

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

Newsletter of the RRISD Council of PTAs – March 2019 Edition

Parents, Teachers, ALL of US!



FROM THE COUNCIL PTA PRESIDENT

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



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
ROUND ROCK ISD

Dear RRISD School Community,

Did you know that we were all born with a superpower – it is HOPE! “Hope lifts us up and never lets us down. Hope inspires us, guides us and sustains us. Hope is unbeatable: no difficulty can squash it. Hope is unflappable; no setback can shake it. Hope is a light that always shines, steady and bright.” Anything is possible with hope. Sometimes we lose it, but inevitably it finds its way back to us. Hope allows each of us to do the impossible. It’ll lead your way. *(Quotation from Woman’s World 1/28/19)*

Have hope in each other to do what’s best for our kids and our school community. Let your superpower shine!

Respectfully,

Dawn



In this edition...

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From National PTA
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PTA Member Benefits Flyers

Let us know if you’d like to sponsor our next Newsletter!

Contact rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com

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2018 - 19 Council PTA Local Officer Assignments

Have a question? Need some help? Reach out to us. We're here for you!

LAKISSA BRIGHT, 1st VP Membership

rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com, 303-827-1778

Brushy Creek
Cedar Valley MS
Deep Wood
Hopewell MS

Joe Lee Johnson

Mc Neil HS
Robertson

(Interim Dawn Watson), 2nd VP Training

rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com, 512/415-7090

Blackland Prairie
CD Fulkes MS
Fern Bluff
Great Oaks
Kathy Caraway
Old Town
Wells Branch
Westwood HS

JEN JOHNSON, 3rd VP Communications

rrisd.pta.vpcomm@gmail.com, 512/699-2014

Bluebonnet
Chandler Oaks
Deerpark
Herrington
Pond Springs
Ridgeview MS
Stony Point HS

JENN GRIFFITH, 4th VP Hospitality

rrisd.pta.councilhospitality@gmail.com, 512/970-5130

Caldwell Heights
Early College HS
Double File Trail
Chisholm Trail
Gattis
GOALS
Laurel Mountain
Spicewood

AMANDA BOTELLO, Treasurer

rrisd.pta.counciltreasurer@gmail.com, 512/560-1722

Berkman
Cactus Ranch
Canyon Vista
Jollyville
Patsy Sommer
Round Rock HS
Union Hill
Walsh MS

MICHELLE CARSON, Secretary

rrisd.pta.councilsec@gmail.com, 512/560-8575

Anderson Mill
Canyon Creek
Cedar Ridge HS
Forest North
Noel Grisham MS
Pearson Ranch MS
Purple Sage
Voigt

ANGELA McGEE, Parliamentarian

rrisd.pta.councilparl@gmail.com, 317/445-7725

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**

Message from District Leadership

Steve Flores, Ph.D. RRISD Superintendent

Welcome back! Whether you traveled or spent time at home, I hope you and your family had a restful spring break and are ready for the final push of the 2018-19 school year.

At this time of year, I often share with my staff a life lesson I would tell my players back in my coaching days: "No one remembers how you start the game, but everyone remembers how you finish it."

That's where we are in the school year. The finish line is in sight, but everyone knows the last stretch of the race is the most challenging. Your legs are tired; your energy is low; your breath is labored. But the race isn't over and, from somewhere deep inside, you get your second wind. That's what our spring break is for—it's a time to catch your breath, spend time with family, rest and get that second wind. I hope our students, parents and staff took advantage of that last week.

This year it is especially important that we finish strong, not just in Round Rock ISD, but at the state Capitol as well. As promised, this legislative session has focused on school finance. House Bill 3, which would invest an additional \$9 billion in funding above enrollment growth for Texas public schools, was voted out of committee last week and could come to the House floor for a vote on April 3, though that is subject to change. While no bill is perfect and the devil is certainly in the details, this is a landmark bill that is a major step in the right direction for Texas and the way the state shoulders responsibility for funding public education. PTA's Rally Day at the Dome on February 25 was a singularly important event in demonstrating to our lawmakers how Texans feel about our public schools. I appreciate all of you that attended and supported the Day at the Dome. Your efforts are making a difference for all children!

Please stay engaged at the Capitol and encourage our lawmakers to finish strong, just as we encourage our students and staff here in Round Rock ISD. **It's time for us all to find our second wind!**

Chad Chadwell, President RRISD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The RRISD Board of Trustees is busy with several items including onboarding of new trustees, establishing working committees and planning the budget which will be adopted in June.

One of the items we are watching closely is the Legislature, specifically what will they do with school funding. We must plan as if nothing will change regarding school funding, but there are indications the Legislature is working hard to fix the complicated school finance system. If they use some of the rainy-day fund and/or alter the recapture rate (i.e. Robin Hood program), then RRISD may not face an ever-growing recapture expense each year.

All the 1000+ districts in Texas are "Independent" because they are separate from counties, cities, MUDs, etc. They are responsible for their own governance, budgets and tax rates. However, school districts are limited to how high they can set their tax rates and how much can be kept based on property values. Great school districts work closely with cities and counties for efficiency.

RRISD has many challenges ahead including standardized tests, funding limits and rapid growth in several areas across the district. However, we are blessed to have a strong community that believes in educating the whole child. The PTA is a key contributor to our guidance, and we appreciate all you do for the benefit of our students, staff and taxpayers.



ROUND ROCK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Council PTA Highlights

MEMBERSHIP

March is a time of growth and renewal! Trees start blossoming, grass starts growing, and our PTAs keep shining!

We are making HISTORY, we are on the verge of a state-wide membership increase OVER 500,000 for the second year in a row! No need to stop now, let's keep growing!

This month let's focus on getting our Special Category Awards submitted. **The notification form for all Special Category Awards must be SUBMITTED ONLINE** at www.txpta.org/membership by March 31st.

The awards within this category are:

- Golden Apple
- MARS Membership
- MARS Involvement
- Community Membership
- Community Involvement
- Generations Membership
- Generations Involvement
- Preschool Membership
- Preschool Involvement
- Student Membership
- Student Involvement

I am confident that if each of us adds members this month, we will meet our goal! Thank you for your dedication! Together we can make it happen.

**Our voice matters.
Our members matter.
Our numbers matter.**

LaKissa Bright, Council PTA VP of Membership
rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com



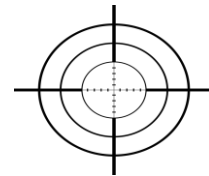
CLOTHES CLOSET

We hope everyone had a great vacation. As our number of students served continues to climb over 500, so does our need for volunteers.

Please make every effort to have your school's day covered. We rely on each of our volunteers!

Continue to help us inform everyone about the Clothes Closet!

Angela Thibeault, Council PTA Clothes Closet Chair,
401/862-7718



CRASE

Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events

The RRISD Council of PTAs has partnered with RRISD and the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to bring two C.R.A.S.E. events to you! This course is an extended version for parents and community members. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, the role of professional guardians, civilian response options, and demonstrates examples of things to do in case of an active shooter event.

**April 1 and 30th
6:30pm to 8:30pm**

Locations are being finalized!

AVOID - DENY - DEFEND

**Come and ARM YOURSELF with
KNOWLEDGE!**

Council PTA Highlights

SPENDING THE PTA \$\$

- The PTA membership must authorize the expenditure of all funds by approving and amending the budget throughout the year.
- Bills should never be paid with cash.
- Check signers should never sign a blank check or issue disbursement without receipts or sufficient written documentation.
- Check should never be made payable to "cash".
- Authorized signers on the bank account(s) may not sign a check where he or she is also the payee.

MAKING DONATIONS - While a PTA may never donate money to any individual person or family, we may work cooperatively in coalitions if the purpose is within the Purposes of PTA.

PTA policy concerning nonpartisan, nonsectarian and noncommercial activity must be followed. If a separate coalition organization that has 501(c)(3) status is established, PTA may share in its funding only if one or more PTA representatives is part of the governing body of the coalition. Small token donations may be made to another group provided all the following criteria are met:

- The PTA membership votes to make the donation.
- The group has 501(c)(3) status and PTA has documentation to prove that.
 - The group shares at least one common purpose with PTA (i.e. to promote the health, education or welfare of children, provide parent education or raise the standards of home life).

GIFT CARDS/GIFT CERTIFICATES - Any gift cards purchased by a PTA should not exceed \$25 in value and must be retail-specific (i.e. branded cards of restaurants, stores, etc).

Generic cards (MasterCard, Visa, etc) are not permitted.

Gift cards are cash equivalents, so PTAs should exercise the same care when storing and distributing gift cards.

If a gift card is donated to the PTA for the purpose of subsidizing association expenses, complete a disbursement voucher with receipts attached for the Financial Reconciliation Committee to verify that funds were spent appropriately.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - *If a PTA purchases and installs the playground equipment, the liability remains with the PTA regardless of any exemption statements made by the campus principal or school. It is important to note that Texas schools may not be sued.*

The Texas PTA advises all Local PTAs interested in purchasing playground equipment for their campuses to: obtain membership approval for the purchase. If funds are approved, the PTA should forward a check to the school and indicate that the funds are earmarked for playground equipment.

The school will then choose the company for which to purchase the equipment and the contractor to install the equipment. In this scenario, liability insurance coverage, if purchased, does cover Local PTAs and their members for playground equipment liability.

COUNCIL CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

PTA leaders, Principals, District Leadership, District Partners, business and community PTA members, are all encouraged to make a written contribution to this product. Write a brief article (1/4 page) about what's going on with in your school community. The 200 guests who attend our Council PTA Delegate Luncheon Meetings (including representatives from the respective Chambers of Commerce, Texas State PTA, State Legislature and everyone that visits our RRISD Council of PTAs website) will be able to read about all the incredible happenings our local units do daily.

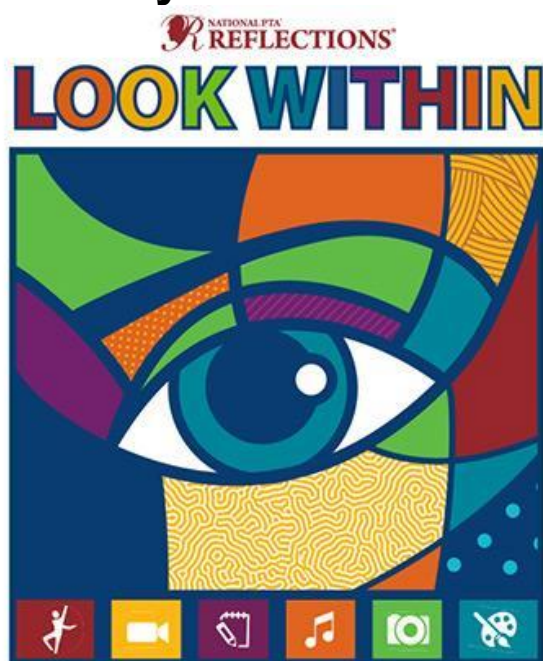
Newsletters are available in hard copy format at each Delegate Meeting. Shortly after the meetings it will be sent electronically to all executive board members whose names have been uploaded to PTAVE. During the months when we do not have a Delegate Luncheon Meeting, a DIGITAL monthly edition will be published. RRISD Council of PTAs is very large with lots of fantastic things going on at the local PTA units every day! *Our goal is to share more often, rather than just five times a year. It is also our hope to increase communication across the District that we serve. Please share this information with everyone in your network, especially the school community.* If you'd like to include an article, know a business or individual who would like to sponsor this newsletter, please email the Council Connections PTA Newsletter Editor, Snehal Phirke at rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com

Council PTA Highlights

PTA REFLECTIONS

It's never too early to get started on next year's Reflections entry!

Next year's theme is:



**Annnnnnd, the Caterer for
the March Delegate
Luncheon Meeting is...**



Fajita Warehouse Catering

Round Rock, TX

512/619-0437

PTA PRESIDENT'S CHECKLIST: MARCH/APRIL

- ☐ Publish Nominating Committee slate according to bylaws.
- ☐ Conduct election of new officers.
- ☐ Arrange for an installation of officers' ceremony.
- ☐ Actively recruit volunteers to fill open committee chair positions for next year.
- ☐ Remind newly elected president to call a meeting within 30 days to fill executive board positions and conduct any other necessary business.
- ☐ Prepare Texas PTA award entries. Special Category Awards are due March 31st.
- ☐ Develop a proposed budget for the following school year to be adopted at the final membership meeting of the current school year.
- ☐ Appoint Financial Reconciliation Committee, subject to the approval of the executive board.
- ☐ Connect current PTA leaders and volunteers with those at the next PTA (middle school, high school, Council).
- ☐ Check in with officers and committee chairs.
- ☐ Contribute to the PTA annual report or coordinate with historian/secretary.
- ☐ Consider a membership survey to review past activities and solicit suggestions for new activities.

Council PTA Highlights

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! They are:

PLATINUM PREMIER



PLATINUM PLUS



PLATINUM BASIC



Dawn Watson, RRISD Council PTA President
Steve Flores, RRISD Superintendent

SILVER LEVEL

MA+thnasium

Please share their name and logo on your local unit PTA website. As members, please include them in your PTA emails and keep them in the loop on what's happening on your campus. They'd love to partner with you!! Remember to "Pay it Forward". Help those that help us to achieve "A Voice for Every Child".

RRISD PTA PARTNERSHIPS



ROUND ROCK
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

RRISD Community Education Future Readiness Parent Seminars

Future Readiness Parent Seminars provide valuable information focused on the needs of students as they move through their academic careers and help guide parents and guardians as they consider the important choices that make students future ready.

* Pre-registration is required.

For more info, visit:

communityeducation.roundrockisd.org/future-readiness-parent-seminars

Location: Round Rock High School
[300 Lake Creek Drive, Round Rock](#)

700 Cafeteria/Tool Box #200 Building (enter from Lake Creek Drive south of student pickup/drop off area, turn in behind the 700 building across from Round Rock Christian Academy)

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Upcoming Seminars:

Mar 27, 2019: RROCK Ready: How to get your child "future ready"

Parents/Guardians of students ages 5 and under who have not entered school yet. [Register now](#)
(https://roundrockisd.facilitywerks.com/eventDetail.html?id=1002471&_id=597849673-31431-572)

Mar 27, 2019: Effective Communication

For Parents/Guardians and their 8th-12th grade student(s)
[Register now](#)
(https://roundrockisd.facilitywerks.com/eventDetail.html?id=1002474&_id=597849744-10097-6386)

Apr 10, 2019: College not for you? What's Your Plan?

LOCATION: Stony Point High School

Parents/Guardians and their 11th or 12th grade student(s). 12th grade students are welcome to attend alone. [Register now](#)

(https://roundrockisd.facilitywerks.com/eventDetail.html?id=1002477&_id=597849827-18269-23164)

Apr 24, 2019

College Admissions Officer Panel

For Parents/Guardians and their 8th-12th grade student(s)
[Register now](#)
(https://roundrockisd.facilitywerks.com/eventDetail.html?id=1033166&__id=

Register Now for Round Rock ISD Community Education 2019 Summer Camps!

Weekly Camps for All Ages

Monday-Thursday
9 am-12 pm or 9 am - 3:30 pm
June 3rd - August 1st
(No camps June 24 - July 4)

3 Campus Locations:

Deerpark, Great Oaks, Teravista

Topics Include:

Academics, Art, Music,
Coding / Programming,
Kinder & Pre-K Readiness,
Creative Writing, Drones,
Lego®, Engineering / Tech,
Personal Enrichment,
Robotics, Science,
Sports / Fitness,
Theater / Film, Test Prep,
Study Skills, and more!

You don't have to be a resident of RRISD to attend. Camp prices start at \$95 per week.

Visit CommunityEducation.roundrockisd.org for more information and to register online!

RRISD PTA PARTNERSHIPS

2ND ANNUAL DISTRICT-WIDE CAREER EXPLORATION FAIR

Hello Business Partners,

Round Rock Independent School District (ISD) is excited to host our **2nd Annual District-wide Career Exploration Fair**. Our vision for this event is to provide an opportunity for students in grades K-12, with their parents, to explore the various careers that await them in their future. Research shows that when asked, students can name a basic list of occupations; however, our goal as educators is to broaden the horizons of the next generation by promoting an atmosphere in which they can explore and gain the knowledge of the vast array of careers available to them. We believe that if we start early with connecting future job seekers with potential employers, we can feel confident that every child in the district has the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, and the confidence they need to ensure successful futures.

For Round Rock ISD to succeed in creating this atmosphere for our students, we need business partners like you to join us on **April 1, 2019** at **Round Rock High School from 6pm-8pm** (set up begins at 5pm). If you would be willing to host a free booth, at our 2nd Annual District-wide Career Exploration Fair, please complete the brief registration form using the link below. We desire for this fair to be an exploratory event for our students and ask that, if possible, you bring items that allow the students to engage in a hands-on experience of your career field.

Last year's fair was a success and with your assistance, we are confident that the fair this year will be even better.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact LaShanda Lewis, Coordinator of Counseling Services for Round Rock ISD at 512-464-6177.

Registration Link: [2nd Annual Round Rock ISD Career Exploration Fair](#)

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
ROUND ROCK ISD

Presents

The 18th Annual
Shining Stars Gala
An Evening in Paris

Thank you to all PTA's for your contribution to this year's Gala Auction! With your support over \$276,000 was raised for students, teachers and staff of all Round Rock ISD.

Gala Basket Contest results announced at the Council PTA Delegate Luncheon on March 26, 2019.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
FOUNDATION
ROUND ROCK ISD

IT'S TIME TEXAS

IT'S TIME TEXAS, in partnership with **Texas Action for Healthy Kids**, will be sponsoring the 2019 SHAC Awards. School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) from five school districts will be recognized for their efforts in supporting and promoting health and wellness for students and staff. **Apply by April 1, 2019.**

Winners will be announced the week of May 13. Each recipient will receive recognition on the [SHACs in Action](#) webpage, free registration and a stipend to travel to the Healthier Texas Summit, free registration to the Texas Action for Healthy Kids Summit, and much more!

RRISD PTA PARTNERSHIPS



Round Rock ISD Mentor Program

RRISD MENTOR PROGRAM

Mentoring programs are highly beneficial to students of all ages. Statistics show that students in mentoring relationships are more likely to do better in school and less likely to begin using drugs and/or alcohol.

The Round Rock ISD S.T.A.R.S. (Supporting, Teaching and Reaching Students) Mentor program is a school-based program for students in grades K-12 who would benefit from the positive influence a mentor can bring to their life.

Mentoring a child is a way for community members and businesses to volunteer. Mentors have the opportunity to impact a child's life, share life experiences and help build a more educated community.

When you volunteer as a mentor you not only discover new things about yourself, but you provide a friendship to a child who needs and wants the positive influence. With just a few hours of an individual's time you can help change the life of a child!

It takes **less than 24 hours** of your time in a school year to help change the life of a child!

Mentors are needed at all campuses across the district especially male mentors! It isn't too late in the year to become a mentor.

Sign up today and help change a child's life!

Becoming a mentor is easy!

Complete an online volunteer application, attend a one-hour training class provided by the district and begin meeting with a child!

Contact Dawn Steele at dawn_steele@roundrockisd.org or 512-464-5108.

Thank you

to all who participated in the
Round Rock ISD Campus Walk
hosted by
Round Rock ISD SHAC
on March 9.

It was a fantastic day with almost 200 walkers and the walk raising close to \$5000.

You can continue to raise funds and donate online (afsp.org/roundrockisd) through June 30. Remember funds raised through the walk are reinvested back into the district through mental health education and programming for staff, parents, and students.

If you would like a "Hope Walks Here" t-shirt, we are selling the extras for \$5 each. All money will be donated to the walk. If you would like shirts to sale for a PTA event at your school contact Amy Grosso: amy_grosso@roundrockisd.org, 512-464-5976.



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PTA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FROM ROUND ROCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2019 Summer Externship Program for RRISD Educators

The Round Rock Chamber is proud once again partner with Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) to implement the 2019 Summer Externship Program. The five-day externship program consists of a one-hour orientation meeting in May, three days on-site with a business in June or July, and a program celebration in August. We are requesting participation from chamber investors and other area employers in this exciting program to bolster our talent development efforts in the region. This year's program will place seventy-five educators.

The externship program is a professional development opportunity for educators (teachers, counselors, and administrators). The experience and knowledge gained at partner businesses will be brought back to the classroom via educator-developed strategies that integrate what they learned during their time "in the field." The goal is to match educators with employers in the teacher's subject matter and/or a subject matter of interest.

Last year's participating business partners reported an excellent experience in the program. One company shared that the externship program is a "great opportunity to influence how future students are educated through collaboration, communication, and partnership." Another company noted that this program affords the "ability to learn and grow together as community partnerships."

If your company would like to host an educator, please contact Amy Mizcles (amizcles@roundrockchamber.org or 512-255-5805) for more information.



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/>

Top 3 killers of the Immune System

1. Sugar
2. Lack of natural sunlight (vitamin D) with decreased exercise
3. Imbalanced nervous system

The nervous system regulates our body's immunity and inflammation



512-726-2120 www.myimpactchiro.com

PTA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



The Dangers of Procrastination (and Tips for Children to Overcome It)

Some of the dangers of procrastination:

- Everything takes longer than it needs to.
- Children hold themselves back.
- It causes stress.
- Even with good intentions, children set themselves up to fail.

Some tips to help your child conquer procrastination:

- Embrace the planner.
- Prioritize each day's to-dos.
- Make homework time screen-free time.
- Set time goals.
- Rely on programs to help with tech distractions.

About Huntington:

Huntington is the tutoring and test prep leader. Huntington programs develop the skills, confidence, and motivation to help students succeed. Founded in 1977, Huntington's mission is to give every student the best education possible. www.huntingtonhelps.com.



'Spring is off to a GREAT start with several fun and successful Kona visits!

Just last week Kona Ice continued to work towards a FREE field day visit with Anderson Mill elementary. Just before Spring break, Kona Ice raised over \$450 for the Caldwell Heights elementary PTA (in under an hour) at their annual fun run!

We still have availability for a visit to your school. Call today to schedule your field day, Kona day or end of year party.

Lastly, Kona Ice will be offering FREE Kona Ice on April 15th for CHILL OUT DAY. Keep an eye out for a location near you! konaiceaustin@yahoo.com



Laundry versus Dry Clean Shirts

Many people do not understand why we dry clean some shirts as oppose to "launder" others. If you review the care label you may see "cool iron" which means we cannot use the equipment for laundered shirts. The temperature on the laundry side of the business is much higher than the equipment used to finish an item on the dry clean side of the business. You may also see a symbol with an iron. One dot represents a cool iron (i.e. dry cleaned) while two or more dots represent a warm iron can be used or laundered.

There are certain materials including buttons that cannot take the higher temperature. The pricing difference between the two options is based on the time it takes us to process.

[Reid's Cleaners & Laundry](#) offers [concierge services](#) and will have your clothes picked up, dry cleaned, and delivered at your convenience! Reid's offers wash and fold services to make your life easier! Drop at the stores or we offer home delivery.



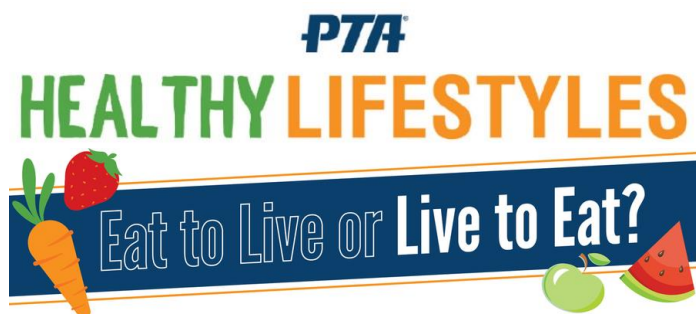
Dart'em Up is the perfect solution for fundraisers, too! We give back 50% of proceeds from fundraising events. Dart'em Up has hosted dozens of fundraising Spirit Nights for PTAs across the city. Whether you're raising money for a class trip or much needed school supplies and equipment, our team will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

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

PTA PROGRAMS



Coordinated School Health promotes the intentional planning of all [component areas](#), not just nutrition. But since March is [National Nutrition Month](#), go ahead and focus on the food!

I admit it feels overwhelming at times. Should I really be eating gluten-free? Almond milk or cow's milk? Artificial sweetener or sugar? My suggestion is to do your research, read those [nutrition labels](#), and shop on the perimeter of the grocery store as much as possible.

Check out other [MyPlate](#) helpful tips such as shopping on a budget, worksite wellness, and healthy eating this month! Have a happy, healthful March!

Karen Burnell, Texas PTA Healthy Lifestyle Liaison
healthylifestyles@txpta.org

Whole Child Coordination Tip

This month, focus on food or brain health or both! Yep, since nutrition and a healthy brain go hand in hand, feel free to coordinate efforts with your school's cafeteria manager, nurse, counselor, or more! Perhaps you can help set up a display of student [brain craft projects](#), coordinate with parents and teachers to showcase a new brain-break from [GoNoodle](#), or encourage students in the cafeteria to try a new food to fuel their brain during [National School Breakfast Week](#). As always, try to stick to reputable sources when sharing nutrition information with parents, such as tips for reading [nutrition labels](#) or [dietary guidelines](#).

Action for Healthy Kids 'Every Kid Healthy Week' is April 22-26, 2019.

This nationwide observance brings focus to school wellness achievements and highlights upcoming spring events. Visit Action for Healthy Kids online to access a social media toolkit, newsletter copy, and more information to share with your school community.

MARCH OBSERVANCES

- National Nutrition Month

APRIL OBSERVANCES

- National Stress Awareness Month
- Distracted Driving Awareness Month
- Earth Day (4/22)
- Every Kid Healthy Week (4/22-4/26)
- National Child Abuse Awareness Month
- National Volunteer Month

FUNDING AND FREEBIES!

[Good Sports Equipment Grant](#) – Rolling deadline. Grants vary. Awards sporting equipment, footwear, and apparel up to six times over a two-year period.

[Action for Healthy Kids](#) – *Deadline: April 5, 2019.* \$1,000. Includes School Breakfast Grants, Game On Grants, and Parents for Healthy Kids Grants.

[Oliver Foundation](#) – *Deadline: April 15, 2019.* \$750-\$5,000. Provides a sustainable impact on children's nutrition and activity levels through innovative programs.

Health-e-Learning

[Healthy Lifestyles and the Importance of SHACs](#). March 28, 2019. 6:30-7:30 pm. Presented by National PTA.

[How to Start a Safe Routes to School Program](#). (Previously recorded.) Presented by Safe Routes to School National Partnership.

[Introducing the New Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#). (Previously recorded.) Presented by The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

**WORTH
A READ**

Lunchbox Basics 
 **Good food. Good move.**

FROM TEXAS PTA

www.txpta.org



Nearly 2,500 volunteers and students joined us in Austin on February 25 for Rally Day! From El Paso to Harlingen, PTAs and school districts traveled far and wide to ensure their voices were added to Texas PTA's thunderous presence at the State Capitol. Thank you for your dedication to our students and for demonstrating the power of advocacy! Visit Texas PTA on [Facebook](#) to view photos from Rally Day.

Public School Funding System Reform – House Bill 3

It's been a busy two weeks in the Texas Legislature! On March 12, PTA member Stephanie Haug from Leander ISD testified on behalf of Texas PTA in support of House Bill 3 authored by Rep. Dan Huberty. HB 3 for school finance reform commits billions of new and re-purposed revenue to support our students while lowering tax bills for property owners. The bill has a long way to go before passage and will undoubtedly change as it moves through the process but, as laid out on March 12, it is a strong first step in shifting more of the cost of public education back to the state.

Of particular interest to Texas PTA are the following components of HB 3:

- Increases the basic allotment.
- Provides funding for full-day PreK for students in at-risk environments. If a school district already has a full-day program, the funding can be used on other programs that result in higher rates of student literacy by third grade.
- Includes a provision for an optional program that Texas PTA supports – the Teacher Effectiveness Program. School districts that choose to participate submit a proposed teacher evaluation tool that includes evaluation of student performance. Once approved by the Texas Education Agency, the teachers identified as effective receive an increase in salary. Texas PTA would like to see specific language in HB 3 about the second part of the program discussed by the Public School Finance Commission – incentives for the most effective teachers to teach in lower grades and schools with high rates of at-risk students.
- Does not include the \$400 million in funding for school districts based on the number of students who pass the STAAR.

Senate Files School Finance Reform Bill

Just hours before the deadline to file legislation this session, Senator Larry Taylor filed Senate Bill 4, the school finance reform bill. SB 4 would fund merit pay for teachers, increase funding for low-income students, fund full-day PreK for educationally disadvantaged students, and provide support for districts to improve reading among educationally disadvantaged students and English language learners up to grade three. The bill is a placeholder and includes spots for dollar amounts such as the basic allotment. [Read SB 4.](#)

T21, Raise the Age to 21 for Tobacco Purchases – HB 749

On March 6, Texas PTA President-Elect Suzi Kennon testified in support of House Bill 749 authored by Representative John Zerwas and companion legislation Senate Bill 21 by Senator Joan Huffman. This legislation raises the legal age to purchase tobacco and e-cigarette products to 21. If passed, all students will have limited access to tobacco and smoking products because they will not attend school with kids who are able to legally purchase them. [Read Texas PTA's legislative priority on T21.](#)

Juvenile Justice Reform – HB 344

On March 13, Texas PTA Associate Executive Director Darren Grissom testified in support of House Bill 344 authored by Representative Harold Dutton to raise the age of adult criminal responsibility from 17 to 18 years of age. Under this new legislation, students who commit violent crimes may still be prosecuted as adults. [Read Texas PTA's legislative priority on juvenile justice reform.](#)

Texas PTA leaders will be testifying on other priorities in the coming days, including legislation on school safety, the Individual Graduation Committee Program, student mental health, student assessment, and human trafficking of children.



Stay informed! If you would like to continue to receive Under the Dome and other advocacy communications through the 86th legislative session, click [here](#)* (<https://www.txpta.org/take-action>) to register. *Navigate to "Quick Sign-up" (top right) and follow the cues.

Encourage Physical Activity

Make Exercise Effective and Fun

Physical activity is critical to preventing childhood obesity. Exercise is most effective and more fun when it's done as a group. In addition to promoting your child's health and learning, you'll feel better too!

Research shows that when children are fit and receive the proper amount of exercise, they perform better in school and are able to learn at a higher level.

Children must be given opportunities to be physically active throughout the day. Use the tips below to find out how you can help reverse the trend toward inactivity in the home and help your children achieve.

Stay Active at Home

Make Exercise a Family Habit

- Walk or bike to school together.
- Take a family walk around the block each night after dinner.
- Play upbeat music and dance your way through family chore times.

Play Together

- Discover free and low-cost physical activity options near your home (parks, bike paths, hiking trails, tennis courts or community swimming pools).
- Spend an afternoon at the local playground.
- Play a round of miniature golf together.

Set Family Fitness Goals

- Post goals on the refrigerator, along with a way to track everyone's progress. Cheer each other on as goals are achieved!
- Train together for a charity walk or run.
- Get pedometers and have a contest to see who takes the most steps in a given week.

Exchange "Screen Time" for Active Time

- Limit sedentary screen time (computer, tablets, video games, TV) to no more than two hours per day.
- Encourage your kids to sign up for some form of physical activity. Everyone can find something they enjoy.
- Support your child by making a commitment to practices and showing up for games or performances.

Learn More...

- [Move Your Way](#) (CDC): Includes tools, videos, fact sheets and tips that make it easier to get a little more active.
- [Tools to Help Connect Kids and Nature](#) (National Wildlife Federation): Provides tools to help families find nearby nature spaces and fun activities, as well as share wildlife sightings

Building Healthy Minds & Bodies

Nearly 49 million Americans—one in five children—live in households that lack the means to get enough nutritious food on a regular basis.

Students who don't have enough to eat are likely to get sick more often, do not perform as well in school and are less likely to graduate from high school and go on to college.

Federal nutrition programs play a critical role in helping students build healthy minds and bodies. The National **School Breakfast** and **School Lunch Programs**, offered during the school year, are provided to students most in need at free or reduced costs. Over the summer the USDA **Summer Meals Program** provides nutritious, no-cost meals when school is not in session.

These meals, when eaten, provide students with balanced nutrition and the majority of calories needed every day to grow and thrive.

Learn More...

- **Summer texting hotline** (Share Our Strength): Families in need can text the word "FOOD" or "COMIDA" (in Spanish) to 877-877 and receive a text back with the address of summer feeding sites closest to them, or information about how to find their closest feeding site.
- **Summer Meals Site Finder** (USDA): Helps families and children easily find summer meal sites near them.
- **Cooking Matters** (Share Our Strength): Helps families to shop for and cook healthy meals on a budget, as part of Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign.
- **Community Eligibility Resource Center** (USDA): Provides extensive resources to help facilitate successful implementation of the Community Eligibility provision in your school.

JOIN US JUNE 20-23 IN COLUMBUS, OHIO!

We're heading to America's Heartland! Get ready to advance your PTA's mission while enjoying all of the amazing art, culture and food that Columbus has to offer.

Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

Anderson Mill PTA

- AME PTA hosted a Mardi Gras Dance for our scholars and families on March 5th.
- We are looking forward to being back at Dart Em' Up for our annual Spirit Night and Silent Auction April 18th.
- Pita Fusion will also be hosting us for a Spirit Day so come and have lunch and dinner then go shoot some nerf! Come join us or contact us if you are interested in supporting our Auction.
- Plans are in the works to start our improvements on our gardens and outdoor classrooms as we welcome Spring!
- Incoming Grisham 6th Graders and their families will not want to miss out on the Mixer coming up Friday, May 17th.
- AME PTA partners with Grisham, Canyon Creek, and Pond Springs PTA's to plan this social mixer at Harper Park. The scholars enjoy music, food, field games, and fun for all!

Cactus Ranch PTA

- The CRE PTA community has been busy and we have more fun planned over the next few months!
- We love our teachers and staff! Our Staff Appreciation Committee provided Nothing Bundt Cakes to our teachers and staff before the Thanksgiving Break and a meal from Fuzzy's Taco Shop before the Winter Break.
- We can't wait to continue the fun with Staff Appreciation Week (April 1-5).
- February was a great month to share our love with all of our CRE students, families and staff. Homeroom parents worked hard to plan fun Valentine parties for all the students. Thank you to our Hospitality committee for organizing and to the families who attended our Pastries with My Peeps event earlier this month.
- PTA's new Yearbook Club has been busy throughout the year. This opportunity has allowed our students to be involved in creating the yearbook while learning about photography and journalism!
- We've had several great Spirit Nights at Bush's Chicken, Chick-fil-A, McDonald's and Chipotle.
- Second semester has been filled with fun and new events including like our CRE family STEAM and new events like Fifth Grade Follies in April and our Family Game Night in May.

Callison PTA

- Callison PTA is hard at work planning out Spring Carnival. This is a free event that we offer our families every year.
- We are able to do this thanks to all of the generous local businesses that donate items to our Silent Auction.
- This year we are celebrating our 10th anniversary, by taking a walk down memory lane and inviting former students and staff to join us at this day of fun.
- We hope that our families will keep making memories for years to come thanks to the hard work of our Callison PTA.

Canyon Creek PTA

- The CCE Comets are having a busy spring! Our PTA has organized a new after school club teaching Mandarin to interested 3rd-5th graders. Also, one of our Destination Imagination groups participated in the district tournament, placing 5th in their division.
- We partnered in January with Apple who brought out judges to volunteer their time at our school science fair, and then 12 of our students placed high enough to go to the Austin Regional Science Fair. The PTA has also been helping support the latest Principals Coffee Chat and is excited about our new Book Club starting up for parents in a few weeks.
- In February, our library program finished up their Reading Incentive Program focused on encouraging our young Comets to read more, and in March our Green Team helped beautify our campus by spreading mulch, weeding, and trimming trees and bushes on our campus.
- Also, this month, our PTA is partnering with the 5th grade Girl Scouts program at our school to help with their Pay It Forward program benefiting the Rainbow Room. This past week our PTA Board met with many new incoming Comet families during our Kinder Round Up day, taking time to explain the importance of PTA at CCE.
- And finally, we had an amazing Multicultural Fair this month, celebrating the many cultures we have here at our school. Parents decorated booths representing their country of origin and students performed dances and songs from their culture. We had 19 countries represented in booths and 17 student performances. We are grateful for RRISD Food Services who serves an amazing meal each year at our MCF, bringing flavors from all over the world to our cafeteria during MCF.

Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

- We are looking forward to recruiting new PTA Board members this spring and are hard at work identifying new leaders in our community. Go Comets!

Cedar Ridge PTSA

- We are planning for our upcoming Healthy Lifestyles Fair on April 23. We are inviting families from our learning community to attend this wonderful event. We will have student clubs and local businesses & organizations encouraging healthier habits.
- We earned the Golden Apple and the XOXO membership awards and will have more memberships to turn in at the end of March. Our current reported membership total is 1223 – that's 187 more memberships than last year!!
- Our nominating committee will be posting our slate this week and we will hold our officer elections next week – we are looking forward to continuing our momentum next year.
- Our scholarship applications are due at the end of this month and our committee will select at least 2 students for this recognition.

Chandler Oaks PTA

- Chandler Oaks PTA events and activities for the second semester are underway as our PTA membership continues to increase.
- Our PTA awarded over \$5500 in teacher mini grants this semester. We love having the opportunity to help provide our teachers new and innovative items that benefit our students.
- Our 1st Family Movie Night was a huge success! We had a great turnout and look forward to more movie nights in the future.
- Parents and COE PTA showed our teachers and staff how much we appreciate them by hosting a "Taco Lunch" during the first week of March.
- Chandler Oaks PTA hosted our Dames and Donuts Event before Spring Break for our students and mother figures. Our students enjoyed sharing a donut, coffee and juice breakfast with their special person. It was a fun morning for everyone!

Grisham PTA

- Grisham PTA joined Westwood PTSA to visit our local state representatives after our Rally Day march and lunch at the Capitol. In afternoon meetings with Representatives John Bucy, Vicki Goodwin and Celia Israel, we advocated for public education funding reform, student mental health, Special Education

funding, school safety, cyberbullying and other topics related to the welfare of our children.

- Specific data was shared about how introducing social emotional learning and restorative practice at Grisham last year has led to a significant decrease in referrals and repeat offenders, and we made the point that such impactful programs should be better funded.
- Grisham PTA is in the midst of raising \$10,000 for new stage curtains. While members agree that the curtains need to be replaced, the main question that arises is why the district and property taxes are not paying for it... which leads to a discussion on public education funding reform.
- Grisham PTA has also hosted a multicultural lunch and a Pi Day Pie Parade for our Teacher Hospitality in February and March. We sold concessions as a fundraiser at the school's Valentine's Day dance and continue to provide refreshments for both Principal's Coffees and House Parties.

Hopewell PTA

- Spring has sprung! Our Hornets are in the home stretch and with that brings excitement!
- LUCKY is what we are. HMS PTA is lucky to have wonderful staff and to show how lucky we are each staff member received a 4-leaf clover cookie.
- Our Hornets will be shining bright at our Glow Dance, our last dance of the year on March 29th.
- STAAR takes its toll not only on students/families but the staff as well. PTA to the rescue! We love providing snacks and drinks to all staff on testing days.
- Hoping more Hornets CATCH the healthy lifestyle bug from attending Catch Night.

Laurel Mountain PTA

- Engineering Week - We successfully had 34 Engineers lead our classes in a fun challenge while introducing new engineering concepts. Both kids and adults had fun! Thank you, Dustin Goss for organizing!
- Teacher's Potluck Lunches - We implemented a Teacher Potluck Lunch with dishes prepared and donated by our parents. The feedback has been great, and the teachers enjoy the treat! Thank you, Jo Westland for organizing!

McNeil PTSA

- McNeil PTSA has been busy! February was fantastic! We had our Teacher Appreciation day on Valentine's Day. It was a Chocolate Day! Teachers and Staff at

Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

McNeil felt the Valentine's love, especially from the PTSA and McNeil families! Chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate! What more could you ask for? Thank you to our PTSA and parents for making our teachers and staff feel so special! We have our next Teacher Appreciation coming May 7th Teacher Luncheon.

- We also had Academy Night in February! Yep, our PTSA was there, too! We get very excited to see our new 8th graders coming in and just as excited to see all those new parents. It was a great success!
- McNeil PTSA is also ready to receive those Seniors applications applying for the McNeil Scholarships! It is always a good feeling to give a young person a little bit more to get where they are going! It is also wonderful to see how our school has provided the tools necessary for these students to be successful in their future endeavors.
- Last, but not least, the McNeil PTSA would like to congratulate Raghar Bhatnagan for advancing to state with his visual arts piece in Reflections.
- It is hard to believe we only have a few months left of the 2018-19 school year. Wow! It goes fast when you work and volunteer with a fantastic school and board!

Purple Sage PTA

- Purple Sage Elementary PTA was awarded a mini-grant by the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living to install a Sensory Path on campus.
- The path, which was finished last month, is designed to support children's sensory regulation by following sequential movements.
- We're excited to bring this innovative and beautiful path to our school!
- If your campus is interested in learning more, stop by Purple Sage and check it out!

Spicewood PTA

- One World One Night: Parents and students worked together to bring another enriching, vibrant, engaging and successful international cultural exchange. This is truly an amazing event and we love experiencing it each year!
- Spicewood's Spring Carnival will be held on Friday, April 12th from 4-8pm. We will have food trucks, inflatables, a rock wall, petting zoo, new and old carnival games, cake walk, and face painting! This is an event you do not want to miss and is fun for the whole family.
- We count ourselves LUCKY and want to invite mom's, grandmothers, aunts and any lady that has been a special part of your child's life to say thank you for your daily support in March 25th. There will be photo

booths, magical decorations, and memories made while enjoying a light breakfast with your special student.

- Two families enjoyed an AMAZING home cooked Chinese feast that they won last fall at the Spicewood Gala! Both delicious and beautiful! The chefs were Sharon Gu, Lingling Yan and Lei Ge. The menu had appetizer samplers of cucumber, spring roll, beef, pork, and bean curd. The main course of fish fillet, shrimp, tofu, baby back rib, beef with mushroom, Napa cabbage, tomato and egg drop soup and steam bread. Plus, a sesame ball dessert. This is an item to look for at the next Gala!
- We are opening our first online school store this month. There will be so many items available to show your Panther Pride!

Walsh PTA

- At Walsh Middle School, PTA is backing the future by presenting teachers with more than \$7,400 in spring mini-grants! PTA awarded grants to band, special education, social studies, theatre and science teachers. We are also supporting our Walsh staff with regular hospitality events, with the most recent being a "grab-and-go" snack day in the teacher lounges.
- Our students had a blast at our Valentine's Day Dance, and 8th-graders are excited about their upcoming end-of-year Celebration. Parent committees are busy making sure it will be a great final event for Wildcats.
- Former Wildcats recently had the chance to apply for a WMS PTA scholarship. Two \$500 will be awarded.
- Coming up, Walsh's resource officer will update parents on social media trends during the next general membership meeting, when next year's officers will be elected.

Westwood PTSA







- The Westwood PTSA will be hosting a school-wide flea market to bring all the clubs and organizations together and allow these groups to raise funds.
- The flea market is on Saturday, March 30 from 8am to noon in the Westwood parking lot. Following a March 26 presentation on stress, our student representatives will be hosting a student panel on how parents can help their students.
- The Westwood PTSA is co-sponsoring CRASE which will be at Westwood High School on March 25 and April 3 from 6-7.
- The community is invited to attend. We are also putting together a community cookbook and doing a snack drive for our teachers.

ROUND ROCK ISD PTA

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The #1 reason to join your PTA is to support your school and your students. As a BONUS, through your RRISD PTA membership you can also receive exclusive LOCAL offers and discounts!

Must show your PTA membership card and picture ID. ALL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS VALID UNTIL July 31, 2019.

 <p>RRISD PTA Members will receive a 10% discount towards Reid's Cleaners services. Show PTA member card and photo ID. Valid at 9 locations in Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Lakeway, Austin and Steiner Ranch.</p>	 <p>RRISD PTA Members will receive a Free Game-Building & Coding Session plus a Parent's Night Out Voucher (\$35 value) for their child for PTA members only. Valid at Round Rock location. Contact 512-710-7864 or email roundrocktx@codeninjas.com</p>
 <p>RRISD PTA members will receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete Consultation 2. Nerve and Muscle Scans 3. Report of Findings <p>\$20 Individual/\$50 Family (\$100 value/ person)</p>	 <p>SPECIAL FOR RRISD PTAs:</p> <p>\$150 includes up to 100 KONAs for all school parties and reward programs. (\$200 value)</p>
 <p>MATHNASIUM The Math Learning Center</p> <p>MATHNASIUM - 1 FREE TRIAL</p> <p>We invite you and your child to visit our center, meet the instructors, and experience a full Mathnasium tutoring session for FREE!</p> <p>512-402-3207 roundrock@mathnasium.com</p>	 <p>RRISD PTA Members will receive 50% off an academic evaluation (\$98 value) for their child, for PTA members only. Valid at Round Rock location. Contact 512-910-4050 or email roundrocktx@hlcmail.com</p>



Check out
those PTA
Member-ONLY
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TEXAS PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ALL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS VALID UNTIL July 31, 2019.

Visit www.txpta.org for details – Go to Local PTA Leaders, click on Membership, then Member Benefits.



NATIONAL PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ALL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS VALID UNTIL July 31, 2019.

Visit www.pta.org for details – Go to About PTA / Member Benefits Providers

