



Plano ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

February 2010

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Dear Plano ISD PTA members

February is the month of Valentine's, Groundhog and President's Day. It's also the time when many of our elementary and middle school PTAs host a Multicultural Event. Some have a parade of nations with flags in authentic costume, demonstrations, games, music, discussion groups and almost all have tables set up for families to show and teach about their heritage. The goal of the event is the same - to share our unique customs, objects and language, develop understanding and learn about others and to showcase our universal commonalities. Everyone who attends immediately has important things in common - the love of their child, care for their education and being part of a larger school community.

This year, I've had dozens of touching calls and emails from PTA leaders asking how their members can help local poverty issues, essential local charities and the troubles in Haiti. Like all non-profits, we have to be careful to stick to our mission of **"Making every child's potential a reality"** and collecting and disbursing emergency relief isn't part of that. But PTA does have a voice in the community, and helping make our community aware of needs and how they can help is part of that.

For instance, at your Multicultural event, please consider adding a table for Haiti, even if you don't have a family from that country. Perhaps you can have a handout on ways to donate and news clippings of the earthquake. Take a moment and connect the feelings of pride and love we have in sitting with our child at the event, to the fear and loss of parents and children in Haiti.

In this newsletter you will find a spotlight on how you can help the Assistance Center of Collin County, Haiti, become a foster parent, along with a referral listing for agencies that work with our community members in need. This is for you to use, to share and reprint, to donate and to volunteer as you see fit. Thank you to the City of Plano, who puts the listing together as a resource for the Collin County Homeless Coalition.

Whether it is Multicultural Night or just another day in Plano ISD, all PTA members are bound by a common desire to see families be safe, healthy and for all of our children to excel. And when over 36,000 PTA members in Plano ISD or over 600,000 in Texas work to make that happen, through PTA or other organizations, that makes our community, and our world, a better place!

Regards,

Cara Mendelsohn
president@planopta.org

Meet and Greet for Education Candidates

Plano ISD Council of PTAs invites you to a Meet & Greet for Education Candidates!

Tuesday, February 16th, 2010

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (you are welcome to come & go)

7 p.m. - 3 minute candidate speeches

SMU in Plano

5232 Tennyson Parkway, Plano 75024

Come meet and talk informally with candidates that will affect education in our community and state. This is your chance to get to know the candidates, ask questions and share your concerns and priorities with future decision makers. Come make your voice heard!

Refreshments served

SMU in Plano is located on Tennyson Parkway, between the North Dallas Tollway and Preston Road, near the former EDS campus and across from the YMCA.

State Board of Education Candidate Public Forum

The public is invited to meet candidates for the State Board of Education, Districts 9 and 12, in a forum Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m., at the Region 10 Education Service Center, 400 E. Spring Valley Rd., Richardson, TX 75081 (Dallas and Ellis Rooms).

The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County, Dallas and Richardson, and the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section.

The candidates for District 9 are incumbent Don McLeroy (Republican), Thomas Ratliff (Republican) and Jeff McGee (Libertarian). District 9 includes Anderson, Brazos, Camp, Cherokee, Delta, Falls, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Grimes, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Leon, Limestone, Madison, Navarro, Rains, Red River, Robertson, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Walker, and Wood counties, as well as parts of Collin County.

The candidates for District 12 are incumbent Geraldine Miller (Republican), George Clayton (Republican) and Amie Parsons (Libertarian). District 12 includes Rockwall County and parts of Collin and Dallas counties.

An online Voters Guide for these and other statewide races will be available on the website for the League of Women Voters of Texas, www.lwvtexas.org, after Feb. 5.

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a volunteer, non-profit organization, inspired by Jewish values, that strives for social justice and believes that an educated and informed public is fundamental to a democratic society.

LWV and NCJW do not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

For more information contact Janice Schieffer, 214-415-3476, janice@schieffer.us.

Directory Submission

Last call reminder to send your 2009-2010 Student Directory in to Council for judging! The deadline to receive the Directory is March 1, 2010, but don't delay! Send your Directory via interschool mail to: Cherie Tipsword, Plano Council of PTAs, Admin Building.

Achievements (Highest Honors, Honors, Honorable Mention, as well as Overall Best Directory Elementary, and Overall Best Directory Secondary) will be announced at the Officer and Chairman training in May. Questions may be referred to Cherie Tipsword at directory@planopta.org.

Membership News

Getting "Back to Basics" by continuing to recruit more members into your PTAs!

Every year local PTAs have the opportunity to honor extraordinary volunteers, staff or community partners that have made a significant impact on their PTA at the Texas Life Member Banquet. This year our event will be a celebration not a banquet. That means there will be NO dinner

Banquet Details

Monday, February 22, 2009

6:30 p.m. @ Plano West Senior High Auditorium on West Parker Road.

There is no ticket price. Guests will be seated in rows. Honorees are encouraged to bring spouses and of course Principals, PTA Presidents, Membership Chairs and Board members are welcome too. Invitations to the banquet have already been sent out to all schools. Please make sure you get your RSVPs in ASAP after receiving the invitation!



Plano ISD Council of PTA's to host its 15th Annual Program and Vendor Fair



The Plano ISD Council of PTAs will present its annual Program & Vendor Fair on Saturday, April 10th, 2010, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, at the Jasper High School Gymnasium, 6800 Archgate Drive, in Plano, Texas. The event draws a wide audience of parent, student and youth organization leaders. It is of particular interest to PTA/PTO leaders, student organization sponsors and booster club officers, faith groups, scout leaders, youth sports team managers, and child care staff. Attendees will have the opportunity to investigate new fundraising options available to their organization and explore the many informative, entertaining programs and services available to our youth. The event is free and open to the public.

The Plano ISD Council of PTAs invites all youth-oriented fundraising companies, program, and service providers to participate in this year's fair. Vendor applications are currently being accepted and can be downloaded from the Plano ISD Council of PTAs website, www.planopta.org/forms. For further information, please contact Cindy Watts at wandsandmeans@planopta.org or

214-288-9353.

Calling all Historians!!!



It's time to start working on your scrapbooks! You should have lots of pictures, newspaper articles, newsletters, etc. to make a great scrapbook. I'm starting on mine too!!!

Scrapbooks are DUE **May 10th**. This due date gives you extra time to get your great spring events in the scrapbook for judging.

Please have your scrapbook delivered to the Sockwell Center between 9:30 and 10:30 on May 10th. The judging will be completed and your scrapbook will be ready to be picked up on May 11th at Officers and Chairman Training.

If you have any questions, please e-mail me at historian@planopta.org. Have fun; and we look forward to seeing the great things your school has done during the year.

How to Help Haiti

There are hundreds of organizations accepting donations to help in the response to the tragedy in Haiti. Here are a few of the largest organizations as reported in the Dallas Morning News:

The American Red Cross, www.redcross.org
 Mercy Corps, www.mercycorps.org
 Mercy Ships, www.mercyships.org
 The Salvation Army, www.salvationarmyusa.org
 UNICEF, www.unicefusa.org/haitiquake
 Habitat for Humanity, www.habitat.org

The Assistance Center of Collin County

Located in Downtown Plano, the Assistance Center is a one-stop shop for anyone looking for help. From food panty vouchers, emergency help with electric bills, to information on medical clinics and domestic violence shelters, if you have an urgent need, the Assistance Center is a good place to start. Their mission is "Responding to People in Crisis". They answers calls from over 24,000 people each year. You can reach the Assistance Center by calling 211 from your phone or 972-422-1125. The Assistance Center was founded in 1977 and is a United Way agency. They receive some support from several large organizations, but they are in need of both volunteers and donors.

You can help support the Assistance Center in a really fun, family-friendly way! Join them for their 2nd Annual Bobby-Sox Bowling fundraiser on Saturday, February 27th, from 1-4 at Plano Super Bowl. Tickets are \$25 each or \$85 for a family or group of 4. The ticket includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, hamburger or hotdog, chips & soft drink, silent auction, contents and karaoke. For tickets, call 972.618.7172.

Census 2010



April 1, 2010

Please complete your census form and...

- *Help your City and community organizations qualify for grant funding for special projects.
- *Let businesses know Plano is a great place to grow and to bring jobs.
- *The Census started in 1790 and is conducted every 10 years and is required by law.
- *Everyone living in America, regardless of citizenship, is required to fill out a census form.
- *Census day is 4/1/10 and you will be getting a census form at your home in late March.
 - *There are only 10 questions, mostly about who lives in your home.
- *There are NO questions about income or citizenship.
- *All the answers you fill out are confidential and protected by law - not shared with any other agency.
- *Why does it matter? \$400 Billion dollars a year are allocated based on census numbers!
- *The dollars we get based on the census impact our schools, city, roads, hospitals and social service agencies.
- *Plano and Texas can gain representation in Austin and Washington based on our census population.
- *The information from the census is used to encourage economic development in our area.

So when you get the census, fill it out and mail it back!

Census workers will be going to the homes of people who do not fill it out starting in May.

Dear Cultural Diversity Chairs!





Census at Your MultiCultural Event

If you are planning the cultural diversity celebration at your campus you may include CENSUS 2010 as part of your educational displays! Colorful posters in several different languages (Japanese, *Spanish*, *Chinese*, *Korean*, *Hmong*, *Hebrew*, *Yiddish*, etc.) are available through the Plano Census office.

E-mail your request to moniquec@plano.gov or frances.c.fass@census.gov.

Cultural Diversity events in February

Robinson Middle School -- a week of cultural diversity celebration Feb 15 - 19

Christie Elementary February 18th 6-8pm

Stinson Elementary Feb 19th 5:30-8PM

Wilson Middle School Feb 24th Great job to Huffman Elementary and Andrews Elementary for their events on February 4th

Happy New Year!

February 14th was the start of the Chinese New Year - the year of the Tiger!

Graciela Katzer

Council of PTAs Cultural Diversity Chair

[214 495 7838](tel:2144957838)

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Samaritan Inn	1710 N. McDonald St.	972.542.5302	McKinney
Arlington Life Center	325 W. Division	817.548.9885	Arlington
Austin Street Shelter	2029 Hickory Street	214.428.4242	Dallas
The Bridge	1818 Corsicana	214.670.1100	Dallas
Buckner Children and Family Services	5200 S. Buckner Blvd.	214.321.4518	Dallas
Dallas Life Foundation	1100 Cadiz	214.421.1380	Dallas
Family Gateway	711 St Paul Street	214.714.6515	Dallas
Interfaith Housing Coalition	5612 Ross	214.827.7220	Dallas
Legacy Founders Cottage	828 S. Tyler	214.941.7373	Dallas
Ronald McDonald House	5641 Southwestern Medical Center	214.631.7354	Dallas
Salvation Army	5302 Harry Hines	214.424.7000	Dallas
Union Gospel Mission Center of Hope	4815 Cass Street	214.638.2988	Dallas
Grayson Counter Shelter	331 W. Morton	903.465.6041	Denison
Salvation Army	1508 E. McKinney	940.556.3800	Denton
Union Gospel Mission	1321 E. Lancaster	817.322.3019	Ft. Worth
Salvation Army	5700 Texoma Parkway	903.868.9602	Sherman

Teen Shelters

CITY House	902 E. 16th Street	972.423.7217	Plano
Safe Haven	Tarrant County	877.701.7233	Arlington
Promise House	224 W. Page	214.941.8578	Dallas

Domestic Violence Shelters

Hope's Door	820 Ave F #100	972.422.7233	Plano
Plano's Children Medical Clinic	1401 14th Street	972.801.9689	Plano
Safe Haven of Tarrant County		877.701.7233	Arlington
The Family Place	PO Box 799	214.559.2170	Dallas
	Hotline	214.941.1991	
Genesis Women's Shelter	PO Box Drawer G	214.972.2998	Dallas
Mosaic Family Services	PO Box 720907	214.821.5393	Dallas
	Hotline	214.823.4434	
Family of Friends	1400 Crescent, Suite 5	940.387.5131	Denton
	Hotline	940.382.7273	
Women's Haven of Tarrant County	PO Box 1456	817.535.6462	Ft. Worth
	Hotline	817.535.6464	
New Beginning Center	218 N. 10th	972.267.0423	Garland
	Hotline	972.276.0057	
Family of Friends	921 N. Mills	972.221.0650	Lewisville
	Hotline	1.800.572.4031	
Brighter Tomorrow	PO Box 532151	972.263.0506	Grand Prairie

Brighter Tomorrow		972.262.8383	Irving
Women in Need	PO Box 349	903.455.4612	Greenville
	Hotline	903.454.4357	
Crisis Center	PO Box 2112	1.800.259.3909	Sherman
Male Only Shelters			
Union Gospel Mission-Calvert Place	3211 Irving Blvd	214.424.7000	Dallas
Salvation Army	544 Harry Hines	214.637.6117	Dallas
Shelters for Ex-Offenders			
Exodus Ministry	4630 Munger Ave #110	214.827.3772	Dallas
The Way Back House, Inc.	899 N. Stemmons Frwy	214.742.1971	Dallas
Substance Abuse Shelters			
Care Center Ministries	4724 Eastside Avenue	214.824.9852	Dallas
Ethel Daniels Foundation, Inc.	1900 N. Prarie	214.823.9090	Dallas
Homeward Bound	233 W. Tenth St.	214.941.3500	Dallas
The Magdalen House	1302 Redwood Circle	214.324.9261	Dallas
Nexus	8733 LaPrada	214.321.0156	Dallas
Reconciliation Outreach	4311 Bryan	214.821.9192	Dallas
Straight Street	1542 S. Highway 67	214.291.2988	Dallas
Turtle Creek Manor	3511 N. Hall, Suite 210	214.522.7930	Dallas
Help is Possible/Gateway Foundation	723 S. Park	214.827.2870	Dallas
Community Resources			
Allen Community Outreach	801 East Main St.	972.727.9131	Allen
Frisco Family Services Center	8780 Third St.	972.335.9495	Frisco
Tx Dept of Human Services	901 N. McDonald St.	972.542.0221	McKinney
Community Lifeline	503 N. Kentucky St.	972.542.0021	McKinney
Life Path	3920 Alma Rd.	972.422.5939	Plano
Assistance Center of Collin County	900 E. 18th	972.422.1850	Plano
Plano Community Charities	2436 Avenue K	972.578.0399	Plano
Willow Creek Fellowship	1804 Avenue P	972.423.2950	Plano
Collin County Adult Clinic	2520 Ave. K	972.679.0035	Plano
GateKeeper Program	401 W. 18th	972.941.7335	Plano
Dallas CountyHealth Department	1235 Josey Lane #518	972.417.5965	Dallas

Texas Life Membership Celebration



Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors

[Chick fil-A at Plano Parkway and Park](#)

[Market Street Grocers at Park and Preston](#)

[Class Act School Supplies serving all of North Texas](#)

[AXA Advisors - Scholarships and Financial Advise Shops of Legacy, Plano](#)

Foster Parents Needed

Help provide a caring and stable home for a kid in need. The number of kids in foster homes and on the waiting list for a foster home, is growing every day. You can make a difference in a child's life. If not you, then who? Pressley Ridge has been serving children and families since 1832. Call or email Chris Mutschler if you would like more information. 817.275.5405.

cmutschler@pressleyridge.org. Even if foster parenting is not right for you, you can make a difference by referring a friend, neighbor, or co-worker. The more families we have, the more kids get a good home and the support they need to

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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