

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

September 15, 2009

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Follow us on FACEBOOK too!

On your mark, get set, GO!

Believe it or not, the 2009-2010 Academic Race has begun!

The GISD Council of PTAs is off to a fast start. The pace is quickening, too, as we look at all of the "legs" involved in this race. Team Roundup started us off with a wide array of training opportunities for all PTA members across the district. We hope you enjoyed attending our Roundup as much as we enjoyed organizing and providing it for you. We would like to offer a special note of thanks to Superintendent Dr. Abbe Boring for addressing our Roundup attendees. We'd also like to thank all of the GISD staff and administrators who attended too.

The second "leg" of our race is Reflections. This year's Reflections theme is "Beauty is..". Our students should have ample ideas from which to choose because of the beautiful area in which we live. Our city is full of gorgeous places and people too. Please encourage your students or children to participate in Reflections and help us keep pace!

The third "leg" of our race is the Council sponsored Academic UIL competition in January. To keep pace in this "leg", students will need to sharpen their skills in Spelling, Number Sense, Ready Writing, Oral reading, and on some campuses, Music Memory and Art.

The fourth "leg" of the race is the "Get GT Fit 5K event" on February 27, 2010. If you don't have your running shoes on yet, there's still time to train and prepare on your own or with the elementary and middle school students in GISD. The elementary students will continue the "Born To Run" program for their preparation for the big 5K. This "leg" will take a lot of extra effort. Please help by volunteering; we can use all of the extra "legs" we can get.

Even after our race is over, we still have other events that will keep us busy. The finale to our race is the GISD Council Summer Info Fair on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. Before we know it, this year's academic race will be over, and it will be time to "think about summer" and getting ready for 2010-2011.

So, as we approach the first handoff in the race, remember: it's up to all of us to keep up the pace!

Thanks so much for your support and commitment to our GISD Council of PTAs.

Guess who's having a birthday? We all are!



Texas PTA turns 100 on Oct. 19, 2009, and we're all having a party to celebrate the contributions of PTAs - past, present, and future. A Centennial Celebration for the whole family will be held on the field of the Cotton Bowl Sunday, October 18, 2009, during the State Fair in Dallas. Bring your family to the fair, and join us between 2:00-6:00 p.m. for activities and entertainment in the Cotton Bowl field.

If you would like to support this event but cannot attend, join our [Virtual Attendance Facebook Group](#). Find it listed as **Texas State PTA Centennial at the Cotton Bowl**.

Upcoming Council Events:

- Sept. 15** Sign-up deadline for Sept. LOT
- Sept. 22** Sign-up deadline for Oct. LOT
- Sept. 29** LOT 6-8:15pm GISD Boardroom
- Sept. 30** Membership Early Bird Award Deadline
- Oct. 1** \$75 Council dues are due
- Oct. 6** LOT 1-3:15pm GISD Boardroom
- Oct. 7** Executive Board Meeting 11-12:30pm
- Oct. 15** PTA Unit Taxes and 990s due

REMINDER:

Council dues of \$75 are due Oct. 1st.
Checks should be made payable to "GISD Council of PTAs" and can be mailed c/o Kristee Watts, Council Treasurer 525 Greenridge Rd, Georgetown TX 78628.

Also note: 990s are due Oct 15th for PTAs whose fiscal year send May 31st.

Questions? Contact Kristee Watt at 863-4830 or txwatts@suddenlink.net

Message from the Superintendent

I would like to welcome everyone to the start of another great school year. As I visited schools just prior to our first day and during the first few weeks of school, it was very clear to me that everyone worked hard to make sure that our schools were ready for children and parents. From clean floors, to attractive classrooms, to supplies and furniture in place, to textbooks, to bus routes, class assignments, and schedules for MS and HS, to the all important smiles on the faces of teachers, parents and staff, and everyone involved attended to every detail needed to open school. You as our PTA and parent leaders also made a huge difference in working with staff to ensure that everything was ready for our first day and beyond. Thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication!

As we opened the 2009-2010 school year we also had much to celebrate from the 2008-2009 school year. Highlights of our success include:

- Our three exemplary schools: Ford Elementary, Village Elementary, and "newcomer" Mitchell Elementary.
 - Our eight recognized schools: Frost/McCoy, Carver/Pickett, Purl/Williams, Cooper, and the Ninth Grade Center. We were especially proud of Cooper Elementary demonstrating improvement in 20 of the 20 areas measured by the State.
 - Overall, the district demonstrated improvement in all academic areas and received ratings as follows:
 - Reading/Language Arts – Exemplary
 - Writing – Exemplary
 - Mathematics – Exemplary
 - Social Studies – Exemplary
 - Science – Exemplary
- Completion Rate – Academically Acceptable, which is our challenge for this year!

For the 2009-2010 school year we will remain focused on the seven goals developed by the "Team of Eight" and approved by our Board of Trustees:

- Goal 1: Exemplary Performance
- Goal 2: Prepared Graduates
- Goal 3: Quality Staff
- Goal 4: Quality Learning Environments & Facilities
- Goal 5: Positive perceptions, relationships and collaboration
- Goal 6: Fiscal Accountability & Responsibility
- Goal 7: Organizational and Operational Effectiveness

We will also concentrate on our four areas of focus:

- Implementation of the Communications Plan (Underway!)
- A Comprehensive Policy Review (Underway!)
- Development of a Line Item Budget (Completed)
- Curriculum Review (Underway!)

While we have much to celebrate, our challenge this year is to build upon our previous success and go to the next level by focusing on every student, every day. We are challenging each other not to look at our students as they are, but as they could be. We are challenging each other to dwell in the possibility of what our children can be every day.

I look forward to working with you throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Working together, I know that we can . . .

Dwell in Possibility -

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

The PTA needs your environmental support!

Be part of our Eco team and work to make our schools greener and our kids eco-educated with information and projects like these outlined below.

REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE!

- Go (almost) paperless in your school by using email! This year, GISD PTA is promoting an almost paperless program. At Ford Elementary, out of 600 students, they have only 31 families that wanted to keep receiving paper copies. That is a huge savings in both money and paper for the school! Find out what your school is doing and push for notes and flyers to be sent out via email instead of paper handouts.
- Remind and encourage your students to use a 24/7 Paper Recycler such as Abitibi. (www.paperretriever.com). It raises money for schools and is great for the environment.
- Get a plastic bottle/can recycle station to put in your teacher's lounge. Every little bit helps!
- The **Funding Factory** recycling program raises money for your schools! (www.fundingfactory.com) Make sure your school is participating in the recycling of toners / laser cartridges or old cell phones. Remind kids, teachers and parents that we don't want these items in our landfills and have your bins clearly labeled in school designated areas.
- Don't be afraid to get the teachers involved by initiating environmental discussions within the classroom.
- Share your ideas with other schools and let's make this our year to shine.

I would like us all to get together a month before National Environmental Education Week which precedes Earth Day, April 22nd 2009 to go over any plans, projects or road blocks you may be having with your schools.

Terrie Resler GISD PTA Environmental Chairperson reslertm@hotmail.com

The 2009-2010 Council Board is here for you!

President	Beth Purcell	293-4619
VP, Finance/Fundraising	Shand Norfleet	864-0220
VP, Training /Development	Karen Smith	863-0617
VP, Communications	Heather Morse	773-9431
VP, Student Enrichment	Carmen May	931-2063
VP, Family Enrichment	Donna Jobe	609-9510
Treasurer	Kristee Watts	863-4830
Secretary	Debbie Sannwaldt	863-9094
Parliamentarian	Ann Hardesty	819-0828
Membership	Michelle Jones	860-6707
Hospitality	Laurie Hart	868-5595
Legislative	Nita Donelon	868-6806
Prevention and Wellness	Jackie Holcomb	869-0723
Reflections	Vanessa Aguillon	639-9149
Environmental	Terrie Resler	590-9288



Pull your running shoes out of the closet because it's time again to Get GT Fit. This year, not only are we supporting the "Born To Run" program in all of our elementary schools, but we are expanding the 12-week adult program now entitled "Fit Family". This 12-week guide has not only an excellent daily exercise schedule provided by RunTex, but a new healthy habit each week. We are excited for our middle school scholars, high school scholars, teachers, staff, parents and the business community to all pick up a few healthy habits.

This year's Get GT Fit 5K will be on February 27th, so the 12-week program will start November 30th. In addition, the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) has chosen "Get GT Fit" as meeting one of the four requirements for a healthy ISD, and the ACHIEVE Coalition is noting this exciting, community-wide effort. Ask your local PTA Wellness Chair how you can get involved today and Get GT FIT!!!



UIL Update!

What's new? This year several GISD campuses are offering UIL Art and UIL Music Memory contests to their students along with Number Sense, Oral Reading, Ready Writing and Spelling. These new contests are brought to our children thanks to funding from our GISD partners.

We look forward to learning about these new contests with our students.

*If you know of someone who would like more academic UIL info, please have them contact Beth Purcell: wbpurcell@msn.com

Save the Date:

The 13th annual **Summer Info Fair** will be held Tues., Mar. 9th at the new Ninth Grade Campus cafeteria.

GISD Board of Trustees and School Board Meeting Information

Please consider attending a School Board meeting. Monthly meetings are open to the public and are a great way to become involved in your child’s education. The School Board meets on the third Monday of each month at the Central Admin Building located at 603 Lakeway Drive. You are always invited to attend and observe or you may address the board in person by signing up prior to the start of each meeting.

The Georgetown Independent School District is led by a Board of Trustees elected by the community. The Board of Trustees governs the district by adopting policy and regulations.

You may also receive a School Board meeting agendas and minutes via email by contacting Carmen Domal at domelc@georgetownisd.org with your name and email address.

The Board of Trustees and their contact information are listed below:

- Sheila Carter, Place 1** carters@georgetownisd.org
- Dr. Sally Peel, Place 2** pells@georgetownisd.org
- Arthur Dela Cruz, Place 3** delacruz@georgetownisd.org
- Mark Bobinger, Place 4** bobingerm@georgetownisd.org
- Mike Hewlett, Place 5** hewlettm@georgetownisd.org
- Greg Eady, Place 6** eadyg@georgetownisd.org
- Bradley Smith, Place 7** smith@georgetownisd.org

GISD Superintendent:
Dr. Abbe Boring boringa@georgetownisd.org

To receive email updates regarding State and National educational policy, news and events visit www.txpta.org and click on the email alerts tab.

Council Training Report

Your PTA Council is pleased to report that our Annual PTA Round Up was a great success! We had over 100 attendees hear Dr. Boring speak about the District, answer questions and attend various breakout sessions for Officers and Chairpersons Training. We are excited that we had Florence PTA representatives come and have some fun and gain a lot of knowledge about PTA. A HUGE “Thank You” to First Baptist Church Georgetown for, once again, allowing our Council to hold this event at their wonderful facility. FBCGT is truly a partner in PTAs Mission of Making Every Child’s Potential a Reality!

The next training opportunity will be Leadership Orientation Training (LOT). There are two dates: September 29 (6-8:15 PM) with a RSVP deadline of September 15 **OR** October 6 (1-3:15 PM) with a RSVP deadline of September 22. Both sessions are being held at the GISD Administration Building/Board Room. RSVPs MUST be made in order to order the proper number of training booklets. To RSVP please e-mail Karen Smith at snrasmith@msn.com. This training is mandatory for all Board members and is highly suggested for Chairpersons, also. It is a one-time training!



The theme for the 2009–2010 PTA Reflections Program is “Beauty is...” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing.

A student may develop an entry in or outside of school. The national PTA organization does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**
- Middle/Junior: **grades 6–8**
- Senior: **grades 9–12**

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, the national PTA organization suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: **up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **ages 8–10**
- Middle/Junior: **ages 11–13**
- Senior: **ages 14+**

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of six arts areas:

- Dance choreography
- Film production
- Literature
- Musical composition
- Photography
- Visual arts

Congratulations to Council VP of Training and Development, Karen Smith, who has been elected to the Area 6 PTA board as Secretary and to our Council VP of Communications, Heather Morse, who has also been appointed to serve on the Area 6 PTA Board as Communications Chair! Way to go ladies!