

The Eagle Eye

Garden Oaks PTA Newsletter

October, 2008

PTA's Legislative Role

One thing politicians can do well is count (votes). However, they're not always good at understanding the issues. For fair, effective legislation, the experience of parents and teachers really matters. We must weigh in on issues locally, statewide and nationwide. Let's join together to understand and share our experience regarding issues such as special education, classroom size, teacher pay, accountability, school nutrition and other issues,

Please contact Theresa Comstock at groups@thecomstocks.org to get on the HISD Council of PTAs legislative email list. When parents and teachers join together, we are a powerful force for the good of our children!

TX PTA Day at the Capitol:

PTA Members from around the state will converge on the Capitol of Texas on February 26th, 2009. Please join us! We will meet with our representatives, share our experience in the schools and weigh in on the legislative issues that affect our children. Contact Theresa Comstock for more information (groups@thecomstocks.org) and to get in the loop on legislative email updates, meetings with legislators and more.



Early Voting is October 20 – October 31st.
Election Day is November 4th. More info is at
www.harrisvotes.com – 713-755-6965.

The PTA President's Corner

Dear Parents:

“Do you have power?” has become the newest greeting around here. Hopefully most of you have power now and your lives are returning to your normal routine. Many thanks to the staff at Garden Oaks and HISD who worked without power, helped clean up after Ike, informed us regarding school closures & even offered fieldtrips to HISD children during the black-out. What a great school & district this is!

Speaking of power, the PTA was founded 100 years ago in large part so that parents and teachers could have power over legislative issues affecting children. Please take note of the article in this newsletter regarding “PTA’s Legislative Role” and the information on voting.

As election day approaches, the question “Do you have power?” now takes on a different significance, but a very important one indeed. Please remember to vote, and let your kids know that you did!

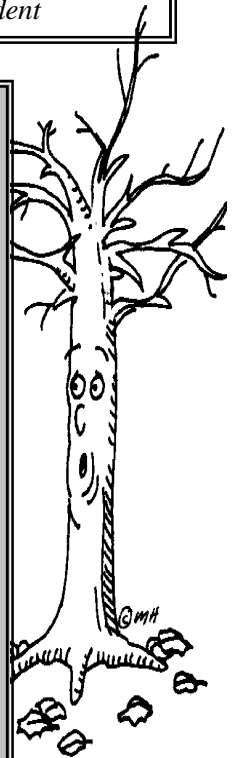
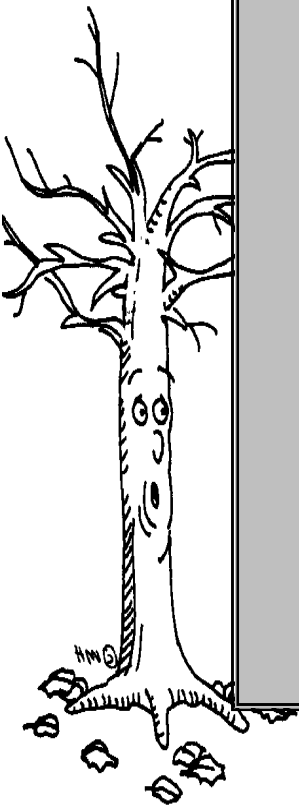
Thanks,
Helle Johnson
Garden Oaks PTA President

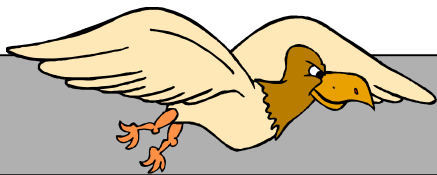
GARDEN OAKS ELEMENTARY FALL FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH 3 PM – 7 PM

SAUSAGE ON A STICK, NACHOS, PIZZA, FRITO PIE, POPCORN, COTTON CANDY, PUMPKIN PAINTING, HAUNTED HOUSE, SACK RACES, PUMPKIN GOLF, JAIL, FACE/HAIR PAINTING, LOLLIBOT, CAKE WALK, TONS OF PRIZES & LOTS MORE!!!

Parents, we need your help! Donations of baked goods/cakes, candy/prize bags, drinks, set-up & clean-up! Contact Jennifer Moreno – 832-282-9163 or jghunker@hotmail.com. Do you make crafts or sell products that you would like to sell at the carnival? Table rental is \$25... come show off your stuff!





Fall Fundraiser

By now, everyone should have received their Fall Fundraiser (Cherrydale) materials. Please remember that this sale ends on October 17th. Even though we had a late start, we have a guarantee from Cherrydale that all items will be delivered before the Christmas holiday.

Garden Oaks PTA receives 40% of the sales, so this is a terrific fundraiser for us. Remember that friends and family can order online at www.cherrydale.com. Happy selling!

Waltrip Feeder Pattern Meet & Greet!

Join us for a fun evening with the seven schools in the Waltrip Feeder Pattern (5 elementary schools, Black Middle School and Waltrip High School).

Each school will do a 5 minute presentation, and there will be prizes & a pizza dinner. The *Meet & Greet!* is Tuesday, October 16th. It begins at 6:00 p.m. at Waltrip High School.



Shared Decision Making Committee

Want to be part of making decisions concerning Garden Oaks Elementary? You are welcome to participate in discussing issues such as curriculum, grading policies and uniforms – anything pertaining to this campus.

This committee is made up of faculty, staff, community members and parents. Meetings are open to all, and more committee members are needed. Please join us the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.



BOX TOP REMINDER:

Save your box tops and bring them to the office. We receive 10¢ for each box top. It adds up!!

Mark your Calendar

October 13 – 17	Book Fair - <i>Volunteers needed mornings & after school (7:30 – 7:55 & 3 – 3:30)</i>
Tuesday, October 14	Family Reading Night, 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 16	Meet & Greet! for Waltrip Feeder Schools at Waltrip High School, 6 – 7:30 pm
Friday, October 17	PTA Fall Fundraiser (Cherry Dale) - Orders and Money Due
Saturday, October 18	Marathon Kids, 10am (must be registered), teachers & families – 10 am, Rice University.
Saturday, October 18	Eagle Scout Project – Campus Beautification & Drainage Workday, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, October 21	Mobil Dairy Cow Classroom – All students, 8:30 – 12 noon
Thursday, October 23	Friends of Montessori Board Meeting, 6 – 8 pm
Friday, October 24	Fall Picture-Day (Individual pictures – students wear uniforms.)
Friday, October 24	Fall Festival, 3 – 7 pm
October 28 – 31	5 th Graders at Camp Cullen (<i>The fieldtrip is 4 days this year. \$10 is asked to help w/cost.</i>)
Friday, October 31	Character Parade, 8:15 am at the Spark Park / Attendance Awards
Tuesday, November 4	Election Day (<i>Since Garden Oaks Elementary is a polling place, we expect heavy traffic— plan accordingly. Ms. Pollock has arranged for security to be present 12 hours that day.</i>)

PTA MEMBERSHIP



It's time to join the PTA! If you have not yet joined, please complete a membership envelope and return it to your child's classroom or to the PTA mailslot in the office. Questions, please contact Torrance Earle, t_earle@yahoo.com.

Thank you to all of our new members!

NEWSLETTER INFO

Contributions to the Eagle Eye can be dropped off in the PTA mailslot in the office. To send information electronically, email it to Theresa Comstock at Theresa@TheComstocks.org.

Garden Oaks Elementary School Administration has final editing privileges.

Many thanks for translation by Isela Villarreal.