



HUFFMAN HERALD

The PTA Newsletter

Message from the President, Cara Mendelsohn

You Can Make History!

Have you bought an engraved brick yet? I'm asking because the deadline is approaching and this is your chance to do two things.

First, you get to have a brick placed on campus with your personal message - a history marker for your kids, a tribute to a staff member or just a lasting message of school spirit.

Imagine your child's pride for years to come as they visit the brick with their name or special saying.

Second, the funds raised from the sale of the bricks will make history come alive at Huffman. PTA is commissioning a muralist to paint "the history of Huffman" on the big wall across from the library. Our hope is that it will further our goal of school beautification, which has shown to increase pride, ownership and enthusiasm for school in students.

The mural will show the transition of the physical land that Huffman sits on from wildlife, to a beautiful pasture and farmland and then to the urban/suburban area we have now. It will connect the skyline of Dallas, the Plano Balloon Festival, the pavilion at Old Shepard Place Park with the "high flying hawk" that will soar above. J.T. Huffman's actual home will be featured, along with the mascots of our feeder schools: a mustang, stallion, and wolf. As a reminder of our legacy, we'll have the names of all past principals inscribed on the front fence posts and a statue in memory of our former teacher, Ann Hembree will also be displayed.

Look for a color draft of the mural to be posted on the wall at the Freaky Friday Family Fun Festival. If we get enough orders in, that will be the last day of the sale. If you would like a form, they are available in the lobby of the school or on www.huffmanpta.org and can be turned in to the office. So, now is your time to be part of Huffman's history, before the sale is... history.

Inside this Issue

Pages 2 and 3

What Has PTA Been Up To?
Spirit Night
Our By-laws, Approved
Volunteers of the Month
Survey Results
From the Front Office

Page 4

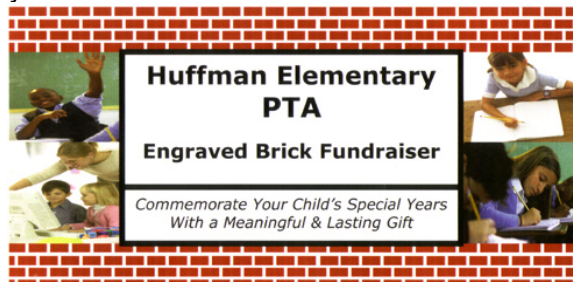
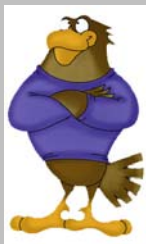
Freaky Friday

Page 5

Used Book Sale
Practical Parenting
H. E. L. P.
Plano Live Green

Page 6

Incoming Kindergarten
Little Hawk Library Time
PTA News and Quick Links
Upcoming Events



HUFFMAN'S GOLD KEY BUSINESS PARTNERS – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kaleidoscope | Arbonne-Amy Mitchell | The Viking Craftsman | Motophoto |
| Dinner My Way | Huntington Learning Center | American Standard | Wal-Mart |
| Tutoring Club | First Choice Emergency Room | Huffman Girl Scouts | Maximedia Recording Studios |
| Planet Burrito | Willow Bend Chiropractic | Charo Chicken | Sport Clips |
| Knowledge Points | Dr. Stephen Rayburn, D.D.S | Adventure Kids | Pump It Up! |
| Avon-KT Handley | Sigma Tutors | AXA Advisors-Abe Mansour | Burris and Associates/Certainteed |
| Snip Its | Doug & Jeanne Wieser | Cub Scout Pack #265 | Allegra Print & Imaging |

What Has Your PTA been Up To?

Spirit Night

By Margie Pisterzi, VP – Fundraising

The March Spirit Night was held on the 22nd at **Planet Burrito** in Plano. We want to thank Planet Burrito for their hospitality and their generous donation from the evening's proceeds.

The **Second Grade Teachers** were our featured guests for the evening; we appreciate them for taking the time to join us in showing Huffman pride! We also want to thank everyone for attending this fun event. Your participation helped make it a huge success!

By the way, did you know that any student or teacher who buys a meal at **Planet Burrito** while wearing his Huffman spirit wear can receive a discount? Ask for it when you order!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **April 26th Spirit Night at Pump It Up**, at the North Dallas location, from **5:30-8PM**.



Please plan to join us -- **our surprise guests will be announced soon!** This will be our last Spirit Night of the regular school year, and we hope to see you there! Admission is \$6 for children (**parents must stay but can play for FREE**) and pizza will be served for \$1 a slice.

Huffman PTA is governed by by-laws and standing rules. Texas PTA requires us to update these documents at least once every five years or as needed. We have just completed this cycle and **received our approval from Texas PTA**. The process was lead by our **parliamentarian, Sue Benton** and **past president Abby Ray**, along with a volunteer committee including **Viki Patterson, Jaime Kin** and **Cara Mendelsohn**. The committee made recommendations to the board on changes, posted the proposed revisions, and they were approved by a vote of our general PTA in the fall. Our new by-laws include **positions we created to address our needs**, like **publicity chairman, awards chairman, and communications vice president**. If you a PTA member and are interested in receiving a copy of the new by-laws, please contact Sue Benton, parliamentarian@huffmanpta.org.

Volunteers of the Month March 2007

By Traci Koen, VP – Volunteers



JoAnn Compton is a tireless volunteer. JoAnn has a kindergarten student this year and has jumped in to volunteer in big ways. She spends much of her volunteer time working in the PTA workroom cutting, tracing, laminating and fulfilling the requests for help in the teachers' boxes. This type of help is invaluable to our teachers and appreciated by all. Anytime there is help needed in the kindergarten area or the PTA workroom, you can be sure that JoAnn will be there. Thank you, JoAnn!

Emily Greenfield has the PTA position of Youth Protection chair person and has done a fabulous job coordinating the Safety McGruff program for our school. Emily also planned and coordinated the Huffman Bike Safety Rodeo which was rained out of its original date and is rescheduled for Saturday, May 19th from 9am-12pm. Emily has worked hard this year, and because of her efforts, our PTA will be considered for one of the highest Texas PTA awards in the category of Youth Protection. Thanks, Emily!

Tasha Mullen planned and coordinated the fabulous Family Dinner in conjunction with Huffman's recent Open House. The food was catered by **Maggiano's Little Italy**. It was delicious and the atmosphere was casual and relaxing. It was great to see all of our Huffman families dining together. Thanks, Tasha!

Freaky Friday is coming and we are still in need of volunteers for the evening. If you are available to work an hour shift during the event (Friday, April 13) please contact volunteers@huffmanpta.org.

FREAKY FRIDAY FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL

Friday, April 13th
5pm to 8pm

Raffle and Ticket Sales



For \$1 you can enter a raffle for a chance to win your choice of **an iPod** or a basket of popular **Webkinz!** You choose which one you would like to try your luck at winning! During lunch periods, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the week of FFFFF there will be a table set up in the cafeteria. You can purchase a chance to win one of the raffle items.

Also being sold during lunch periods that week will be wristbands and tickets for the festival. Wristbands are good for all games and inflatables. Tickets will be needed to purchase food and to participate in the Pie Throwing event. If you don't want to purchase wristbands/tickets early you can buy them at the door on Friday, April 13th. You can buy tickets to be used for games, activity booths, food and raffles or you can purchase a wristband that will give you unlimited use of games and inflatables. Most games and activities will cost between \$1 and \$2.

1 wristband = \$20.00
2 wristbands = \$35.00
3. wristbands = \$50.00
Tickets are .50 each

For each wristband bought before Friday evening, the night of the event, you will receive 4 FREE tickets and for every \$5.00 worth of tickets purchased prior to Friday evening, you will receive 1 FREE ticket.

Silent Auction

The biggest "money maker" of the year – the festival's silent auction is looking GREAT. At the time of printing this newsletter, we have commitments from the following businesses:

Angelika Film Center	Moto Photo
Animal Crackers	Neiman Marcus
Ben and Jerry's	NexGym
Blooming Beauty	Petite Papery
California Pizza Kitchen	Pizza Inn
Calloway's Nursery	Planet Burrito
Catwalk Salon	Pomegranates
Celebrity Bakery	Potbelly
Chili's	Pump It Up
Chipotle	Red Patio and Grill

Cigar Warehouse	Renee Rouleau Skin Care
Corner Wines	Richardson BikeMart
Cozymel's	Royal Car Wash
Dallas Mavericks	Score
Dallas Stars	Sidekicks Karate
Emler Swim	Social Bee
Gleneagles C. C.	Speech TX
Haverly Place Apts.	Starbucks
Honey Baked Ham	TGI Friday's
Jaqueline Jarrot	Tin Star
Learning Express	Tutoring Club
Little Gym	Versailles Apts.
Maggiano's	Vida Salon
Math Plus	Voyager Trading Co.
Mathnasium	

The above list does not include many items or sponsorships we have received. Some items (like Byron Nelson tickets!) have been given by individuals/parents rather than directly from a business. And there is more to come!

We could still use everyone's help in gathering goods and services. Anyone can do it. Here's how:

- Keep several copies of the **donation request form** in your car.
- Any business you frequent could help us out – dry cleaner, nail salon, restaurant, dentist, etc.
- When you're visiting a business, mention that your child attends Huffman Elementary School and you would like to **know if they would consider supporting the PTA by making a charitable donation of either an item or gift certificate.** (I actually rehearse this sentence. ☺)
- Hand them a donation request form. Have your name and phone number on the bottom of the page.
- Ask how you might follow up with them if they need to think it over.
- **Follow up** as needed.
- Pat yourself on the back. You just made some money for the PTA!
- Turn in a donation request form as soon as possible. We need this for preparing the bid sheets and having an accurate, up to date list of solicitations.
- We'll send thank you letters!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the FFFFF and remember... all the money earned goes to a good cause – **Huffman Elementary and our children!!!**

3rd Annual Used Book Swap and Sale is Coming!

Books will be collected Monday, April 23 thru Wednesday, April 25, and the Book Sale will take place Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27, 2007



The sale will be open only twice a day - before school and during the students' lunch times on Thursday and Friday. The books will be set up in the cafeteria.

Paperbacks will sell for only a quarter and hardbacks for fifty cents! What a deal! Stock up for summer reading!

We need your books to make this a success. Contact Sandee Black at library@huffmanpta.org if you have questions about the event.

Use Consequences Wisely!

Consequences are one of the best tools for teaching children to make good choices and to be responsible for their actions.



Practical Parent Education

DO...

- ✓ Choose consequences YOU can live with!
- ✓ Involve child in determining consequences. (5 years and older)
- ✓ Let child know the consequences in advance.
- ✓ Always follow through consistently.
- ✓ Apply consequences with empathy. "I know it is hard to have to miss out on a fun time with your friends."
- ✓ Express belief that your child can make wise choices. "I know you'll make a better choice next time."

DON'T...

- ✓ Expect 100% success.
- ✓ Make the consequences too stiff.
- ✓ Show your anger.
- ✓ Talk too much.
- ✓ Forget to reevaluate consequences and their effectiveness as your child matures.

Parenting Quick Tips

© Practical Parent Education. All rights reserved.

Submitted by Rose Taper, Chairperson for Parent Education



Huffman Environmental Leaders Program

Wow, can you believe we are actually having our last session already?! The

next **H.E.L.P. Club** session (and last session) will be on **Monday, April 23rd, 2007 from 2:45 to 4:00 pm.**

We planted some seedlings during our last session. I hope everyone in the club is having fun watching their seedlings sprout! Bring your biodegradable pots and seedlings with you to the next session and we will plant them in the front of the school. Also bring any gardening tools you may want to use to help you plant. If time allows we will be doing a clean up of any litter in the area around the playground and entrance to the school. Anyone who is interested in helping us beautify our school, feel free to join us and bring additional seedlings along!

Earth Day is April 22, 2007. Let's celebrate our beautiful planet on this day, and also remember every day is Earth Day! Check out the link below and join the city in celebrating this special day. <http://www.earthday.net/>

Any questions? Contact Brigitte Petersen (214)647-1156 or environment@huffmanpta.org



Update from Plano's Recycling

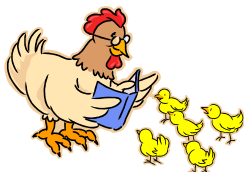
To see how much your neighborhood is recycling compared to other areas in the City, visit www.livegreeninplano.com/recycling.

If you or someone you know is responsible for your **Home Owners' Association** newsletter, please forward your name or their name to Brigitte Petersen (environment@huffmanpta.org) so that they may be contacted directly when Plano has information that may interest or involve them.

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN

If you know a family who will have a Kindergartener next year, please email Cara Mendelsohn (president@huffmanpta.org) with their name. We are maintaining our annual list to make sure we get the word out about special events, including Little Hawk Library Time and "Huffman Hello."

"Little Hawk" Library Time



Incoming kindergarteners and 4 year-olds are invited to join us for "Little Hawk" library time! This is a great experience for all future kindergarteners and parents to get acquainted with Huffman as well as check out some books and hear a few stories by our librarian. It is also a terrific time for parents to meet with the leadership team and ask questions. Join us one time, or as many as you like. The next **Little Hawk Library time** is **Monday, April 16 at 1PM** in the Huffman Elementary library. There will be one more "Little Hawk" in May.

The next meeting of the **Plano ISD PTA Council** is Tuesday, April 24 from 10-11 AM at the Administrative Building, 2700 W 15th St.



PTA QUICK LINKS

Plano Council PTA

<http://www.planopta.org/>

Area 15 PTA

<http://www.area15.txpta.net/>

Texas PTA

<http://www.txpta.org/>

National PTA

<http://www.pta.org/>

Upcoming Events

Fri., 4/6 – No school for PISD students or teachers

Fri., 4/13 – Freaky Friday Family Fun Festival and Auction, 5-8 PM

Mon., 4/16 – Little Hawk Library Time, 1PM

Tues., 4/17 – TAKS testing for 3rd and 4th grade math

Weds., 4/18 – TAKS testing for 4th grade reading

Thurs., 4/19 – TAKS testing for 5th grade science

Sat., 4/21 – Area 15 Leadership Training and Conference, 8:30AM – 2:30PM

Mon.-Weds., 4/23-25 – Used Book Collection

Thurs.-Fri., 4/26-27 – Used Book Sale – In the Huffman Cafeteria

Thurs., 4/26 – Spirit Night at Pump It Up! 5:30-8PM

Thurs., 5/3 – Huffman's Honor Choir Year-End Performance

Mon., 5/7 – Little Hawk Library Time, 1pm

Mon.-Fri., 5/7-5/10 – Teacher Appreciation Week (Contact Tara Cannon to help!)

Fri., 5/11 – Field Day at Huffman

To join the Huffman PTA visit www.huffmanpta.org or send your name by email to membership@huffmanpta.org.