

# The Eagle Eye

Garden Oaks PTA Newsletter

March, 2008

## BALLOON-O-GRAM BIG HIT!

PTA sales of handmade cards & fun trinkets for Valentine's day made a net profit of \$700! What a fun week it was. Special thanks to Jennifer, Gyla and Helle for running the booth all week, and a big thanks to Mary & Mr. Diaz who came on the 14<sup>th</sup> to help!

## THANKS !!!

Our February PTA meeting was a great program. Thanks to those who pulled this program together on short notice: Ms. Blanco, Ms. Straker, Mr. Johanson and their assistants, Adela Garcia, Jennifer Escalante and Mercedes Torres. The kids did great, and they were very cute!

## PTA MEETING/TEACHER TALENT SHOW

The next PTA meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendar so you won't miss the talent show. Our talented teachers have a great program lined up, and lots of talents.



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST APPRECIATION

*Rick and Tonya Knauth, Stephanie Acosta, Elizabeth and Mark Klein, Shana Tatum, Amye Webster, Chris Pharis, Natalie Torres, Janna and Terry Charlton, Mercedes Torres, Ms Oswald, Heidi and Albert Lozano, Shannon and Michael Hugetz, Gina Pecararo and Phil Ramirez, Melody Sosa, Victoria Muraywed, Louann Taylor, Keisha Russell, Vena Golt, Nancy Polasek, Diane Pittman, Nellie Astorga, Carmela Holmes*

*Our dedicated teachers, Ms. Blanco, Ms. Straker, Mr. Johanson, Ms. Hall, Ms. Torres and Ms. Carson and all their assistants too!*

*And of course, a special Thank You to Ms Thomas, Tony Vivar & the Queen of the Kitchen, Ms Toliver.*

*Thanks to this incredible team, Friends of Montessori raised \$20,000 to pay for classroom materials and teacher assistants!*

## The PTA President's corner:

Dear Parents:

This school year is coming to an end very quickly, so it's time to think about next year's PTA Board. We have great board positions open. Please consider joining us! We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:15 a.m. Stop by to meet us or feel free to email Helle Johnson at [hellej@earthlink.net](mailto:hellej@earthlink.net) for more information.

It's great to be involved, to know what is going on at the school and what is coming up. Show your child(ren) you care by getting involved with the PTA. It's very rewarding and we have so much fun.

### Did you know?

The teachers who have taught at Garden Oaks the longest are: Ms. Williams (1976), Ms. Anderson (1975), Ms. Vaughn (1973) and in her 40<sup>th</sup> year at Garden Oaks, Ms. Forté (1968)!!! Thank you for your dedication to our school.

Thanks,  
*Helle Johnson*  
PTA President

### Check out our website:

[www.orgsites.com/tx/gardenoakspta](http://www.orgsites.com/tx/gardenoakspta)

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE VOLUNTEERS?

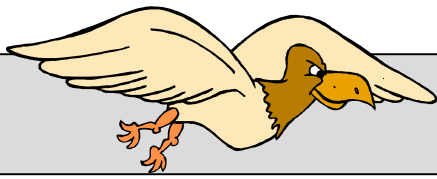
In response to an idea brought forward by Ms. Carson, the PTA is looking for volunteers to teach ESL to parents.

Fortunately, there is a program called Literacy Advance that has partnered with other HISD schools. If you are interested in taking their 1-day workshop to become an ESL teacher and/or coordinating this effort with parents who want to learn English, please check out [www.literacyadvancehouston.org](http://www.literacyadvancehouston.org) and let the Garden Oaks PTA know of your interest. *Previous teaching experience is not required nor is a knowledge of another language.*

## BOX-TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Cut off those box tops now and bring them to the office! We receive 10¢ for each box top.



Dear Parents,

Thanks to the generous support from so many of you, Garden Oaks is a beautiful school for all of us! Our current project consists of extending the habitat vegetation and creating a small thicket for birds to congregate and inhabit. Various trees have been planted along the classroom building and on both sides of pathway in front of habitat shed. We bought 30 trees and few more will come for the pond area, and 4 elm trees have been planted around the campus.

Several families helped with planting, and we still have a few more in pots to be planted. Our planting team includes: The Daly Family, Dr. Randy Holms, Mark Klein, Cece Krumholtz, Steve Pittman, Steven & Mark Roberts, Gig Runge, Jeremy Schwab, The Sosa Family.

We are especially grateful to the children who collected enough money for Ms. Hall's classroom to purchase a Lemon tree and Mrs. Carson's classroom for Earth-kind roses for the memorial garden. We also greatly appreciate the Montessori teachers for joining

together to buy an Anacacho Orchid tree. Thanks also to Urban Harvest for their continuing support, including the purchase of several native fruit trees.

We also thank the contributors to the Sponsor-A-Tree program. Garden Oaks neighbors include :Ed & Brenda de Alba, John & Cindy Bartos, Sheila Briones & Garden Oaks Civic Club, Newton Nursery. Garden Oaks Elementary families include Robert & Gisele Andrews, Steffan & Vena Golt, Robert & Helle Johnson, Mark & Elizabeth Klein, Rick & Tonya Knauth, Albert & Heidi Lozano, Malek & Victoria Muraywed, Phil & Gina Ramirez, Jane Ann & Mark Roberts, Jaime Waller.

Thank you all for taking part in this bird thicket habitat expansion and we hope that our children will enjoy and learn from it as much as we enjoyed creating it for them. Together all things are possible.

Regards,  
*Vena B. Golt*  
 PTA Beautification Chair



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

<b>Monday, March 2</b>	Spring School Fundraiser begins
<b>Tuesday, March 4, 8:15 am</b>	PTA Board Meeting – All Welcome!
<b>Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm</b>	Parent Orientation for applicants to Montessori Program
<b>Wednesday, March 5</b>	TAKS testing (changed from March 4 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>Thursday, March 13</b>	Field Day
<b>March 14 – 24</b>	Spring Break
<b>Tuesday, March 25</b>	Return to class!
<b>Thursday, March 27, 6:00 pm</b>	FOM Garden Oaks Chapter Board Meeting, Teacher's Lounge, 6-8 pm.
<b>Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:15 am</b>	PTA boardmeeting
<b>Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Testing 5th grade math
<b>Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm</b>	PTA meeting
<b>Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Spring Workday
<b>Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 12 pm – 6 pm</b>	Garden Oaks Home Tour



**ATTENDANCE**

Just a friendly reminder that your child's good attendance is important! Garden Oaks' budget is impacted by attendance. *We know that sometimes children are too sick to attend, and they should stay home.* But, we ask everyone to strive for good attendance & be on time!  
 It affects all of our children!

**NEWSLETTER INFO**

Contributions to the Eagle Eye can be dropped off in the PTA mailbox in the office. To send information electronically, email it to Theresa Comstock at [Theresa@TheComstocks.org](mailto:Theresa@TheComstocks.org).  
 Garden Oaks Elementary School Administration has final editing privileges.  
*Many thanks for translation by Isela Villarreal.*