



# HUFFMAN HERALD

## A Note From the PTA President

Kindergarten Round-Up is tonight where in-coming K parents can pre-register their child for school.

Congratulations our new officers for 2009-2010!

**President**  
*Leslie Gilvoar*

**1st VP Programs**  
*Amy Mitchell*

**2nd VP Volunteers**  
*JoAnn Compton*

**3rd VP Ways & Means**  
*Mel Durban*

**4th VP Communications**  
*Jane Choppin*

**Treasurer**  
*KT Handley*

**Secretary**  
*Ann McKeown*

Also tonight is the 4th grade musical performance at Huffman. If you have a 4th grader you don't want to miss

it and if you don't but want to come watch - we would love to have you. They have been working really hard for a long time to make this a very special evening for all that attend.

Saturday, April 4th from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm is the Huffman Annual Bike Rodeo. This is a great family event for all so tell your neighbors and friends to ride on over to the Huffman parking lot to get their bike registered, drive through an obstacle course, watch some expert bikers put on a show, win prizes and just have some good old fashioned fun on your bike!! If you would like to volunteer or have any questions please contact Emily Greenfield at [emilyeg@tx.rr.com](mailto:emilyeg@tx.rr.com).

Also, if you are interested in volunteering for Field Day which will be held on Friday, May 15 please contact Debbie Breihan at [fieldday@huffmanpta.org](mailto:fieldday@huffmanpta.org). She needs lots and lots of

volunteers and everyone NEEDS to have their volunteer clearance done or you will be turned away at the door. I know this sounds harsh but it is district policy and done for the safety of all of our children. So, please make sure you are clear if you are volunteering. If you are unsure please check with Karen Lynch at Huffman. She has a list of everyone that has been cleared through the district. Her e-mail is [karen.lynch@pisd.edu](mailto:karen.lynch@pisd.edu).

Susie Learmont,  
Huffman PTA President  
[president@huffmanpta.org](mailto:president@huffmanpta.org)



## Thank You Gold Key Business Partners!

Adventure Kids  
Avon (*KT Handley*)  
Burriss Windows  
(*Rob Breihan & Reed Ashmore*)  
Charo Grille  
Children's Medical Center  
Cub Scout Pack #265

Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas  
Equest  
Kids N Art  
Next Level Fitness  
Pump It Up  
Sweet & Sassy  
The Merlo Group

Dear Huffman Family,

Thanks to all who attended and worked so hard to make the Huffman Luau a big success!! Kids enjoyed numerous games, inflatables, virtual surfing, and tossing the football with NFL players. Everyone enjoyed delicious food, much of which was donated by Gary Murtha of Frito Lay, Picasso's Pizza, and McDonald's. Thanks to Gayle Bird and Lauren Nelson for securing the yummy pizza and chicken nuggets!



I'd like to take a moment to those who worked with me to make the festival the successful and fun event it was. First of all, to KT Handley, Traci Koen, and Edith Sosa, your efforts in the "Hula Hut" were fantastic and allowed everyone to enjoy great food during the event. Also, to Kristen Robbins and all who assisted her in turning our school into Hawaii for one fun night. It felt like a mini-vacation to the beach! Thanks to Ann McKeown and Jennifer Kikta for organizing entertaining and colorful games for our kids to enjoy--this is a big job and you pulled it off beautifully! Also, thanks to Claudia Montero for her lovely artwork on the signage for the event--you brought everything to life through your pictures! My thanks to Rita Cunningham and Elizabeth Rugenstein for organizing the sale of all the tickets and wristbands, as well as to everyone who sat at a table and sold them! Thanks to JoAnn Compton for organizing all of our amazing volunteers this year--we couldn't pull it off without the extra help!

My thanks to Cathy Sweet for creative and fun promotions to get everyone excited for the Luau--great work! Also thanks to Lara Ashmore for bringing in two of the nicest guys in the NFL, Jerald Sowell and Winfred Tubbs. We all enjoyed meeting them and seeing them interact with our kids! My thanks to Beth Staples and Caroline Woodbury for organizing the all-important set up and tear down for the event--thanks for working so hard behind the scenes, ladies!

And finally, my deep appreciation to the three ladies guiding my steps throughout the event: Melanie Durham, Leslie Gilvar, and Susie Learmont. Thank you for being available for every question, every financial transaction, and every last minute of the event. Your help and advice is invaluable to me and I learn more every year I take on a new project!

Many others worked tirelessly behind the scenes before and during the event. Thanks to each and every one of you for taking the time to create a fantastic event for our Huffman community. Teachers and staff--your cooperation and attendance brought joy and smiles to the faces of all our kids--thanks!

All in all a terrific night enjoyed by all--kudos to everyone!!  
Lora Mortensen

### Notes from the Office

If your child is going to be absent or late to school, please call the Childsafe line to report the absence. Dial the school number – 469-752-1900 -- and then press “3” to report the absence. If we do not know where a student is, we will call the parents at home or work.

Parents, although you may have alerted the teacher to an absence, the office would appreciate you also calling the absence in to the Childsafe line. This will help us so that we know where your child is and can be assured of his/her safety.

## Music Programs and Fine Arts Field Trips!!

The past couple of months have been very busy as the music department has been brimming with activity in preparing for field trips and fantastic programs!!

In February, we had a wonderful presentation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders from the Ft. Worth Opera! They combined the music of “Carmen” with the story of “Cinderella” and the kids loved it so much they’re still talking about it! The opera troupe told me that they’ve never been to a school as attentive and “engaged” as our kids were during the performance!

Last month we’ve been delighted every morning with the talent of many of our students for “Music Appreciation Month”. We’ve had pianists, violinists, and “American-Idol-Contending” singers...and I’m very proud of the amazing individual talent our children have here at Huffman!

Speaking of “individual talent”; our Fourth-graders are hard at work on their upcoming musical “Deep in the Heart of Texas” which will be presented on April 2<sup>rd</sup>. I can’t wait until you see them come to life on stage with their singing, dancing and acting...they are doing a fantastic job!

Fifth grade has also been buzzing with activity! Our students went to Renner Middle School to hear demonstration concerts from the orchestra, band and choir. I know they’re excited about their selections for next year. We’ve also been busy working on our music for our upcoming performances: Spring concert, Sandy Lake Competition, and yes...it’s really coming... GRADUATION! (Where has this year gone?)

As always, it’s a pleasure to work with your children and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming performances!!

MeLisa Feledichuk  
Music Specialist  
Huffman Elementary  
(469) 752-1972  
[melisa.feledichuk@pisd.edu](mailto:melisa.feledichuk@pisd.edu)



### Field Day '09

Field day is coming on May 15<sup>th</sup> all day long – packed with EXTREME obstacle courses, dual rapid water slides, workouts, games, races, Dancing DJ and more!!

Many volunteers are needed and to please contact me ASAP if interested @ [fieldday@huffmanpta.org](mailto:fieldday@huffmanpta.org) or call 972 743 5046. Extreme T – Shirts sale begins, March 26 – April 9.



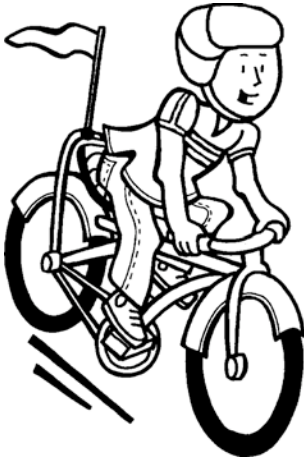
*Students listen as the train conductor demonstrates what life was like on an early 1900s train car.*



*Students, Inan S. and William G. collaborate to create their own old fashioned ads like the ones used inside the trains in the early 1900s.*

### Huffman 4th Grade Field Trip To Interurban Railway Museum In Plano by Emily Greenfield

The drizzling rain didn't dampen the enthusiasm of these Huffman 4th graders as they experienced the history of Plano's early beginnings. The students toured the old school house which housed around 20 K-12 students in the early 1900s; the old gymnasium which has since been converted to a cultural center for the performing arts; the old train car which has been restored and preserved to demonstrate its historical significance; and the Interurban Railway Museum which houses artifacts and hands-on equipment showing the what, where, when, how and why of the railway's existence. The students were engaged and curious about the historical evidence surrounding them during this field trip as shown by their many questions and comments. This field trip proved to be yet another hands-on learning opportunity for the 4th grade students at Huffman Elementary.



## GEAR INTO ACTION AT HUFFMAN'S 3rd ANNUAL **BIKE RODEO**



Hey, kids and parents! It's time again to grab your bike and helmet and join the Plano Police Department, Richardson Bike Mart and the Boy Scouts at Huffman's second annual Bike Rodeo! The Bike Rodeo will be featuring a safety check, ID engraving, obstacle course and - did we mention? - STUNT SHOW AND GREAT PRIZES!!!

Our goal is to educate all Huffman students about bicycle safety in a fun, memorable way. We encourage all parents and children to attend and bring along your family, friends and neighbors. We will need parents to help during the event. Please call Emily Greenfield at (972) 380-8267, or send an e-mail to [emilyeg@tx.rr.com](mailto:emilyeg@tx.rr.com), if you are able to attend and willing to lend a hand. Mark your calendars:

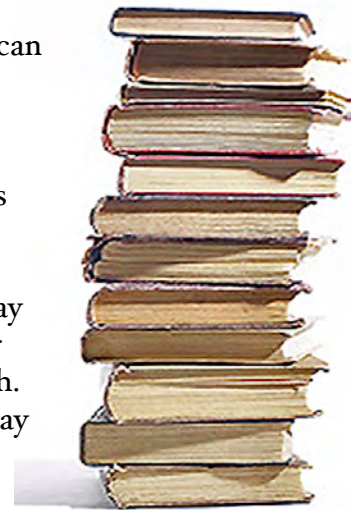
When?           **Saturday, April 4, 2009**  
                      **9AM to 12 NOON**  
Where?           **Huffman Elementary parking lot**

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### **Clean out your used books and ... Make room for the NEW!!**

The used book sale is May 11-14. This is the time of year when each child can contribute used books to others and in exchange receive a coupon for a "new" used book to read. For every four used books a child brings to Huffman, they will receive a coupon for one free used book at the fair. Students may also purchase used paperback books for \$.50 and hard backs for \$1.00.

Library volunteers will collect used books from students before school May 11th, 12th and 13th. Students may purchase used books and redeem their free coupons at the book sale during their lunchtime on May 13th and 14th. Anyone interested in helping volunteer at the sale during lunchtime on May 13th or May 14th And/Or before school May 11th - 13th please respond to [grmurth@tx.rr.com](mailto:grmurth@tx.rr.com)



### Ready To Get Slimed?

The last session of afterschool science is Slime Time and begins Monday, April 13! Flyers were sent home in last week's YO packet and there will be some extras in the office. You can also go to [www.scienceadventures.com](http://www.scienceadventures.com) to register your child.

### Registration deadline is noon on Wednesday, April 8!

Amy Mitchell, Huffman PTA Children's Programs  
[childrensprogram@huffmanpta.org](mailto:childrensprogram@huffmanpta.org)



### Upcoming Calendar

- April 2  
In-coming Kindergarten Round Up
- April 4  
Bike Rodeo
- April 7  
TAKS for 5<sup>th</sup> grade (Math)
- April 8  
Registration Deadline for After School Science
- April 10  
No School for Students
- April 22  
Earth Day
- April 23  
Spirit Night
- April 27  
9:00 PTA regular meeting in the cafeteria
- April 28  
TAKS for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Math)
- April 29  
TAKS for 4<sup>th</sup> (Reading)
- April 30  
TAKS for 5<sup>th</sup> (Science)

### GEM AWARDS

*Going the Extra Mile for Huffman*



**Ann McKeown  
Anna Cheng  
Beth Staples  
Capriccio Martin  
Carlye Wind  
Cathy Sweet  
Claudia Montero  
Deb Ross  
Debbie Breihan  
Edith Sosa  
Elizabeth Rugenstein  
Glenna Lawless  
Jamie Burns  
Jane Choppin  
Jenn Kikta  
Jennifer Eppler  
Jo Ann Compton  
Karen Lynch  
Keitha Kuester**

**Kelly Bumpass  
Kelly Shields  
Kristen Robbins  
KT Handley  
Lara Ashmore  
Leslie Gilvar  
Lisa Hornbrook  
Lora Mortenson  
Margie Pisterzi  
Maria Mel Durham  
Melanie Glickler  
MeLisa Feledichuk  
Michelle Bennett  
Reed Ashmore  
Rhajashi Ghosh  
Rita Cunningham  
Rita Wallace  
Sandy McKenzie  
Sue Benton  
Susan Vice  
Susie Learmont  
Tasha Mullen  
Tonya Grant  
Traci Koen  
De'Cole Kelly  
Len Stevens**

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*The Huffman Herald is the award-winning publication of the Huffman PTA.*

*Lara Ashmore,  
PTA Newsletter Chair  
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