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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Happy New Year Stallions!

I hope each of you got plenty of rest, played to your hearts content and created beautiful memories with your children over the holidays. As you embark on 2010, I encourage you to find your niche in the PTA. Each of you has special gifts, interests and talents that would be a blessing to our school and students. Please share them with us.

Is there a committee or board position that you are interested in? Please let me know. Our PTA bylaws provide that no chairperson shall serve in the same office for more than two (2) consecutive one-year terms. So, this may be *your* opportunity to get involved and have a direct impact at Steiner Ranch Elementary in 2010-2011. Nominations for next year's board and committee chairs will be collected in the spring, followed by an election, if necessary. Already a committee chair or executive board member? If you have completed a two term, why not spice things up and try something new? After all, *new* people in *new* positions will bring in *new* ideas, *new* enthusiasm and lots of energy!

What's coming up? Nominations for charities and fundraising ideas were collected in December. In the next week or so, students will vote for which charity to support in its annual *Pay It Forward* charitable fundraising effort. Likewise, at the next **General Meeting on January 15th at 9:00 AM** (cafeteria), the membership will begin discussions and possibly decide on PTA fundraisers for 2010-2011. Please make plans to attend this very important meeting. Our annual Science Rodeo will be held on February 17th. Hands-on science activities, explosions and smoking dry ice....interested? Do not miss this fun and educational family event.

Finally, thank you Susan Kemmerer, Sarah Ribeiro, Brownie Troop #1743, the Cub Scouts and all who donated during our annual Toy Drive in December. You spread the holiday spirit through your efforts and generosity. Many kids in Austin had a brighter Christmas this year having received the special toys donated by our Stallions.

See you at the general meeting on January 15th!
Jean Wong

PTA FUNDRAISERS — FALL 2009

Are you wondering how our fundraisers did last fall? Here are the results:

Sally Foster Gift Wrap:	\$12,000
Silent Auction & State Fair:	\$15,500 Auction \$1,500 Fair
Used Book Sale:	\$863
Christmas at the Ranch:	\$1,536
Scholastic Book Fair: (fall only)	\$4,182
Student Directory Business Ads:	\$3,000

PTA's final fundraiser for the school year is the spring book fair on May 4th - 6th.

Steiner Ranch
Elementary
4001 Quinlan Park Rd.
Austin, TX 78732
512-570-5700

CALENDAR

January

- 4: School Resumes
 11: Otis Spunkemyer Cookie Dough Sales Begins
 15: PTA General Meeting (9:00 a.m.)
 18: No School, MLK Day

February

- 1 – 3: LISD In-Service Break
 11: Spring Pictures – Class & Individuals
 17: Science Rodeo
 24: Art Show

March

- 1, 3 – 5: TAKS Testing, All Levels
 15 – 19: Spring Break
 26: PTA General Meeting (9:00 a.m.)



LINKS

- Steiner Ranch Elementary
<http://steiner.leanderisd.org/>
- Leander ISD
<http://www.leanderisd.org/>
- LISD Calendar
<http://www.leanderisd.org/docs/1-Calo809.pdf>
- LISD Community Fliers
<http://www.leanderisd.org/default.aspx?name=dept.SCR.comm.fliers>
- GradeSpeed
<http://www.leanderisd.org/default.aspx?name=par.stu.gradespeed>
- MealTime Online
<https://www.mymealtime.com/signin.aspx>
- PTA/Volunteer Website
<http://steiner.my-pta.org/>
- To Log Volunteer Hours
<http://www.givemytime.com/volunteers/volunteer.php>

DISTRICT NEWS

Expand Your Universe. Mentor A Child

January is **National Mentoring Month**.

(www.nationalmentoringmonth.org) a time which highlights mentoring and the positive impact it can have on young lives. This month-long outreach campaign focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us—individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits—can work together to increase the number of mentors and assure brighter futures for our young people.

This January Leander ISD would like to especially thank our current mentors. Because of the time and energy you give, more than 340 LISD students receive encouragement and support from a caring adult.

If you are interested in mentoring a student, contact LISD Partners in Education Director Jennifer Williams at 570-0027 or at jennifer.williams@leanderisd.org. Also, watch the LISD Web site (www.leanderisd.org) for January mentor training dates.

When you serve as a mentor, you enrich your own life as much as the life of a child. Mentoring leads to new experiences, new connections, new insights and new satisfactions. So, don't delay. *Expand your universe. Mentor a child.*

OPERATION DREAM BIG 2009 - 2010

On Tuesday, November 17, 2009, Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA members participated in approving various items to be purchased for the benefit of the students, teachers and the school itself. Over 25% of the general membership voted on the *Operation: Dream Big* proposal. Here are the approved items ranked by percentage of approval:

4th Grade - six (6) Document Camera	\$2,850	95%
3rd Grade - six (6) Document Cameras	\$2,850	94%
1st Grade - Multimedia Cart	\$1,578	92%
2nd Grade - Multimedia Cart	\$1,578	91%
Playground Improvements	\$3,000	90%
5th Grade - five (5) Apple Computer Laptops	\$6,000	89%
Art Department - Art Supplies	\$ 250	83%
Literacy Library - Additions & Improvements	\$3,500	79%
BrainPOP Annual School-wide Subscription	\$1,425	75%
Kindergarten - six (6) Floor Rugs	\$2,415	72%
Heavy gauge outdoor picnic tables- three (3) tables	\$3,200	70%
P.E. Department - Heart Rate Monitors	\$ 800	57%

This is such an exciting time for our school. The process toward purchasing the top ten items has already begun. The last two approved items will be addressed at the January 15th general meeting. It's certainly uncommon for a PTA to spend over \$27,000 on its school. We are thankful to have had the ability to do so. Thank you, PTA members, for getting informed and participating in *Operation: Dream Big*. - SRE PTA

SCIENCE RODEO - FEBRUARY 17TH SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Science Rodeo will held from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th. The Science Rodeo is a fun-filled, family event, where kids and parents enjoy learning and discovering cool science stuff *together*. Kids will partner up with parents or other designated grown-ups to do experiments and check out demos/displays.

We're already beginning to plan the event and would love more volunteers for the planning committee. You don't need a science background, just an interest in being involved.



We will also need lots of volunteers before, during, and after the Rodeo to help with material preparation, event set-up/tear-down, event check-in, activity staffing, and many other areas. Please see the SRE PTA volunteer website to sign up for these opportunities. If you are unfamiliar with the SRE PTA volunteer website, don't let that stop you from volunteering - please contact us directly, so that we can help you sign up for a shift!

If you have an older student (6th grade and up), who needs service/volunteer hours, this is a fun way to meet those requirements. We're also looking for volunteer student scientists from Canyon Ridge Middle School to take part in the science fair - so encourage your Middle Schooler to participate!

If you would like to volunteer, have ideas, or would like to share your science talents - please let us know! You can contact us at jballengue@hotmail.com or kenirenner@austin.rr.com (249-1968). Thanks! **Julie Ballengee and Keni Renner**

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR STEINER SHIRTS ON FRIDAYS!!!!

Cool weather has arrived. Are you needing a warm hoodie for Friday Spirit Wear Day?

Pick up an order form in the cafeteria or online at the PTA website <http://steiner.my-pta.org/>. Looking for your next opportunity to buy Spirit Wear from a real live person? I will be selling shirts at all major school events. Look for the spirit wear table at the Science Rodeo.

Wanting to get involved and help out your Steiner Ranch PTA. Contact **Holly Dees** at ccdees@sbcglobal.net for more information.



BOX TOP WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT!

Congratulations to Ms. Wissen's 2nd grade class for winning our Fall Box Tops Competition!!!! Wow, the numbers are in and here they are:
Box Tops

1st place: Ms. Wissen (2nd grade) 1,384 Box tops

2nd place: Ms. Mayfield (2nd grade) 945 Box tops

3rd place: Ms. Faggard (2nd grade) 803 Box tops

It was truly a race between 2nd grade classes this year! Ms. Wissen received a \$25.00 Target gift card and her class is receiving a popcorn and movie party!

Our school collected 4,835 Box Tops, Campbells, Tyson's, Community Coffee and Buddy Bucks! Way to go Steiner Ranch Elementary.

Thank you to the ladies in the front office who volunteered to count and glue our labels!

Please continue to save your labels, as we will have another contest in February. Thank you again for a wonderful start this year!

If you have any questions feel free to contact **Brenda Becker** at Brenda@Beckerworld.net



SPRING CARNIVAL COMMITTEE NOW FORMING

Do you miss our school's spring carnival?

It's been awhile since we've had one. Steiner Ranch Elementary PTA wants to bring back the spring carnival this year *but with a twist.*



Since our mission includes *encouraging public involvement* in our school, we hope to encourage area businesses, organizations and community groups to participate in and/or sponsor this "give back" (non-fundraiser) family event. It serves as a reward to Stallion students and families for a job well done this school year. By securing help from these entities, we hope to reduce the need for an *army* of parent volunteers. We will still need some volunteers during the event; however, it should be a more manageable effort.

Are you the party planner or event organizer type?
Are you connected with area businesses or groups?

Please join the Spring Carnival Committee.

We really need your help to turn this *community involvement* concept into reality. Contact **Jean Wong**, jeanwong1021@gmail.com, to get involved.

TASC PROGRAM SPECIAL REQUEST

It's after Christmas and your kids have plenty of new toys. Do you have any Legos and/or K'Nex sets or pieces, laying around the house and want to get rid of them?

Please consider donating them to SRE's TASC (Training for Academic Success in the Classroom) program.



TASC is a specially designed to support students who have behavioral challenges in the general education classroom. Legos and K'Nex building toys are requested to help develop cooperative skills to enable TASC students to excel in the general classroom environment.

If you can help, please bring your Legos or K'Nex donations to school and have them labeled, *For TASC PROGRAM.*

Thank you for your generosity and help. Questions? Contact **Heath Robinson**, TASC teacher, at heath.robinson@leanderisd.org.



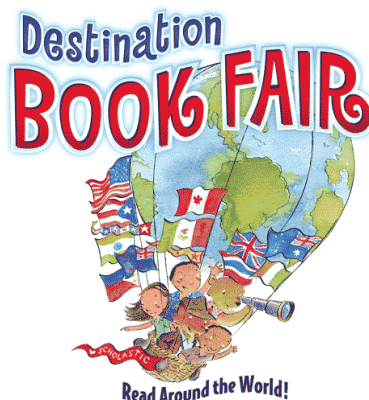
A SUCCESSFUL READING TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

We would like to thank you for making our Fall Book Fair a success! We raised approximately \$4,100 for SRE PTA and \$1,000 for SRE Library. We had a great week promoting reading to our SRE students and their families. We hope everyone is enjoying their new books.

We would like to give a SPECIAL thank you to **Tami Heagney** for her talent and creativity that made our book fair decorations look AWESOME!!! Thank you also to **Jessica Bode** and **Christy Schmitt** for helping Tami with her WONDERFUL ideas. Another big thank you goes out to **Lynn Galyen** for running the teacher preview afternoon with refreshments as well as organizing our teacher wish list program. We know the teachers greatly appreciate any donations made to their class libraries! Thank you also to **Tiffany Esquivel** and **Kerri Rose** who were busy bees stapling the handouts and wish lists that came home in Wednesday folders as well as on preview day. We could not have finished out each day of sales without the help of **Terese Barborak** and **Wendy Gray**. These two women made good friends with the tellers at the bank on a daily basis.

Once again this event would not happen if we did not have the many volunteers who gave their time during this week to help. The volunteers on set-up day were MUCH APPRECIATED and we could not have done it without you. For those of you who worked a shift or two during the book fair, please know we appreciate you! We look forward to seeing the students again along with many great books the first week of May.

Melinda McAfee and Katherine Mathis



WATCH D.O.G.S. PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW AND IS IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS

Watch D.O.G.S. has been well received by fathers, father figures, teachers, administrators, staff and students. We now need more help!!

If you want an extremely rewarding volunteer position, are organized, have a computer and love your computer ☺, please review the job description below. Please contact **Piper Labaj** at piperlabaj@gmail.com for more information.

Watch D.O.G.S. Schedule responsibilities:

- 1) Create Watch D.O.G.S. daily schedules (To view the site for a sample schedule, please go to: <http://steiner.my-pta.org/> and click on the Watch D.O.G.S. tab.
- 2) Correspond with teachers and staff regarding Watch D.O.G.S. schedules
- 3) Review school calendar and engage Activity Coordinators in case there is a need for a Watch D.O.G.S. at a certain event
- 4) Time commitment is about 1-1.5 hours per schedule. There are usually 5 schedules in a week.
- 5) Training will occur, so don't worry about not knowing how to create schedules.
- 6) Collaborate with Program Director on program goals and activities.



Thank you in advance for your consideration.

STALLION STAMPEDE PARTICIPANTS RECORD 1,5950.5 MILES SO FAR THIS YEAR!

Wow, these Stallions sure are going the distance! The kids ran a total of 834.25 miles in November, totaling 1,5950.5 miles this school-year-to-date! The *Golden Shoe* class competition is hot with the 2nd & 5th grade classes having new winners.

The Golden Shoe Recipients are:

Kindergarten	Miller	37.25 miles
1 st Grade - Cole	51 miles (Way to go!!)	
2 nd Grade - Hall	39 miles (New Recipient!)	
3 rd Grade - Prieto	30.5	
4 th Grade - Peter	48 miles	
5 th Grade - Haines	17.75 miles (New Recipient!)	

Our next registration deadline is February 22nd. Please make sure the registration form is in the office no later than February 22nd in order to run on February 25th. Confirmation emails will be sent.

Stallion Stampede miles DO count toward Marathon Kids miles. Each 'dot' is a pie slice on the Marathon Kids tracking form.

A copy of the form is on our yahoo site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srestallionstampede/>.

After completion of the Marathon Kids tracking form, please turn it into Ms. O, PE teacher. The Marathon Kids Finish at Burger Stadium is at 11 am on February 20th.

More information can be found at www.marathonkids.org.

Dismissal: Please remind your children how they are going home each week. If children are not going to the YMCA or home with a volunteer, the only option is rear parent pickup.

Withdrawal from Stampede:

If you need to withdraw your child from Stampede, please email: katpankey@aol.com.

Weather Conditions and Cancellation of Stampede:

With the recent heavy rains, a couple of Stampede sessions had to be cancelled due to inclement weather and/or bad field conditions. If Stampede is cancelled, we will send a notification via the PTA database. Please ensure your email is correct in that database.

A notification will also be sent to the yahoo group. To register for the yahoo group, please go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srestallionstampede/>. If you are unable to check email, please call the Stallion Stampede hotline at: 570-5721.

Thanks again to all of our volunteers who make Stallion Stampede happen!!

Katherine Mathis, katpankey@aol.com; **Kelley Arnold**, mkallarnold@yahoo.com; **Leslie Shaffer**, Leslie.F.Shaffer@dell.com

We are pleased to announce that many more Stallions have reached milestones. Congratulations to these students:

1st Grade

10 Mile: Taylor Bowman, Alex Silvertooth, Teddy Waugh, Lauren Campbell, Joseph Rodriguez, Emilie Reh

25 Mile: Taylor Chronert, Landry Arnold, Katrina Cole

2nd Grade

10 Mile: Clayton Meyer, Brandon Mills

25 Mile: Noah Wolk, Spandana Kamepalli

75 Mile: Eric Morris

3rd Grade

10 Mile: Jack Waugh, Orianna Santucci

100 Mile: Avery Panoff

125 Mile: Matthew Klassen

150 Mile: Grant Shaffer

4th Grade

10 Mile: Viswanath Kasireddy, Tara Lujan, McKenna DuBose, Luke Salazar, Emily Youngblood

175 Mile: LeeAnn Morris

5th Grade

10 Mile: Andrew Hassall

75 Mile: Spoorthi Kamepalli

150 Mile: Danny Klassen