hanna	scholarships@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Directory	Beth Fitzmaurice	directory@rrisdpta.org
Newsletter	Sara Gandaria-Escamilla	newsletter@rrisdpta.org
Webmaster	Michele Chan-Thomson	webmaster@rrisdpta.org
National PTA Liaison	Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert	PTALiaison@rrisdpta.org
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		
Decorations Chair	Lori Cortez	decorations@rrisdpta.org
<b>RRISD &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
Superintendent	Dr. Steve Flores	superintendent_rrisd@roundrockisd.org
Business Partner	Jessica Mosman	businesspartner@rrisdpta.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@rrisededucationfoundation.org
Legislative Chair	OPEN	legislative@rrisdpta.org
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce	Amy Mizcles	amizcles@roundrockchamber.org

# 2019-20 Council PTA Officer Assignments

Have a question? Need Some help? We are here for you!

**Shawn Dempsey, 1st VP Membership**  
**membership@rrisdtpa.org 616-272-9783**

[Anderson Mill](#)

Cedar Valley MS

Cedar Ridge HS

Deep Wood

Early College HS

Hopewell MS

[Joe Lee Johnson](#)

[Robertson](#)

**Dawn Watson, 2nd VP Training**  
**training@rrisdtpa.org 512/415-7090**

Blackland Prairie

Pearson Ranch MS

[Double File Trail](#)

Great Oaks

Kathy Caraway

Old Town

[Union Hill](#)

Westwood HS

**Jill Strode, 3rd VP Communications**  
**communications@rrisdtpa.org, 512/423-4741**

[Bluebonnet](#)

Chandler Oaks

[Deerpark](#)

Herrington

Pond Springs

Round Rock HS

Walsh MS

[Wells Branch](#)

**Melissa Schmalbach , 4th VP Hospitality**  
**hospitality@rrisdtpa.org**

[Caldwell Heights](#)

Chisholm Trail

[Gattis](#)

GOALS

Laurel Mountain

Spicewood

**Liz Cantrell, Treasurer**  
**treasurer@rrisdtpa.org 512-809-6282**

[Berkman](#)

Cactus Ranch

Canyon Vista

[CD Fulkes MS](#)

Jollyville

Noel Grisham MS

Patsy Sommer

Stony Point HS

**Lakissa Bright, Secretary**  
**secretary@rrisdtpa.org , 303-827-1778**

Brushy Creek

Canyon Creek

Fern Bluff

[Forest North](#)

McNeil HS

Purple Sage

Ridgeview MS

[Voigt](#)

**Jenn Griffith, Parliamentarian**  
**parliamentarian@rrisdtpa.org , 512-970-5130**

[Callison](#)

Elsa England

Forest Creek

[Hernandez MS](#)

[Live Oak](#)

SUCCESS HS

Teravista

RROC



## COUNCIL PTA PRIORITIES

**# 1 Support Local PTA Leaders**

**#2 Conduct Business of the Council PTA**

**#3 Promote PTA**

[BLUE](#) = Title 1 Campus

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steve Flores



Welcome back from the break this Spring. I didn't say Spring Break intentionally, because the world changed by the hour in the last two weeks. We didn't have a Spring Break this year. Now, we are all dealing with disrupted lives, concern for our community, our nation and world, and missing our students, coworkers, friends and family that we find ourselves separated from. For me and my wife, Amy, we haven't held or been able to visit our granddaughter Luna since day three of her life and she is now over two months old!

And in the midst of it, as a school district, we must find a way to do something that is completely unprecedented: Shift a massive traditional education system to at-home instructional delivery in an environment we cannot control, all in a matter of days. I know many of you are facing challenges as well, as you adjust to this new normal with your children at home rather than in school, and all the complexities that brings.

But can I tell you what I know based on what I've seen from the Round Rock ISD team over the past two weeks? We've got this. Take a deep breath, take another, then say, "I've got this!"

How do I know? Because we are a family of educators, of leaders, of dedicated parents who care deeply about our students and our community. We will rise to this occasion and we will be better, stronger, because of it.

I have been so proud of the Herculean efforts I've seen throughout our District, and so appreciative of the support from our parents. In a matter of days, we were able to ensure all students in our District who needed breakfast and lunch were provided for, stand up a Home Learning Hub to keep students academically engaged during the initial part of the closure, and create a plan for longterm at-home learning, including distributing thousands of devices to children who need them.

On April 6, we will officially launch at-home instruction delivered by our phenomenal Round Rock ISD teachers. We will be using an asynchronous approach to learning, which means we are not leveraging tools such as Zoom and other real-time video conferencing at this time. However, recorded video messages are absolutely allowed and any approved method of communication is open to our teachers to connect with our students. The decision to refrain from live video conferencing for instructional delivery is to protect both our students and staff, as we can't control all the environments. Also, we understand that bandwidth is an issue, as many parents are working from home and video conferencing as well. The asynchronous approach allows for flexibility — students can log on at the time that best fits their families' schedule to receive their assignments.

Planning for this has been unlike anything I've experienced in my 36 years of education — and I've seen a lot. But through the marathon days and difficult decisions, you, my team, have brought me some of my brightest moments. Like this email from Taylor Van Zandt, a third-grade teacher at Union Hill Elementary:

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steve Flores



**ROUND ROCK**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*(Continued from Previous Page)*

*Happy Wednesday,*

*Today I walked into my classroom for the 30-minute mad dash to grab essentials for helping our students. I immediately grabbed my document camera then looked up and gravitated towards my fully stocked "bucket filling friends" board. Here my students give compliments and appreciation to others (generally in the classroom). This board fills up weekly and I send them home with students the following week. Over the course of the year, this board has blossomed and turned into a place they can be honest, apologize, tell jokes to each other, and even write get well soon notes. Before we left, we talked about COVID-19 a little during our class meeting. A few mentioned your email to parents (the night before) requesting students who visit the affected countries self-isolate for 14 days. One of our own was scheduled to visit Washington. Of course to some of my students, when you fly on an airplane...that means you are going to another country. They were very worried that our friend couldn't come back for 2 weeks. After correcting this misunderstanding, I assured them that any big decisions are made to keep us safe and we have to put a lot of trust into those big decisions. At some point that day, this note was placed on the board by one of my students. 1. She wanted to make sure she spelled superintendent correctly so she asked for a dictionary. 2. She did not sign her name because she said "it applies to everyone." Times like these are when I do not envy your job but respect it. I know these big decisions are hard to make and weigh heavy on your conscience. We are one family. We can and WILL get through this together! I hope this brings as big of a smile to your face as it did to mine. The note said: Dr. Flores Superintendent (with several erasure marks so she could get the spelling just right!) Thank you for making our schools safe.*

That's just one of many "bucket fillers" I received this week, and they mean more than I can say.

Evidence of hope is found all around us. Don't believe me? Take a walk in the park or in your neighborhood. Families are talking, smiling, breaking bread, and enjoying each other more than ever. I think we are even laughing a little more than ever. Heck, I even think our pets like us more because of the current newfound gift of time.

This is time for us all to lead strong, remain calm for ourselves and each other and to not take people or things for granted. In Round Rock ISD, we will always choose what's right for kids. I know I can count on you and I promise you can count on me. The world will be better soon and we will always be better together.



# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD School Board

Amy Weir, President, Place 5



We are midway through the Spring semester of 2020! If you are like me, and have kids graduating, you are torn between the shock of how quickly we got to senior year and pulling your hair out at the senioritis that has set in and, in the case of one of my seniors, lack of progress toward a decision for next year. I may be the President of the Board of Trustees, but I am first and foremost a parent. I approach my role on the board as I did when I was a PTA president, with a commitment to do what is best for students and families.

These past few months have been challenging for the Board as we sought to do what is best in light of needed boundary changes. For the January newsletter I wrote that we were entering a period of public feedback on the proposed changes. Since that time we had five public forums, a board workshop, and ultimately a final vote on February 20th. Along the way, we recognized how the process needs to be improved and are working to implement those changes for future years. As we listened to feedback, we recognized how close school communities are and how difficult change can be. In the end, the board voted unanimously to approve the proposals originally presented by district administration, with some slight modifications in response to feedback. You can read about those decisions here: <https://news.roundrockisd.org/2020/02/21/board-of-trustees-approve-boundary-adjustments-for-the-2020-2021-and-2021-2022-school-years/>. The district administration is formulating teams to smooth the transition on impacted campuses. We welcome and invite PTA participation on those teams, because we know success in RRISD is a shared effort, absolutely necessitating parent involvement.

Another area that we welcome, invite and need parent participation in is on our School Safety Committee. A requirement of Senate Bill 11, this committee addresses school safety in a variety of ways, including strengthening mental health initiatives and ensuring all school district employees are equipped to respond to emergencies. We are seeking a parent from each learning community to serve for a two year term, with a minimum of three meetings per year. To learn more and apply, go here: <https://news.roundrockisd.org/2020/03/02/parents-needed-to-serve-on-school-safety-committee/>.

I want to extend my thanks for your input on the 2021/2022 academic calendar. You voted for one of two options. Option 2, which provides Nov. 1st and the Friday before Spring Break off for students, had a slightly higher approval rate in the parent survey. Option 2 also theoretically produces better overall attendance rates. Thus, the Board approved Option 2 at the February regular board meeting. To learn more, go here: <https://news.roundrockisd.org/2020/02/28/board-of-trustees-approve-2021-2022-academic-calendar/>.

Ultimately, whether the Board is seeking to reduce overcrowding, improve safety, or increase attendance, it is always with the goal of improving student outcomes. You can view the Board goals here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JuTtPHLwEM-Bk\\_xSNTuz-WtG9gxofXUe/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JuTtPHLwEM-Bk_xSNTuz-WtG9gxofXUe/view). Again, the Board invites your feedback on these goals and we are arranging for 2-way communication forums in the near future to gather your input.

I cannot stress enough how important your involvement is in the success of our district. As we face new challenges (like the Corona Virus), we know that our partnership with PTA is vital. Thank you for serving and leading your parent communities.



# Council PTA News

## The 2019-20 RRISD Council of PTAs Delegate Luncheon Meetings

**Apr. 23, 2020  
11:00am-1:00pm**

**Round Rock Sports Complex  
400 Chisholm Trail, Round Rock, TX 78681**

**Questions? Contact Council VP of Hospitality at [hospitality@rrisdpta.org](mailto:hospitality@rrisdpta.org),  
or Council President, at [president@rrisdpta.org](mailto:president@rrisdpta.org).**

### 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)

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.

**Next submission deadline is: Wednesday, April 15th, 2020**

### 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](#)

[Family Resources from National PTA](#)

## Guidelines for Meetings per Texas PTA

Your bylaws cover emergency voting requirements in (Local) Article X. Executive Board, Section 9. Meetings. E. Emergency Voting and reads:

In an emergency situation, the executive board may vote by phone, email, or other electronic means if authorized by the president. Members [of the Executive Board] shall have at least twenty-four hours to cast their votes. A two-thirds vote of the entire executive board is required for adoption, and the vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting of the executive board.

Hopefully, most business can be covered by the existing language in your bylaws. If, however, there is a pressing matter that must be handled through a virtual discussion, we are authorizing emergency virtual meetings of the Executive Board through April 30, 2020, with the following requirements.

You must ensure that everyone on the Executive Board has access to the virtual meeting technology being used.

All members of the Executive Board must be given at least 3 days' notice.

If voting occurs during the virtual Executive Board meeting, a quorum must be verified before each vote to ensure everyone is still participating in the meeting. This should be reflected in the minutes for each vote.

Check your bylaws to determine whether the item being voted on requires a majority or two-thirds vote for adoption.

Additionally, through April 30, 2020, we are authorizing emergency electronic voting by your membership for business items that require immediate attention, such as amendments to your budget, bylaws, and standing rules. These are the requirements for emergency electronic voting of your membership. Elections may not be held electronically

- In order to ensure as many members as possible have the opportunity to vote, voting must stay open for 24 hours.
- A two-thirds vote of quorum is required for adoption.
- Voting shall only be open to paid members of your association.
- All voters must be verified as members.
- We recommend using an electronic form, like Google Forms, to collect member names, emails, and votes.



## Council PTA Highlights



RRISD Council of PTAs  
virtually presents

# Managing Emotions During Uncertainty

*Amy Grosso, PhD*  
*Director of Behavioral Health Services*  
*Round Rock ISD*

Given a time of many unknowns and changes in school/work schedules, managing our emotions and helping our children cope can be difficult. Come for a time of learning tips and resources on how to support your children.

April 1, 2020

Two Options

[11:30 am](#)

Or

[8:30 pm](#)

*Click on the link at the time to join*

# Council PTA Highlights

## Stop the Bleed in Schools

By Kristen Hullum, MSN, RN  
Healthy Lifestyles Chair  
RRISD Council of PTAs



## Election Committee Announces Slate for RRISD Council of PTAs Executive Board 2020-21

In accordance with the RRISD Council of PTAs By-laws, below is the Nominating Committee Report. This Report has also been posted on our website as well as other communication channels.

### Nominating Committee Report

The 2020-21 RRISD Council of PTAs Nominating Committee offers the following nominations for the upcoming year:

Council President - Snehal Phirke

1st VP of Membership- OPEN

2nd VP of Training- Jill Strode

3rd VP of Communications– Johnny Ramirez

4th VP of Hospitality– Melissa Schmalbach

5th VP of Program Support– Melissa Hoskins

6th VP of Fundraising Support– OPEN

Treasurer-OPEN

Secretary-OPEN

The election will take place at the upcoming Council PTA Delegate Luncheon TBD. Nominations for the above-mentioned positions will also be taken from the floor.

Respectfully,

Adam Bartlett

Sara Gandaría-Escamilla

Shyenne Haluzan

Lisa Stubbe

Dawn Watson (Chair)



# Council PTA Highlights

## Treasurer Tips

By Liz Cantrell

RRISD PTA Council Treasurer

Hello, Fellow Treasurers, and Happy March!

As we approach the last meetings of the year, its time to start thinking about budget planning for next year and preparing for financial reconciliation.

But, before I get to that, I want to pass along some important information regarding Square. It has come to our attention that Square's Payment Terms allow them to satisfy a debt owed to them by your company by debiting funds from the balance of any other Square account connected to your business.

We also discovered that Square accounts are linked by the person that open them, not necessarily just the company. Translation, is that if you pass down your Square account over the years, it will always be linked to the person that opened it, and at risk to be connected to any other business for which that person has opened a Square account. The Council recently experienced this when we recently discovered a debit was taken from our account last April without warning, and without documentation.

Fortunately, we were able to catch this and have the funds returned to our account, however I would recommend that you add to your financial policies the requirement for each outgoing treasurer to deactivate the PTA Square account in their name and that each incoming treasurer create a new one, to prevent this from happening to your PTA. If you need to close out your Square account, as we did, be sure to download all transactions for your records first, as you will need to have them as supporting documentation for your financial reconciliation.

Speaking of financial reconciliation, now's the time to start preparing your books to be examined at the end of the year. Start going through your books to make sure you have supporting receipts, email communications, deposit detail and bank deposit slips, etc. for every transaction. I recommend making a transaction checklist, or you could simply print out your general ledger to make sure you have documentation for each item. Don't forget you also need to include minutes and financial reports from each

meeting, as well any budget amendments in your book, as well as all tax information and a copy of your current membership roster. For more information on Financial Reconciliation requirements and procedures, visit [txpta.org/financial-reconciliation](http://txpta.org/financial-reconciliation). We'll touch more on this next month.

Now is also the time to start thinking about budget for next year. Check your bylaws and standing rules for requirements on forming your budget and finance committee and have your committee chairs start putting plans together for next year. Even if they aren't returning in that position, suggestions for next year will go a long way towards helping the new chair get started, and remember that you'll need to have a new budget approved in order to do any business at all come the start of next year. I'm planning on holding budget workshops to help with those who have questions, but as always, feel free to email me [treasurer@rrisdpta.org](mailto:treasurer@rrisdpta.org), anytime!

Happy Treasuring!



**The deadline to apply is  
March 30, 2020.**

**Please be sure to share  
the following link:**

**<http://rrisd.council.my-pta.org/Content.asp?PageID=2&ContentIndex=53>**

## Council PTA Highlights

### Submit your Council Award Nominations Today

#### *Karen Apperson/ Pebble in our Pond Award:*

The purpose of the 'Karen Apperson/Pebble in our Pond Award' is to honor a parent whose volunteer efforts or program directly affects children of RRISD.

The contribution of the person nominated should have a rippling effect throughout their school and the District.

Submit your nomination here:

<https://forms.gle/uW1eXtxmoKrgwgvF9>

#### *Flowers in our Garden*

The purpose of this award is to honor PTA leaders at the local or council level who have demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in their dedication to fulfilling their position and have had a positive impact on the PTA.

Submit your nomination here:

<https://forms.gle/y3yH8AxhXpuHKdWDA>

These awards will be presented during the RRISD Council of PTAs April Delegate Luncheon Meeting (subject to change depending on the health and safety concerns.)

**Deadline for submission of all  
awards is April 15, 2020.**

**If you have any questions, email us  
at [president@rrisdpta.org](mailto:president@rrisdpta.org)**

### Free Heart Screenings for RRISD Student Athletes

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy is typically a congenital abnormality of the heart that has silent symptoms in an athlete. Yet every year, school aged athletes around the country experience a sudden cardiac arrest that can be fatal. The good news is that this condition can easily be found on a quick screening involving a simple EKG.

The Heart Hospital of Austin at St. David's Round Rock Medical Center is proud to be able to support RRISD by offering five heart screening sessions for student athletes.

The process is FREE, non-invasive and private, and all EKGs are immediately interpreted by a specialized cardiologist to determine if additional follow-up is required.

#### **Mark your calendars:**

**McNeil HS.....April 18**

**Stony Point HS.....May 16**

**Westwood HS.....July 23**

**Cedar Ridge HS.....Aug. 14**

Questions? Contact Council Healthy Lifestyles Chair, Kristen Hulum at [healthylifestyles@rrisdpta.org](mailto:healthylifestyles@rrisdpta.org) or Jenn Griffith at [parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org](mailto:parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org).





# Council PTA Highlights

## Understanding Someone's Context

By Estevan Zarate "Chuy"

Diversity Chair, RRISD Council of PTAs

In my position as Diversity Chair, I come across items that ring very true for PTA and education. One thing that is very important for us in PTA is understanding someone else's context. What are they going through in their personal lives? How does it affect them when interacting with others? How does it affect their ability to finish tasks?

We are volunteers. Volunteerism is a very important aspect of serving our community. This means that we will encounter people that are different than us. People that have a completely different context than our own. This can cause us to be dismissive, judgmental or, at worst, condescending. We, as volunteers, have to be able to treat people with care and empathy, even when we don't fully understand someone's story and truth. This article illustrates how we just need to stop and ask: "What is this person dealing with today?" I guarantee that if we think this way, successful interactions will occur. (Warning: Adult language is used in this article for emphasis.) <https://humanparts.medium.com/laziness-does-not-exist-3af27e312d01>

## Council PTA Standing Rules Amendments

The RRISD Council of PTAs Bylaws & Standing Rules committee (Liz Cantrell, Shawn Dempsey, Jennifer Griffith, Snehal Phirke and Jill Strode) proposed the following amendments to our Standing Rules.

The RRISD Council of PTAs executive board reviewed and approved the proposed changes on March 4, 2020. Our delegation will vote on these proposed changes at the next Delegation Luncheon Meeting on April 23, 2020

Please review these amendments prior to our meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact our committee chair, Jenn Griffith.

[Proposed RRISD Council of PTAs Standing Rules](#)

[List of Changes to Proposed Standing Rules](#)

[Current Standing Rules](#) - Approved 8.28.2017

## Clothes Closet

By Cecilia Zapalac

Clothes Closet Chair, RRISD Council of PTAs

You know what they say about Texas weather- "if you don't like it, give it a minute, it'll change." Thankfully, Clothes Closet is ready for whatever Mother Nature sends our way. We have received quite a bit of donations!

Thank you to all the school volunteers who have washed and sorted tons of clothes and have helped us at both our Voight location and Anderson Mill location. We could not serve our clients without their help.

Thank you to Walsh Middle School PTA and their CC rep, Lisa Blackwell, for having a successful t-shirt drive to benefit clothes closet! The 453 shirts that were donated will go a long way and I'm sure the classes that won the contest are really going to enjoy their ice cream parties. This year, the clothes closet has served 478 students and 238 families and with the weather warming up, I'm sure we will see a lot more students.

Volunteers are always welcome and donations of clean, gently used clothes are always appreciated and needed.

If you would like more information about volunteering at or donating to the Clothes Closet, please contact Cecelia Zapalac at [clothescloset@rrisdpta.org](mailto:clothescloset@rrisdpta.org)

## Clothes Closet Locations & Hours

**Anderson Mill Elementary**  
**Tuesdays**  
**10AM-noon.**

**Voigt Elementary**  
**Tuesdays and Wednesdays**  
**9:30-11:30AM.**

## Council PTA Highlights

***Congratulations  
to the following students for Representing  
RRISD Council of PTAs at the  
Reflections State Competition***

**Kashvi Bansal**

**Clementine Chambers**

**Gia-Han Daphne Huynh**

**Julia Eun**

**Catherine Nelson**

**Ansh Purohit**

**Kara Maggio**

**Lucy Shields**

**Gavin Brown**

**Nila Arunkumar**

**Morgan Go**

**Maya Parekh**

**Surya Arunkumar**

**Aanyah Abdullah**

**Ashley Walker**

**Aryann Prabhakar**

**Vedika Iyer**

**Raghav Bhatnagar**

**Christian Barton**

**Claire Choi**

**Satya Srivibhu Nemani**

**Rosalie Breton**

**Raymond Chen**

**Rachel Koh**

**Riley Howard**

**Please Consider Becoming a PTA CommYOUunity Member**



As a PTA Community Member, your generosity and dedication to education sets you apart through your significant commitment to RRISD and more than 51,000 students.

Partner with us in achieving PTA's mission to "make each child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children!"

As a RRISD Community Member, you will be recognized with a certificate to proudly hang in your home, office or business; a window decal for your car or business window, and acknowledgement on our [RRISD Council of PTAs website](#).



## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Chandler Oaks PTA

- Our PTA Membership continues to increase as second semester is under way and events are in full swing.
- COE PTA severed over 650 donuts at our annual Dames & Donuts Breakfast at the beginning of March. This is a fun event for our students to spend special time with their mom, grandmother, aunt, sister, and special ladies in their lives.
- Our PTA awarded \$3,473 through our Mini Grant Program this month to our amazing teachers! We were so excited to be able to purchase fun, innovative and unique items to enhance our school's learning experience.
- We are preparing for our Spring Carnival, Silent Auction, and Talent Show in April.
- We wish all the students, teachers, administrative staff, and fellow PTA members a safe and fun Spring Break!

### Double File Trail PTA

- Double File Trail Elementary is on fire this year. The teamwork and leadership exhibited by this group of parents is outstanding. GREAT things are happening at DFT thanks to all these involved parents.
- In February, our PTA hosted a lovely Teacher Luncheon. Mr. Gatti's provided our pasta dishes, our PTA provided salad and breadsticks and our amazing families provided desserts of every kind imaginable. Our teachers felt very loved!
- In February, DFT PTA hosted our annual Family Dance. We had several hundred in attendance and gathered donations of snacks and hand sanitizer for our teachers. Our PTA totally outdid themselves in the decoration department. In fact, our decorations have been on point this entire year. Seeing all the students, parents and families enjoy this event, warmed our hearts.
- In March, our PTA coordinated with our school

for Leadership Day! This was a fun filled day where our students got to take the lead. We had many honored guests including Dr. Steve Flores, Dr. Danny Presley, Jeffery Yarbrough, RRPD Chief Allen Banks, City Council Members, Board of Trustee Members and the Round Rock Leader. We were honored they took time out of their busy schedules to come see the GREAT Leaders we are raising at DFT.

### Forest North PTA

- It is hard to believe it is already March. Spring is in full swing at Forest Creek Elementary. Our PTA hosted Drum Café on February 21st for a school wide educational program and we were blown away. The students and staff learned about the African Culture and drumming. The students were completely engaged the entire time and incorporated math skills and character building into the program.
- We also served about 70 dozen Round Rock Donuts to our awesome dads and special guests at our Donuts with Dad event at the end of February.
- Now, we are gearing up for our BIGGEST fundraiser, the Forest Creek Spring Luau Carnival. It will be held Friday, March 27th from 5:30-9pm. We will have a huge silent auction and over 30 themed class baskets!
- The Coyote PTA will be celebrating our moms and special guests at our Muffins with Mom in April. This year is flying by and we are working hard to finish the year strong to support our students and staff.

**Attention Round Rock ISD  
teachers and staff,  
RRISD P.I.E. Foundation  
Excellence in Education Grants  
are now open.**

**Apply here:**

**<https://www.rrisdeducationfoundation.org/excellence-in-education-grants>**

**Deadline is June 5th, and more details available to you on the link**

# Local PTA News/Spotlights

## Great Oaks PTA

- In January, Great Oaks held our annual Souper Bowl of Caring. We had a goal of 3,000 items and collected 7,582. Mrs. Linson's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class won a pizza party for collecting the most of any grade – 1,284!
- Our families enjoyed STEAM Night, with many hands-on experiences and a showcase of student Science Projects.
- For February, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade went to the ITC and the Alamo; always an enjoyable and educational field trip.
- We held our Spring Family Movie Night and PTA Membership meeting; Ratatouille was a hit!
- Our Celebration of Cultures night has grown so big, we split it into 2 nights this year – March 3<sup>rd</sup> was World Tour Night where families learned about cultures and countries by traveling among displays created by families and students. Over 15 countries were represented. The night began with American Folk Dancing, students then received a passport to travel the globe and collect stamps from each display to show their travels.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> was Cultural Performance Night where attendees had the chance to purchase a food sample plate of tastes from around the world. The menu included: samosas, spanakopita, eggrolls, empanadas, and tres leches cake. Performances included dancing, singing, martial arts, storytelling, and more.
- Planning for our Spring Carnival and Silent Auction are in full-swing.

## Grisham PTA

- The Parent Prom was a huge success. When parents feel more connected at a personal level with the school, they're more likely to engage in their child's school experience. We know that parental engagement is highly related to student success! Parents enjoyed time together, dancing, eating, and dropping raffle tickets to win some amazing prizes! Thank you to Rudy's Country Store & BBQ and Central Market for sponsoring the food!
- As a Smart Talk Grant Recipient we welcomed more than 60 parents and students to learn more about internet safety. With the grant funded by

TikTok, we served a fajita dinner and hosted Carolyn Brown to help us better understand how to talk with our kids about setting mutually agreeable limits and expectations about internet use.

Grisham Middle School students are divided into four houses. For house pep rally days, they dress up in their house color. We want to establish a service to our families to provide at reasonable cost fun house-color spirit items. Think hats, glasses, spirit socks, tutus, and other fun spirit wear. We know some PTAs are very successful at hosting spirit wear sales. There are 2 keys for us: 1) the vendor is affordable...we want these items to be accessible to every student and 2) the system for running the spirit wear sale is simple. If you have a plan that works well, would you consider sharing it with us? Please email Elizabeth at [gri-shampta.president@gmail.com](mailto:gri-shampta.president@gmail.com)

## McNeil HS PTSA

- McNeil PTSA has had a fantastic 2020 so far, filled with many events and celebrations for the mighty Mavs!
- February was full of activities as we welcomed the incoming Freshman to see what they can look-forward to as they become Mavericks.
- McNeil PTSA also hosted a Roaring 20's in 2020 dance. Our school was transformed into a beautiful dance club set in the 20's. Our students had a fantastic time with some dressing up in time-period dress, and all dancing the night away!
- PTSA has been working with school administration to talk with all our staff about identifying needs they have to make their classrooms better and more efficient and to try to make one aspect of their jobs easier. We have been able to find ways to work within our local and family communities to try to get some of those identified needs filled. The list is extremely long, but we are hopeful that we can continue to check items off our teachers' wish lists as the year goes on.
- Our Staff Appreciation team has been hard at work as always providing some great treats for our Mav team with our Staff Mailbox surprises, as well as our chocolate extravaganza to celebrate the love on Valentine's Day.
- We have many more events where we plan to spoil our staff through the rest of the year to get through end of year testing and finals!

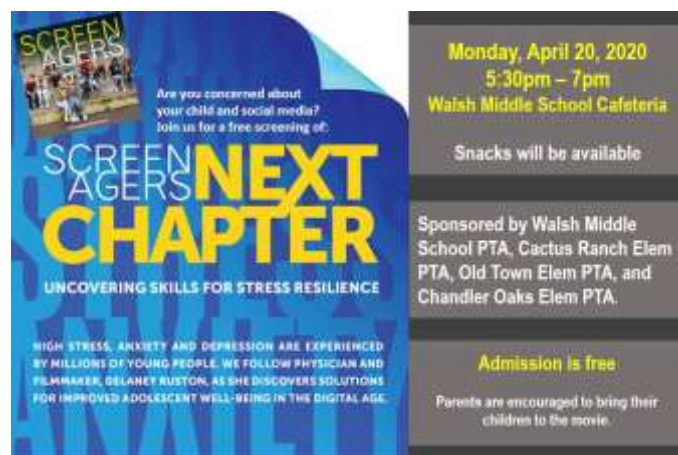
## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Stony Point HS PTSA

- Stony Point PTSA continues to emphasize volunteerism amongst our students, we have continued to fundraise and show appreciation to our students/teachers/administration/staff.
- Isabel Johns led the charge in having our students volunteer for events sponsored by SPHS, sister schools, and community partners.
- Mid-February, we continued our tradition of providing Sweet Treats to our staff and administration. All of our treats were donated by our amazing PTSA members.
- We also participated in Future Tiger night where we were able to talk about the importance of the SPHS PTSA, and even sold a few items.
- Coming up we have our Harlem Wizards basketball fundraising events. Tickets are online at <https://www.harlemwizards.com/fundraisingvideo/>
- We are also working with MacHaik Lincoln to create a Lincoln-to-drive fundraising event. Timing is TBD.
- Walsh PTA recently hosted a Valentine's Day Dance for all grade levels after school! The students enjoyed plenty of food, music, door prizes, socializing, dancing, and taking pictures with their friends with photo props!! A good time was had by all!
- The Walsh PTA recently considered applications from our staff for our Spring Mini Grants! We were able to fund over \$6000 worth of mini grants to support our library, counselors, art and band departments, as well as our teachers in the areas of science, social studies, and language arts!! We surprised our grant winners with giant Publisher's Clearinghouse-style checks to let them know.
- Walsh PTA along with our feeder Elementary schools PTA's (Chandler Oaks, Cactus Ranch, Old Town) is hosting Screenagers, Next Chapter on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7pm at Walsh Middle School Cafeteria. All are welcome, admission is free, parents are encouraged to bring children to the movie.

### Walsh MS PTA

- The spring semester is in full swing at Walsh Middle School! We started off the new year by hosting a Graphic Tee drive to benefit the RRISD clothes closet. The Walsh community donated over 450 graphic tee shirts that will be delivered to the Clothes Closet!
- We have collected applications from former Walsh students who are graduating this year who would like to be considered for one of our senior scholarships! We will be reviewing the applications soon and awarding some \$\$\$ to deserving seniors to help with their future education expenses!
- The Walsh PTA collected 20 entries to the PTA Reflections Contest this year. We advanced 6 of those entries to the district level!
- The Walsh PTA has been busy providing food for our wonderful teachers and staff! We recently hosted a Valentine's Chili and Chocolate Luncheon as well as a Spring Snack Break!



**\*\*\*Westwood PTA is also hosting a screening of Screenagers Next Chapter on April, 6 in their cafeteria.\*\*\***

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Wells Branch PTA

- Well Branch Elementary Arts Integration Academy PTA had an amazing fall semester with our annual move-a-thon, reflections, international fair, general meetings, and supporting school efforts such as science fair and field trips.
- We are looking forward to what Spring brings and the various experiences we can provide for the students at WBE AIA.
- This year we will be hosting our 15th annual Springfest and Silent Auction on **Saturday, April 25, 2020, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.** on the school grounds. This annual event brings families, friends, and community members together to enjoy carnival style games, activities, inflatables, food and a silent auction. If you would like to volunteer or help support our event in anyway, please contact us at [springfest@wellsbranchpta.org](mailto:springfest@wellsbranchpta.org) or <https://wellsbranchpta.org/springfest-2/>. Bring your families and friends to enjoy our festivities!!!!

### Westwood HS PTA

- The Westwood PTSA showed the film "Screenagers" with financial support from some of the Westwood feeder schools. Thank you to those schools who participated! We had nearly 200 attendees, mostly middle and elementary school aged students and their parents. The event was advertised to all district schools.
- On April 4, in the Westwood parking lot, we are hosting a booster club garage sale. We have invited the Westwood booster clubs to participate as a way of bringing our clubs together and giving them an opportunity to raise money for their organizations.
- On April 6, we will be showing "Screenagers, Next Chapter" which is the sequel to "Screenagers". This event is open to the public so district PTAs are free to advertise.
- During the February teacher in-service days, we hosted a teacher luncheon.
- We have four students who have advanced to the state level for Reflections.

### March-April Observances

#### March

3/2 Read Across America Day  
3/3 Election Day  
3/8 International Women's Day  
3/8 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
3/13 Good Samaritan Day  
3/14 Pi Day  
3/16-3/22 National Poison Prevention Week  
3/30-4/5 National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week  
Brain Injury Awareness Month  
National Nutrition Month

#### April

4/1 National Walking Day  
4/2 World Autism Awareness Day  
4/6 National Student Athlete Day  
4/7 World Health Day  
4/10 Good Friday-No School  
4/12 Easter  
4/15 Tax Day  
4/22 Administrative Professionals Day  
4/22 Earth Day  
4/23 World Book Day  
4/24 Arbor Day  
4/27-5/1 National Playground Safety Week  
National Distracted Driving Awareness Month  
National Youth Sports Safety Month  
Keep America Beautiful Month  
National Internship Awareness Month  
National Inventors Month  
National Pet Month  
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Month  
Stress Awareness Month

## RRISD PTA Partners



### Thank you RRISD Local PTAs/PTSAs

Thanks to your support, we raised \$319,000 for our RRISD school children  
Congratulations to this year's Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs Gala Basket  
Contest Winners.

Watch the [video](#) to see if you won! Melissa Schmalbach , form the PIE Foundation  
will be contacting each PTA to claim your prize.



### Watch a Message from Dr. Amy Grosso RRISD Director of Behavioral Health Services [HERE](#)

*As we go into a time of so much uncertainty and unknowns, think about not only  
your intent but also your impact. As I talked with our students, as much as our  
impact can be negative, it can also be positive. During this time think about how  
your intent can have a positive impact on others.*

- Dr. Amy Grosso, RRISD Director of Behavioral Health Services

These additional resources are guides to help parents and caregivers navigate  
discussions about the school closure and uncertain times.

[Tips on Talking with Elementary Students](#)

[Tips on Talking with Secondary Students](#)

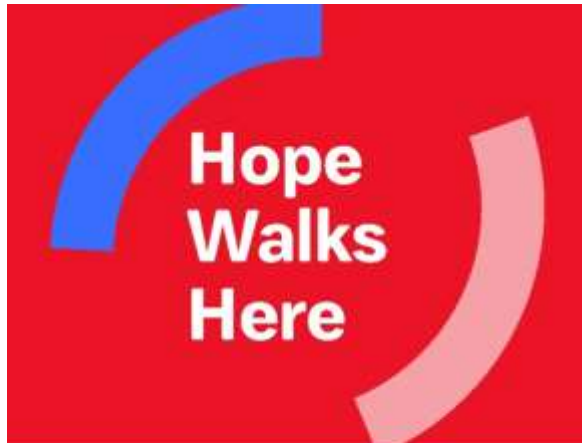


## RRISD PTA Partners

### School Health Advisory Board: Hosts 2nd Annual Walk

By Amy Grosso, PhD

Director of Behavioral Health Services



Prevent suicide at Round Rock ISD

4/18/2020  
Stony Point High School  
Register at [afsp.org/roundrockisd](https://afsp.org/roundrockisd)



The Round Rock ISD Campus walk is just around the corner!! Walsh Student Council is leading the way with \$405 raised. Which PTA will be the first to step-up and create a team?! The event is appropriate for all ages and is a great way to make mental health an everyday discussion. Dr. Amy Grosso, Director of Behavioral Health Services, will do a presentation on how to manage stress and anxiety immediately following the walk.

You can register and find all information at: <https://afsp.org/roundrockisd>. If you have questions please contact Amy Grosso, [amy\\_grosso@roundrockisd.org](mailto:amy_grosso@roundrockisd.org) or 512-464-5976.



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

*Celebration of Families*  
- PARENT AND FAMILY RESOURCE FAIR -

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 18, 2020  
10:00 AM- 2:00 PM**

**CEDAR RIDGE  
HIGH SCHOOL  
ROUND ROCK, TX**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO  
ATTEND THIS FREE EVENT**

FREE Books,  
Activity Kits  
child ID,  
Child Car Seat Fitting,  
College Prep Help,  
Summer Camp Fun,  
Early Childhood Fun Room,  
Interactive Hands-On Activities,  
Giveaways, Prizes  
and Lots More!

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

- A+ Federal Credit Union
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Sunshine Camp
- Collegewise
- Cordova Art School
- Dell Children's Medical Center-Kids in Cars
- ESTEAM Learning Labs
- Huntington Learning Center
- Lakeshore Learning Materials
- Mad Science
- Round Rock Public Library
- Round Rock Police Dept
- School of Rock
- Wells Branch Community Library
- and more...

**RRISD RESOURCES**

- Bilingual Program
- Community Education
- Council of PTA
- Counseling Services
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Families in Transition
- Food Services
- Instructional Technology
- Library Services
- Mentor Program
- Parent Programs
- Prekindergarten
- RRCK Ready

**ROUND ROCK ISD  
CELEBRATION OF FAMILIES**

**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.**



# RRISD PTA COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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

Platinum individuals and/or businesses joined EVERY PTA in RRISD.

## PLATINUM PREMIER



*There's hope. There's help.®*



## PLATINUM PLUS



## PLATINUM BASIC



ROUND ROCK CHAMBER

**Dr. Steve Flores**  
**Superintendent, RRISD**

Gold individuals or businesses joined 22 PTAs in RRISD

## GOLD PREMIER

## GOLD PLUS

## GOLD BASIC



**Dr. Daniel Presley**  
**RRISD Senior Chief of Schools & Innovation**

**Terry Worcester**

Silver Individual/Businesses

Joined 7 PTAS in RRISD

## SILVER

Dawn Watson



## GRADE LEVEL HS

Andrew's Choice

## GRADE LEVEL MS

Ken Addix

## GRADE LEVEL ELEM

Peppermint Village Gifts

## FEEDER PATTERN MEMBERS

Soap Box Carwash    Mark Gabehart  
Carla Amacher        Natalie Nichols  
Rebecca Donald

## ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS

Cathy Malerba        Chad Chadwell  
Mandy Estes         Annette Vierra  
Linda, Alfred & Jonathon Baddour

# RRISD PTA Community Members

<b>YOU</b> make a <b>DIFFERENCE</b> in what we <b>DO</b>  <i>Over the past 18 years, \$4.8 million has been given back to Round Rock ISD</i>	 <b>PARTNERS IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION</b> ROUND ROCK ISD	<b>PROGRAMS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scholarships</li><li>Teacher of the Year</li><li>Employee Giving Campaign</li><li>Excellence in Education Grants</li></ul>
	<b>MISSION</b> <p>The Round Rock ISD Partners in Education Foundation develops and allocates resources to the Round Rock Independent School District to enrich, enhance and maximize the quality of education for all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Providing Funds for innovative academic programs</li><li>Acknowledging and rewarding exemplary teaching</li><li>Providing an avenue for business and community members to enhance the education process</li><li>Promoting public awareness and celebrating successful programs and achievement of excellence</li></ul>	<b>EVENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Shining Stars Gala</li><li>Golf Tournament</li><li>Back to School Celebration</li></ul>
 <b>We are ONE family.</b>		<b>ACADEMICS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>STEMFest</li><li>Pre K Rodeo &amp; RROCK Ready</li><li>Professional Development</li></ul>



## Host your PTA's next Spirit Night with Mr. Gatti's Pizza or at Gatti-Town!

### Your Fundraiser will Receive:

- 15% of sales when you bring in \$1-\$499
- 20% of sales when you bring in \$500-\$999
- 25% of sales when you bring in \$1,000+

Gatti-town offers **food** and **fun** for your next Spirit Night!

As a proud member of the RRISD Community where our restaurants are located, Gatti's is committed to supporting neighborhood groups such as PTAs, schools, youth sports programs, religious groups and other non-profit organizations. One of our favorite ways to support the local community is through our fundraiser program.



When you host your fundraising event with your local Gatti's restaurant, we will provide you with customized digital marketing materials that can be printed or used through a digital campaign.

Contact Alicia Drewe, Director of Operations & Marketing Coordinator, to learn more or to schedule an event.  
512.630.7363 cell --- 512.255.2820 office --- [alicia@gattismgmtgroup.com](mailto:alicia@gattismgmtgroup.com)



## RRISD PTA Community Members

**Inspiring  
STUDENTS  
to learn.  
Empowering  
STUDENTS  
for life.**

**ONE  
FAMILY  
ONE  
FUTURE**



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**  
ROUND ROCK ISD

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Round Rock, TX 78681  
(512) 464-5600  
[rrisdpie@rrisdeducationfoundation.org](mailto:rrisdpie@rrisdeducationfoundation.org)  
[www.rrisdeducationfoundation.org](http://www.rrisdeducationfoundation.org)



RRISD PIE Foundation

**GET INVOLVED**

- Friend of the Foundation
- Partnerships
- Donate
- Volunteer

*Your donation (time, treasure and talent) given to the Round Rock ISD Partners In Education Foundation provides the students, teachers and RRISD the opportunity to implement new and creative learning ideas to increase our students' knowledge!*



## ridiculously effective fundraising



### What Sets Us Apart:

- ▶ Fitness Focus
- ▶ Leadership Development
- ▶ All Students Included
- ▶ Hassle-Free
- ▶ Local Teams
- ▶ Raises More

"In 24 years of being in education and doing EVERY SINGLE POSSIBLE fundraiser,  
APEX is by far the best on so many levels!!!!

--easy for teachers, staff and PTO, and we raise significantly more with Apex--

--character education piece is invaluable and very well done--

--the physical activity aspect of it is great for this generation--

--the APEX team members are AMAZING, EMPOWERING, ENERGETIC AND WONDERFUL role models--

--the APEX team members go above and beyond for EVERYONE!"

WCHE Principal

**Contact: Nathan Hesselgrave - [nathanh@apexfunrun.com](mailto:nathanh@apexfunrun.com) - 817.688.8436**

## RRISD PTA Community Members

# KONA ICE

All across the country, Kona Ice LOVES to give back to schools, sports teams and organizations. Since our first Kona was shaved in 2007, we're proud to say we've raised over \$40 MILLION for local communities in 47 states.

And it was easy. For you. For us. Why? ...because everybody loves to experience Kona Ice almost anytime, anywhere.



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[www.kona-ice.com](http://www.kona-ice.com)



Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient Programs for children and adolescents, ages 8-18 suffering from mental health and substance use issues

Call 737.215.4391 to schedule a confidential assessment or to make a referral.

**We Are Available To Help 24/7.**

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**[changescedarpark.com](http://changescedarpark.com)**

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**Rock Springs**

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Georgetown, TX 78626

**512.598.1063**



# RRISD PTA Community Members



## Make This Their Best School Year Yet.

### Give them the Mathnasium advantage

Does your child have the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school? We make it happen. Our expert instructors teach each child individually, using customized learning plans to help students thrive in the classroom and in everything they do! Contact us today to schedule a risk-free assessment.

Find your nearest center from Mathnasium.com

Centers participating: Round Rock, East Round Rock, Georgetown,  
North Austin and Cedar Park

Changing Lives Through Math.™

**MATHNASIUM**  
The Math Learning Center



## Spirit Night Opportunity from CodeWizardsHQ

Student, teachers, and parents are the true essence of a school. Being an active part of your educational community creates cohesiveness and fosters student growth and development!

CodeWizardsHQ is an immediate catalyst for innovative, empowering and positive individual learner growth at each of our partner schools. This is why we love to bring Coding Spirit Night to schools. As the Language of the Future, we believe that coding should be accessible to every student in the world. Computing jobs are the #1 source of new wages in the United States, with a projected growth rate double that of all other jobs. Consider the opportunities it would create for your students when they graduate!! We are excited to currently be partnering with Walsh Middle school to host a 1-hour live, online coding workshop in which students:

Learn to Code in the Popular Programming Language Python

Get an Introduction to Real, Text Coding (no drag & drop)

Do Hands-on Coding Exercises

Evaluate whether he/she will Enjoy Learning to Code

CodeWizardsHQ nurtures curiosity and builds confidence while promoting computational thinking.

Let's get your students started today!

Sign up for your own Coding Spirit Night by visiting:  
<https://codewizardshq.com/pta/>



## BOOSTER THON

- ★ New pricing! Keep up to 90% of funds raised
- ★ Round Rock Schools raising more year over year
- ★ Highly customized & personalized to your school
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[www.EducationalProducts.com](http://www.EducationalProducts.com)

# RRISD PTA Community Members



Dart'em Up is the perfect solution for fundraisers, too! We give back 50% of proceeds from fundraising events. Dart'em Up has hosted dozens of fundraising Spirit Nights for PTAs across the city. Whether you're raising money for a class trip or much needed school supplies and equipment, our team will help you get closer to your goal while building stronger school and team spirit as a group.

**Set up your Spirit Night today! Call us at 512-735-1919 or email me at [richard@dartemup.com](mailto:richard@dartemup.com).**

Dart'em Up is Austin's original indoor foam dart sports arena – a family-friendly place for kids and adults of all ages (5 and up) to get some exercise and battle it out! We host all kinds of gatherings – Nerf battles, parties, team building days, family fun outings, company events, and more. Our 2 large arenas are perfect for all types of Nerf battle fun – Team Elimination, Freeze Tag, Capture the Flag, and Humans vs. Zombies. Don't worry – safety is our #1 priority and we keep trained referees on staff to ensure the fun doesn't get out of hand.

Thank you, Richard McVay Owner/Director of Fun  
[www.dartemup.com](http://www.dartemup.com)



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION  
ROUND ROCK ISD

ROUND ROCK ISD  
FAMILIES IN TRANSITION  
Item needed for students:  
**AIRBEDS**

Scan the QR code to fulfill the  
RRISD PIE Foundation wish list for FIT



SCAN ME

## What should you say when your kid is experiencing anxiety?



Quit being dramatic  
Come on, it's easy  
You are being lazy  
You need to toughen up  
Pull yourself together  
Grow up  
You're crazy  
Just try harder  
Just wait for the real world



I see this is hard for you.  
Take some time, breathe.  
How can I help?  
What do you need right now?  
Want to talk?  
I am here to listen.  
I can't imagine what it is like.  
You are more than your anxiety.  
I will sit with you  
I believe in you.

## Get your Business Logo here when you Become a Business PTA Member

Contact [membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)

PLATINUM	Includes all Platinum PTA Benefits AND:	Includes all Platinum Benefits AND:	Includes:
✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Community membership at all 33 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks
GOLD	Includes all Gold PTA Benefits AND:	Includes all Gold Benefits AND:	Includes:
✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Community membership at 10 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks
SILVER	Choose Your Own Package	Includes:	Grade Level packages include 1 of the following:
✓ Community membership at 7 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Community membership at 7 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Community membership at 7 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks	✓ Community membership at 10 RRISD PTA/PTAs ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks ✓ Sign up in all Council Connections PTA newsletters & Facebook page in 3 weeks
FEEDER PATTERN			
Feeder Pattern Packages include 1 of the following: ✓ Community membership at all PTA/PTAs in selected RRISD High School Feeder Patterns, OR ✓ Community membership at all PTA/PTAs in selected RRISD Middle School Feeder Patterns PLUS: Sign up in 3 Council Connections PTA newsletters AND Sign up on Sponsor Page of Council PTA website			
High Schools: Grade 1 of the following: Wichers: Westwood + 33 schools Tigert: Stone Point + 13 schools Hawkins: Cedar Ridge + 9 schools Mavericks: Murrell + 14 schools Dragons: Round Rock + 34 schools			

BUSINESS PARTNERS, would you consider offering a PTA MEMBER ONLY benefit or like to reach Local PTAs through our Resource Guide? Talk to us about this opportunity!



# Texas PTA News/Highlights

## 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>



# Texas PTA News & Tips

## Straight Talk: A Matter of Life and Breath

Texas PTA in collaboration with the American Heart Association addressed the country's deadly vaping crisis and its impact on our youth with a special panel discussion at the Texas Capitol. During Straight Talk: A Matter of Life and



Breath, we heard from the many people on the front lines of this issue – from parents and youth activists to doctors and leaders in state research and prevention. Their testimonials included heart wrenching-stories and staggering data. The event was an eye-opening experience for many people. One by one as our panelists spoke, the facade that these devices are "safe" began to vaporize.

If you missed, "Straight Talk" or you want to host a program sharing this vital information watch again [here](#).

### Next Steps

Texas PTA is asking all Local and Council PTAs to continue the conversation on teen vaping with your communities. To help keep this issue at the forefront of our work together, we have assembled a list of resources and ideas. It is by no means a comprehensive list, but we believe it has something for everyone!

### Local and Council Resolution

Texas PTA is asking all Local and Council PTAs to adopt a resolution. In it, we ask:

Resolve to educate; reaffirm healthy living; and support legislative action and school district policies to end this health crisis.

Download the resolution from the [Straight Talk Toolkit](#). After it is adopted, we encourage your PTA to share it with your school district and elected officials. By sharing your signed resolution, you are delivering a message that teen vaping is an issue your PTA and families care deeply about. We encourage your PTA to present it at a School Board meeting and to schedule time with your elected officials during this off-session

year for the Texas Legislature.

### Engage Your School Community

- ⇒ Brief your PTA and families on the teen vaping crisis by sharing the Straight Talk recording, hosting a panel of your own, or inviting special guest speakers like a representative from your district's Health Services Department or School Health Advisory Council (SHAC).
- ⇒ Storytelling is a very powerful tool. Collect stories from your community and include them in your PTA newsletter.
- ⇒ Host an event or campus program for your students and deliver direct and honest information on the real dangers of vaping.
- ⇒ Encourage people to add their voice to the fight against vaping by joining PTA! Use the social media graphic available in the Straight Talk Toolkit.

### American Heart Association (AHA) Resources

AHA has gathered resources covering a wide range of audiences including educators, school administrators, parents, and peer to peer. Available in the Straight Talk Toolkit.

RRISD Council of PTAs Executive Board approved to adopt the Resolution from the Straight Talk Toolkit. RRISD Council of PTAs Delegates will vote on adopting the resolution at the April 23rd Delegate Meeting.

We encourage the local PTAs to adopt the resolution as well. Proper notice must be given to the membership and the voting requirements must be followed based on your PTA governing documents. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



## 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>

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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](#)

# National PTA News & Tips

## National PTA News You Can Use March 2020

### **Power to the Youth!**

#PTAVotes: Every two years, 7 million Americans turn 18 and become eligible to vote. These newly minted adults vote at a much lower rate than the general population. But we can change that. Encourage the youth in your community to register to vote!

You can register online at [PTA.org/VoterRegistration](https://www.pta.org/VoterRegistration).

### **Bringing a New Vibe to the Classroom**

Some educators are experimenting with their approaches to teaching to make course materials more relevant to various cultures and communities, ranging from graffiti to graphic novels. [Read the article.](#)

### **Thanks for celebrating Public Schools Week with us!**

if you missed it, watch a recording of the panel discussion of educators speaking out on Capitol Hill on National PTAs [Facebook page](#).

### **“Don’t worry, I woke up feeling better. I’m not sick.”**

False! People with flu may infect others from one day before getting sick to up to one week after. #FightFlu with [these tips](#).

### **PTA’s Path to Unification**

After the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling, National PTA and its sister organization the National CCPT, each issued statements of support. [Learn more.](#)

### **Census – ensure an accurate count**

Young children under five are often missed in the census. To secure adequate federal funding for important resources, programs, and services in your community, even newborn babies must be counted in the 2020 census. For more information go [here](#).

## MARCH TRAINING TIPS

### **Advocacy**

Advocacy is at the heart of PTA—it's simply supporting and speaking up for children! Check out our Local PTA Leader Kit for simple ways to build a PTA culture that embraces advocacy—starting with being informed about your own school’s improvement plan.

### **The Rule of Three**

People remember things when they are patterned in threes. Work with your board and identify three ways families have benefited from your PTA in the last year. Use the three as key messages when you ask others to join PTA. Share your success with us via [Membership@PTA.org](mailto:Membership@PTA.org).



Click on the links below to take action with National PTA and contact your elected officials

- ⇒ [Invest in the Health and Well-Being of All Kids](#)
- ⇒ [Address Gun Violence Through Universal Background Checks](#)
- ⇒ [Humanitarian Crisis at our Nation’s Border](#)



# PTA Member Benefits

## Round Rock ISD PTA Membership Benefits

The No. 1 reason to join PTA is to support your students and your school. As a bonus, through your RRISD membership you also can receive exclusive local offers and discounts. **You must show your PTA membership card and picture ID.** Membership benefits are valid until July 31, 2020.



**Soapbox Car Wash** will offer a discount of 10% off ANY single car wash purchase to all RRISD PTA members with your PTA card! Soapbox is located at 2000 Round Rock Ave, Round Rock, between St. David's Hospital and Round Rock High School.

**Reid's Cleaners** will offer a 10% discount to all RRISD PTA members with your PTA card! Valid at 9 locations in Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Lakeway, Austin, and Steiner Ranch.



### YOUR TEXAS PTA MEMBER PERKS

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

Last Updated: August 6, 2019

### 1-800-flowers

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.

### AVIS

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

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

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!

### COSTCO WHOLESALE

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

### DELL

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

### enterprise

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

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

### Hotels.com

Hotels.com has over 145,000 hotels in more than 80 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!

### MARATHON KIDS

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

### Orlando Employee Discounts

Save up to 36% 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](http://txpta.org/member-perks) for a full list!



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

### Six Flags

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!

### WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

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

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