

The Eagle Eye

Garden Oaks PTA Newsletter

April, 2009

Wishing Rosa Trevino Peace

The PTA wishes to extend heart-felt sympathy to cafeteria employee Rosa Trevino. We are sorry for your loss and wish you peace during this difficult time.

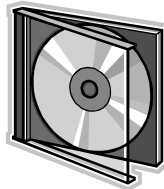
2008-2009 Yearbooks!

The Garden Oaks PTA has entered the digital era and will produce our first digital yearbook available via DVD disc. The yearbook DVD will be packaged in a memory book to allow students to record handwritten autographs and well wishes. The digital yearbook will be offered at the low price of \$5.

Also, as in previous years, there will be advertisements. Each ad should be print-ready and can be submitted via email or on a disc. This is a great way to advertise your business, send a wonderful message to a friend or a favorite teacher, or post a special note of encouragement to your child!

Ads are priced as follows:

- Business card size- \$10
- ¼ page- \$20
- ½ page- \$40
- Full page- \$80



Advertisements can be emailed to amy.earle@invesco.com or place the disc in the PTA inbox in the office. All payments for ads should be put in an envelope marked Yearbook ad, your name and the size of the ad. Place the envelope in the PTA inbox. **The deadline for ads is Friday, April 24, 2009.**

Contact Amy Earle at amy.earle@invesco.com for questions.

Garden Oaks PTA Board - Open Positions

Executive Board:

- President
- 1st Vice President (yearbook)
- 2nd Vice President (newsletter)

Committee Chairmen:

- Communications
- Room Reps/Volunteer Coord.
- Attendance Awards
- Translator
- Parent Education
- Yearbook

If you are interested in any of the open positions, or in assisting any of the Chairmen with any of the positions, please contact Helle Johnson, hellej@earthlink.net. We really need YOU, and we have so much fun.

Please remember to attend the PTA Informational meeting on Tuesday, April 7th at 9am. Come at 8am if you wish to attend the Board Meeting!

The PTA President's Corner

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break. This school year is coming to an end very quickly, but we still have lots to do. Activities include: our next PTA meeting on April 14th (Giving back), Teacher Talent Show and 5th grade slideshow and Board Nominations in May, check folders for dates.

Parents, please remember our Friday sales, everything is 50¢. We sell popcorn, fruit roll ups and pickles. If you are interested in helping us, we will set up every Friday around 1:30 pm and we are done around 3:30pm. If you can only stay for a little while that would be greatly appreciated also! Just show up and we will help you get started.

April is also: World Health Day (7th) National D.A.R.E Day (9th), National Student Leadership Week (20-24) and the same week is Public Volunteer week and Earth Day (22nd). Thank you and make it a great month!

Helle Johnson

Pre-Kindergarten Program!

This coming schoolyear, Garden Oaks will offer pre-K on a space-available, tuition basis to students who do not meet the eligibility requirements to attend pre-kindergarten for free. The state-set fee is \$4,200 per year, which may be paid in 10 installments of \$420.

PTA Informational Meeting

Time: Tuesday, April 7th, 9am

(8am if you would like to join us for our Board Meeting)

Place: Parent workroom

(T-1, next to Ms. Maples room)

Refreshments: Will be served!

Garden Oaks PTA needs interested parents to become more involved by stepping up to PTA leadership positions. We invite you to a brief informational meeting to explain what PTA is about and how you can help. We are in desperate need of filling some board positions for the 2009-2010 Garden Oaks PTA Executive Board. Unfortunately, if we do not have a board, there will be no PTA at Garden Oaks. That means no more teacher grants, no more Spring Festival, sleepover, movie night, graduating class celebration, cultural arts events, perfect attendance rewards, no beautification or campus improvement assistance.

Even if you've never considered being on the board, even if you think you don't have anything to offer or you think you don't have time, please come to this brief meeting. We need you!

Won't you join us and help keep our valuable PTA? If you are interested in hearing more, but cannot attend, please contact Helle Johnson at 713-692-8229 or hellej@earthlink.net.

PTA – Parent Teacher Association means being involved with our child's school activities and bringing families together.

Tournament of Knowledge

On February 25th, 10 Garden Oaks students participated in the district-wide “Tournament of Knowledge”. Our teams did great, placing 6th in “Riddler”, 2nd in “Search for Answers”, 2nd in “Student Clue Hunt!” and 1st in “Adult Clue Hunt!”

Invincibles

Samantha Beckler, Team Captain
Benjamin Comstock
Jessica Nalley

Eagles

Lenore Craig, Team Captain
Charnea Green
Betty Pitta - Lima
Brian Rios

Knockouts

Sean Walsh, Team Captain
Emma Johnson
Dylan Lang

Adult Clue Hunt Team

Ms. Ray (Betty’s Mom)
Ms. Ray (Betty’s Aunt)
Mr. Lang (Dylan’s Dad)
Mr. Comstock (Ben’s Dad)

Way to go Garden Oaks Eagles!

Montessori News

Our program continues to grow! We have had an overwhelming number of applications for the GOES Montessori program, and the school will be opening a new Lower Elementary (1st through 3rd grade) classroom this Fall. Support from parents, area businesses and friends in the neighborhood, through events like the Pancake Breakfast, will make this classroom a reality.

The partnership between Friends of Montessori and HISD brings more families to Garden Oaks Elementary! There is much to prepare for August, so if you are handy with carpentry or can cut laminate, let us know. We need your help.

Report on PTA Lobby Day

Two of Garden Oaks’ PTA members (Theresa Comstock & Vena Golt) departed for Austin in the wee hours of the morning on February 26 to attend Texas PTA Day at the Capitol. After advocacy training at Texas PTA’s state office and a rally on the steps of the state capitol with 500 fellow TX PTA members, they headed inside the Capitol to meet with Houston area legislators. Issues discussed included language on demand, the accountability system, school funding and healthy lifestyles.

Along with others from Houston’s Council of PTAs, Vena & Theresa visited six offices: Rep. Bohac, Sen. Whitmire, Rep. Hochberg, Rep. Farrar, Rep. Turner and Sen. Zaffirini.

Go to www.TXPTA.org for more information on legislative advocacy and TX PTA’s agenda of issues on behalf of our children.



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

Mark your Calendars!

Wednesday, April 1	Report Cards
Tuesday, April 7	PTA Board Meeting*, 8:15 am
Tuesday, April 7	Civic Club Meeting 7 pm
Tuesday, April 7	5th Grade Math TAKS. No visitors allowed on campus during a TAKS testing day. Parents are asked not to visit or have lunch with students on this day.
Wednesday, April 8	SDMC Meeting*, 3:30 pm
Thursday, April 9	Field Day
Tuesday, April 14	PTA Meeting
Thursday, April 16	FOM Board Meeting, 6 – 8 pm
Wednesday, April 22	Earth Day
Thursday, April 23	FOM Hands On Night
Friday, April 24	Attendance Awards
Tuesday, April 28	PTA Board Meeting*, 8:15 am
Friday, May 1	4th Grade Austin Field Trip
May 4 - 8	Teacher Appreciation Week

* PTA (Parent/Teacher Association), FOM (Friends of Montessori), and SDMC (Shared Decision Making Committee) meetings are open to all!

The Tid-Bit:
Thoughts on Whole Living

Give yourself time to consider what you most want to **contribute** to the world.

The earth's future and our own are linked. Live in a way that supports **both**.

Better eating starts with **small**, positive steps.

Aging well has less to do with what you avoid and more to do with what you **embrace**.

A close network of friends and family can **sustain** you in more ways than you know.

April 2009 By Terri Trespicio
Submitted by Helle Johnson.

Drop off contributions for the “EagleEye” in the PTA mailslot in the office or email them to Theresa@TheComstocks.org. Garden Oaks Elementary School Administration has final editing privileges.

Many thanks for translation by Isela Villarreal.