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FROM THE PTA PRESIDENT

Dear SRE,

As my two years as SRE PTA president come to a close I want to take a minute to recap our achievements and say thank you for helping make our school so successful. The countless hours of dedication and service are appreciated!

Some of our highlights from the last two years:

- Raised over \$150,000 through our Silent Auction, Scholastic Book Fair, Used Book Fair, Box Tops and Christmas at the Ranch.
- Provided planners, Wednesday folders, as well as many other supplies to the students.
- Provided over \$34,500 for our teacher consumables, special project money and continuing education.
- Planted wildflowers and developed the best outdoor classroom in the district.
- Provided leadership to conduct many LISD programs such as the Reflections program, the LISD Clothes Closet and Spanish programs.
- Facilitated a Holiday Toy Drive and a Canned Food Drive after the hurricane in Galveston and helped when in need in our immediate community.
- Conducted the best Pay it Forward program with students deciding the charity and collecting over \$22,000 for Pennies for Patients.
- Implemented a new online volunteer system and website.
- Led the Stallion Stampede running program that helped improve our children's fitness and well being.
- Renovation of the landscape at the front of our school (scheduled to be completed in late May).
- Provided solar blinds for the library.

I would also like to add a special thank you to the PTA board and Ms. Bennett for their support, wisdom and time during the last two years; I could not have done the job without you.

See you at school ~

Elisabeth Richardson
SRE PTA president 2007-2009

Steiner Ranch
Elementary
4001 Quinlan Park Rd.
Austin, TX 78732
434.7100

CALENDAR

May

- 4th—8th:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- Tue, 5th:** Pennies for Patients Assembly, 2p
Clash Day
- Wed, 6th:** Pre-K and K Registration, 7:30a-11:00a
and 1:00p-6:30p
- Wed, 13th:** PTA Board Meeting, 1:30p
- Fri, 15th:** Field Day
- Mon, 18th:** PTA General Meeting, 9:30a
- Thu, 21st:** 3rd Grade Puppet Parade
- Mon, 25th:** No School

June

- Fri, 5th:** Last Day of School
- 5th Grade Crossing Over Ceremony,
8:30am, MPR
- 5th Grade Crossing Over Pool Party,
11:00a—2:00p, Bella Mar pool

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

- Mon, 4th:** Afternoon cookie snacks
from the Steiner Market
- Tue, 5th:** Breakfast tacos from the
Steiner Market
- Wed, 6th:** Teacher luncheon from
Lakeside Pizza & Grill
- Thu, 7th:** Coffee Bar from Delicato
- Fri, 8th:** Afternoon ice cream
sundaes from Cups & Cones



Parents, please check out the PTA website if you haven't already to sign up to cover your teacher's class during the luncheon, bake a dessert, buy ice, loan a cooler or buy sodas.

Thanks in advance, we couldn't do it without you.
~ Jannine Farnum

2009-10 PTA BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Thank you to everyone that has volunteered to be part of our PTA board or committee for 2009-2010 (see page 3). With all the talented people listed we are sure to have a great year! If a position is still listed as open and you or someone you know is interested please contact me, Elisabeth Richardson at earichardson@austin.rr.com.

CALLING ALL 5TH GRADERS!!



The Crossing Over ceremony for the 5th graders will take place on **Friday, June 5th, at 8:30 a.m. in the MPR**. Refreshments will be served. All fifth graders are invited to attend the Crossing Over Pool Party on Friday, June 5th, from 11:00 a.m. -

2:00 p.m. at the Bella Mar pool. Please bring your swim suit, a towel and lots of energy. A pizza party will be provided as well as beverages. Pool toys have been graciously donated for this event by Deanna Bentley of Avalor Real Estate.



YEARBOOK DISTRIBUTION HELP NEEDED

Yearbooks will be delivered sometime late May. If you are interested in being a coordinator next school year, yearbook distribution is a great way to get started! **Please contact either Debbie Donohue at djdonohue@mindspring.com or Jessica Bode at jessica_bode@yahoo.com** if you can help label, sort and deliver books the last week of school.

2009-2010 Proposed SRE PTA Board & Committee Chairs <i>(board positions are in boldface, open positions are in red)</i>				
President	Jean Wong		Newsletter	Open
1st Vice President – Family Events	Kim Kelley		SRE Marquee <i>Aug/Nov/Feb/May Sep/Dec/Mar/Jun Oct/Jan/Apr</i>	Lynn Galyen Laura Shay Kelly Zermeno
Cares & Concerns	Holley Aune		PTA Pay it Forward	TBD per president
Toy Drive	Susan Kemmerer Sarah Ribeiro		School Spirit	Holly Dees
Coats for Kids	Staci Forshee		Student Directory	Vicki Schnell
Reflections	Emily McElmurry		PTA Membership	Amanda Marks
Clothes Closet	Open		Room Rep. Coordinator	Jannine Farnum
Academic Support - Spring Science Rodeo	Julie Ballengee		Newcomers Meet and Greet Social	Holley Aune
2nd Vice President- Fundraising	Barbara Frierson		Teacher Appreciation	Jannine Farnum?
Scholastic Book Fairs - Fall & Spring	Melinda McAfee Katherine Mathis		Environmental Chair	Cathy Lea
Gift Wrap	Martha Conroy Claudia Wein		Wildflower Stomp	Open
Christmas at the Ranch	Sharon Walker		Used Book Sale Fall	Stefani Zoller Marilou Webb
Back to School Family Event	LaSchell Apel Lynne Gillespey		Recycling	Jennifer Martin
Back to School Event– Ticket Sales	Kathy Mills		Earth Week	Laura Stiehl
Silent Auction	Carroll Scott		Outdoor Class	Cathy Lea
Treasurer	Terese Barborak		Family Night Activities	Beth Hunt
Secretary	Susan Kemmerer		Stallion Stampede	Kelly Arnold Katherine Mathis Leslie Shaffer
Parliamentarian	Brenda Becker		Watch Dogs	Piper Labaj
Publicist	Wendy Demming		Volunteer Coordinators <i>LISD appt. events</i>	Amy Rider
Website coordinator ** new position**	Open		SRE Principal Teacher Rep.- Grades K-2 Teacher Rep.- Grades 3-5	Shirley Bennett Open Open

YEARBOOK COORDINATOR & EDITOR NEEDED FOR 2009-10



Steiner Ranch Elementary is looking for a yearbook coordinator/editor for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Working on the yearbook is an awesome opportunity to let your creative juices flow, even if you do not think you have any. It also allows you to get to

know and work with the faculty, staff and students, as well as be aware of when and what events/activities are happening around campus. If chosen, the publishing company used in the past provides an online creation and publishing tool that makes creating yearbook pages fast, easy and fun, even for the novice. In addition to the 2008 – 2009 coordinators being available to help get you started, the publisher's rep is available every step of the way. Ideally this position should have at least 2-3 publishers. So, if you like to take pictures, scrapbook or want to learn how to scrapbook electronically, the SRE yearbook might be an awesome volunteer activity for you! **Please contact either Debbie Donohue at djdonohue@mindspring.com or Jessica Bode at jessica_bode@yahoo.com.**

BOX TOPS AND MORE



The tallies are in! SRE submitted **21,325 Box Tops** which resulted in \$2,132.50 in cash that went towards the general PTA budget. In addition, SRE submitted **4,880 Campbell's labels** which resulted in \$1,220 "worth of points" to purchase art supplies and P.E. items for our school. WAY TO GO SRE!

We also want to remind parents once again to **continue saving all summer long!** Also, look for additional sources for collecting labels. There are lots of people in our community who are willing to help.

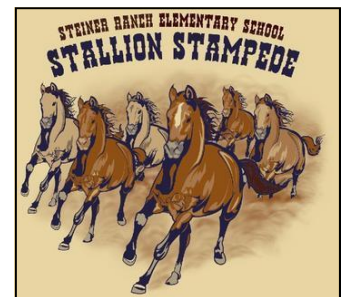


For example, one of our coordinators noticed they used Community Coffee at her doctor's office. She asked if they'd like to save the labels for us, and they were happy to put them aside for her. It never hurts to ask!

STALLION STAMPEDE

We have had a very successful program this year due to all the motivated runners and the parent volunteers. The kids have run 3,844 miles this year as of April 16th, with the average runner accumulating over 20 miles this year and some as many as 50 miles! Thanks for keeping a great program "running"! Coming soon, Stallion Stampede end of year award presentation, day/time TBD.

We would like to take a moment to welcome Kelley Arnold and Katherine Mathis to the administrative staff for Stallion Stampede 2009-2010! Leslie Shaffer will remain as the volunteer coordinator and Keni Renner will be a familiar face as a regular parent volunteer. Andrea Ahern is "retiring" from her role as she moves on to middle school and Laura Bush Elementary. Danika Taylor will remain involved if her children remain at Steiner Ranch.



SPIRIT WEAR



It is always a little sad to me to be coming to the end of another great year here at Steiner Ranch Elementary. I was looking for something to lift my spirits and I thought to myself...we need some new spirit wear for next year!!! Be on the look out for new styles to appear next fall. We will be selling spirit wear at all the major school events and a display will be set up in the cafeteria with order forms. Open House will be your first opportunity to get the new shirts hot off the presses! As always, Fridays will be the day to show your Steiner spirit and wear your new Steiner shirts. Thanks for supporting your PTA and have an awesome summer.

~ Holly Dees



SRE/PTA Joint “Pay-It-Forward” Project: Pennies for Patients Campaign Success!

You will NOT believe what your children and our community have accomplished together!! During this year’s Pennies for Patients campaign, **SRE broke our record** of \$10,000 raised last year...by collecting over **\$12,000 in just three weeks!!** The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is absolutely blown away by our overwhelming support of this cause. With your help and support, our children collected nearly \$3,650 worth of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, dollars [and some foreign coins and assorted junk!], almost \$3,390 in paper bills...and over \$5,200 in checks and on-line donations. **THANK YOU STEINER RANCH!!!!**

To give everyone involved some well-deserved recognition and an opportunity to celebrate the most successful school-wide Pay-It-Forward Project in the history of SRE, here’s what we’re planning so far:

- On May 5th at 2p we will have our **Pennies for Patients Celebration Assembly**. In attendance we’ll have our **Honored Hero, Mr. Doug Colbeck**, returning home from successful treatment for leukemia at MD Anderson! Doug’s son Noah is in Mrs. Lambert’s 4th-grade class. Let’s give him a homecoming to remember!!
- Also on May 5th, the entire school will observe **CLASH DAY!!** Send your kids in their craziest mis-matched outfits. This is a fun way for all of us to relax, have fun, and celebrate together.
- We had 15 classrooms that raised over \$100 to earn Bronze Pennants, 10 classrooms above \$200 to earn Silver Pennants, and 10 classrooms above \$300 to earn Gold Pennants in our **classroom recognition program**. For every classroom that raised at least \$200, we asked teachers to work with their students on a special incentive...so there should be a lot of rewards going around!!
- **AusTaco**, a strong local supporter of LLS, is so impressed with and proud of our kids that they are once again giving every single SRE student a coupon for a **free taco** as a token of appreciation for a job well done. Watch for these to come home soon in Wednesday folders.
- The top fundraising classrooms in each grade earned **ice cream parties**, and the top fundraising classroom overall earned a **pizza party**. Detailed results by classroom are posted on the SRE PTA website at <http://steiner.my-pta.org>.
- LLS will help us **publicize our success** with the local media.

We know there are some disappointed children [as well as teachers and parents] who worked really hard so their individual classes could “win”. Whether or not they are in one of the “winning” classrooms, please encourage your kids and their friends to be proud of everything they have contributed. **Anyone who helped with this cause is a WINNER!** SRE is now in the lead as the top fundraising school in Central Texas for the fourth year in a row!!

More importantly, **“remember the reason”**...these funds help patients with their medical expenses, and help doctors and researchers find successful treatments for blood cancers [and other cancers too], like those that have brought Mr. Colbeck home. They also pay for advocacy and education programs that benefit children and adult patients and their families. All this has helped increase the survival rate for children diagnosed with leukemia to over 80%!

As an insightful 2nd-grader said about this Pay-It-Forward, “It’s not about the pizza, it’s about the patients.” **We are \$12,000 closer to the cure...thanks to SRE and our amazing community. You are all winners.**

Gratefully,

Nancy Phillips

SRE Pennies for Patients Campaign Coordinator/Wife of Leukemia Survivor Kevin Phillips

DISTRICT NEWS - MAY 2009

Leander ISD Council of PTAs Honors Teachers

Leander ISD's Council of PTAs is joining thousands of communities across the country in celebrating PTA Teacher Appreciation Week this May 3-9. The special week honors the dedicated men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating children.

All over LISD, PTAs are hosting events throughout the week as part of a national effort to call attention to the outstanding contributions teachers make to our schools. This is an opportunity for parents and community members to thank these individuals for teaching math, science, reading and writing, and most importantly, instilling in our children the desire to learn throughout their life.

"Experts have concluded that giving teachers the status and recognition they deserve as professionals is the best way to improve education in this country," said Melissa Taylor, President of LISD's Council of PTAs. *"All of us know of exceptional teachers, and we should recognize that there is a great deal of good work being done in our schools."*

PTA expanded on Eleanor Roosevelt's idea of National Teacher Day, established in 1953, and dedicated a whole week to celebrate the accomplishments of educators.

To learn how you can help recognize the special teachers in your child's life or how you can get involved with your local PTA, contact your child's campus.

About PTA

PTA comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.



TRASH TO TREASURE: AN SRE WISH LIST

Theatre Arts is in need of small Ziploc bags.

Merci

A big thanks to the Birrell family for generously stocking our supply closet with transparencies and other 3M products!



Thank you SRE teachers, students, parents and staff who helped celebrate Earth Day this year. The can drive was a success!!! Kudos to PTA parent Jennifer Martin who coordinated all the activities for Earth Week. Keep recycling!

Thanks,
Krista Byrd
Recycling Chair