



RRISD Council of PTAs
<http://rrisd.council.txpta.org/>



From The Council President

Welcome back!

It is hard to believe that it is already mid-September! I hope your year is going well so far.

We have new things going on with PTA this year – most notably, the new campaign **back the future**, the RRISD Council of PTA’s was honored to be one of the 7 councils chosen to launch this campaign. We had our kickoff event at Bluebonnet Elementary on the first day of school. It was very successful and we are grateful for all the support we received from the district. We also had the opportunity to participate in the district’s Kick-off at the Dell Diamond. It was an awesome event.



I also want to encourage everyone to utilize our Council of PTAs website <http://rrisd.council.txpta.org/> where you can find a lot of resources, as well as contact information for our Council board members. The Conflict of Interest and Ethics Policy, Records Retention Policy, Social Media Policy, Treasurer and Membership information, as well as the division of schools among the VPs – there’s just a whole host of information that you may find useful. And if your PTA has a website, please send a link to our Council Webmaster, Amy Weir, so she can post it there.

The newsletter will be emailed out to all of you after our luncheon today. I hope that you will share it not only with your executive board, but with your association, so that they can see all the wonderful things that are going on across the District in PTA.

Have a great year!

Kelly

Kelly Moreno
President, RRISD Council of PTAs

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September 2014



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From The Council 2nd VP - Training

Training Tips September 2014

We had a great turnout at our Officer Basics and FLO training courses back in August and on September 15th. Thank you to those of you who attended and made our training sessions a huge success! Please see below for a few training tips from Council and please let us know if you have questions.

Foundations: Leader Orientation (FLO)

All Executive Board Members must have completed Foundations: Leader Orientation by October 15. Board members only need to take FLO once in their PTA career and some of you may have taken the older version entitled Leadership Orientation Training or LOT. Either course is fine. If you have not yet had a chance to take FLO in person, you can still take the class online at www.txpta.org and search for Notebook. Cost of the class is \$10 online and is a reimbursable expense by your local PTA.

Records Retention Policy

Please make sure your Executive Board has reviewed and adopted the Records Retention Policy for the 2014-2015 school year. Visit the Texas PTA website to download the form. It can be found in Resources under Treasurer Resources. <http://www.txpta.org/resources/>.

Ethics/Conflict of Interest Form

Please make sure your Executive Board has reviewed and signed this form. The Conflict of Interest Form/Policy is in place to protect the integrity and 501(c) (3) status of your PTA. It may take several meetings to obtain every board member's signature but this is essential for a healthy PTA. Visit the Texas PTA website to download this form. It can be found in Resources under Forms and Documents, Officer Documents: <http://www.txpta.org/resources/>.

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RRISD Council of PTAs 2014-2015 Board Members

Officers

- Kelly Moreno**-President
- Julie Lewin**-1st VP Roundtables
- Stephanie Deller**-2nd VP Training
- Karen Elliott**-3rd VP Hospitality
- Jill Strode**-4th VP Membership
- Kim Odell**-Treasurer
- Julie Olesen**-Secretary
- Melanie Pav**-Historian
- Lisa Cauble**-Parliamentarian

Hospitality

- Michelle Carson**-Decorations Chair
- Angela McGee**- Decorations
- Kirsty Delahunt**- Decorations
- Pam McFall**-Decorations
- Mary Flores**-Decorations
- Becky Carrigan**-Reservations
- Cheryl Springer**-RROC, Success & Goals

Council Programs

- Monica Von Waaden**-Clothes Closet (Acting Chair)
- Leslie Cullers**-Healthy Lifestyles
- Amy Hinds**-President/Principal Rep
- Lilly Cardenas**-SEPAC Rep
- Janine Pearce**-Parent Programs
- Liz McDonald**-Reflections
- Karen Gault**-Scholarships
- Lori Hutson**-Character Inspiration Chair

Communications

- Julie Lewin**-Directory
- LeAnne Ohlenburger**-Newsletter
- Amy Weir**-Website Administrator

RRISD/Partnership

- Dr. Steve Flores**-Superintendent
 - Michelle Jackson**-Community Partnership Supervisor
 - Council Officers**-Foundation/PIE Rep
 - Kathy Reed**-Legislative Rep/School Board
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From The Council 2nd VP - Training (continued)

By-laws changes

This summer, TX PTA implemented changes to our by-laws templates. Please review these changes and how they will affect your local PTA.

The Texas PTA Board of Directors approved amendments to the Local PTA and Council PTA bylaws templates at the July 2014 board meeting, as well as changes to be reflected in the updated *Texas PTA President and Treasurer Resource Guides*. These templates, along with detailed instructions on how to update bylaws, may be viewed on the Texas PTA website at www.txpta.org.

As a member service to our PTA, Texas PTA stores the last approved bylaws information for each Local and Council PTA in a database, so that maintaining and updating your bylaws with the current template will be easier for you. If you would like your bylaws updated to the current template, simply complete the [Bylaws Request Form](#). Your PTA's bylaws information will be incorporated into the updated template stamped as approved on the date your bylaws were last reviewed and approved by Texas PTA. Remember, submitting your bylaws with amendments or for review and updating is as simple as completing the [Bylaws Made Easy Checklist](#). For more information, visit [How to Update or Amend Your Bylaws](#).

The list below provides an overview of the amendments made to the templates. All amendments go into effect immediately, and approval from your membership is not required.

Local PTA/PTSAs Bylaws

Article VI Officers, Section 5. Duties of Officers, E. Secretary, 8 and 10

These lines were struck out to allow the secretary to be a signer on the bank account and a reviewer of the bank statement/account. The restrictions that signers cannot be related by blood or marriage and cannot reside in the same household still apply. *NOTE: Review your standing rules to identify any possible conflicting wording that may need amending.*

Article IX Executive Board, Section 9. Removal and Resignation

This section was amended for clarity. The section now reads:
Section 9. Removal and Resignation. Any executive board member may be removed from office with cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the executive board then in office. Any executive board member may resign at any time by delivering a written resignation to the Local PTA president or secretary.

Removal of an executive board member can only occur with a two-thirds vote of the entire board, not just those present in the meeting.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any training questions you may have. Council is here to help you and your PTA succeed!

Stephanie Deller
VP of Training, RRISD Council of PTAs





From The Council 4th VP - Membership

Join us as we back the future!



Thank you to those of you who attended SLS or our Membership Training class in August. Many ideas and suggestions were shared on how we can **back the future** and those who attended are off to a great start! If you were unable to attend, you can find valuable information and graphics on the txpta.org website (My PTA, then Chairs & Officers, then Membership) and on our Facebook Group (RRISD PTA Membership).

Our goal this school year is to increase membership across RRISD! Our district had 20,340 members last year, that's about 50% of our student population. It would be great if each student in our district had someone to **back his or her future!** Many of you have set your overall goal high, which makes it a bit scary, but challenge is good! If you haven't already, be sure to form a

membership committee to help you come up with ideas to help you reach your goals.

Remember, membership is year-round, so don't stop after the fall rush. Think of ways that you can encourage membership throughout the year and continue to educate your families and community members about the importance of being a member. This could include supporting your school programs and events, communicating the Texas and National PTA benefits, advocating for our students (there are many legislative priorities for 2015 – find out more by visiting txpta.org, then Advocacy), etc.

Council will be striving for all local RRISD PTAs to earn the Golden Apple Award and the Texas STAR Award. The Golden Apple Award is a celebration of PTAs that have 100% faculty membership (this includes principals, assistant principals, counselors, teachers and aides employed at the school full-time). **PTAs that achieve Golden Apple by our October Council meeting (and provide me a copy of their paperwork) will go into a drawing for a case of paper!! We need our staff to **back the future**, too! I know of at least a few locals that have already accomplished this goal!

The Texas STAR Award recognizes PTAs that are active (at least 20 members) and have a President on file by October 15, 2014, have updated their bylaws in the past 5 years and have an increase of at least 1 member over the previous year. This is also a goal we can all achieve!

Council introduced a Community Membership Program this year where individuals have the opportunity to join multiple local PTAs. There are many levels a Community Member can choose from, such as a Platinum Community Member when they join all the participating PTAs all the way to an A La Carte package where they choose the schools they would like to become a member. This program is a great way for our community partners to **back the future!**





From The Council 4th VP - Membership (continued)

Reminders:

- Dues and rosters should be sent in to TX PTA by the 15th of each month.
- Membership cards are not optional; each member needs a card.
- Early Bird Award deadline is quickly approaching. This is awarded to PTAs that submit rosters and dues totaling at least 75% of their previous year's membership totals and is postmarked by September 30th.
- Fall Award (500 or 1000 Club) deadline is October 15.
- Winter Award is presented to each local PTA when they have an increase in membership on December 1 as compared to the previous year's December 1 total.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to support you in reaching your goals!

Jill Strode
4th VP – Membership



Commyounity



A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

A special thank you goes out to **ALL** the family members and community members who have joined the PTA/PTSA so far this year! We could not do this without your support!





From The Council Treasurer

Treasurer's Tips

Welcome to a new year! You have taken on a very important and valuable role in your PTA. As Council Treasurer, I am here to provide you with assistance and guidance. Here are a few reminders to help you get up and running this fall:

- Council dues are due no later than October 15. To be a member of this council and participate in council activities, all local units must pay their local dues.
- When making your donation decisions this year, please remember that RRISD is growing. We have 5 high schools, so our Noel Grisham Scholarship fund will be supporting 5 graduate. We also have two Clothes Closet locations. All this growth is great for our students; however, it will take a slightly higher donation from the locals to maintain the level of operation of these two Council programs.
- Please check to make sure you have renewed your AIM Insurance policy. Most policy renewals are due in October.
- Please check to make sure your 990 is completed. If your fiscal year ended May 31, your 990 is due October 15. If your fiscal year ended June 30, your 990 is due November 15. And don't forget to submit the Annual Tax Exempt Confirmation to Texas PTA within 15 days of filing your 990.
- If you haven't already, take the time to find out how often you file your sales tax. Are you an annual filer? Quarterly filer? If your PTA files annually, sales tax is not due until January. However, if you file more frequently, please be aware of your due dates.

Texas PTA made some changes to policies and procedures in the Treasurer Resource Guides. The following information comes from Texas PTA:

Policies and Procedures Reflected in the *Texas PTA President and Treasurer Resource Guides*

Listed below are changes to the procedures required for all PTA. These changes will constitute changes to the wording changes to be reflected in the updated *Texas PTA President and Treasurer Resource Guides*.

Gift Cards

PTA are allowed to purchase retail-specific gift cards not to exceed the nominal amount of \$25.00.

Electronic Banking

PTA are allowed to conduct limited electronic banking, which includes electronic payments to Texas PTA and the State of Texas Comptroller and reviewing privileges to view bank account transactions online. *NOTE: The executive board must determine who has access to view the bank account transactions online, and these responsibilities may be added as wording in your standing rules.*

Check Signing

PTA are allowed to have one signature on checks. PTA have the ability to determine whether they will continue to require two signatures on every check or whether one signature will be acceptable. Any change in procedure must be reflected in the PTA's approved standing rules.

If you have any question about these changes or anything else, please let me know.

Kim Odell
Treasurer
RRISD Council of PTAs





From The Council Secretary

Tips for a smooth meeting

Being Secretary is an important job, but one that doesn't have to be stressful. Here are some tips for running a smooth meeting:

1. Make a template ahead of time using the agenda the President sends you. This will help ensure you don't miss key items.
2. Have members fill out an Officer and Chair report form if they will be speaking at the meeting. Samples can be found at the Texas PTA website. This will help you in capturing everything the chair said. It does not replace your notes, but rather acts as a backup.
3. When motions are made, have the member that made the motion fill out a PTA Motion form. Samples of these can also be found on the Texas PTA website. This will help you document the motion accurately.
4. Prepare a draft of the meeting minutes within two to five days of the meeting.
5. Always have a roll call sign in sheet. This will help document quorum.

If you need help finding any of these forms, or have questions please contact me.

And have great year!

Julie Olesen
 RRISD Council of PTAs
 Secretary
Tjolesen@att.net

The Luncheon Caterer

Welcome Back to School!

We are so glad that you could join the Council of PTAs for its first meeting of the 2014-15 school year. Today's lunch is from **Salata: The Next Generation Salad Bar**. Open in Round Rock since July of this summer, Salata has a menu of salad wraps, salad bowls, and soups. Visit the link below to see a full menu, or visit the next time you are near University Blvd!

Salata.com



**Thank you to Salata for serving our guests today
 and for donating our door prizes.**





Time to Brag



Cactus Ranch Elementary PTA was hard at work getting ready for back to school!!! We were able to support our teachers and administration by providing them with three back to school lunches on the Friday before school started as well the first two days of school. We hosted CRE's annual Back to School Howdy. We enjoyed seeing the students connect with their teachers in the classroom. And on the first day of school, we welcomed parents back with coffee and donuts!

The month of September is full of fun family activities hosted by PTA including our annual WatchDOGS Pizza Kickoff Night, Kona Ice Spirit Day, Math Pentathlon, Take your Dad to Lunch Day, and our first Family Movie Night.

We continue to work hard to "Back the Future" this year and are up to 560 members and counting. We are so grateful for all of our wonderful volunteers at CRE and want to thank them for all that they do to make our school the great place that it is. Congratulations to all of our families for a fantastic back-to-school start! Go CRE Longhorns!!

Kim Odell
PTA President

Within the first two weeks of school Harrington Elementary PTA have hosted

- Kinder Play Date and set up BTSN
- Back to School Night
- YaHoo Boohoo
- Lunch Room Duty Monday - Thursday
- Thursday Folders included -
 - September Newsletter
 - Ice Cream Social Flyer
 - Spirit Wear Flyer
 - Kona Ice Flyer – Kona Ice day 9/10/14
 - Volunteer Forms
 - Back the Future Letter and membership envelops
- Directory Form in First Day Packets
- Received over \$1400 in sponsor money
- Teachers Luncheon -
- Sold over \$6K in Spirit Wear
- Enrolled over 180 members in our PTA!
- Added beautiful artwork to the PRC
- Completed numerous teacher work orders
- Two Ice Cream Socials at In The Know Nights



Erin Lamkin
PTA President





Time to Brag



Live Oak Elementary has greeted the new school year with open arms and great success already! We have welcomed many new faculty members. We have collected 211 memberships to include 52 Faculty, 31 Grandparents, and 128 Parents. We have already claimed the Head Start Award and are currently working towards the MARS Award, the Early Bird, and especially the Golden Apple Award. The PTA will host their WatchDOGS Dad's and Kid's Pizza Night on Monday, September 22nd and we are working with the Northwest YMCA to bring an interactive nutrition class to the school for FREE in an effort to pull the community together.

I have reached out to the local neighborhood association, NASWC, have had a presence at the National Night Out event and have attended a regular board meeting to share the efforts of Texas PTA in Back The Future.

Our fall fundraiser is coming up and a first-ever Live Oak Yard Sale.

This year will be a huge success, thanks to our proud Live Oak Families.

LeAnne Ohlenburger
PTA President



Wow what a great start to the year! We ended last year with a Teacher PTA membership drive. Prize for completing PTA membership by the last day of school was a class set of Pioneer pencils! It was a huge success! We continued our mission of putting the T back in PTA by having a competition between staff teams. We are excited to say we are at 75%+ faculty membership and it's only a few weeks into school! In addition, all of our membership numbers are higher than ever before for this time of year!

More exciting news, our Principal Edie Binns was recognized by Texas PTA as an Outstanding Educator! She is one of ten elementary principals recognized this year in the entire state. We are so proud! But we could have told you she is always an Outstanding Educator in our eyes!

This year marks our school's 160th year! It all started in a one room school house on Pond Springs Road in 1854. We are so proud to support such a wonderful school with such a long history!

Amy Cifreo - President
Pond Springs Elementary PTA



Patsy Sommer Elementary offered a \$2 off spirit wear coupon with every membership purchased for one day, and our membership numbers went up 3 times more than what they were at this time last year!

Katherine Chong
PTA President





Time to Brag



Exciting times at Deerpark Middle School! Membership and Healthy Lifestyles!

At only three weeks into the school year, our PTA membership is already hitting great numbers: 300 and counting! These numbers reflect the work of our Executive Board and the option to offer membership to students. Our Board was present at key events to enlist support for our PTA and encourage membership: Teacher Welcome Back Breakfast, Ranger Round-Up for 6th graders and Open House for 7th and 8th graders. Our efforts have paid off with returning members, new members, students and men! (Can you tell we are looking to hit the numbers for the PTA Membership Awards?!? Summer, Fall, MARS and Student Awards – here we come!)

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 20. It is the Deerpark Middle School Ranger 5k Run. Not only is this our biggest fundraiser of the year, it looks to be one of the most fun events out there! We're combining Healthy Lifestyles with Community Outreach and making the most of the fantastic area we live in. We couldn't do it without the support of Deerpark staff and teachers, our neighborhood, our sponsors, our volunteers AND our participants. Please come join us as a participant for what is sure to be a great race day! You can register now at <http://rrptiming.com/2014/09/20/RangerRun>

We'd like to extend our thanks to the following for providing support for Deerpark Middle School PTA and Ranger Run: HEB; Monkee-Boy Web Design; YMCA; Melissa Shipman Realtors; Anytime Fitness; Laurie Flood Keller Williams Realty; Ortho 360; Brian Kerman ReMax; Rita's; Town and Country; Travis County Law Enforcement Association; Michelle Kattawar LMT; Wag A Bag

It is super exciting to see so many people step up and support our PTA. What a way to kick off the year! We think it is a great sign of the amazing things we can accomplish in the coming year.

Angela Loughran
PTA President



Hopewell Middle School PTA

WELCOME MR. WAGGONER, HOPEWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL!!!

The hive is buzzing thanks to the support of our wonderful staff, families and community.

The Hopewell PTA appreciates your support!

With 230+ members and counting we are excited to expand our reach to more families and community members. Our Facebook page and PTA website have proven to be great resources to communicate with our Hornet families! The PTA has been buzzing with many activities so far this year! In addition to our t-shirts, bling shirts, and lanyards, we have expanded our Hopewell spirit gear to include yard signs and hoodies. The concession stand is buzzing with activity as we cheer on the Lady Hornet Volleyball teams! We have kicked off our label collection competition, a clothes closet clothing drive, and our reflections programs! Stay tuned for more buzz around THE HIVE!

Hornets Rock!





Time to Brag

Here are the highlights for what the Ridgeview PTA did at the end of last school year and has done so far this school year.



- We threw an end of year bash to celebrate the 8th graders transition to Cedar Ridge and assist with finding volunteers to throw the 8th grade semi-formal.
- We welcomed a new principal and helped him throw a welcome back to school celebration. During this we sold PTA gear, memberships and took donations. We also made sure there were vendors on-hand to sell concessions and sold a few things as well.
- We threw a breakfast for the teachers before school started and stuffed first day packets for all the students.
- We are currently in the middle of our membership and donation drives.
- We are using some of our volunteers to staff the "Book Fair" going on this week.
- We are selling items at the back to school nights this week.
- We are gearing up for the sports seasons to start, and the concessions stands to be open to sell items.

Christa Fica
Communications VP



Walsh
Middle School

Walsh PTA welcomed the 2014-2015 school year by hosting a staff breakfast in which the PTA membership drive was kicked off. Faculty members who joined PTA that morning were entered to a door prize drawing of school supply baskets. We had 80 teachers join PTA that morning and are nearly at our PTA membership total for last year with 650

members so far. Walsh PTA Executive Board members, volunteers and student volunteers worked the week before school started to stuff first day packets, organized school supply packs and helped with sales at our Annual Camp Wildcat. We also were included in decisions for new systems and procedures due to our increasing numbers in order to create the safest environment possible for our students. Its great to have an advocacy voice on behalf of our students and have our input sought by our wonderful Walsh Administration. Additionally, in order to assist our teachers with our growing student population, PTA has already opened our Teacher Mini-grant process so that we can award grants in the fall and spring. Our sense of community at Walsh is strong and PTA assists in promoting that with Spirit Wear & Directory sales and organizing Spirit Nights. Our first Spirit Night will be an afternoon with Kona Ice. We held our First Meeting of the Association in conjunction with Parent Open House last week where we continued to promote our Membership Drive. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a wonderful school year! *Go Wildcats!*

Lori Hutson
PTA President





Time to Brag



McNeil HS Maverick News

The McNeil HS PTSA has been busy getting ready for another successful school year. The 2014-2015 school year began with the traditional stuffing of first day packets. Food was provided by the PTSA to all who helped. This event was followed by a back to school teacher breakfast and membership drive on August 18th. The fun continued at Colt Camp where incoming freshman were invited to join the PTSA and purchase spirit wear. Membership and spirit wear was also offered at sophomore, junior and senior roundup. Over the spring and summer, the PTSA along with several McNeil booster clubs have been meeting to plan various events to increase school spirit. The kickoff began with a school wide pep rally on August 22nd in the McNeil parking lot. Athletics, Band, Cheer, Majestics and Choir performed for the crowds of spirited McNeil parents and students. Free pizza and drinks was provided to the first 1000 attendees by the MHS PTSA and McNeil HS. The spirit continued into the first week of school with a school wide tailgate party at the Kelley Reeves stadium on August 29th where McNeil and the PTSA once again provided free hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks to all who attended. September has also proven to be a busy month. The first PTSA general meeting was held at the MHS Openhouse on September 3rd where the PTSA provided dinner for the teachers prior to the beginning of the event. At the meeting, the 4th Annual Clothes Closet drive went into full swing. Once again, MHS has challenged the Westwood Warriors to donate new socks and underwear for middle and high school students and once again the losing school's principal has to wear the other team's jersey at the football game on October 10th when the winner is announced. Finally, the PTSA sponsored an inflatable at the annual Homecoming Carnival held on September 17th at the MHS parking lot and helped Project Graduation sell tickets to the Homecoming Dance on September 20th. Yes, the school year is back in full swing and the PTSA is busy helping to make it all happen.

Yamilett "Cissy" Anders-Rodriguez
President of PTSA

back the future



Time to Brag



The Round Rock High School

Great things are happening at The Round Rock High School! September 8th was a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open up the new 1200 building. A big thanks to all who came out to share in our excitement. Come check out our new digs! RRHS PTSA kicked off the year with a welcome back breakfast for the teachers and staff in August. We are well on our way to the Golden Apple award. Currently, we have over 1100 PTSA members and counting. RRHS staff, teachers and families ROCK! RRHS PTSA was excited to unveil our newly designed website and new online store. It has given our parents, teachers and staff more options to purchase PTSA items. We are gearing up for another awesome year with helpful parent and student programs and our teacher grant program. Go Dragons!

Melanie Pav
RRHS PTSA - President

There is no **CommYOU**nity without **YOU!**

