

Georgetown ISD Council of **PTA**[®] *everychild.onevoice.*[®]

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Small Town Life = Great Reasons for Giving Thanks!

Today, I was experiencing a typical day in the life of any busy parent in Georgetown. I had just walked my son into the music store where he takes his electric guitar lessons and ran into another mom taking care of her own child's musical needs (buying reeds for the concert taking place that night). What's not so typical is that this person was another PTA President. This is one of the reasons I'm thankful to live in Georgetown. Not only do we live in a great community, but within that community are active, concerned parents being parents. Parents who are taking care of their children, parents who are advocating for needed change, and parents who are making a difference in the lives of not only their own children, but all of the children in the community. Our strong GISD PTA leaders are one main reason that I will be giving thanks this Thanksgiving Day.

However, there are many other reasons for me to give thanks too. Georgetown, Texas has a rich heritage and is a close-knit community that still feels like a "small town". The chance encounter I described above typifies what makes Georgetown special.

Another contributor to how special Georgetown is: the beautiful San Gabriel Rivers that flow through our community reminding us of the power of nature and how grateful we should be for the rain, the sun, and the natural beauty found in the changing colors of the fall leaves.

It's also important that we remember to thank our family and friends with whom we interact daily. Giving a hug is a great way to show our appreciation for one another. Our days are precious gifts and moments shared should be cherished.

Our freedom as Americans is another important reason to give thanks. We are fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world. We are fortunate to walk among great Americans daily. Please take the time to look at the great Americans around you; friends, family, colleagues, or children and say thanks. We should be thankful and proud to live in these United States of America!

The most important things we can be thankful for are our CHILDREN. The children in the Georgetown Independent School District are bright, remarkable, kind individuals with a wealth of potential just waiting to be shared. By providing them guidance and direction, by encouraging them to reach their individual potential, by looking to them for future leadership, and by advocating for their educational needs we are giving thanks for the gifts they will bestow on all of us in our community and in our world in the near future. Our children's smiles are a great reason to give thanks.

~Beth Purcell - Council President



Apply the three R's to your holiday season. Here are three holiday green tips that are so simple you won't believe how easy it is to make a difference:

- **Reduce your waste** by buying only what you need. Instead of buying plastic plates and cups for parties, use spare dishes that can be washed in the dishwasher.
- **Reuse last year's holiday decorations and party wear.** Holiday decorations can be reused year after year. Use LED Christmas lights to save energy and reduce your risk of fires. If you buy a real Christmas tree, please don't let it end up at the landfill. Georgetown will have a recycle location for your tree to make mulch for our city parks.
- **Recycle as much as possible.** Save boxes and wrapping and tissue paper, and even those unwanted presents.

Upcoming Events:

**11/25 SHAC Meeting
8:30 am support
services building**

**11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving
Holidays:
No School**

11/30 Get GT Fit begins

**12/1 District Reflections
deadline**

12/15 UIL dues due

**12/21-12/31 Winter Break:
No School**



Save the Date:

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
5:30 to 7:30 pm
Ninth Grade Center cafeteria

Student Enrichment

Reflections local competitions should be complete and local ceremonies planned for each campus. 20% of all entries submitted at a local level qualify to advance to the District level. The district deadline for Reflections is December 1, 2009. Please email Vanessa Aguillon aguillonv@georgetownisd.org if you have any questions or concerns about getting your entries to the district level.

UIL is continuing to enrich each interested student in our district. We are excited to have 100% participation this year on every campus. We've added Art and Music Memory on some campuses and are appreciative of the funds provided to participate in these contests from GISD. The district meet is scheduled on two different days beginning with the Ready Writing event on January 20, 2010

at Benold Middle School at 4:00 pm. All other events will take place at the 9th Grade Campus on January 22, 2010 beginning with pizza dinner for competitors at 3pm followed by events. For campuses competing in all events, dues are \$150.00. Campus Dues for the District meet will be due December 15, 2009.

The Hill Country Book Festival was held at the Georgetown Public Library on November 14, 2009. The organization hosted a writing competition encouraging any 3rd-12th grader in GISD to enter. This was the Festival's first year to incorporate a writing competition. I am pleased to announce we had a great turn out, proving once again that Georgetown students are hungry for more enrichment.

Get GT Fit is in full swing!

The coaches and elementary students have already started the "Born to Run" program in the schools and next week students will come home with their new Get GT Fit! T-shirts. We are also happy to report that the school nurses are starting a super staff wellness program.

This year, Get GT Fit! will be brought to you as a entire Fit Family program booklet. Not only does it provide a 12 week exercise program, it also contains healthy habits to make sure everyone in our district is getting fit and healthy. There's even a section to help you stay on track over the upcoming holidays!! Be sure to mark off your daily successes with the Fit Tracker in the middle of your booklet.

Watch for your school's kick-off event and get your tennis shoes ready. Use the calendar on the right to stay up-to-date.

Thank you to the sponsors who make it all possible: Extraco Banks, Georgetown Health Foundation, Koy Animal Clinic, Georgetown Pediatric Dentistry, AdvoCare, and Runtex.

Get GT Fit! Calendar

Week 1	Nov. 30, 2009
Week 2	Dec. 7, 2009
Week 3	Dec. 14, 2009
Week 4	Dec. 21, 2009
Holiday Week	Dec. 28, 2009
Week 5	Jan. 4, 2010
Week 6	Jan. 11, 2010
Week 7	Jan. 18, 2010
Week 8	Jan. 25, 2010
Week 9	Feb. 1, 2010
Week 10	Feb. 7, 2010
Week 11	Feb. 14, 2010
Week 12	Feb. 21, 2010
RACE DAY!!	Feb. 27, 2010



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR PRINCIPALS AND FACULTY MEMBERS WHO CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE PTA MEMBERS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!