



Plano ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

April 2010

In This Issue

President Letter
 LOT Training
 Officer & Chairman
 Training
 Kids in the Kitchen
 Stop Cyber Bullying
 Passing it Forward
 Diversity
 Workshop/Training

Thank You!!

Dear PTA Member,

With Spring Break firmly behind us and a calendar of "end of year" events starting to fill up quickly, it's time to say THANK YOU! You have shared your passion for making PTA work as a partner of your school's teachers and administration. Your efforts have benefited the students and community. What you've done individually is remarkable, but what you have done collectively has been completely inspiring and vital to our community and school district.

Plano "PTA-version"
 Movie Awards 2010
 By Cara Mendelsohn

You made a difference in your school, with a certain grade or with a single student, you lead meetings, attended meetings, recruited and motivated volunteers and pitched in to help get it done. You got the taxes paid, pulled off a program that will benefit a family in ways you'll never know, you gave your time, energy and resources to help your community. You did great things, and you also messed up sometimes. You had fun, made friends and learned a few lessons along the way.

The Third Place Winners are...

μBraveheart, aka
 Your first PTA board
 meeting
 μFahrenheit 990:
 Revenge of the tax
 forms
 μThe PTA holiday
 party: Crowded with
 a chance of leftover
 Meatballs
 μIce SAGE
 Committee

Thank you for your efforts to engage every parent in your school and your staff into your PTA activities. Thank you for recognizing the needs of your campus, your staff, your families and your students and doing something about it. And thank you for sharing your struggles, questions and successes with me. It is humbling to see the effort and heart Plano's PTA volunteers put into our programs and the positive affect on the community. As of early March, we logged more than 250,000 volunteer hours so far this school year. That kind of support is the envy of most school districts, and in my opinion, is one of the reasons we have a great district.

Thank you very much for your outstanding service to our students!

The Second Place Winners are...

μAn Officer and a
 Chairman Training
 μA Night at the
 Museum Part 3:
 Sorting through old
 PTA papers
 μThe Twilight Saga:
 Do I go to bed or
 finish my PTA work?

Sincerely,

Cara Mendelsohn
president@planopta.org

LOT Training



The Plano ISD Council of PTAs
 presents the Spring 2010

Texas PTA Leadership Orientation Training

This is the training you've all heard about! It is an excellent introduction to all things PTA, taught by specially trained volunteers of Area 15. These trainings are provided by the Council of PTAs to

The First Place Winners are...

μHarry Potter and
the Half-Filled
Membership Form
μDreamgirls: The
story of our PTA
Council board

And the Plano Great PTA Movie award goes to...

μThe Race to Which
Meeting

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fulfill your Bylaws requirement that all PTA officers must be trained once in their PTA career or by October 15,2010. These sessions are open to all local unit PTA members.

May 26, 2010

Wednesday morning course
9:00- 9:30 a.m. Registration
9:30-11:30 a.m. Training

May 27, 2010

Thursday evening course
6:00- 6:30 p.m. Registration
6:30-8:30 p.m. Training

Cost: \$6.00 payable to Texas PTAdue at registration (receipt will be provided for reimbursement by your local unit). You may take a "refresher" course for free, but a handbook will not be provided.

Location: English sessions will be held in the Board Room of the Plano ISD Administration Building located at 2700 W. 15th St., Plano, 75075. No snacks or beverages are allowed in the Board Room, but water will be provided.

New training - Leader Orientation in Spanish!

May 27, 2010

Thursday evening course
6:00-6:30 p.m. Registration
6:30-8:30 p.m. Training

Location: Spanish session is for Spanish speakers and will be held at Williams High School located at 1717 17th St., Plano, 75074 in the Viewing Room. Led by Texas PTA board member Leah Filzow-Perez, this training will also be \$6 payable at the event and requires an RSVP.

*Please **R.S.V.P.** your name, session, and school represented to:*

Dana Bilbray, Council of PTAs Aide to the President
at aide@planopta.org or 972-467-5339

Important Facts to Remember:

- Space is limited-please RSVP early
 - Latecomers (5 minutes) will not be seated.
- Please allow plenty of time for travel to the event (especially Thursday evening) and parking (especially Wednesday morning)
- You must attend the entire 2 hour class to receive your credit

Officer and Chairman Training

The Plano ISD Council of PTAs invites **all** local unit Board members to
Officer & Chairman Training
Tuesday, May 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m

Plano ISD Sockwell Center, 6301 Chapel Hill Blvd., Plano, Texas 75093

Parking is limited at Sockwell, so be prepared to park across the street at the Mall!

This event is the perfect opportunity for all PTA board members to receive general and job specific training. Ask questions of experienced trainers, learn about your new position, share ideas with other PTAs, and start planning for the new year.

9:00 a.m. Annual Regular Meeting of the Plano ISD Council of PTAs. During the meeting we will announce the participants and winner of the Plano ISD Council Outstanding Local Unit PTA Award!

9:30 a.m. Back by popular demand -group training for ALL board members (PTA/PISD policies and procedures you need to know)

11-12:30 p.m. Eight job specific sessions listed below (ideas, resources, policies, and procedures specific officers and chairmen need to know).

President (Roundtable Q&A format only)

Treasurer

Membership

Volunteers

Secretary

Hospitality

Programs

11-11:30 is large group Program

"How To" and Resources

11:30-12:30 is small group breakout sessions for Arts in Education, Diversity, Environmental, and SAGE chairmen

Ways and Means

Includes a "How To" for getting donations from your community

Plus: The President, Membership, Secretary, Programs, and Ways and Means sessions will be repeated from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on May 11th. Same location, same information, but for those unable to make the daytime event.

The repeat evening sessions for Treasurer, Volunteers, and Hospitality will be held on Wednesday, May 12th, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. also at Sockwell.

Scrapbook and Directory entries will be available for viewing and pickup at this event behind the refreshment area in the lobby of Sockwell.

Questions? Please contact Dana Bilbray
at aide@planopta.org **No reservations required!**

Kids in the Kitchen



Kids in the Kitchen was adopted as a project by the Junior League of Plano in 2008 and is designed to provide parents and kids with tools to improve fitness, nutrition and family lifestyle. We want to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated health issues. We are partnering with Children's Medical Center again this year and the event will take place on April 24th from 10-2pm at Children's Legacy

(Preston/Hedgcoxe). So, put on your tennis shoes and get ready to have fun, learn some new tips, be active and hopefully win one of our great raffle prizes!

A few activities we plan to offer:

- a Fun Walk starting at 11am
- booths with materials and information (see below for a list of participant organizations and performers)
- cooking demonstrations
- healthy food options being distributed by Market Street
- baseball, hula hoops, football, hockey, bubbles, an obstacle course, Wii game station, toddler activities, tennis, cycling and more
- dieticians, LEAN program representation and other medical staff
- a stage where performances and physical activity breaks (every 30 minutes) will take place -- we want everyone active!
- many great raffle items (every 30 minutes) - a FlipCam, Wii Fits, gifts card for tennis equipment, bicycles, parties and gym activities for youth, etc

Our guest list includes:

- American Heart Association (informational booth and prizes)
- Marathon Kids (booth with activity + Fun Walk supporters)
- American Diabetes Association (informational booth)
- Market Street (all food and drink donation)
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation (informational booth) - Plano Sports Authority (informational booth + performance)
- Plano Parks and Recreation (informational booth + mini-tennis court to play on)
- Wiggly Play Center (booth + performance)
- North Texas YMCAs (informational booth + activity)
- Sci Tech Discovery Center (informational booth + experiments/activities)
- local school groups (performances and support) - DBAT (informational booth + baseball activity)
- Take Shape Kids (informational booth + hockey/soccer activity)
- Plano Cycling (informational booth + try out cycling equip)
- My Gym of Frisco (obstacle course)
- Children's Programs (informational > booth + healthy food demos)
- USA Martial Arts and Fitness (informational booth) - clowns and face painting
- Build a Bear (actual station to build doctor/nurse or chef bears - in > toddler area)
- Dick's Sporting Goods (football toss)
- SLANT 45 (informational booth)
- Junior League of Plano (informational booth + cookbooks)
- Special Guests: Stephen McGee (Cowboys QB and former Texas A&M QB), Captain (Texas Rangers' mascot), Dallas Stars Street team, jump rope station, hula hoop station, toddler area (coloring and games), bubble station, ambulance and more!

We hope to see everyone at the event

April 24th from 10-2pm at Children's Legacy on Hedgcoxe/Preston!

"Stop Cyber Bullying" Program

What is cyber bullying?

Ideas to help parents protect their children!

Identify and taking action to stop cyber bullying!

Plano ISD Council PTA is sponsoring a "Stop Cyber

Bullying" Program. Cynthia Garrison will speak from the Family Education and Guidance Services.

Please join us for a Brown Bag Luncheon on:

**Wednesday, May 5, 2010
12:00 P.M.
Room 309
Plano ISD Administration Building
2700 E. 15th Street, Plano, TX. 75075**

**Drinks and Dessert will be provided.
For more information, contact terryereeves@msn.com.**

Passing it Forward, Stinson Style

-Kelley Thomas, Stinson PTA member and Stinson Cares Co-Chair

It all began on September 26 with a kick-off at our Back to School picnic for the first ever Stinson Cares Kindness Campaign. Our students, staff, and community were challenged to complete 100,000 acts of kindness over the next eight weeks. The initial campaign wrapped up on November 13, World Kindness Day, with 15,000 kind acts being recorded. Mayor Steve Mitchell declared November 13 - 19 as Acts of Random Kindness Week throughout Richardson in honor of the commitment Stinson showed to displaying kindness in our community. The entire school had a friendly competition to see how many kindness strips each group would contribute with the 5th graders winning by a slight margin. Students involved everyone in their families. One student happily proclaimed after a weekend, "My family did lots of kind things this weekend - I have 12 strips!"

In addition to counting kind acts, Stinson participated in a bake sale raising over \$500 to benefit hungry children, a book drive bringing in hundreds of books to be given to children in local hospitals, and a first ever blood drive benefiting nearly 60 patients. At the grand finale on November 13, Stinson held a World Kindness Day celebration that included the mayor, local fire and police officials, the school crossing guards, cafeteria staff, office staff, and janitor, plus a special surprise - a plane circling overhead with a *Stinson Cares - Spread the Kindness* banner trailing behind. The thrill of seeing the plane had a Stinson Kindergartener asking, "Can the *whole* world see that?" Not only were the students thrilled at the sight, parents and teachers also joined in on the fun taking pictures and oohing and ahing.

Did you see the plane and wonder what that was all about? Now you know and you can join us in making this world a kinder and gentler place. As Amelia Earhart once said, "A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees. The greatest work that kindness does to others is that it makes them kind themselves."

Diversity Training/Workshop

Please plan to attend the Council of PTAs **Diversity Training/workshop**. I have great information and programs to share with you all!

Please work close to your PTA president and/or VP of programs to make sure you include Multicultural activities in the budget and POW (Plan of Work).

Cultural diversity should be all year around activities! Here some ideas/suggestions:

- Back to school: Cultural diversity programs could have a table with international crafts and a signing sheet to identified volunteers!
- **Community Circles:** a fantastic program to reach out to newcomers, diverse community and a great tool to increase PTA membership!
- Plan to have your campus involved in the Plano International Festival (Oct. 2nd), participating at the children's workshop, fashion show, parade of Nations, green ambassadors, community volunteer opportunity, etc.
- Book Fair: you may invite an International Storyteller
- Opera in a box is a fantastic program for [school Assembly](#). It could be done in collaboration with [Arts in Education](#)
- Multicultural family night: plan to have a PTA booth!!!!
- Olympic day

Upcoming Events:

AsiaFest '10

The 7th Annual Plano Asian Heritage Festival

Saturday, May 1st, 2010

11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Haggard Park at Downtown Plano

This is a free cultural and entertainment event featuring performances, food, vendor booths, and kite flying for all ages! For more information, please visit our booth, <http://www.asianamericanheritage.org/>

Graciela Katzer
Council of PTAs Cultural Diversity Chair
diversity@planopta.org 214 495 7838

If you will be visiting Southern California any time during this year, we've got a deal for you at Legoland! PTA has a buy one ticket, get one ticket free coupon that doesn't expire until 12/31/10. Please contact Michelle Brown at newsletter@planopta.org with your name, child's school and how many you would like and they will be sent to your child's school via interoffice mail.

PTA Mission

PTA is

**A powerful voice for all children,
A relevant resource for families and communities, and
A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.**

PTA Vision

Making every child's potential a reality.

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Plano ISD Council of PTAs

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