

# Council Connections

## Parents, Teachers, All of Us

### Message from Our Council President

Happy 111th Birthday to Texas PTA! 111 years of PTA — 111 years of AWESOME PTA Volunteers working hard every day — to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children! Texas PTA leads the state in advocacy efforts on behalf of our kids and public schools. With more than 2300 PTAs and Half a million members each year, the PTA voice is strong and definitely loud! Yes, indeed, we are in unusual times, but we, the PTA, have been Problem Solvers for 111 years, and our Magnificent PTA Spirit not only carries us through, but we always come out better together. So, let us continue working together as we keep delivering the best for all our stakeholders.

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Texas PTA's LAUNCH just recently. LAUNCH isn't only the largest training event but also is a special time to celebrate! Each year, Texas PTA recognizes the critical role educators and administrators play in our student's lives. Out of the hundreds of nominations they receive, Texas PTA selects just five Outstanding Educators, including only one Superintendent. This year, that awesome honor came to RRISD. Our Superintendent, Dr. Steve Flores, was recognized as the Texas PTA Superintendent of the year! Texas PTA celebrated Dr. Flores and his prestigious achievement at the 'Talk of Texas' Ceremony at LAUNCH on Friday, Oct 16th. What a proud moment for our entire commYOUunity *indeed!!!*

Remember that PTA matters, even more this year. Check out the Legislative Priorities for 87th Legislative Session at <https://www.txpta.org/legislative-priorities/>. Let us keep working on our membership and strengthening our One Voice! Together, we can do it. We can make it the Greatest Comeback of 2020! BIG THANK YOU to each of you — ALL our awesome PTA Volunteers, Administrators, Teachers, Staff, District and Community Leaders, Students, and our Partners! Stay connected and KEEP ROCKING!

Sincerely,

Snehal Phirke

President,

Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs

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# 2020-21 Council PTA Executive Board Roster

President	Snehal Phirke	president@rrisdpta.org
1st VP of Membership	Randall Goltzman	membership@rrisdpta.org
2nd VP of Training	Jill Strode	training@rrisdpta.org
3rd VP of Communications	OPEN	communications@rrisdpta.org
4th VP of Hospitality	Melissa Schmalbach	hospitality@rrisdpta.org
5th VP of Programs	Melissa Hoskin	programs@rrisdpta.org
6th VP of Fundraising	OPEN	fundraising@rrisdpta.org
Treasurer	Liz Cantrell	treasurer@rrisdpta.org
Secretary	Beth Fitzmaurice	secretary@rrisdpta.org
Parliamentarian	Laura Podnar	parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>		
Advocacy	Heather Lawrence	advocacy@rrisdpta.org
Business Partner	OPEN	businesspartner@rrisdpta.org
Clothes Closet Chair	Cecelia Zapalac	clothescloset@rrisdpta.org
DADS (Dads of Amazing Daughters/Sons)	OPEN	DADS@rrisdpta.org
Diversity	Estevan Zarate	diversity@rrisdpta.org
Healthy Lifestyles	Kristen Hullum	healthylifestyles@rrisdpta.org
Philanthropy	Jerry Vasquez	philanthropy@rrisdpta.org
Reflections/Arts in Education	Monica Welch	reflections@rrisdpta.org
Scholarships	Tangelia Pruitt	scholarships@rrisdpta.org
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Directory	OPEN	directory@rrisdpta.org
Newsletter	Sara Gandaria-Escamilla	newsletter@rrisdpta.org
Webmaster	Michele Chan-Thomson	webmaster@rrisdpta.org
National PTA Liaison	Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert	PTAliaison@rrisdpta.org
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>		
Decorations Chair	Lori Cortez	decorations@rrisdpta.org
<b>RRISD &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
Superintendent	Dr. Steve Flores	superintendent_rrisd@roundrockisd.org
Community Partnership Sup	Rachael Sefton	rachael_sefton@roundrockisd.org
Coordinator, Title 1 Parent Programs	Sibyl Lee	sibyl_lee@roundrockisd.org
PIE Foundation	Marianne Reap	marianne_reap@rrisdeducationfoundation.org
Round Rock Chamber of Commerce	Jason Ball	jball@roundrockchamber.org

# 2020-21 Council PTA Officer Assignments

If you are in need of assistance, please contact the Officer listed for your campus. Our officers have or are currently serving as local PTA board members and are eager to help you succeed. Please also feel free to contact Council President, Snehal Phirke, 972.375.6377.

## **Randall Goltzman, 1st VP**

**membership@rrisdpta.org 512.632.7490**

[Anderson Mill ES](#)

[Caldwell Heights ES](#)

[CD Fulkes MS](#)

Cedar Ridge HS

Kathy Caraway ES

Laurel Mountain ES

Pearson Ranch MS

## **Jill Strode, 2nd VP**

**training@rrisdpta.org 512.423.4741**

Canyon Vista MS

Chandler Oaks ES

[Double File Trail ES](#)

[Live Oak ES](#)

McNeil HS

Old Town ES

Ridgeview MS

## **OPEN, 3rd VP**

**communications@rrisdpta.org**

Cedar Valley MS

Deep Wood ES

[Forest North ES](#)

Pond Springs ES

Round Rock HS

[Union Hill ES](#)

Walsh MS

## **Melissa Schmalbach, 4th VP**

**hospitality@rrisdpta.org 512.300.8329**

[Berkman ES](#)

[Bluebonnet ES](#)

Chisholm Trail MS

Elsa England ES

Fern Bluff ES

Stony Point HS

## **Melissa Hoskin, 5th VP**

**programs@rrisdpta.org 512.731.0791**

Brushy Creek ES

[Deerpark MS](#)

Great Oaks ES

Patsy Sommer ES

Robertson ES

Success HS

[Voigt ES](#)

## **OPEN**

**fundraising@rrisdpta.org**

Blackland Prairie ES

[Callison ES](#)

Herrington ES

Noel Grisham MS

Spicewood ES

[Wells Branch ES](#)

Westwood HS

## **Beth Fitzmaurice, Secretary**

**secretary@rrisdpta.org 512.769.2299**

Cactus Ranch ES

Forest Creek ES

[Gattis ES](#)

[Hernandez MS](#)

Purple Sage ES

RROC

## **Laura Podnar, Parliamentarian**

**parliamentarian@rrisdpta.org 512.574.5023**

Canyon Creek ES

Early College HS

Hopewell MS

[Joe Lee Johnson ES](#)

[Jollyville ES](#)

Teravista ES

BLUE = Title 1 Campus

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steve Flores



This school year continues to present challenges like no other, but our Round Rock ISD students, teachers and staff are all rising to the occasion.

On October 19, we began our second nine-week grading period and our campuses are beginning to look more like we're accustomed to, albeit with some important changes to protect those in our buildings.

As promised, there is more mobility on our secondary campuses with students switching classes more often. The pod approach we implemented to begin on-campus learning has helped us keep the spread of COVID-19 and widespread quarantines to a minimum.

We are tracking our positive cases on our COVID Dashboard and our campus COVID coordinators are doing a thorough job of identifying and notifying close contacts. We believe our measured, cautious approach has allowed us to open and stay open, avoiding campus-wide closures that other districts have had to endure.

I want to thank you for your patience and cooperation this school year as we navigate the challenges of virtual learning and acclimate to rigorous health and safety protocols while on campus. Please know that every decision we make is to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff and community and to increase our chances of returning to school as we've come to expect it, with all the enrichment, engagement and social interactions that students need and deserve.

Beginning, November 9, we plan to allow middle and high schools to resume a traditional schedule with students rotating to all classes. We will continue to be vigilant in our health and safety protocols, including requiring masks and frequent cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces, to minimize harmful exposure.

Students will still be able to remain in an at-home virtual learning environment and students participating in on-campus learning can switch to at-home learning at any time. Our elementary teachers have been having great success with our new interactive flat panel screens that were installed in classrooms thanks to Bond 2018 which allow students on-campus and learning from home to interact and collaborate. In fact, they've been so valuable we are also now purchasing them for our secondary schools as well.

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Steve Flores



*(Continued)*

As you all know, Election Day is quickly approaching. This election is not only important for Texas and our nation, but also Round Rock ISD. We have four seats on our Board of Trustees on the ballot. I hope you will all research the candidates and be sure to vote in the election. Special thanks to the Council of PTAs for all their hard work educating voters through candidate forums.

Thank you again for your help and support. Please know that we are working diligently to welcome our students back and provide a safe, engaging, rigorous, nurturing environment for everyone. We appreciate your partnership in this endeavor.



# Message from District Leadership

## Area Superintendents

John Yonker,  
McNeil Learning Community



The McNeil Learning Community is extremely grateful to our campus PTA partners. Although this has been a very challenging year the PTA's have stepped up and helped out in numerous ways. Some examples of what our learning community PTAs have done include:

- Provided an abundance of treats to welcome our staff into the building. Parents and local community members bought out an Amazon wishlist flooding our staff with love.
- Shown support by providing breakfast on the first day that the teachers returned.
- Collaborating on a "Rangerthon" similar to a telethon from the 80s and 90s as a fundraiser for the school.
- Held several PTA board meetings and one general PTA virtual meeting. PTA is increasing staff morale in numerous ways.
- They are meeting regularly through Zoom since the shutdown last spring. The kick-off general meeting in September included two guest speakers.
- Managed curbside pick-up of pre-packaged school supplies in August.
- Provided snack bar items for PD days for teachers. They continue to go above and beyond to support our students and staff! They provided spirit shirts and masks for ALL students and staff members at no cost! Stocked our lounge with snacks and coffee, and provided our staff with coffee and breakfast tacos \*twice\* already this year.
- Started a PTA Equity Committee where they are meeting biweekly and starting a book study of "Courageous Conversations About Race" by Glenn Singleton.
- They continued their Fall grant program despite not being able to hold the Spring Carnival or Fall Fun Run. They gifted \$7,779.35 to teachers based on their grant applications. They also continue to provide staff appreciation gifts each month to keep up teacher morale. PTA has provided breakfast tacos, school supplies, and just recently sunglasses (to be used at recess). Every year in the fall they also do a beautification day where they clean up the landscape. PTA always goes above and beyond for our students and staff!

Cedar Ridge Learning Community  
Dr. Nancy Guerrero

Round Rock Learning Community  
Carla Amacher

Westwood Learning Community  
Rebecca Donald

Stony Point Learning Community  
Natalie Nichols

# Message from District Leadership

## RRISD School Board

Amy Weir, President, Place 5



First, on behalf of the Board and voters, I would like to thank the Council of PTAs for the virtual candidate forums. These are so important and are a wonderful source of information for voters who may not be getting any other information on school board candidates. I know that it was a different format with 2 nights and 4 separate virtual forums, and as an observer they all seemed to go off without a hitch. So thank you again.

I would once again like to thank all our teachers and staff who are doing an amazing job in this time of crisis. I think we are all anxious for things to be closer to normal for the entire community. On a positive note if you've been checking the district's COVID dashboard or have watched the Administration's updates to the Board on the Reimagining Education Plan, we are seeing less of an increase in cases than some anticipated for in person learning. What's more, most of the positive cases have come from off campus or athletics, classroom spread has been minimal. That's a good sign. And hopefully as we head into November the trends will continue so our middle and high school students who are on campus will finally get closer to having a normal education experience.

The district has hired its first Chief Equity Officer, Mr. DeWayne Street. We're looking forward to getting to know him and working with him as we begin to truly address the equity issues that exist in our district. It's an exciting time. We know a huge part of Equity is ensuring we are curtailing the school to prison pipeline. The RRISD PD and Behavioral Health under the leadership of Chief Yarbrough and Dr. Amy Grosso are doing amazing work that is transformative in this field and will make RRISD a leader nationwide. Thank you for hosting the Safety Conversations Facebook Live Event on October 7th which enabled parents and community members to better understand the important changes happening right now in these areas.

We know the days ahead will continue to be hard, especially for RRISD teachers and staff. A special thank you to all the PTAs who have stepped up to make teachers and staff appreciation a priority. It makes a big difference in terms of morale and we are really grateful.

We will get through this year. Day by day, week by week, month by month...we will overcome. But now more than ever we need your help. Thank you for your partnership.

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### RRISD SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Board of Trustees are usually held on the third Thursday of each month unless scheduled otherwise. The Board normally meets in closed session at 6:00 p.m., followed by a public session starting at 7:00 p.m.

# Council PTA News

## COUNCIL CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

PTA leaders, Principals, District Leadership, District Partners, Business and Community PTA members, are all encouraged to submit a written contribution to our Council Connections Newsletter.

If you would like to be included, email a brief, 1/4 page length, article to the Council Connections PTA Newsletter Editor, Sara Gandaría-Escamilla at [newsletter@rrisdpta.org](mailto:newsletter@rrisdpta.org)

**Submission for the next Newsletter is due  
Friday, December 4th, 2020**

A hard copy of the newsletter is distributed at each Delegate Luncheon Meeting and sent electronically to all executive board members whose names have been uploaded to Texas PTA Two Step. During the months when we do not have a Delegate Luncheon Meeting, a digital edition will be published and distributed by email.

**Have you joined the private  
RRISD PTA Facebook Group?**

**Find it by searching:  
RRISD Local PTA  
Board Q&A**

**It's a great place to share  
ideas and ask questions.**

### Stay Connected with your RRISD Council of PTAs



Website: <http://rrisdpta.org>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RRISDPTA>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RRISDPTA>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rrisdpta/>



# Council PTA COVID-19 Highlights

Tackling COVID-19 Together   

[RRISD COVID-19 Webpage](#)

[RRISD Home Learning HUB](#)

[RRISD Behavioral Health Support](#)

[Tips on Talking with Elementary Students](#)

[Tips on Talking with Secondary Students](#)

[Family Resources from National PTA](#)

[Guidelines for Meetings per Texas PTA](#)

[Virtual Meeting FAQs](#)

[Texas PTA Guidelines for Virtual Meetings](#)

[Overview of Guidelines Video](#)



Parents ... Teachers ... ALL of us!



# Council PTA Highlights

## Message From Our Treasurer

by Liz Cantrell

Treasurer,

RRISD Council of PTAs

Hello, Fellow Treasurers!

I hope everyone is up and running and had a chance to establish a routine with your teams!

October is a good time to take a breath and make sure you have all your procedures in place. Making a schedule and creating clear expectations for financial procedures with your board will help you stay on top of your duties and manage your time. Especially with changes in how we are PTAing this year, clear communication with your team will play a vital role in making sure your treasury runs smoothly.

Here are a few suggestions:

- ✓ Check your Standing Rules for financial procedures and share with your board
- ✓ Email electronic copies of the deposit forms and check request/reimbursement forms to all board members.
- ✓ Do not accept receipts for reimbursements or for other fund requests from individuals without a completed reimbursement form. This is their responsibility to complete. They need to attach the receipts, note the budget account, and sign the form before submitting the request. It is permitted to accept electronic copies of receipts, however, they must be legible, you must be able to tell they aren't altered and the date of purchase must be visible.
- ✓ Explain the process for counting money

and how they will notify you when a deposit is ready for you to count and take to the bank. The Treasurer may be the second counter. Remind the counters that they need to break out the deposit by budget accounts. If there are membership dues included in a deposit, they need to write the number of members who paid on the deposit form. Please make timely deposits at the bank. Remind them that money is counted by two people at the same time.

- ✓ Schedule time to enter transactions in the accounting software at least once per week.
- ✓ Reconcile your accounting software with the bank statement monthly. Mistakes happen and this is a great way to correct them as soon as possible.

Speaking of mistakes. We are all human and, if you find one, do not go back and change the original entry. This will make your previously presented financial reports inaccurate and your balances will not match on the reports. Simply make a new journal entry to correct it, dated the day you found the mistake.

Remember there are many resources available to you at [TxPTA.org/treasurer](https://TxPTA.org/treasurer), including the Tx PTA BASICS Treasurer Resource Guide, remember to have fun, and as always, please feel free to contact me anytime!



# Council PTA Highlights

## Diversity Corner

By Estevan “Chuy” Zarate

Diversity Chair

RRISD Council of PTAs

“**Unconscious biases** are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. Everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups, and these biases stem from one’s tendency to organize social worlds by categorizing.

It is important to note that biases, conscious or unconscious, are not limited to ethnicity and race. Though racial bias and discrimination is well documented, biases may exist toward any social group. One’s age, gender, gender identity physical abilities, religion, sexual orientation, weight, and many other characteristics are subject to bias.” \*

We are either guilty of or see unconscious bias fairly regular in our PTA lives. Whether we like it or not, we are not able to understand everything about a person by their outward appearance. You have to be willing to erase your preconceived notions about race, ethnicity, and background in order to truly make people feel welcome in your PTA. Everyone deserves a voice and every PTA should be there to amplify that voice. As hard as it is for some of us, you have to admit that you don’t know everything. That can be uncomfortable. In this day and age, I think we could all be a lot more uncomfortable about unconscious bias and willing to change our mindset in order to make others feel comfortable. Here is a handy acronym that is a good personal checklist so that you understand how to control your unconscious bias.

As always, if you have any questions or

concerns about Diversity, Equity or Inclusion, please feel free to reach out to me at [Diversity@rrisdpta.org](mailto:Diversity@rrisdpta.org)



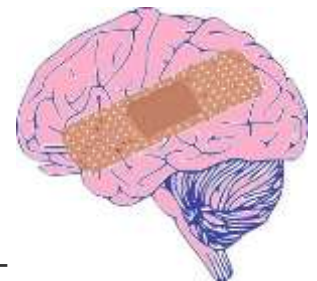
## Concussion Webinar Presented by St. David's and Council Healthy Lifestyle Committee

Learn about Concussion identification and treatment from the experts! Whether your child is in formalized sports or enjoys activities at home, it's critical to the development of their young

brains that concussions be identified early and treated appropriately. The effects of untreated concussions can last months or even years. The Physical Therapists from the St. David's Round Rock Concussion Clinic will be providing a 30 minute Webinar to present this information and answer your questions.

**Thursday, Dec 3rd, 11am-1130am**

Keep an eye on the RRISD Council of PTA social media for Zoom registration!





## Council PTA Highlights

### Quick Start to Reflections

by Monica Welch

Reflections Chair

RRISD Council of PTAs

#### Reflections Entries are Rolling In!

This year's theme is "I Matter Because," and students are starting to make their voices heard! Many schools are doing virtual/online collection of entries, and many are utilizing this online form to collect entries: <https://formfaca.de/sm/g-yxc64rb> Check with your school for specific deadlines for entries - many are near the end of October or very early November. We can't wait to see your art!

Students can enter multiple times in any and all categories: Visual Art, Photography, Literature, Music Composition, Film, and Dance Choreography. School-level judging will take place in early November, and Reflections chairs will submit the top 20% from each school for Council-level judging by Nov 16. Many online resources are available for parents, students and chairs - our Council website Reflections page is a great place to find rules and tips! A big thanks to all our local chairs

and PTA presidents, who are all working hard to host Reflections contests during this unusual year! If your school would like to start a Reflections program, this is still a great year to do just that, and there is still time! Our Council Reflections Chair Monica Welch is happy to help! Please contact her if you have any questions about new or established Reflections programs at [reflections@rrisdpta.org](mailto:reflections@rrisdpta.org).

The 2020-2021 National PTA "Reflections" Arts Program provides an outstanding opportunity for school PTAs to encourage students' creativity. The 2020-2021 Reflections theme, "I Matter Because..."

was created by a 1st grader who drew inspiration for the theme, when her town was impacted by the 2018

California Wildfires.



Sponsored by **WHATABURGER**

Reflection THEME SEARCH Competition for the 2022-2023 school year, with the Theme Search running through November 12th.

<https://www.txpta.org/reflections-theme-search>

### YOUR DADS CAN STILL HELP. NOW MORE THAN EVER.



- Health Ambassador
- Remind Students about masks and distance
- Help with bus and car rider drop-off and pick-up
- Help teachers and students at recess
- Model healthy behavior

888-540-DOGS • [dadsofgreatstudents.com](http://dadsofgreatstudents.com)

### Social Media Tip

When asking members for photos be sure to include the following disclaimer:

*Photo/Video Release: Please note that by submitting your photo/video to [insert PTA name], you give [insert PTA name] the permission to use it on the [insert PTA name] website, newsletter, social media outlets, or any other [insert PTA name] communication channels.*

# Council PTA Highlights

## Advocacy Update

**By Heather Lawrence, Advocacy Chair,  
RRISD Council of PTAs**

The RRISD Council of PTA's Advocacy Committee, along with the Council President Snehal Phirke worked hard over the last 6 weeks to organize and stream four virtual Candidate Forums for the upcoming Round Rock ISD School Board of Trustees. During the process, we consulted Texas PTA Leadership making sure we are providing these forums for our community in the most non-partisan, impartial way. The Forums were streamed on Facebook Live and posted on the Council Website.

The forums featured questions sourced by survey from all the learning communities. About 180 questions were received! Survey responses were then categorized by topic and split amongst our committee members to synthesize into a smaller set. Questions had to be for ALL candidates, fair, balanced, and representative of all our learning communities. The committee then analyzed and discussed every proposed question, editing as necessary to allow for open-ended responses and to merge questions where applicable. The Advocacy Chair and Council President used metrics to determine how many questions of each topic will be asked across the Forums and divided the questions accordingly into 4 balanced groups. Right before each forum, a question set was chosen at random for that forum.

After all four forums, the candidates had the opportunity to clarify and answer all 40 questions in writing. Candidate answers are posted on the Council Website, along with the Candidate Bios.

All of the Forum transcripts, the Bios, and the Questions were translated into the top 10 languages spoken by our RRISD families: Span-

ish, Telugu, Mandarin (Chinese), Hindi, Tamil, Korean, Vietnamese, Urdu, Arabic, and Gujarati.

Of course, the School Board of Trustees are not the only race on November 3rd! The League of Women Voters, Austin Area has a wonderful video series Civics 101, that explores knowing your ballot, races, preparation, and voting. If you only have time for one class, I suggest "Civics 101, Session 3- Researching Your Ballot and How to Cast Your Vote."

Do you have a voting plan? VOTE411.org is the place to go! Just type in your address to find your polling places, what's on YOUR ballot, even compare and research the candidates. Remember to PRINT a hard copy of your sample ballot results to bring into the polling place with you, Phones are NOT ALLOWED in the voting booth!

If you are Early Voting, you have one more day! Go here if you are in Travis County to find a place to vote and check the current wait times. Go here to find a polling location in Williamson County. Polls are open from 7 am to 7 pm on Friday!

Election day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Go here to find a place to vote in Travis County and here to find a polling location in Williamson County. Polls are open from 7 am to 7 pm on Election Day!

Additionally, the League of Women Voters Austin Area offers First Vote!, a FREE community service program for area high schoolers, where they learn about voting and registering to vote, in a fun and interactive format. Interested schools can request a webinar presentation for their students by emailing [gthomas@lwvaustin.org](mailto:gthomas@lwvaustin.org) or clicking on [bit.ly/FirstVoteSignUp](https://bit.ly/FirstVoteSignUp).

# Council PTA Highlights

## National & State PTA News You Can Use: Updates, Helpful Tips & Resources

by Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert

National PTA Liaison

RRISD Council of PTAs

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National PTA and State PTA are providing helpful information for students, parents, guardians, and faculty. These educational support resources are here for YOU and are easily accessible at [PTA.org](https://www.pta.org) and [TXPTA.org](https://www.txpta.org). At the sites, you can also subscribe to e-newsletters and find resources in Español. Listed below, are timely current resources, upcoming events, and reminders.

National PTA is informing and encouraging PTA leaders, students, families, and faculty about how everyone can work together to build a more equitable society and public education experience. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion is at the forefront of PTA's work. Information about Building a More Diverse, Equitable, & Inclusive PTA is available HERE in both English and Spanish. Available content includes: National PTA's "Commitment to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion" Statement; a guide on How to Welcome Diverse Perspectives into Your PTA; a One Voice article on Enhancing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in Your PTA; resources on How to Talk About Race and Justice in America; insight from National PTA's Equity Fellows; National PTA's Position Statements on Addressing Institutional or Systemic Racism and Inclusive Curriculum in K-12 Schools; a comprehensive Diversity & Inclusion Toolkit; and, much more.

National PTA is #PTAProud to partner with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation for Project Thrive, highlighting the importance of ensuring youth-serving professionals are giving LGBTQ youth the support they need to thrive. October is LGBTQ Month and the National PTA has resources here. Join the conversation on Twitter @NationalPTA with the hashtag #EveryChild.

Check out the National PTA Event Calendar for a comprehensive list of what's going on and coming up. National & State PTA Branding & Web Guidelines are easily accessible as are National Advocacy & Legislative Resources including PTA Resolutions. Don't forget that November 1st is the deadline for candidates to submit their Letters of Interest to the National PTA Board of Directors to serve on the national board.

Helpful Parent, Student, and Educator Resources including: COVID-19 information, the Center for Family Engagement with a Toolkit to Facilitate Family/School Listening Sessions (available in multiple languages), Our Children Magazine, Health & Safety News, Special Education Toolkits, the Parents' Guide to Student Success, and College & Career Readiness news are all accessible, here. The insightful Notes from the Backpack podcast series is also available. And, don't forget to easily look for upcoming National PTA Events on the website or at the National PTA Events app.



## Council PTA Highlights

### What Is The Biggest Threat to Your Teen? Something Used Every Day.

By Kristen Hullum, MSN, RN

Healthy Lifestyle's Chair

RRISD Council of PTAs



Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death to teens. As a matter of fact, by the time a teen graduates high school, about half will have been in-

involved in some type of crash – either as the driver or a passenger. Hopefully, it's a minor crash that doesn't result in injury to your child (or your car!), but what if it's more serious?

The factors influencing teen crash statistics:

- **Inexperience** – this is the greatest factor in teen driving. Think about your first year driving and all the “near-misses” due to inexperience. Teens simply don't have the experience behind the wheel that only comes with time to properly react in driving situations – bad weather, yielding on left turns, following too closely and night driving.
- **Unsafe speed** – excessive speed is a factor in more than half of teen crashes. Unsafe speed and inexperience are a dangerous combination.
- **Lack of seat belt** – shocking, right? But 47% of the teens killed in a crash were not wearing a seat belt at the time (either as the driver or passenger). This is such a simple fix.

- **Distractions** – everyone knows we shouldn't text and drive, but 1 in 3 teens have admitted to doing this very thing. Distractions aren't just limited to texting. Even a hands-free call over Bluetooth takes the driver's mind off of driving and onto the conversation. Other distractions include music (and reaching for the radio) and passengers.
- **Alcohol** – A overwhelming number of fatal injuries occur when teens are impaired by alcohol.

What can parents/guardians do?

- Drive with your teens frequently – especially throughout the first year. This allows an experienced adult to offer tips and tricks to that young driver and correct unsafe practices.
- Make a pact with your kids – talk to them about the various dangers above and make a pact with them that they will never drive distracted, impaired, or recklessly. Remind them to ALWAYS wear their seat belts, even in the back seat.
- Be aware of Texas Graduated Licensing Laws – this restricts the number of passengers a teen driver can have (no more than 1 who is unrelated), cell phone use (even hands free) and night time driving.

For additional resources, please visit [DriveItHome.org](http://DriveItHome.org) or [nhtsa.gov](http://nhtsa.gov)





# RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners

On behalf of the RRISD Council of PTAs, we would like to recognize the following PTA ComYOUity Partners:

## Platinum (\$1000 donation)

Individuals and/or businesses joined EVERY PTA in RRISD!



## Bronze (\$250 donation)

Individuals and/or businesses joined 3 PTAs in RRISD!

## Raise Your Hand Texas



Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs

### 2020-21 ComYOUity Partnership Program

Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs is thankful for the partnerships and the support provided by our local businesses. Council funds district-wide programs such as our local Clothes Closets, Senior Scholarships, Reflections, Parent information sessions and workshops throughout the school year. With our partners' support, we are able to invest in the programs that benefit our schools, teachers, children and families in RRISD.

If you are interested in finding out more or have questions about these opportunities, please contact Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of Membership at [membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)

ComYOUity Partnership Program	Platinum \$1000	Gold \$750	Silver \$500	Bronze \$250
Marvelous ComYOUity Memberships	*	*	*	*
Certificate for your business to display	*	*	*	*
ComYOUity decal for your business to display	*	*	*	*
Logo on Council website Partner page	*	*	*	*
Shoutout on Council social media pages	*	*	*	*
Logo/Ad in monthly newsletters	*	*	*	*
Website link, contact information & byline included with logo on Partner page	*	*		
2 min Infomercial at Delegate Meeting	*			
Logo on Council website Home page	*			

\* More opportunities may be available throughout the year depending on available partner seating.

### PLATINUM PARTNER \$1000

- 2 minute Infomercial at one virtual Delegate Meeting
- Logo on Council website Home page
- Website link, contact & byline included with logo on Partner page
- Full page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Platinum Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to ALL 53 PTAs

### GOLD PARTNER \$750

- Website link, contact & byline included with logo on Partner page
- 1/2 page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Gold Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to our 17 PTAs in need

### SILVER PARTNER \$500

- 1/4 page ad/logo in our newsletters
- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Silver Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to 7 PTAs of your choice

### BRONZE PARTNER \$250

- Shoutout on Council Social media pages (FB, IG, Twitter)
- Logo on Council website Partner Page
- ComYOUity Partner decal for your business to display
- Bronze Partner Certificate for your business to display
- Marvelous ComYOUity Membership to 3 PTAs of your choice

Please complete this section and mail it to: RRISD Council of PTAs, PO Box 1746, Round Rock, TX 78680 or visit our online store at [www.rrisdpta.org](http://www.rrisdpta.org)

Name(s): _____	Cell: _____
Business Name: _____	
Email: _____	Website: _____
Partnership Level: _____	

Become a ComYOUity Partner and receive the benefits below.

For more information email

Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of membership at  
[membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Blackland Prairie PTA

- BPE PTA started the year off with a bang, providing our teachers with a grab-and-go breakfast on the day before the school year began. We continue to support our teachers by providing a treat to the teachers lounge for the staff, once a month.
- As the school year progresses, we are getting closer to our big fundraiser this year, the Apex Fun Run in November. We're looking forward to raising funds to help support paying for Scholastic Readers, Before and After School Tutoring, and Educational Technology, as well as various events

### Chandler Creek PTA

- We love our Chandler Oaks spirit wear this year. We held a curbside pickup and had a lot of fun seeing so many smiling cheetahs excited to receive their COE t-shirts! Since pickup, we have loved seeing our students, teachers, staff, and so many in our community rockin' their COE spirit wear!
- We hosted a virtual Reflections Art Night at the beginning of October to discuss the Reflections program. In addition to our Reflections Chair, we had a fantastic COE alumni help us get current students excited about the program. We brainstormed ideas and student attendees started working on their Reflections submissions. We are looking forward to receiving all of the submissions later this month.
- We love showing our appreciation to our wonderful Chandler Oaks teachers and staff. In September and October we stocked up their lounge with lots of snacks, treats, and drinks to give them

energy during their days.

- We have a lot of things happening in October! Teachers are currently applying for teacher mini-grants to fund enriching, educational experiences for Chandler Oaks students. This year's theme for the COE yearbook is "Together, Apart" and we're currently accepting student artwork for the cover. We are hosting a pumpkin decorating contest with many fun themes. And, PTA is hosting a curbside pickup for students to pick up a bag of treats.

### Forest North PTA

- Happy Fall! The FNE PTA has a couple fun things coming up that we are so excited about! On October 23rd we hosted a drive-thru membership drive Trick or Treat event! There will be candy, a food truck and the opportunity to become a member of our PTA! We will be in compliance with social distancing recommendations.
- November 9th-20th we will have APEX virtually! Even though this year is very different from previous years we will still have a great time, connecting, leading, and moving our bodies. We hope to raise funds to help support our teachers and staff and hold some community outreach projects as well as fund a new sign for our front court yard!



**everyone can  
back the future**  
Because anyone can join PTA

#YouCanPTA

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Grisham PTA

- Grisham Middle School was awarded \$9,000 in Grant Funding this year.
- The National PTA awarded Grisham Middle School PTA \$5,000 to address food security among Grisham Grizzly families in need. A serious barrier to getting food into families' hands is stigma. We are partnering with Full Cart to provide enough food to feed a family of 4 dinner for a month. Families visit Full Cart's website to fill their box with food their family likes. Then, the box of food will be shipped to each family's doorstep. We are excited to provide our Grizzlies in need with a dignified way to choose and receive food for their family. In addition to the grant funds, we invite the community to sponsor a box for a Grizzly family in need. Our goal is to sponsor 80 additional boxes. Sponsoring a box costs \$40 <https://fullcart.org/grisham-middle-school/>
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded Grisham Middle School PTA \$4,000 to fund Playaways for the school library. These self-contained audio books mean that middle school students who struggle with reading can access the same rich literature that their peers are reading. We will work closely with the Grisham Middle School librarian to select and place these items into the library catalog.
- Thank you to National PTA and TikTok for feeding our Grizzlies in need. Thank you to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation for providing essential reading materials to our Grizzlies.

### RROC PTSA

- The RROC PTA would like to extend a big Texas PTA size welcome our new principal, Donald Bosier. Mr. B has big plans to integrate the OC into the fabric of the com-mYOUunity. The PTA is super excited to be "working" with him. He supports and believes in the Vision, Mission and Purposes of PTA.
- We'd also like to welcome our new Treasurer, Melynda Hernandez! Melynda's home PTA campus is Herrington, but she's graciously sharing her time with us too. TY Melynda!
- At the end of last year, we created our own local unit PTA goals and combined it with a "tag line". It is, The RROC PTA provides HOPE: Help our families, Open communications, Provide resources and Enrich the community.
- Due to the current state of affairs, our membership is at an all time low. We rely heavily on membership, the generosity of our fellow PTAs and the Round Rock community to support our efforts at the OC. I ask you to please join our PTA and help us to continue the work of this PTA. It's easy and convenient to do electronically. Simply go to [JoinPTA.org](https://JoinPTA.org) and follow the prompts. Dues are still only \$10.
- Huge shout out to BBVA Compass, Edward Hanna, for being the sponsor of our "Jumpin' Into the New Year Breakfast". You are our RROC STAR!
- If you'd like to make a donation of time, talent or resources, please contact RROC PTA President, Dawn Watson at 512/415-7090.

## Local PTA News/Spotlights

### Stony Point PTSA

- Stony Point PTSA, and just like other RRISD PTSA organizations, are still working to provide support to our students/teachers/administration/staff during these extraordinary times. Listed below are some activities that we are working on before the end of the calendar year.
- Osiris, Lorraine, and Sheyenne are leading the charge in finding COVID- friendly volunteer opportunities. They also developed COVID-friendly methods of submitting their hours as well.
- Victoria, our Teacher Appreciation lead, is working diligently with our great principal and administration to come up with Virtual teacher appreciation activities that meet the RRISD COVID policies.
- Laura is still focusing on increasing membership. Admittedly, it has been somewhat challenging compared to years past.
- On a positive note, seven scholarships funds (\$500 each) have been fully funded to the recipients' colleges and universities at the beginning of the school year.
- Student members put up Blue ribbon around the campus to honor of our educators for World Teacher's Day.
- We also have a few submissions for Reflections this year, and are hopeful that they reach the highest level of success with their entries.
- We completed our preorder spirit wear campaign and mailed or did a porch drop off delivery.
- We have hosted two Hospitality events for Walsh staff and teachers . We had a 'back to school' breakfast taco welcome in September, and a Snack day event in October.
- In addition to extending Grant winners, the Grant committee put a call out to our community for 2nd monitors for teachers and collected 30 monitors!
- Walsh PTA is excited to have 6 Community Partners this school year.

### Wells Branch PTA

- In addition to our annual t-shirt tradition, WBE PTA provided a mask for every student and staff member as they returned to school this Fall.
- We want teachers and staff to know we appreciate the extra work they are doing for our kids! We've tried to show it by providing some breakfast tacos, coffee, and snacks for them at WBE AIA.
- Our Move-a-thon Fall Fundraiser has been modified this year to feature a virtual talent show, culminating in a virtual broadcast and Zoom Watch Party on Friday October 23rd.
- We've started a WBE PTA Equity Team based on Glenn Singleton's Courageous Conversations about Race.

### Walsh PTA

- Walsh Middle school PTA has been very busy supporting the school this Fall.
- In addition to our monthly PTA meetings, we're hosting virtual coffee chats.

# RRISD Partners News and Tips

## Prevent Bullying

by Amy Grosso, PhD

Director of Behavioral Health Services

Round Rock Independent School District

Amy\_Grosso@roundrockisd.org

Did you know October is National Bullying Prevention Month? Usually during this month we make sure our kids know bullying is bad. This year I wonder if we should be having the same conversation with ourselves, as the adults. When I looked at [stopbullying.gov](http://stopbullying.gov) the information was centered on kids, but is it time we ask ourselves if the way we conduct ourselves is setting an example for our kids? The website defines three types of bullying:

- Verbal bullying: saying or writing mean things. It includes teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, threatening to cause harm.
- Social bullying: sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. It includes leaving someone out on purpose, telling others to not be friends with someone, embarrassing someone in public.
- Physical bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions.

Just because we become adults doesn't mean we no longer bully others... it just means we stop talking about it. We might be good at calling out other's behavior, but are willing to look at the mirror and reflect on our own actions. I can't answer that question for anyone else but myself... I hope you can take time to reflect on what bullying prevention month could mean to you as an adult.



## RRISD Community Education Upcoming Events

Earning College Credit in HS

Tuesday, November 17th

6-7:15 pm

What Do I Need to Know About Mental Health?

Tuesday, November 17th

6-7:15 pm

Understanding High School Academics

Tuesday, November 17th

6-7:15 pm

For all of the above seminars go [here](#) for more information and to register.



Check out the Podcast [Here](#)

## RRISD Partners News and Tips

### Welcome Back from Health Services

by Brandy Hafner RN, BSN

Director of Health Services

Round Rock Independent School District

As we move forward in the school year and have COVID-19 positives on our campuses, I am frequently asked about how families will be notified. If there is a positive or probable case at your campus, you will receive a letter from your administrator. This includes cases of on-campus students or staff and students learning virtually that come to campus for athletics or other extracurricular activities. If a positive or probable case is reported on a weekend, our staff will make the notifications to the close contacts for safety reasons at that time and the official school notice will come out on Monday. If your student is identified as a close contact, parents will be called to explain the quarantine process and to complete a case review. For any questions about the process, please contact your campus nurse or campus COVID Contact.

For more complete information about this process and many others, please visit our new website: A Parent Guide for Health and Safety Protocols for COVID-19 in RRISD

### RRISD Council of PTAs Delegate Luncheons

Thursday January 28, 2021

Friday, March 26, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021

### November Observances

- Good Nutrition Month
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- Music Month
- National Adoption Awareness Month
- National Child Health Month
- National Diabetes Awareness Month
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- National Native American Heritage Month
- World Communication Month
- National Young Reader's Week 11/8-11/14
- World Kindness Week 11/8-11/14
- National Homeless & Hunger Week 11/8-11/14
- Daylight Saving's Time Ends 11/1
- World Vegan Day 11/1
- Day of the Dead 11/2
- Election Day 11/3
- National Military Families Recognition Day 11/4
- Book Lover's Day 11/7
- National STEM/STEAM Day 11/8
- World Adoption Day 11/8
- Veteran's Day 11/11
- World Kindness Day 11/13
- World Diabetes Day 11/14
- World Peace Day 11/17
- Thanksgiving 11/26



# RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners



## ***School promotion opportunity: Fall Welcome Back Offer FREE KIDS' SUNDAE FOR ALL ROUND ROCK ISD STUDENTS***

### THE OFFER

***Andy's Frozen Custard in Round Rock would like to offer ALL students of Round Rock ISD a FREE Kids' Sundae!***

School is back in session and it's time for a break... a family break at Andy's that is! Load up the kiddos, head to Andy's, pop the tailgate or bring some lawn chairs to enjoy the world's finest frozen custard under the bright lights and Texas stars!

### HOW IT WORKS

Download the Andy's app and use promo code 'RROCKISD' at sign-up to receive their free Kids' Sundae! Families have from 10/26/2020 to 11/8/2020 to download app and enter promo code. Free treats will be loaded to accounts on 11/9/2020.

#### **Download App Now!**

iOS: <https://bit.ly/Andysapp>

Google: <https://bit.ly/Andysgoogle>

DOWNLOAD  
APP!



CODE  
RROCKISD

DOWNLOAD PROMO  
10/26/20 – 11/8/20

FREE TREATS  
ADDED  
11/9/2020

### HOW TO PROMOTE

[Click Here for ideas on how to promote.](#)

#### **Assets available for promotion**

- Flyer / eBlast graphic
- Social media posts

*For either external or internal promotional platforms*

- Initial promo post
- Thank you Andy's / Reminder to Download
- 5 Days / Last call for free treat post
- Enjoy! Free Treats Added – Redeem Now!

### FOR EXISTING APP USERS

For families that already have the Andy's app or have multiple students – send an email to [customerservicectx@eatandys.com](mailto:customerservicectx@eatandys.com) with subject line 'RROCKISD' and Andy's will make sure to get account loaded with the free Kids' Sundae!

## RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners

# I WILL DONATE 15% BACK TO PTA!

As a partner with RRISD PTA, I will donate 15% of my broker fees back to the PTA of your choice!

That's right! With any referral from my fellow PTA members, we will be giving back to our children's future! It can be Yourself, Relative, Neighbors, Co-workers, etc.

Anyone that is referred my way through a PTA contact will qualify for the donation!



Call or Text me today  
to discuss!

512-736-JODY (5639)

# JA

#736JODY @JODYALLENREALTOR

ALL CITY  
Real Estate





# RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Partners

**YOU**  
make a  
**DIFFERENCE**  
in what we  
**DO**

*Over the past  
18 years,  
\$4.8 million has  
been given  
back to  
Round Rock ISD*



**PARTNERS IN EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**  
ROUND ROCK ISD

**MISSION**  
The Round Rock ISD Partners in Education Foundation develops and allocates resources to the Round Rock Independent School District to enrich, enhance and maximize the quality of education for all students.

- Providing Funds for innovative academic programs
- Acknowledging and rewarding exemplary teaching
- Providing an avenue for business and community members to enhance the education process
- Promoting public awareness and celebrating successful programs and achievement of excellence

**PROGRAMS**

- Scholarships
- Teacher of the Year
- Employee Giving Campaign
- Excellence in Education Grants

**EVENTS**

- Shining Stars Gala
- Golf Tournament
- Back to School Celebration

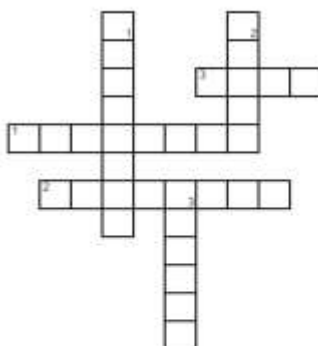
**ACADEMICS**

- STEM Fest
- Pre K Rodeo & RROCK Ready
- Professional Development



**We are ONE family.**

## Round Rock Learning Community PTAs



### Across

1. how RRLLC leaders feel about our PTAs
2. where PTA has stood with teachers for safe distribution of library books, brain tags, school supplies, yearbooks, and more.
3. new four letter word for meeting

### Down

1. two groups engaged together for a common purpose
2. what PTAs do to teachers
3. PTA promotes this on each RRLLC campus

Crossword by: Round Rock Learning Community Area Superintendent, Carla Amacher

## RRISD PTA ComYOUity Partners



**Based in Austin, TX we are a true homegrown printing company that now serves the entire US, but we don't forget or local customers and relationships we forged from the beginning.**

**600+ companies/organizations and over a million customers trust and depend on BuildASign as partners to fulfill their different printing needs.**

David Curry  
Enterprise Sales Manager  
[david.curry@buildasign.com](mailto:david.curry@buildasign.com)



# RRISD PTA ComYOUunity Mem-

## Marvelous Platinum ComYOUunity Members

(Joined all PTAs)

Dart 'Em UP

## Marvelous ComYOUunity Members

(Joined 3 PTAs)

Michelle Stanley  
Lisa Shultz



**everyone can  
back the future**  
AT RRISD COUNCIL OF PTAS

**Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs  
Marvelous Community Membership Program**

As a Marvelous Community PTA Member, you support our mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

As a Marvelous Community PTA Member, you will receive a certificate to proudly hang in your home, office, or business; a window decal for your car or business window; and acknowledgement at our delegate meeting, website & newsletter. Local PTAs may choose to honor you as well!

To be a Marvelous Community PTA Member join at least 3 local PTAs of your choice. You also have the opportunity to select any of the Marvelous Community Membership packages listed below.

Marvelous Community Membership Packages	
Platinum (Join ALL PTAs)	\$460.00
Gold (Join 17 PTAs in Need of Community Support - look for *)	\$124.50
Silver (Join 10 PTAs of Your Choice - price based on PTAs selected)	
Bronze (Join 5 PTAs of Your Choice - price based on PTAs selected)	
Alternative Packages (EOPS, RRDC, Success - look for +)	\$30.00
Dragons (Join RRHS + 14 RRHS Feeder Schools - look for [R])	\$122.00
Mavericks (Join MHS + 14 MHS Feeder Schools - look for [M])	\$132.50
Warriors (Join CHS + 8 CHS Feeder Schools - look for [C])	\$72.50
Tigers (Join SHS + 10 SHS Feeder Schools - look for [S])	\$94.50
Warriors (Join WHS + 9 WHS Feeder Schools - look for [W])	\$88.50

Please mail this form to RRISD Council of PTAs, PO Box 1746, Round Rock, 78660 or visit our online store at [www.rrisdpta.org](http://www.rrisdpta.org). If you have questions, contact Randall Goltzman, VP Membership, at [membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org).

Elementary Schools			
Anderson MS* (M/W)	\$1.50	Griffin (C)	\$33.00
Barkman (C)	\$7.00	Great Oaks (R)	\$8.00
Blackburn Prairie (C)	\$6.00	Harrington (S)	\$55.00
Blanton* (R)	\$6.00	Joe Lee Johnson* (M/W)	\$8.00
Brushy Creek (M/R)	\$7.50	Jollyville (M/W)	\$7.00
Carroll Ranch (R)	\$7.00	Laurel Mountain (W)	\$6.00
Chandler Heights* (S)	\$7.00	Live Oak* (W)	\$6.50
Callison* (C)	\$7.00	Old Town (R)	\$8.00
Canyon Creek (W)	\$6.00	Pine Springs (W)	\$33.00
Caraway (W)	\$6.00	Purple Sage (M/W)	\$33.00
Chandler Oaks (S)	\$10.00	Robertson* (S)	\$7.00
Deep Wood (R)	\$7.50	Sommer (M/R)	\$8.00
Freddie Pitt* (C)	\$7.50	Splinterwood (W)	\$33.00
Englewood (M/R)	\$10.00	Yerxa (S)	\$8.00
Fox Bluff (R)	\$7.00	Union Hill* (S)	\$6.00
Forest Creek (S)	\$6.00	Vaughn* (S)	\$6.50
Forest North* (M)	\$7.00	Wells Branch* (W)	\$8.50

Middle Schools			
C. D. Fuller* (C)	\$8.00	Hernandez* (S)	\$9.00
Carson Vista (W)	\$10.00	Hopewell (S)	\$33.00
Center Valley (M/R)	\$10.50	Peasano Ranch (W)	\$33.00
Chisholm Trail (R)	\$10.00	Ridgeview (S)	\$40.00
Deerport* (M)	\$10.00	Walsh (R/S)	\$33.00
Northam (W)	\$13.00		

High Schools			
Center Ridge (S)	\$10.00	RR Opportunity Center +	\$33.00
Early College +	\$10.00	Stony Point (S)	\$33.00
McNeil (W)	\$10.00	Success +	\$33.00
Round Rock (R)	\$11.00	Westwood (W)	\$33.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Are you an Honorary Lifetime Member? Y/N

Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Become a ComYOUunity PTA Member with one of our Membership packages described below.

For more information email

Randall Goltzman, Council PTA VP of membership at  
[membership@rrisdpta.org](mailto:membership@rrisdpta.org)



## COUNCIL PTA PRIORITIES

- ♦ Support Local PTA Leader
- ♦ Conduct Business of the Council PTA
- ♦ Promote PTA



## Texas PTA News & Tips



**Don't Forget to have your  
2021 PTA/PTSA Officers  
Register with Texas PTA**

**<https://txpta.com/OfficerIntake> or <http://txpta.force.com/OfficerIntake>**



**Find ways to engage Fathers at**

**<https://www.txpta.org/engaging-fathers>**



- **Be recognized as an influential advocate for all children.**
- **Assist Local PTAs in elevating their value within their communities.**
  - **Thrive as a leader alongside our Local PTAs.**
- **Provide invaluable opportunities for Local PTA leaders to be successful today and in the future.**

**For more information go [here](#).**

*With the increased involvement of men—including single fathers, non-custodial dads, home-schooling dads, custodial grandparents and other concerned relatives—in their students' education, there is a greater need for male parent support. Research shows that when fathers and father figures are engaged in children's education, student grades and test scores improve, attendance increases and students are more involved in school activities. Father involvement is associated with children's better socio-emotional and academic functioning. Active and regular father engagement with children impacts a range of positive outcomes, including enhancing cognitive development and decreasing delinquency and poverty in low socioeconomic families*

**—Texas PTA**

# Texas PTA News & Tips



## TEXAS PTA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

87TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS

#### PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM REFORM

Maintain funding for all components of House Bill 3, the comprehensive public school legislation adopted by the 86th Texas Legislature.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

Monitor TEA's Special Education Strategic Plan — corrective action taken after an investigation by the Department of Education.

#### DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

Pursue legislation and funding to ensure all Texas public school students have digital connectivity and devices.

### HEALTH & SAFETY

#### SCHOOL SAFETY

Monitor school safety legislation, both implementation of laws enacted in 2019 and legislation filed in the 87th legislative session.

#### VAPING REGULATION AND FLAVOR BAN

Pursue passage of legislation to ban flavors in e-cigarettes and combustible tobacco, and to tax e-cigarettes; and increase the tax on traditional cigarettes.

### CYBERBULLYING

Monitor implementation of David's Law and any other legislation related to cyberbullying.

### STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

Monitor implementation of mental health legislation, including programs and services designed to help keep students mentally strong and prepared to cope, as well as systems to identify students in need of intervention. Monitor mental health legislation that is filed in the 87th legislative session.

### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Support policies that reduce childhood obesity through education, healthy food choices, and physical activity.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

Support legislation to increase the age of adult criminal responsibility from 17 to 18, and monitor funding for students in Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs.

### CAMPUS IMMUNIZATION REPORTING

Support legislation requiring school districts to report the number of unvaccinated students in each school so families can make the safest school-placement decision for medically vulnerable children.

### CHILD AND YOUTH TRAFFICKING

Support legislation that waives criminal responsibility for children and youth when criminal activity results from exploitation by a trafficker. Monitor the state's 2019 clemency initiative for victims of human trafficking.

### MEANINGFUL ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

#### A-F ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

Monitor legislation impacting the state's A-F system. Advocate for an accountability system that more broadly reviews school performance and includes a family engagement component.

### STATE ASSESSMENT

Advocate for reduced emphasis on state-mandated testing that penalizes the student rather than guide instruction and identify learning problems.

### STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### KEEP PUBLIC DOLLARS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Oppose legislation that authorizes state funds be used to pay for private school tuition and related costs.

### LEGISLATION CAN'T WAIT ON A PANDEMIC



We might not know what Rally Day will look like quite yet, but one thing is for sure — when the Texas Legislature convenes for regular session in January, decisions will be made and laws will pass. The 87th legislative session will prove to be very decisive for our children and schools as our state still reels from a public health crisis. Next session, we need every possible Texan counted in PTA's thunderous voice. Let your community know: **#YouCanPTA**. If they're not sure where to start, invite your family, friends, and neighbors to visit [JoinPTA.org](http://JoinPTA.org) — joining made easy in a world gone virtual.

# Texas PTA News & Tips

## A Message From Texas PTA President, Suzi Kennon

You've hopefully watched the message I gave last week at the close of LAUNCH. If not, please click [here](#) and enjoy the stirring music halfway through!



The start of this school year was anything but normal, so Texas PTA has decided to hit the reset button. Ka-blam! That's right, we are relaunching the year with The Greatest Comeback of 2020! The Greatest Comeback of 2020 is a campaign jam-packed with contests, prizes, and a reset of our traditional awards calendar – all in an effort to motivate our amazing PTA Leaders and spark your creativity to meet an association-wide goal: 225,000 NEW members in 30 days!

Each week, there will be a different contest where our Local PTAs can win big! For Week One (and Week One only), your PTA is challenged to get as many members as possible to join through [www.JoinPTA.org](http://www.JoinPTA.org). The clock started today, Monday, October 26, at 12:01 am and ends Sunday, November 1, at 11:59 pm. The PTA with the most members who join through [JoinPTA.org](http://JoinPTA.org) will win! If there is a tie, the winner will be determined by a drawing. Follow your PTA's progress on the [Local Roster](#), "GC: Week 1" tab. The Prize. The winning PTA for Week One will snag one standard hotel room at The Gaylord Texan for LAUNCH 2021, plus access to LAUNCH 2020 recordings (60+ workshops and six special events) for 10 new registered users. \*Recordings are available through November 16, 2020.

In addition to weekly contests, Texas PTA has pushed the reset button on ALL fall membership awards for Local PTAs. Everyone is now eligible to earn the August, September, and October – assuming you aren't about to get it right now [fingers crossed] – membership awards. Take a look at award criteria [here](#). \*Award eligibility will be determined by the closing date of the Greatest Comeback campaign, Tuesday, November 24. All mailed rosters will need to be post-marked by November 24.

Texas is home to the most innovative, resilient, and fun PTA Leaders, and we wanted to give you a chance to learn from one another. Today, we are rolling out a brand new forum so you can connect with your colleagues and share what's been working, especially in 2020. On Facebook, search "Texas PTAs Idea Share" and ask to join this private group just for PTA Leaders in Texas. The fine print: The group will be monitored for IDEA SHARING content ONLY. This is not the place for procedural questions.

We are beyond excited about the next several weeks and all the fun contests, brainstorming, and award opportunities about to happen! Texas PTA will keep you updated on our association's progress toward the goal: **225,000 NEW members by November 24th.** Remember, PTA, we are doers not spectators. Let's do this!



# Texas PTA News & Tips



## LOCAL PTA MEMBERSHIP AWARDS 2020-2021

To qualify for each award, you must mail membership rosters and dues to Texas PTA postmarked by the listed deadline. In addition, members who join through JoinPTA.org prior to or within the deadline are added to the PTA's count. Track JoinPTA.org members through your PTAEZ account.

[txpta.org/awards-grants](https://txpta.org/awards-grants)

### AUGUST

#### Head Start Award

Jump-start the PTA year with 75% or more of the previous year's total membership.

Deadline: August 31

### SEPTEMBER

#### Early Bird Achievement Award

Reach 100% of the previous year's total membership!

Deadline: September 30

### OCTOBER



#### Snappy Increase Award

Achieve more than 100% of the previous year.

Deadline: October 31

### NOVEMBER



#### Three Year High Award

Show more than 100% of the previous year and reach a 3-year high in membership.

Deadline: November 30

### DECEMBER

#### Shining Star Award

Stand out with more than 100% of the previous year and achieve Good Standing. Special recognition in the Superintendent's Report Card.

Deadline: December 19



Get LAUNCH 2021 bling!

### JANUARY

#### Welcome Back Award

Keep up momentum with 10 new members.

January 1 – January 31

### FEBRUARY

#### XOXO Award

Share the love of PTA with 14 new members.

February 1 – February 28

### MARCH

#### Lucky Leprechaun Award

What's at the end of the PTA rainbow? 17 lucky new members!

March 1 – March 31

### APRIL

#### April Showers Award

Don't get caught in the rain! Welcome 15 new members.

April 1 – April 30

### MAY

#### May Flowers Award

Tend to your garden and watch it grow with 10 new members.

May 1 – May 31

### JUNE

#### Membership Increase Award

Achieve more than 100% of the previous year.

Deadline: June 30

## VOICE FOR EVERY CHILD AWARDS

Texas PTA's most prestigious membership award for Local PTAs that strive to have one voice for every child on their campus.  
Deadline: June 30



**Silver:** Recruit members equal to at least 50% of campus student enrollment.



**Gold:** Recruit members equal to at least 75% of campus student enrollment.



**Platinum:** Recruit members equal to at least 100% of campus student enrollment.

## SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARDS

### Golden Apple Award



Recruit 100% of school faculty as members.

Form deadline: February 28th

*Texas PTA's definition of faculty is principals, assistant principals, teachers, counselors, and instructional assistants employed at the campus full-time.*

### Student Membership Award

Recruit at least 25 student members.

Form deadline: February 28th

### Preschool, MARS (Men Are Really Super), Community, Generations Membership Awards

Recruit at least 50 members from any category to qualify for that award.

Form deadline: February 28th

### Student, Preschool, MARS (Men Are Really Super), Community, Generations Involvement Awards

Appoint or elect one member from any category to serve on the Executive Board to qualify for that award.

Form deadline: February 28th

## PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE A RETURN TO FUNDAMENTALS



Local PTAs that meet all of the following criteria will qualify for the 2020-2021 President's Challenge.

*New: PTAs will be required to submit a form with their principal's signature. Deadline: June 30*

1. Meet with campus principal to set common goals.
2. Participate in the **back the future** campaign. *(Watch for more!)*
3. Host a family engagement program.
4. Have a membership increase.

# Texas PTA News & Tips

## Stay in Touch with Texas PTA

Sign up for one or more of Texas PTA Newsletters Here:  
<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1768473/1715664/>

- √ General Interest Texas PTA
- √ Healthy Lifestyles Newsletter
- √ The Review (Arts in Education Newsletter)
- √ Under the Dome (Legislative Newsletter)

## Keep up with Texas PTA online Magazine



<https://thevoice.txpta.org/>

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## Two Ways to Share Your Ideas with Texas PTA

### Did you know that you can share your successes with Texas PTA?

Texas PTA is proud of the amazing programs and services offered by our Local and Council PTAs throughout the state!

One of the most important benefits of PTA is access to a strong network of innovative and successful PTA Leaders, and we're excited to collect and share some of the best success stories out there.

They're all the *Talk of Texas!*

Submit Here:

<https://fs1.formsite.com/txpta/form615/index.ht>

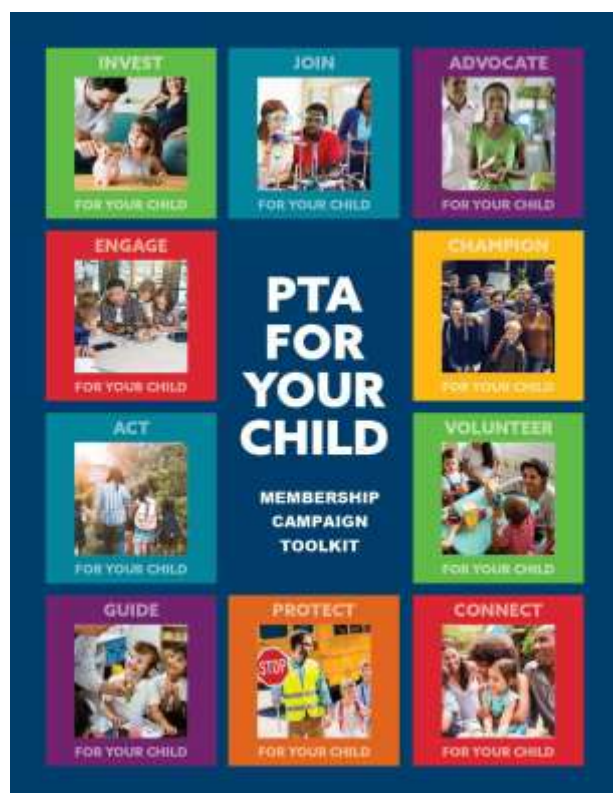




# National PTA News & Tips



## PTA is Speaking Up for You [PTA Letters to Policy Makers](#)



## [National PTA's Membership Campaign "PTA For Your Child" and Local Leader Kit](#)

Provides great ways to encourage Membership and spread the word about PTA's insightful work and resources.



Join in on a Learning Lab to engage with experts to get new and helpful ideas. Check out upcoming topics here

## Tips for making your PTA Virtual

- ✓ [Get Great Examples](#)
- ✓ [Leadership Training](#)
- ✓ [Grow Your Membership](#)
- ✓ [Easy Online Programs](#)
- ✓ [Socially Distanced Family Engagement](#)



[Check out the One Voice Blog](#)

One Voice



## National PTA News & Tips



### Real Experts. Real Parents. Real Conversations.

We are excited to introduce—*Notes from the Backpack: A PTA Podcast* for busy parents (like you!) who have a lot to keep up with at home and throughout the school year.

Each 30-minute podcast will give you the inside scoop on how to help your child succeed in and out of school. You'll hear unique perspectives from experts, parents and educator guests who will give you real-life advice and ideas you can use!

Just search for "Notes from the Backpack" on your favorite podcast app and subscribe!

For more information visit: <https://www.pta.org/center-for-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack>

**Don't miss National PTA's Notes From the Backpack Podcast on Raising Lifelong Voters featuring Congresswoman Jahana Hayes.**

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### Helpful Parent Resources available on the National PTA website.

- ♦ [Center for Family Engagement](#)
- ♦ [Parent Guide to Student Success](#)
  - ♦ [Family Guides](#)
- ♦ [College and Career Readiness](#)
  - ♦ [Health Tips](#)
  - ♦ [Safety News](#)
- ♦ [Special Education Toolkit](#)
- ♦ [Our Children Magazine](#)



# PTA Member Benefits



Gain access to discounts and benefits through your membership with Texas PTA! For details and discount codes, visit [txpta.org/member-perks](https://txpta.org/member-perks). Some restrictions may apply. For questions, contact Member Services at [memberservices@txpta.org](mailto:memberservices@txpta.org).



There's no better place to order flowers online than 1-800-Flowers.com. We have the highest quality blooms and the most talented florists who can create exactly what you order.



With special employee discounts and the highest levels of service, there's never been a better reason to rent with Avis! Save up to 25% off.



Better World Club is the country's only 24/7 pro-environmental club for autos, bikes, RVs, and motorcycles. Join for emergency roadside assistance and get a 15% discount!



Budget-Rent-A-Car is one of the leading, most trusted providers of affordable and reliable car rental for the value-minded consumer. Get up to 25% off!



Join Costco as a new member and receive exclusive coupons valued at \$60 including three FREE items.



Purchase monthly specials at a members-only price, or customize a system and save 7% on top of advertised prices.



Enterprise rent-a-car extends a 5-10% discount to all Texas PTA members on all rentals across the nation.



With Great Wolf Perks, Texas PTA members will receive up to 30% off room bookings.



Hertz offers savings and benefits wherever you rent — with 1,000 airport locations and over 1,000 locations across the country. Save up to 25% off.



Hotels.com has over 145,000 hotels in more than 60 countries. Whether you are traveling last minute as a family or need a hotel for business, we have the right hotel deal for you.



The HP Employee Purchase Program (EPP) offers HP consumer products at discounts, instant rebates, coupons, and HP Home & Home Office sales promotions!



Healthy habits start at home and Marathon Kids makes it simple, fun, and effective!



Save up to 35% on your Orlando vacation! Orlando Employee Discounts offers exclusive pricing on hotels and vacation homes in or nearby Disney World and Universal Studios Orlando. Discounts on other parks are also available. Visit [txpta.org/member-perks](https://txpta.org/member-perks) for a full list!



Discounts are available for admission, season passes, retail, food and beverage items, accommodations, and more.



Receive a substantial discount to Six Flags Over Texas! When you purchase your tickets online, you will have the chance to immediately access them.



Receive a discount on Texas Rangers tickets throughout the season!



Enjoy a discount at locations within Texas, flat rate for single or double occupancy rooms.

More discounts available through National PTA. Visit [PTA.org](https://pta.org) and navigate to Member Benefits under the "About PTA" tab.