

# COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

RRISD Council of PTAs Newsletter – October 2018 Edition

Parents, Teachers, ALL of US!

## FROM THE COUNCIL PTA PRESIDENT



**THANK YOU TO OUR LUNCH SPONSOR!**

Dear RRISD School Community,

You've heard it thousand times, "it takes a village to raise a child." This statement couldn't be truer, especially today with the world around us. Kindly remember that as adults we will differ in opinions, our values may not be the same, and we may argue from time to time. The tie that **binds us together** is *our unwavering love and passion for doing what's best for ALL KIDS!* On occasion each of us may need to be reminded that **WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE KIDS!** It's OK to disagree with each other, it's OK to argue with each other and it's OK to fail. *What really matters is, how we learn to compromise, to forgive, to accept each other, say "I'm sorry" and move forward together keeping our focus on serving the kids and the school community!*

We are in an intense election season; the holidays are around the corner and campus testing will begin. Please extend grace to those around you. You never know what someone else is going thru until you walk in their shoes.

Take time out to simply "breathe" and to play. To quote Mr. Rodgers, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning." (This applies to adults too ☺.)

Thank you to the campuses who allowed us to host the Local Unit PTA Executive Board Trainings, School Board Candidate Forums, CRASE Training and the anti-bullying program "Hey Dude, Nice Shoes". These events are led by volunteers and supported by RRISD employees. Thank you one and all! Upcoming Council PTA sponsored events will be posted on our website and sent out via email.

**Thank you for finding the value in what the PTA brings to this school family.  
"#ONEFAMILYONEFUTURE" – Together is better!**

*Dawn*

## In this edition...

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

**Contact [rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com)**

Please feel free to contact us. We're here to help!  
Interested in a Council Position? See below.

[illegible]

# 2018 - 19 Council PTA Local Officer Assignments

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

## **LAKISSA BRIGHT, 1st VP Membership**

[rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com), 303-827-1778

Brushy Creek  
Cedar Valley MS  
Deep Wood  
Hopewell MS  
**Joe Lee Johnson**  
Mc Neil HS  
**Robertson**

## **JONATHAN AYLIFFE-JESSUP, 2nd VP Training**

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

## **JEN JOHNSON, 3rd VP Communications**

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

## **JENN GRIFFITH, 4th VP Hospitality**

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

## **AMANDA BOTELLO, Treasurer**

[rrisd.pta.counciltreasurer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Superintendent

### Round Rock ISD Responds to Drinking Water Situation

*"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." - Benjamin Franklin*

The well didn't exactly go dry last week—actually the opposite—but this quote seemed to fit what many of our campuses, as well as one million people in and around Austin, experienced over the course of several days.

When you go into the field of education, you anticipate discussion, decisions and action around the best curriculum, engagement opportunities, discipline, athletics, and addressing special needs. But school districts are also massive operations that, in our case, are responsible for the safety and well-being of more than 50,000 students for the better part of their day, at least five days a week.

When an emergency happens, we usually turn to our Operations Department for the solution, and I can't say enough about the fine work on display this week as they tirelessly took care of our students and staff. Chief Operating Officer Terry Worcester first learned of the Boil Water Notice around 5:45 a.m. last Monday, with no advance notice from the City of Austin. He immediately rallied the troops to determine which schools were affected, develop a plan to source and store drinkable water, and execute a distribution strategy to get it to our 20 campuses on City of Austin water. Maintenance workers were dispatched to the schools to shut off water fountains, and communication to our parents, students and staff was sent out. Food Services called back trucks already dispatched for breakfast preparation to load them up with as much bottled water as they had on hand and cafeteria managers began boiling as much water as possible, while adjusting their menus to accommodate the conditions.

By mid-morning, we had drinking water stations set up at each affected campus. Our Athletic Department pitched in by finding as many portable hydration stations, usually used on football sidelines, and getting them to schools in need. We continued to work with Travis and Williamson counties, volunteering our facilities as emergency water distribution centers, and coordinated with the state and federal government to get literally tons of bottled water delivered to our schools. They arrived in semi-trucks Wednesday night and our maintenance staff worked through the night to deliver them to schools.

Principals and teachers were troopers, adjusting schedules and activities and setting up systems on their own campuses to make sure students knew where to get water. And I can't thank our generous parents and community members enough for rallying to our aid, especially in those first few hours, buying bottled water and bringing it to classrooms.

Like any crisis, we learned some lessons. We will do a better job of letting our campus-based staff know the plan early on. We've learned that at some schools, while water was available, not everyone in the classrooms knew it was there. We will debrief, document and plan for an even better outcome next time. But I can say without reservation that I could not be more proud of how our Round Rock ISD family rallied to take care of our kids and take care of each other. Our Operations team, who began Monday at 5:45 a.m. working on a plan, were at schools at midnight that night making sure there was enough water for the next day. And that determination continued throughout the week.

# Message from District Leadership

Steve Flores, Ph.D. Superintendent

It's not just our awesome educators who love our kids and give their best for them every day. It's also food service workers, custodians, bus and truck drivers, maintenance staff, administrative assistants, and the list goes on and on. While at McNeil High School on Thursday, I talked to students as they received bottled water and they told me how thankful they were for all the efforts they'd witnessed this week. I visited with McNeil teacher Debbie Palmer and when I asked her how things were going, she simply said: "This is what we do. We take care of our students." This beautifully sums up what we do in our one family—take care of one another.

PTA is about partnering together for a brighter future for all students. I am so proud of this partnership we share in Round Rock ISD, and that we all are part of one family that takes care of each other.

## 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 LEVEL MEMBERSHIPS...

Below are the Platinum level PTA community members who joined EVERY PTA in RRISD!! Please share their name and logo on your local unit PTA website. Feel free to send them emails and keep them in the loop on what's happening on your campus. They'd love to partner with you!!

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



Round Rock: 512/910-4051

Round Rock: 512/736-7272



Austin 512/735-1919

# Council PTA Highlights

**2018 - 20**



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
TO  
**HOPEWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**  
  
**FOR ACHIEVING THIS DISTINCTION FROM  
NATIONAL PTA!!!**

- PTA tracks local, state and national policies every day so we can advocate for what's best for our students, families and schools
- PTA believes we can make every child's potential a reality

Go out spread the good news!

LaKissa Bright, Council PTA 1st VP of Membership  
[risd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com](mailto:risd.pta.councilvpmem@gmail.com)

## CLOTHES CLOSET

I would like to start by thanking all of our amazing school representative volunteers who have not only showed up to the Clothes Closet on their schools designated day, but also brought additional volunteers, giving us a great start to the 2018- 2019 school year! We truly appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication to making our locations look organized and stocked for our clients.

Special thanks to all the schools who have done much needed clothing drives.

I am excited to report that we have 2 new managers joining our team. That means we finally have a full staff of managers to better serve our growing number of clients at the Clothes Closet.

This school year, we have served over 252 students at our Voight location, and over 37 students at the Anderson Mill location. Thank you to everyone who has helped spread information about us. Continuing community support helps us reach new clients. Please help the Clothes Closet reach our goal of helping all our districts students in need by spreading the word about us!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who make Clothes Closet possible. Keep up the good work!

Angela Thibeault, Council PTA Clothes Closet Chair  
[risd.pta.councilcc@gmail.com](mailto:risd.pta.councilcc@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP

Greetings Membership Chairs! Fall is here, and folks are in the spirit of giving. That's good news for us as it may be easier to convince them to join the PTA! Now is the time to inform potential members of all the wonderful ways we support students, including:

- PTA operates a clothing closet that gives clothes to students in need
- PTA provides scholarships
- PTA creates the village that helps raise our kids and strengthen our community
- PTA links families to important school and community information
- PTA hosts fun, educational clubs, programs and events for our families
- PTA raises money to support the specific needs of our school
- PTA engages in school and digital safety initiatives
- PTA offers kids the opportunity to explore the arts and develop critical thinking, teamwork and creativity
- PTA inspires a love of reading and enhances students' book and literary options
- PTA encourages healthy lifestyles and food choices for every family



# Council PTA Highlights

## WEBSITE

Hello webmasters!

If you are like many area PTAs and use a [my-pta.org](http://my-pta.org) site, please take a few minutes for their [new survey](#)! My wish list items are not on the survey, so I am writing them in.

First, I'd like to see a checkbox in the online store checkout to ask shoppers if they would be willing to pay the user fee. User fees add up fast for a non-profit!

Second, here at Council, we wish we could get more information from people who pay for memberships online, so we want more "options" boxes in store listings. We need basic information about our members, such as whether they are family, teachers or community members, and we'd like more spaces to ask for those details.

What would make your PTA's online presence better and make your job easier? Please share it in [the survey](#)! (<https://my.nirvanasystems.com/surveys/TakeSurvey.asp?SurveyID=4M24656J3795K>)

Shawn Dempsey, Council PTA Webmaster

## Faculty Appreciation for the Alternative Campuses



Halloween will bring treats and not tricks to the Alternative Campuses this Halloween! They will be making fruit parfaits with a variety of fresh fruit and delicious sweets and of course some candy!

The Council of PTAs loves our Alternative Campus staff!!

## REFLECTIONS

This year's theme is "Heroes Around Me". One does not have to look very far to find a hero around them. Heroes come in all shapes and sizes, near and far, and sometimes unexpectedly. We want to see what a hero means to your students. How do they see the heroes around them? What makes a hero, a hero?

This program is open to all students of all abilities. Each student has a fantastic story to share and I can't wait to see what they have to say.

Entries are being accepted now through October. Each campus deadline is different, so please check with your campus Reflections Chairperson. The categories available are Dance, Film, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts for Primary (PreK-2), Intermediate (3-5), Middle School (6-8), High School (9-12) and Special Artist.

Each entry MUST have a completed Entry Form with parent's signature and the Artist Statement. The artist's statement is extremely important and is sometimes the driving factor behind a judge's decision. Entry Forms and Category Rules can be found at [www.txpta.org/programs/reflections/participate/](http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections/participate/).

Council Level Judging will be held on November 28th and we can always use another judge or helper. It doesn't matter if you have a participant at Council Level. You can be a judge for another category or simply help the Reflections Committee out in general. Dinner is provided to all judges and volunteers. Please contact me if you can help in either area.

I am excited to see who and what our students see as heroes. Who is your HERO? Have you thanked them today?

*LeAnne Ohlenburger*, Interim Reflections Chairperson, RRISD Council of PTAs [leanne@ohlenburger.com](mailto:leanne@ohlenburger.com)





# Council PTA Highlights

## COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

Thank you all for your awesome contributions that make this newsletter possible!

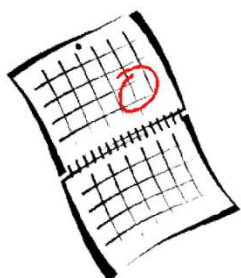
Through this Council Connections PTA Newsletter, we try to reach the entire Round Rock ISD community via over 550 executive board members from our 52 PTAs and all Principals from across the entire district which spans 110 square miles.

Please write a brief article about what's going on with your PTA/PTSA. The 200 guests who attend the delegate luncheon meetings (including representatives from our Chambers of Commerce, Texas State PTA, and everyone that visits our RRISD Council of PTAs website) will be able to read about all of the incredible things our local units do.

You'll receive Council Connections Newsletter at each luncheon. After the delegate meetings it will be sent electronically to all executive board members whose names have been uploaded to PTaVe. We ask that you share this product with your school communities and networks.

If you would like to include an article, or 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](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilnews@gmail.com) or Council PTA President, Dawn Watson at [rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com](mailto:rrisd.pta.councilpres@gmail.com).

During the months 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. This will allow us to provide more timely updates and resource information.



Please mark your calendars. We look forward to your articles and updates.

Thank you!



One of the most important benefits of PTA is the larger community that exists across the state.

It gives Local Leaders the opportunity to access a diverse network of ideas and innovations. We know that Texas PTAs are doing great things and we want to hear about them! So, in addition to sharing a success story with Healthy Lifestyles for a chance to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, also consider submitting your story to the [Talk of Texas idea bank](#).

## GRAPHIC TEE DRIVE!

The RRISD Clothes Closet is trying a graphic tee drive! This is a first! Please help us get the word out. We would love to fill our racks with new (to us) inventory.

We have made a Target wish list and a Walmart one too!

Walmart

<https://www.walmart.com/lists/view-events-registry-items?id=1858bf30-fda4-4b7e-9c83-d8c384300071>

Target

[tgt.gifts/b33c5d8567384b488788c3ef3d7635a6](https://www.target.com/lists/view-events-registry-items?id=1858bf30-fda4-4b7e-9c83-d8c384300071)

Would your school like bragging rights?  
Add your school's name to the donation!

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



# RRISD PARTNERSHIPS

## RRISD Community Education Future Readiness Parent Seminars

The Round Rock ISD Community Education is pleased to introduce 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.
- Seminar fee: \$10.00 per family.
- Fees collected are donated to student scholarships.

[Apply for a seminar fee waiver](#)

For more info, visit

[communityeducation.roundrockisd.org/future-readiness-parent-seminars](http://communityeducation.roundrockisd.org/future-readiness-parent-seminars)

To register, visit [communityeducation.roundrockisd.org](http://communityeducation.roundrockisd.org)

**Location:** Round Rock High School, 300 Lake Creek Drive, Round Rock

700 Cafeteria/Tool Box #200 Building (enter from Lake Creek Drive south end of student pickup/drop off)

**Time:** 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Seminar fee:** \$10.00 per family, per session

### UPCOMING SEMINARS:

**Nov 7, 2018**

**What Does Your Future Look Like: Career**

**Exploration:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-10th grade students

**Nov 14, 2018**

**How to Earn College Credit in High School:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-10th grade students

**Nov 14, 2018**

**Study Skills: Organization and Note Taking:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-12th grade students

**Nov 28, 2018**

**Social Media Awareness:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-12th grade students

**Dec 5, 2018**

**More Than Sad: A Look at Teen Depression**

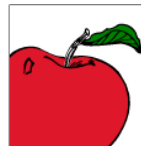
For parents/guardians. Parental discretion is advised for 8th-12th grade students. Sensitive material – no students under 8th grade

**Dec 5, 2018**

**Study Skills: Time and Stress Management:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-12th grade students

**Dec 12, 2018**

**Understanding High School Academics and Electives:** For parents/guardians with their 8th-10th grade students.



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**  
R O U N D R O C K I S D

### SAVE THE DATE

Build the BEST Gift Basket to auction off at the 2019 Partners in Education Foundation Gala presented by

**St. David's Round Rock Medical Center.**

A panel of judges will determine which campus built the best basket based on Creativity & Appearance.

***Basket Entries due February 1, 2019***

**WE ARE HERE FOR THE STUDENTS,  
STAFF & TEACHERS!**

All money raised at the Gala from your baskets will go directly to improving education for all members of Round Rock ISD!



**Please contact:**

**Marianne Reap, Executive Director,**

[Marianne\\_Reap@rriseducationfoundation.org](mailto:Marianne_Reap@rriseducationfoundation.org)

**OR**

**Melissa Schmalbach, Marketing & Fundraising Manager,**

[Melissa\\_Schmalbach@rriseducationfoundation.org](mailto:Melissa_Schmalbach@rriseducationfoundation.org)

**(512) 464-5600**

Log on to: [www.rriseducationfoundation.org](http://www.rriseducationfoundation.org)

**to learn more about the Foundation**

# PTA PROGRAMS

## **HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

### November is Healthy Lifestyles Month!

Your PTA can celebrate all month long by sharing [healthy tips](#) and providing [helpful resources](#). PTAs nationwide are also encouraged to host an event on National "Get Off Your Apps" Day, November 29!

PTAs can check out the [toolkit](#) to plan, promote, host, and wrap up the event. So, don't forget to get off your apps and celebrate making the healthy choice the easy choice!

Karen Burnell, Texas PTA Healthy Lifestyle Liaison  
[healthylifestyles@txpta.org](mailto:healthylifestyles@txpta.org)

### Funding and Freebies

**[Marathon Kids](#)** – *Deadline APPROACHING: October 31, 2018.* Redeem an exclusive PTA discount code for their Home Program. You can receive a \$5 discount per family as part of **[Texas PTA Member Perks](#)**! If your school is unable to participate in this awesome program, you can still take advantage of all the resources and Nike Rewards with the Home Program.

**[Expanding 3E'S Nutrition Education Grant Program](#)** – *Deadline: December 6, 2018.* Up to \$10,000. Increase awareness of good nutrition and improve children's health and well-being through the 3E's of healthy living — Education, Exercise and Eating Right.

**[Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood Grant](#)** – *Deadline: January 31, 2019.* Awards vary. The Foundation provides funding in the following areas: Early Childhood Welfare; Early Childhood Education and Play; and Parenting Education.

### Whole Child Coordination Tip

Coordinate with your school nurse to share the [warning signs of diabetes](#) as well as [healthy recipes](#). Encourage those effected by diabetes to "write a letter" on social media using #DearDiabetes and help [spread the word](#) about this debilitating disease.

### November Observances

#### [Healthy Lifestyles Month](#)

In celebration of Healthy Lifestyles Month, National PTA and [GOYA-Move](#) are partnering to support healthy lifestyles by offering **\$1000 grants to 15 local PTAs** to host a "Get Off Your Apps" Physical Activity Event at their elementary and middle schools during the month of November.

More at <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/Healthy-Lifestyles/Celebrate-Healthy-Lifestyles>

#### [American Diabetes Month](#)

This year's theme for American Diabetes Month is "Everyday Reality." This campaign is intended to demonstrate the everyday reality of diabetes from the point of view of people living with diabetes or caring for someone with diabetes. And while the everyday of diabetes can seem overwhelming, there are ways we can all help – and to prevent it from becoming the everyday reality for millions more... More at <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/american-diabetes-month/>

### Health-e-Learning

**[SHACS in Action - Parents are the Power!](#)** Tuesday, November 6, 2018, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Presented by Texas Action for Healthy Kids.  
<http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/event/636>

**[Partnering for School Health: Update on TEA TEKS Review](#)**. Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Presented by Texas Action for Healthy Kids. <http://www.actionforhealthykids.org/events/event/635>

**[In It Together Podcast Series](#)**. Presented by American Diabetes Association.  
<http://www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/in-it-together/iit-podcast-series.html>

**[Breakfast After the Bell: Best Practices for High Schools](#)**. Previously recorded. Presented by the No Kid Hungry Center.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l427M5v9KZ4>

**[Fast Food Consumption Among Adults in the United States](#)**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db322.htm>

**[Stopping the Flu is up to You](#)**  
<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/flu/>

**[Energy Out: Daily Physical Activity Recommendations](#)**  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/fitness/Pages/Energy-Out-Daily-Physical-Activity-Recommendations.aspx>

# FROM TEXAS PTA

[www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

## The Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC) and Texas PTA are partnering to promote Safe Schools Week, October 21-27, 2018.

The [TxSSC](#) and [Texas PTA](#) share a mutual goal of assuring all Texas schools foster a safe and secure learning environment, which is paramount to overall student achievement – both academically and socially.

"School safety is a shared responsibility that requires collaboration between school personnel, students, parents, and community stakeholders. We all must work proactively together to ensure that our schools provide a safe environment conducive to learning," says TxSSC Director Kathy Martinez-Prather.

"Texas PTA is committed to advancing important priorities on school safety," says Texas PTA President Sheri Doss. "And as a member-based association, our success rests in the partnership of parents and grandparents, teachers and administrators, and so many more. We rely upon our volunteers to help champion for Texas students, to help carry the call for safer schools throughout communities across the state."

The TxSSC offers online resources and in-person workshops to assist schools with emergency operations plan development, training and drilling, school threat assessment and management, bullying and suicide prevention, and a variety of other school safety topics. Visit [TxSSC online](#) to access the resources and view upcoming training opportunities.

Texas PTA is the largest child advocacy association in the state with over half a million members whose work is driven by the grassroots leadership of concerned parents, educators, and community members dedicated to making every child's potential a reality. Visit [the Texas PTA website](#) to learn about the ways you can make a difference with PTA.

Both organizations will be sharing resources through their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages throughout the week. We invite school personnel and parents to join in the conversation and share practices and procedures that have proven effective in your communities.

Whether you are a student, parent, teacher, administrator, counselor, first responder, mental health professional, or community member, we thank you for your efforts to make Texas schools safe places to learn and work.

**The Texas School Safety Center**  
*Preparing today for a safer tomorrow.*

and

**Texas PTA**  
*Every child. One voice.*



## Texas PTA is giving away \$25,000 in scholarships!

With \$25,000\* available each year, **Texas PTA** awards \$1000 to eligible high school seniors and up to \$500 scholarships to eligible faculty members. Visit us **online** ( <https://www.txpta.org/scholarships> ) to view guidelines and to get started. Join your PTA today to complete the first step toward eligibility!

**All applications are due December 1, 2018.**

# FROM TEXAS PTA

[www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org)

## REFLECTIONS TURNS 50

National PTA's largest and oldest program, Reflections, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! The program was started by Colorado State PTA President Mary Lou Anderson in 1969. Her vision has since touched the lives of millions of students, their families, and communities.

During National Arts in Education Week in September, many schools kicked off Reflections on their campuses and I ask that you promote the program and encourage students to participate. This year is a special one for Texas PTA. Not only are we taking part in the 50th anniversary, but the 2018-2019 theme, Heroes Around Me, was conceived by Texas student Hannah Crawley. Every year, students are invited to submit a theme suggestion to the National PTA Reflections Theme Search Contest. Hannah Crawley from Cunningham Middle School in Corpus Christi ISD won last year's contest and her theme will lay the groundwork for art submissions across the county. The current Theme Search Contest looks toward 2020-2021 Reflections. Students can submit theme suggestions to Texas PTA through November 5, 2018. For more information, visit us [online](#).

The Reflections program gives students unlimited opportunities to express their passion. Any student may submit one or more entries in each category. This program is open to students from Pre-K to 12th grade. Please refer to the [eligibility requirements](#). The 2017-2018 [student gallery](#) is available to view online. It is a great place for inspiration. Share the page with parents, teachers, and students!

If you are a Local or Council Leader, or Field Service Representative, make sure to visit each [Reflections](#) page online to discover important and helpful materials, including a Leader checklist and customizable fliers and posters.



Visit <https://www.txpta.org/reflections-leader-resources> for more information.

Every year, over 50,000 entries are submitted to schools across the state with over 900 entries advancing to state-level judging at Texas PTA. We are proud that our state has the highest level of participation across the country. Many of our students are recognized at national-level judging and it is an honor to be a part of that grand celebration. We thank you for your strong support of this program and the encouragement you give to our students, and most of all, for your belief in the value of the arts. Arts in education is a longstanding priority for Texas PTA. We believe that incorporating the arts in everyday learning contributes to the growth and education of the whole child.

## Value Arts and Culture

I would like to share with you this unique [video](#) (<https://www.arts.gov/50th/stories/texas-commission-arts>) created by the Texas Commission on the Arts. See how the arts can impact every Texan's life and what a difference it makes in our communities. What else can we do for our children to ensure the arts will be a part of their lives? Visit the [State of the Arts Map](#) on the Art Can website, a project of the Texas Cultural Trust, to see how your school district is doing. And check out the [Texas Cultural Trust website](#) to see the passion students express through art performances.

***The arts speak volumes where no words can.  
You can be Heroes by speaking out on the  
importance of the arts!***



# FROM NATIONAL PTA

[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

## TOP STORIES THIS MONTH

### It's Officially Flu Season. Are Your Kids Really Washing Their Hands?

Despite widespread knowledge of the importance of handwashing, a recent study found that only 31% of men and 65% of women washed their hands after using a public restroom.

Read more at <https://ptaourchildren.org/handwashing/>

### Your Kids Are All Over YouTube. Get Our Ultimate Guide for Parents.

Smosh, Good Mythical Morning, Markiplier—these names may not mean much to you, but chances are your kids are on a first-name basis.

Read more at <https://ptaourchildren.org/youtube-parent-guide/>

### Can Your Child Be Allergic to Halloween?

For children with allergies, Halloween is scarier than being haunted by ghosts and ghouls. Halloween candy and costumes may contain hidden allergens that can cause severe, life-threatening allergic reactions.

Read more at <https://ptaourchildren.org/halloween-allergies/>

## IS YOUR KID ON INSTAGRAM?

You need [this new guide](#), created by Instagram and National PTA. It covers the basics of the app, a description of Instagram's safety and privacy tools, plus a discussion guide for how parents can have an open conversation with their teens about Instagram. [Check it out. https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/Sponsors-Partners/instagram-parent-and-guardian-resources](https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/Sponsors-Partners/instagram-parent-and-guardian-resources)

## 5 PROVEN BENEFITS OF PLAY

The nation's doctors are being enlisted in a new fight: reclaiming children's right to play. A research paper urges pediatricians to prescribe playtime. [Read the article.](#)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2018/08/31/642567651/5-proven-benefits-of-play>

## NOVEMBER IS HEALTHY LIFESTYLES MONTH

Take a [technology "time-out"](#) next month. Celebrate Healthy Lifestyles Month in November by hosting a "Get Off Your Apps" Physical Activity Event.

[Get ideas and step-by-step event planning instructions.](#)

<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/Healthy-Lifestyles/Celebrate-Healthy-Lifestyles>

## Catch Up with PTA!

- **Advocacy Award Nominations Are Now Open!** Do you know an amazing advocate? Are YOU an amazing advocate? We want to honor great advocacy work with an award. [Apply now!](#)  
<https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/legislative-conference/advocacy-awards>
- **Is Your Child's School Really Safe?** Join leaders from National PTA and Sandy Hook Promise for a webinar to learn how to ask the tough questions you need answered. [Register now!](#)  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2145183863858852355>
- **PTA Connected with Facebook Grant Deadline Extended!** Take the extra time you need. Just [submit your application](#) by Nov. 11. Use our 7 tips to [craft the best application ever!](#)  
<https://www.pta.org/home/programs/connected/digital-families>

## OCTOBER'S LEADERSHIP TIP

**Did you know? As a tax-exempt organization, your PTA is responsible for acknowledging certain donations**, including cash contributions of \$250 or more. Learn more about IRS fundraising guidelines in our [Local PTA Leader Kit](#) or take the 10-minute [501c3 Basics for Local PTAs eLearning Course](#) from your computer, tablet or mobile device.

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

## Anderson Mill PTA

- Wow! Anderson Mill is off to a great 2018-2019 start with membership on the rise, amazing volunteers, great support from our administration, and fun events.
- We were honored to be awarded a Texas National PTA Grant to host a 2018-19 STEM + Families Night sponsored by Mathnasium! We plan to host that event December 4th.
- Armadillo Fall Carnival is Tuesday, November 13 from 5:30-8pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. Friday, November 9th our Sister School Spicewood Elementary is having their Auction Night and will be doing a Giving Tree again this year for AME. We are so grateful for their support and partnership. Tuesday, October 23 AME PTA honored their Teachers and Staff with a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon with assistance from Jenna's Asian Kitchen. Tuesday, October 2 we were so pleased to have such a great turn out from our AME families, staff, administration, and community who attended our Nation Night Out Sock Hop.
- We raised cash donations, new socks, and underwear for The RRISD Council of PTA's Clothes Closet. Thank you so much to those in the community who donated! A special Thank You to Nathan and Veronica Sharp, Maine Root Soda, Nada Moo, HEB, Anderson Mill Limited District, Susan Reed, our local Williamson County Sheriff's Department, our City Council Representative, Jimmy Flannigan, and our local voter registration volunteers Jenny Dingler and Melissa McDowell for making such an enjoyable evening for our scholars and community!

## Blackland Prairie PTA

- Many things are always going on at in Wildcat country like our Donation "Round-Up" Drive.
- This year our Wildcat families are working super hard to help fund the first half of the PTA this year but more importantly we are hoping to raise funds for our NEW "Outdoor Learn Lab". Once we hit this goal, the PTA rewards the students and families by hosting a free "Outdoor Movie Night" for all to enjoy.
- We also celebrate the top fundraising classes per grade with a Kona Ice party and cotton candy parties all the classes that reached their goals too.
- A few other committees at our PTA continuously work hard to help support our school and PTA initiatives. Go Green Committee is kicked off their first of many challenges with the water bottle collection contest and Box Tops Committee is finishing up their first collection contest too this month. So, lots and lots of fun happenings are always around here in Wildcat country!

## Cactus Ranch PTA

- Cactus Ranch Elementary PTA is excited about the things we have accomplished so far and we anticipate many more throughout the school year.
- Provided snacks and water for teachers before the school year started and hosted a lunch for all staff on the first day back to school.
- Hosted a Back-to-School Ice Cream Social for our families.
- Our early-morning Howdy and Membership drive were hugely successful!
- Our Watch DOGS Program started again this year with our annual Kick-off Pizza Party in September.
- To assist our teachers and campus, PTA awarded 8 Teacher Grants.
- We're looking forward to our Trunk or Treat, Fun Run and a Parent Program October!
- We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a wonderful school year! Go Longhorns!

## Caldwell Heights PTA

- Caldwell Heights Elementary PTA hosted Family Game Night on Friday, Sept. 28th - it was a free fun night for students and their families
- CHE PTA is offering a series of guided canvas painting classes starting this month. Students will receive step by step instruction and will leave with a seasonally themed painting.

## Callison PTA

- We have been busy at Callison PTA. In September we hosted our House VIP (Very Important People) Kick off with a meeting and the movie Wonder. To be more inclusive of the different types of families that we have at our school, this new program replaces the traditional Watch DOGS program.
- We started off October with a Membership Meeting and a Math Night sponsored by Mathnasium. Everyone in attendance had a chance to learn some fun ways to learn math. To close out the month of October Callison will be hosting its 3rd annual Trunk or Treat. This is always a fun event for all of our families. Local Businesses, Callison families and our teachers/staff get very creative with their costumes and decorated trunks.
- We will end the semester with our Holiday Shop and a Family Game Night. It is always so much fun to see our students try to pick out the perfect gift for their family.

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

Challenge, an initiative that was started at Cedar Ridge last year.

## Canyon Vista PTA

- CVMS Reflections Lunchtime Rally was a "T-Rex-rific" Event. CVMS kicked off the 50th annual "Reflections contest with a lunch time rally that included specials guests of the "prehistoric" kind. In addition to announcement of the contest, over 300 students created "HERO" cards calling out their favorite personal heroes. CVMS students also created HERO cards that thanked CVMS teachers and staff including, "Officer Pope" and "Coach Stevenson".
- CVMS Seventh graders, Olivia Hadzi-Pavlovic and Lexy Hall organized a fundraiser to provide school supplies for middle school teachers. This two-day lemonade stand raised \$240.73 for paper supplies in CVMS classrooms. Great work ladies! CVMS student Prayag Sreenivasan, has been awarded a spot as one of the 2018 Broadcom MASTERS®, program for Science & the Public.
- The CVMS Mustang Strong program has kicked off with wide participation and great comments so far. This program welcomes parents and guardians to join students for lunch on Fridays to offer extra eyes & ears for safety, help direct students, and be an additional friendly face that promotes positive influence. Comments so far include "Our lunch duty staff has shared very positive feedback about having the parent volunteers in the cafeteria on Fridays". Thanks so much for our "Mustang Strong volunteers!"
- Canyon Vista Middle School's next General PTA meeting takes place Tuesday, October 23 at 6:00pm. The agenda will include a presentation from Dr. Cathy Malerba on the A-F Accountability system and a Bond 2018 presentation.

## Cedar Ridge PTSA

- We are excited as this school year continues. We currently have 1135 members and earned the Texas PTA Early Bird Achievement Award.
- Our overall goal is to have one voice for each student on our campus. We have increased our communication efforts by sending out a weekly e-Newsletter and actively posting highlights to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- We held our first Student Appreciation to recognize our student members.
- Last week we treated our staff to a Caramel Apple Buffet.
- Our students are continuing to spread a chain reaction of kindness and compassion through Rachel's

## Chandler Oaks PTA

- Chandler Oaks Elementary PTA events are in full swing! This year is off to a great start.
- Our 1st Dudes & Dudes event was a HUGE success! We served over 470 students & father figures donuts, coffee and juice one morning before school in early October.
- Chandler Oaks students had fun gathering donations and running in our annual Cheetah Fun Run last week! This is our main PTA fundraiser for the year. With one more week still remaining to gather donations, we are excited to have already surpassed our goal. The students, teachers and staff have been so supportive of all PTA's efforts to make this so successful.
- PTA membership continues to rise as we look forward to our PTA sponsored Trunk-or-Treat event at the end of the month.

## Elsa England PTA

- We are celebrating International Children's Festival this week (October 22-26) this week at Elsa England.
- Monday the younger grades have an assembly with various performers representing different cultures along with a guest appearance from Lenny the Leopard. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday classrooms will learn in depth about a specific country and have a presentation by a parent or team of parents about that country. Thursday is traditional dress day where you can wear an outfit representing any country of your choice. Thursday evening is family night where we have a dinner with items from all over the globe in addition to international performances, a performance by England choirs. Then students get the chance to visit booths of all the countries studied this year and receive a passport in their very own passport book.
- The week is capped off on Friday with performances for the older grades of more international acts.

## Hopewell PTA

- The Hive is a happening place!
- At Hopewell, we strive to bring our students, families, staff and community together. You know what they say, "the way to someone's heart is through their stomach". For starters our concession stand is open during every home game thanks to our amazing



# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

parent and student volunteers. On a sweet note, our marvelous and magnificent staff members with a birthday in August or September received a bag of M&M's in their mail box. Our staff appreciation chairs also coordinated a pizza luncheon for a staff meeting.

- Our spirit wear chair designed a fun universal Game Day shirt as a way for hornets to show their school spirit across all our sports. In the midst of football season, it was a great time to host our PTA Fall Harvest Dance too. We still are not sure who had more fun, the students or the chaperones. At our general meeting our very own Sonya Jensen, LMFT gave a wonderful spot-on presentation for parents on "Navigating the Middle School Years".
- Last but certainly not least, after a lot of behind the scenes work, we are proud to announce that we are now a **"PTA School of Excellence"**. We want to thank those who believe in our students and our staff and give so much of their time to helping our school. Together we ARE making a difference.

## Jollyville PTA

- The Jollyville PTA will be hosting it's 2018 Fall Carnival and Silent Auction on November 3rd at the Jollyville campus.
- We have hosted our first movie night and have a Bike Rodeo for the greater community on October 27th.
- Our 2018-19 year is off to a great start - we've exceeded our 2017-18 membership total already and are well on our way toward achieving the Golden Apple award.

## McNeil PTSA

- McNeil PTSA has been in full swing! We have met our membership goals and passed them! We are so excited! We are extremely pleased with the student PTSA memberships. To show our students how much we value their membership, we have planned a little something for Halloween! We just finished up having a Teacher/Staff cake day, Yum, and now we are getting ready for Reflections! Lots going on here at McNeil.
- Our Black and White Homecoming Dance was FANTASTIC! The kids had a lot of fun. McNeil PTSA also won the Undies drive against Westwood! All the undies go to the Clothes Closet. Win or not, this event is very special for our communities!
- We are very excited about the 2018-2019 school year! We have lots of changes around us and we are shining!

## Old Town PTA

- Old Town Elementary is celebrating its 30th Birthday this year! The OTE PTA is hosting an 80's themed Birthday Bash on November 2nd from 6 to 8pm in the cafeteria to help celebrate and remember all the wonderful things that have happened over the years at Old Town Elementary. So, get ready to tease up your hair, pull out your old leg warmers, and get your glow stick accessories ready! All former staff and students are welcome. Be there or be square!
- OTE had it's first fundraiser of the year, the Apex Fun Run, and it was a huge success! We were even able to surpass our fundraising goal. All of the money raised for OTE will directly benefit our students and school. Way to go Texans!
- We kicked off this month with a donation drive for the RRISD Clothes Closet. We were able to collect lots of new socks and underwear to help to fulfill the needs of our RRISD community.
- Planning is in the works for our annual Spring OTE carnival. This is one of biggest fundraiser of the year, with carnival rides and games, lots of food and fun, and a silent auction filled lots of great things to bid on. This event is open to the community, so come have some fun for a good cause.
- Great things are happening at OTE!

## Purple Sage PTA

- This fall, Purple Sage PTA is hosting a variety of community building events.
- On October 26, we will hold our 3rd annual Monster Dash Fun Run. The PTA is teaming up with CG Victory to offer an obstacle course for students, along with vendor booths, food trucks, games, a dance party and Halloween costume contest! We're so grateful for our community sponsors who have helped make this event FREE of charge for our students and families to enjoy.
- In November, we'll be hosting an outdoor Family Movie Night, and in December our PTA is partnering with our school's Dual Language program to host the annual Las Posadas holiday celebration. The school to home connection is a priority for our PTA, and these events are just some of the many ways that we build bridges and invite families to be a part of the wonderful Rider community.

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

## Round Rock PTSA

- Round Rock High School PTSA has had a great start to the year! Our membership numbers are strong, we have hosted a couple of Hospitality events for our staff & we are looking forward to the holiday season!
- RRHS PTSA has received the Head Start & Early Bird membership awards by exceeding 75% of our previous years membership by August & now have exceeded 100% of last year's membership by the end of September. We have also been awarded the Student Involvement award & the MARS award. We are well on our way to receiving the Golden Apple award with 100% staff participation in our PTSA.
- Our Hospitality chair has hosted 2 well received events...our Welcome Back breakfast & a Taco Tailgate. Our next event is scheduled in December where we have Sweets & Treats for our wonderful Dragon staff!
- Our fall grant process is up & running, and we are looking forward to awarding staff with grants for amazing classroom and learning ideas.
- We hope you all have a wonderful holiday season with your friends & family!

## Spicewood PTA

- Spicewood PTA's Annual Gala & Auction is Friday, November 9th from 6pm - midnight at Balcones Country Club. This event is looked forward to by parents all year. The money benefits Spicewood and our sister school Anderson Mill. There is the opportunity to win a Big Green Egg, Vacation Homes, Summer Camps and school experiences and more!
- Spicewood's Veteran's Day Celebration will take place on Tuesday, November 6th at 8:00 am (kindergarten - 2nd grades) and 8:30 am (3rd - 5th grades) in the Spicewood cafeteria. Parents, students and Veterans are invited to attend the program and the reception afterwards, which will take place in the library. Our students will decorate stars, and these stars will be used to decorate the hallway for the week. Students can honor a veteran in your family and attach a photo and write a brief description of your relative's service for our military. Our guest speaker Nick Radoe will bring a sense of celebration for all Veterans who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms.
- The Teaching Garden is consistently used by students at Spicewood. This past week I had the pleasure of observing kindergarten students using this unique learning space. The Teaching Garden is consistently used by students at Spicewood. Kindergarten students use this unique learning space to draw scientific drawings.

- Spicewood had the Fall Community Garden work day in October! A huge thanks to parents and community members who also came out to help. Your dedication allows our students to continue to have enriched learning experiences.
- It's has been a busy few months at Spicewood!

## Teravista PTA

- The year is off to a great start at Teravista Elementary!
- On October 20th, the Teravista PTA held our annual Lighthouse Festival, which is our major fundraiser of the year. We made the decision to bring the festival indoors this year due to the rainy weather, and our Teravista community rallied around us after that major last-minute change. Turnout was huge, and this year's festival turned out to be our most profitable ever! All
- of the funds raised will be invested back into our school to directly benefit our wonderful staff and students.
- We have already received a number of outstanding Reflections entries from our talented Teravista students, and plans are underway for the school Reflections awards ceremony on November 9th. Our staff appreciation chair has been hard at work, surprising our amazing staff with a new Teravista t-shirt to show off their tiger pride and a special caramel apple treat to kick off fall on a sweet note. Our membership numbers are on pace with our record-breaking numbers from last year, and we are proud to have 153 awesome student members! Each of our student PTA members will have their photo featured in our PTA wall of fame at the front of the school.
- It's a great time to be a Teravista tiger, and our PTA is thankful for the continued support of our students, staff and families!

## Walsh PTA

- Walsh PTA is kicking off autumn by treating our teachers and staff with a Fall Snack Break. Dozens of families donated grab-and-go snacks for busy Walsh teachers.
- For our 522 students who earned all A's the first six weeks, we awarded Mighty Fine gift certificates.
- We also added a pre-order only long-sleeve version of our spirit-wear, using the same design as our spirit-wear t-shirts.
- New this year, PTA launched a hassle-free fundraiser for our annual 8th Grade Celebration in May. We are accepting sponsorship-level donations and any donation from families. Walsh Wildcats are excited for the theme they voted for: "Starlit Nights."

# Campus PTA/PTSA Spotlights

- We reminded our families to register to vote and that local school issues are on the ballot. We urge them to educate themselves on the issues.
- Reflections is close to wrapping up, and we're excited to see the work of our talented Wildcats!

## Westwood PTSA

- The Westwood PTSA was a part of history this month! We were a part in the first ever Voter Registration Pep Rally! We helped organize local elected officials and the League of Women Voters to talk to our Seniors about the importance of voting and how to vote. They got to see a ballot, a voting machine and then eligible students were registered to vote.
- Our wonderful Hospitality Team provided a teacher appreciation lunch during their training day and it was a great success! Our beloved teachers enjoyed a good meal including Bush's chicken, salads, fruits, pastas, desserts and many other items from our parent donations. We are very grateful of our Westwood parent community!

- Last year Westwood PTSA created a budget line item for school safety. Teachers in the science and social study rooms have asked for blinds so that in the event of a security issue, they could close the blinds on their interior windows. PTSA partnered with Cherie Jenkins of Blind Outfitters to ensure that the remaining interior windows in the social studies and science

windows have blinds. The blinds were installed over the long weekend in October.

- Westwood Spirit is alive and well! Our 5th Quarter Car Parking Lot Party was a huge success — many students arrived back at Westwood after the football game, but others came out to dance before the game was over. We had a DJ and lots of free food and can't wait for next year!

- Westwood is currently conducting surveys are part of the School of Excellence program. We will submit our survey results to National PTA in November.

- Student memberships are up this school year as compared to last year. We have also increased our student involvement in our PTSA.

- During the months of September and October, we participated in the annual Clothes

Closets Underwear Drive, competing against McNeil to see which school could collect the most donations. Although Westwood did not win, we are happy to report that we collected 2202 pairs for the Clothes Closet.



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# 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 &amp; 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 <a href="mailto:roundrocktx@codeninjas.com">roundrocktx@codeninjas.com</a></p>
 <p>RRISD PTA members will receive:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete Consultation</li> <li>2. Nerve and Muscle Scans</li> <li>3. Report of Findings</li> </ol> <p>\$20 Individual/\$50 Family (\$100 value/ person)</p>	 <p>SPECIAL FOR RRISD PTAS \$150 includes up to 100 KONAS for all school parties and reward programs (\$200 value)</p>

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## TEXAS PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Visit [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org) for details – Go to Local PTA Leaders, click on Membership, then Member Benefits.




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## NATIONAL PTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for details – Go to About PTA / Member Benefits Providers

