



The Eagle Eye

Garden Oaks PTA Newsletter

March, 2009

Literary Walk to Oak Forest Elementary

Miss Carfello and Mrs. Carson's fourth graders visited Oak Forest Elementary to participate in a Writer's Workshop field trip. The classes walked the beautifully sunny mile to meet with Mrs. Krueger-Miller's class to share, revise and edit each other's compositions. The groups began by playing "synonym charades" and followed the icebreaker with lunch at the park. Later, the students worked in pairs to participate in the steps of the writing process. The students then wrote a composition together to share with the rest of the group.

Many of the children could be heard commenting on what a great day it was to write a composition! The teachers intend to make this an annual writing event at both campuses. Fourth graders love to write!

PTA's Resolution: "No Bullying!"



Bullying affects all of us – the children who are bullied, the bully, the children who witness the bullying, parents, teachers and administrators. It can be physical, verbal and now cyber. When it comes to bullying, the more we all know, the better. The National PTA and its constituent organizations support policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying. Garden Oaks Elementary promotes "no bullying" policies as well. A great website to check out is www.nobully.com. There's good advice regarding how to talk to our children, how to interact as parents and how to work with teachers and administrators.

Photos for the Yearbook

Garden Oaks' yearbook editor, Amy Earle, is looking for photos! Please send them to her at: amy.earle@invesco.com.



MONTESSORI PANCAKE BREAKFAST APPRECIATION

Chairs Elizabeth Klein and Rick and Tonya Knauth; Silent Auction Chair Amy Webster; Point People Diane and Steve Pittman, Jessica Modad, Terry Charlton, Ms. Oswald, Heidi and Albert Lozano, Shannon Hugetz, Gina Pecoraro, Phil Ramirez, Lou Ann Taylor, Keisha Russell, Veronica Starovic, Carmen Ortiz, Alisha Cunningham, and Pamela Anderson . . .

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

Thanks to this incredible team, Friends of Montessori raised over \$22,000 to pay for classroom materials, teacher assistants and scholarships.

And of course, a special Thank You to Mrs. Pollock, Tony Vivar & the Queen of the Kitchen, Ms. Tolivar!

The PTA President's Corner

This school year is going by so fast & we still have so much to do. Our Valentine-O-Gram went very well, we made \$1066.75 in card, trinket and carnation sales. The students were so excited to write their friends, teachers and parents a "love" note. Special thanks to Jennifer Moreno for helping all week, also a big thank you to Isela Villareal, Susan Stroud and Jane Ann for pulling through at "crunch time" to deliver the carnations. Friday the 13th was our 1st Annual sleepover at G.O. Special thanks to Ms. Pollock for putting this together. We made \$899.50. The money will go to the cafeteria for the mural. It will look so good when it is finished! Thank you to everyone who made all these events happen.

March is American Red Cross Month, Music in our schools Month, National Nutrition Month, March 2nd Read across America, March 2-6 National Breakfast Week, March 4th School Principals Day, March 17th St. Patrick's Day, and March 20th is the First Day of Spring. So get out there and enjoy this beautiful time of the year!

Helle Johnson

Sleepover News

Much fun was had by everyone at the First Annual Garden Oaks Sleepover! 90 students ages 3 - 6th grade registered in advance for this special night of fun. The evening started at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. The first event was "night" bubbles on the covered black-top. Students were able to blow bubbles, use a variety of bubble wands and even stand inside a giant bubble! At 7:15 everyone moved inside for Ms. Toliver's delicious pizza and nachos served in the kitchen along with ice cold water while playing board games and making Valentine cards. 8:00 was the time for the APEX Tae Kwon Dao performance featuring many students from Garden Oaks! The students broke boards and displayed their remarkable talents!

After the show the students ages 3 - Kindergarten were escorted to the front office where their parents picked them up. The "big" kids remaining (about 50) played board games and went back to bubbles outside until 11pm. 1st and 2nd graders went to watch Ratatouille in the front office while they snuggled up for bedtime in the front office. Boys stayed in the Teacher Lounge and Clinic and the girls stayed in the front office spaces! 3rd - 5th graders stayed awake awhile longer playing Heads Up 7-Up and watching the movie City of Ember (a movie about the importance of taking good care of the Earth)!

We had many PTA members along with Mr. and Mrs. Johanson, Tony and Ms. Toliver who made this special night a reality and two students from Waltrip who were invaluable helpers and stayed up with us until 3am! Special thanks to Ms. Golt and Ms. Torres who stayed with Ms. Pollock the whole night! Ms. Bush delivered hot donuts and juice at 6am for early risers and parents started arriving at 7am to pick-up sleepy children...more than once we heard "This has been the best day of my life!"

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Garden Oaks Spelling Bee Winners!

1st Place: 4th Grader, Dylan Lang

2nd Place: 5th Grader, Andy Lopez

T-Shirts

The new student-designed t-shirts will be delivered next week. Additional orders are welcome – the order form is online at: <http://www.orgsites.com/tx/gardenoakspta>.

Black Middle School Update

Black Middle School's principal, Ms. Jao, has many good things to report:

- Eight 6th grade students went to the Central Region Science Fair. There were two first place winners, one second place winner, and two third place winners.
- An After-School Program is up and running, offering piano, choir, woodshop, karate, tutorials, Spanish, art, LCDC, and ESL classes for parents.
- The 8th grade boys basketball team were undefeated this school year.
- In 2007-2008, Black ranked in the 2nd quartile for student value added growth according to ASPIRE data.
- The dance team went to dance competition on February 7th and received a sweepstake trophy. Also, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre Company will work with the dance classes the last week in March.
- A Black M.S. art student placed 3rd place in the Society for Performing Arts Visual Arts Contest.
- Black held its first National Junior Honor Society Induction Meeting, and inducted 12 students into the NJHS. One of the requirements of being a member is working on community service projects.

Mark your Calendars!

Tuesday, March 3	PTA Board Meeting 8:15 am* Civic Club Meeting 7pm
Tuesday, March 3	TAKS Reading 3 rd & 5 th grade TAKS Writing 4 th grade
Saturday, March 7	Central Region Expo, 9a-2pm, Waltrip
Wednesday, March 11	SDMC Meeting 3:30 pm*
Friday, March 13	Early Dismissal / 1:30 pm ??
March 16 – 20	Spring Break
March 26	FOM Board Meeting, 6 – 8 pm
Friday, March 27	Attendance Awards
Friday, March 27	Harvest Day, after school
Saturday, March 28	Gardening/Beautification Workday
Monday, March 30	Class Pictures - Uniforms*

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

Get Involved!

Please consider how you can get involved as a PTA volunteer next year. Let us know areas of interest! – contact Helle Johnson (713-692-8229, hellej@earthlink.net) or Isela Villareal (713-688-7722, iselajv@msn.com).

President	RoomRep/Volunteer
1 st VP, Yearbook	Coordinator
2 nd VP, Newsletter	Attendance Awards
Treasurer	Hospitality
Recording Secretary	Beautification/Gardening
Parliamentarian	T-Shirt Sales
Historian	Fundraising
Translation	Copy Crew
Website Chair	Legislative
Teacher Liaison	Liaison to Black M.S.
Membership Chair	Cultural Arts &
Directory	Enrichment

Tell me and I'll forget. Show me and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.

Teacher Grants

The PTA has set aside money to provide grants to teachers for expenses outside of normal classroom budgets. Applications will go out soon!

Thank you to everyone who supports the PTA through membership dues, fundraisers & volunteer involvement!



PTA Members Out & About

Several of our members have participated in recent off-campus PTA events. Helle Johnson, Ms. Pollock, Kristi Anders, Ms. Straker and Theresa Comstock attended the Founders Day Luncheon, benefitting the Houston ISD Council of PTA scholarship fund – it included speakers from the state and national PTA. Helle Johnson, Shana Tatum and Theresa Comstock joined other PTA members from Houston for an early morning (5:30 am) ride to Austin for PTA Day at the Capitol, received advocacy training, rallied on the steps of the capitol, met with legislators to advocate for PTA resolutions on behalf of our children, and returned that evening.

Not only does the PTA provide leadership training to help sustain us, PTA also connects and empowers us districtwide, statewide and nationwide!

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 Villareal.