



HUFFMAN HERALD

The PTA Newsletter

Message from the President, Cara Mendelsohn

Do you L♥VE February?

Welcome to February, the month of L♥VE and appreciation. I just want to thank all of our PTA volunteers for the amazing work you are doing at Huffman this year! Did you know we have more than double the number of Huffman volunteers than last year, and we have logged way more than two times the number of volunteer hours as we did at this time last year? The school staff truly appreciates all that PTA is doing and our efforts have made a meaningful difference for all of our students. Additionally, I've heard many parents say they just L♥VE volunteering at Huffman!

PTA has three big events going on in February, and they are all about L♥VE.

First, we've moved the traditional teacher appreciation luncheon from the end of the year to February. Why? Well, it's a pretty stressful time for our staff. With the big stretch from winter break to spring break and TAKS testing starting in just a couple of weeks, our students and staff are hunkered down covering curriculum and preparing our students for success. Since the event is all about showing our L♥VE for them... it seemed a natural change. We've given our teacher appreciation luncheon a theme of "Heartfelt Thanks" and look forward to treating them to a nice luncheon. If you'd like to help out with the event, please email teacherappreciation@huffmanpta.org.

Second, our class parties are on February 14th. If you have already volunteered to assist with one of these parties, we really appreciate it. It is a great time for kids to show kindness and friendship to their classmates and staff – and have some fun! It wouldn't be the same without our terrific PTA volunteers! If you'd like to be involved with this, please contact your child's room parent.

Third, Multicultural Night is coming! I would L♥VE for everyone at Huffman to have some part in this event. Michelle Rodriguez, one of the co-chairs of this event says, "Everyone comes from somewhere!" So, come share your "somewhere" with us. You can dress in native clothes/costume, you can make a display board representing the country of origin for your family, share a dessert that is native to your homeland or more! Last year, I L♥VED seeing the pride on the students' faces as they showed and taught each other about their family heritage – it was truly meaningful for all. To get involved, just email [Debbie Liu at multicultural@huffmanpta.org](mailto:multicultural@huffmanpta.org).

**Roses are Red,
Violets are Blue,
Volunteer at Huffman,
and you'll feel the L♥VE too!**

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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 January Spirit Night was held on the 18th at **PotBelly** in Plano. We want to thank PotBelly for their hospitality and their generous donation from the evening's proceeds.



The Kindergarten Teachers were our featured guests for the evening and we appreciate **Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Eckert, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Burns, and Mrs. Greenberg** 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!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **February 15th Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A, Park and Preston, from 6-8PM**. Please plan to join us and our special guests, **Huffman's Third Grade Teachers!** See you there!



Newest PTA lifetime members were recently named by our PTA's Executive Board: Please join us in congratulating them:

Sue Benton
Abby Ray
Viki Patterson
Sandy McKenzie
Jennifer Schmitz

and Extended Life member

Andra Harris.

Volunteers of the Month February 2007



By Traci Koen, VP – Volunteers

Birgit Castleman

Birgit's children are new to Huffman this year and Birgit jumped right in and fulfilled our need for a 1st grade coordinator. She has done an amazing job planning and coordinating workroom, volunteer help, Pioneer Day and holiday parties. Last year, prior to having children attend Huffman, Birgit was instrumental in getting donations for our family festival and silent auction. Birgit is one of those volunteers that you know you can count on to get the job done! Thank you, Birgit for all the time you have donated in helping our PTA and Huffman.

Kevin Attocknie

Kevin was the chairman for our most recent B-Fun Night consisting of the family fun bingo and spelling bee. Those of you attending our evening PTA meeting in the fall may remember Kevin's hand flying up when Cara Mendelsohn (PTA president) mentioned that the PTA was contemplating canceling this evening unless someone was willing to take it on. Because of Kevin, we were able to have the event as planned and it was a huge success! Kevin has also helped with all of the planning and parties in his child's grade level and is volunteering for several upcoming events as well. Kevin has a positive, "can do" attitude and volunteers from the heart. Thank you, Kevin, for all of your efforts!

Paige Green

Paige Green started off the year working very hard behind the scenes for our first family event, the Back to School Bash. She also graciously volunteered for our "Pump it Up" spirit night as well as almost everything else! Paige also coordinated the Newcomer's breakfast held in January, where parents who are new to the school this year gathered in the cafeteria to meet other new parents, had coffee and visited with Mr. Stevens and our PTA president, Cara Mendelsohn. This is another first time event for our PTA, and Paige did a wonderful job coordinating all of the details. Thank you, Paige!

**If you would like to nominate a volunteer for Volunteer of the Month, or to volunteer for upcoming events, please contact volunteers@huffmanpta.org*

Family Fun Night Results Spelling Bee and Family Bingo

By Leslie Gilvar, VP – Programs



Huffman PTA had an outstanding turnout for the Spelling Bee and Bingo Night January 11. There were 75 kids participating in the **Spelling Bee**. Our winners were as follows:

1st Grade:

- 3rd Place - Alexis Sharp
- 2nd Place- Ryan Conti (Kindergartener!)
- 1st Place - Dylan Yu

2nd Grade:

- 3rd Place - Polo Plascencia
- 2nd Place - Leo Troik
- 1st Place - Areeb Irshad

3rd Grade:

- 3rd Place - Celeste Gonzalez
- 2nd Place - Demre Inanoglu
- 1st Place - Alexis Ha

4th Grade:

- 3rd Place - Aila Irshad
- 2nd Place - Jason Taper
- 1st Place - Alexander Stephan

Bingo was a huge hit. We did not have enough tables and chairs for everyone – people were playing on the floor! Everyone enjoyed family time and had fun winning prizes. There were lots of new faces, which was good to see. We will definitely need to do this event again next year.

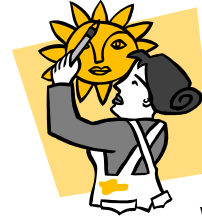


Building update



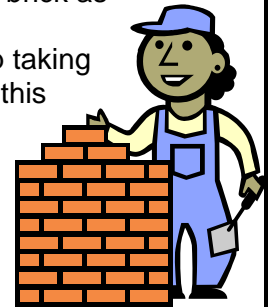
By the time you read this, phase 2 of construction on the building should be complete!

Our 2nd and 3rd graders moved in this week to their new, big, beautiful classrooms. If you haven't had a chance to take a peek, come take a look before school or after school – it is incredible! Also, the rock climbing wall has been installed in the gym, some corner guards have been installed around the school and there is additional, decorative painting that is being completed.



The PTA mural committee has commissioned a HUGE mural for the hall across from the library. The mural tells the “story” of Huffman and will add a warm, personal touch to the building.

We need help to pay for this! Please consider purchasing an engraved brick as all the proceeds go to campus beautification. We expect to stop taking orders by the end of February for this fundraiser. Order forms can be found on the PTA website or on the display table in the front hallway and should be turned in to the office.



In case you are wondering, we do have some “unfinished” business! In the next month or two, our new marquee will get its brick base and the PTA display case in the entry way is getting a wood base with storage. Please bear with us as these items get taken care of. There are so many new and exciting things happening!

Have you wanted to join the Huffman PTA but were not sure how? We WANT you! Visit www.huffmanpta.org or send your name by email to membership@huffmanpta.org. There is still plenty of time to get involved!

Huffman's Bike Rodeo...

Originally scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, the Bike Rodeo had to be canceled due to the weather. Plans are being made to reschedule in the fairer weather of Spring!



HIGH FIVE for Future Scientists!

Huffman Science Fair Winners

Kindergarten

- 1st – Harry Durham, “Why is Water Wet?”
 - 2nd – Sarah Greenfield, “The Bean Race”
 - 3rd – Harrison Hornbrook, “Melting Ice – Does it Matter?”
- Honorable mention:
Jacob Compton, “Dinosaur Fossil”
Macy Murtha, “Egg and Vinegar Experiment”

First Grade

- 1st – Sara Ashmore, “Hamster Tic-Tac-Toe”
 - 2nd – Jonathan Wilson, “Colors We See”
 - 3rd – Dylan Yu, “Effects of Different Types of Water on Plants”
- Honorable mention:
Hannah Rosenberg, “Does Soil Quality Matter?”
Ali Nayeb, “Raisins, Anyone?”

Second Grade

- 1st – William Greenfield, “Visible Magnetic Fields”
 - 2nd – Erik Petersen, “The PH Test”
 - 3rd – Olivia McQuirter, “Fizz Factor”
- Honorable mention:
Hailey Ashmore, “Leopard Gecko Tricks”
Brittany Griffith, “Keeping Fruit Fresh”

Third Grade

- 1st – Alex Issa, “Is Soil Necessary for Plant Growth”
 - 2nd – Marisa Pisterzi, “More Light, Less Energy, Lower Electric Bills”
 - 3rd – Stephanie Yianitsas, “Fire vs. Ice”
- Honorable mention:
Andres Aguirre, “What Color... Black or White”
Amanda Alsabrook, “Plants Need Sunlight”



Fourth Grade

- 1st – Suzie Maez, “Rings of Saturn”
 - 2nd – Abe Mansour, “The Best Defense Against Sun”
 - 3rd – John Mendoza, “An Apple’s Water Weight”
- Honorable mention:
Ellie Ross, “Mold-Bread”
Justin Castleman, “What Uses More Water?”

Fifth Grade

- 1st – Dylan Hunn, “Nature Does Math”
 - 2nd – Mariah Gilbert, “Saliva Drought”
 - 3rd – Hanna Mae Greenfield, “Got Water?”
 - 3rd – Kyle Light, “Does Live Rock Help a Marine System and How?”
- Honorable mention:
Adam Learmont, “Water: Getting It to the Top”
Elizabeth Klinger, “The Hotter, the Faster”

Grand Prize

- Grades 1-3
Alex Issa, “Is Soil Necessary for Plant Growth”
- Grades 4-5
Dylan Hunn, “Nature Does Math”



“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...

Tuesday, February 13, 1:00

Tuesday, March 13, 1:00

And a date in April to be determined!

If you can’t make it on any of those days but are interested in learning more about Huffman, please contact **Len Stevens, Huffman Principal** at lsteven@pisd.edu or 469-752-1900 to set an appointment.



Practical Parent Education

What Kids Need MOST

- Daily reminders they are loved
- Lots of encouragement and support
- Emotional connections with the adults in their lives
- TO BE HEARD and understood
- To be treated with dignity and respect
- Lots of patience...after all, they're just kids trying to figure it all out
- Limits and boundaries
- Consequences for their actions
- T-I-M-E with mom and dad
- To feel valued as a special person
- Age-appropriate responsibilities and expectations
- Opportunities to learn and try new things
- The right to make mistakes
- Carefree time to just be a kid
- To be able to solve their own problems
- To feel safe and protected

Parenting Quick Tips

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Lo que los Niños Necesitan MAS

- Recordatorios a diario de que son amados
- Muchas palabras de ánimo y apoyo
- Conexiones emocionales con los adultos en sus vidas
- Que se les escuche y se les entienda
- Que se les trate con dignidad y respeto
- Mucha paciencia... Después de todo, son niños tratando de descubrir todo
- Límites
- Consecuencias por sus acciones
- T I E M P O con papá y mamá
- Ser valorados como personas especiales
- Responsabilidades y Expectaciones apropiadas a la edad
- Oportunidades para aprender y probar nuevas cosas
- El derecho de hacer errores
- Momentos sin preocupaciones donde puedan actuar como niños
- Poder resolver sus propios problemas
- Sentirse seguros y protegidos

Educando a sus hijos Consejos

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Submitted by Rose Taper, Chairperson for Parent Education

Internet Safety Tips for Kids

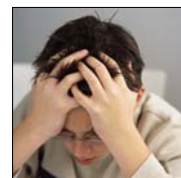
- I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
- I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
- I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.



Adapted from Child Safety on the Information Highway by Lawrence J. Magid. Copyright © 1994 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). All rights reserved.

Submitted by Emily Greenfield, Chairperson for Youth Protection

Don't Stress the TEST – Just Do Your Best!



The first set of **TAKS** tests is right around the corner! Our **3rd, 4th and 5th graders** will be taking the TAKS test **Tuesday, February 20th** and make up testing will be Feb 21-23. Prior to these days, please help your student maintain a regular schedule, eat healthy and feel confident about their abilities. Our students are well prepared and ready to show off their knowledge! During test days, we'd prefer to have parents and grandparents skip any visit for lunch or volunteering.

The TAKS test is a state mandated assessment test developed and administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Information about the test, test results, and more are available on the TEA website www.tea.state.tx.us. The results of the test determine how the school is "rated" by the TEA.



Huffman Environmental Leaders Program

H.E.L.P. had a great time at the last session. Debb Bliss had lots of information, fun and games for the students. They learned

where all the organic food in the cafeteria goes and how to compost!

Next session is on **February 26th, 2007**. Kids, bring your thinking caps...we need H.E.L.P with ideas for improving the recycling in the classrooms as well as the organics in the cafeteria. Parents are also welcome.

We will also be planting some seedlings. Be prepared to have fun and get dirty!

"Fun and Games Around the World" Celebrating Huffman's Multicultural Diversity Friday, February 16

This year's theme is "**Fun and Games Around the World**" with an emphasis on showing the children different games from differing countries and that many of the same games are played all over the world yet with a cultural twist.

Families can wear native or traditional dress in a parade of nations.

Some families will decorate a table educating the children on their country and heritage.

Other families may want to teach the children by creating an interactive game that represents their country or show them games or toys that are played in their homeland.

If you would like to participate and/or volunteer in this wonderful event, please call or email the program chair people, Michelle Rodriguez and Debbie Liu: multicultural@huffmanpta.org.

Town Hall Meeting Scheduled 2/12

Safety and security of students, staff and property will be the focus of discussion at a town hall meeting to be held from **7:00 to 8:30 PM** on **Monday, February 12**, at **Plano Senior High School**, 2200 Independence Pkwy. The school board invites the public to attend and hear a report on the status of programs, future initiatives and trends in safety and security.

Family Night Dinner

Mark Your Calendar for March 1, 2007!

(5:30 – 7:00 PM)

Family Night Dinner and
Open House will feature
Maggiano's Little Italy

\$7.50 for Adults

\$5.00 for Children

If you are interested in helping with the event please contact Tasha Mullen at 469-939-6913 or willowbend.banquet@maggianos.com

It's time to start planning for:

FREAKY FRIDAY FAMILY FUN FEST

FFFFF (April 13, 2007) promises to be a fun time for the entire family and anyone else you invite. There will be games, prizes, a raffle of cool stuff donated by Huffman's **Key Business Partners** and other sponsors. There will be a bounce house – or two! Food and More! We will conduct an auction with the proceeds benefiting our children and our school.

This event will be our largest fundraiser for the year and the PTA counts on the efforts and support of the entire school. With your help, **Friday the 13th** will be **our lucky day!**

Please help if you can! – It will be fun and rewarding! Our first planning meeting will be held: February 2, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. The location is Baker Brothers, in Plano, at Parker Rd. and the toll way (west side)

Please contact Margie Pisterzi at 214.681.0540 or reply via email to margie@pisterzi.com for more information and to sign up. Thank you!

Our Key Partners Program provides valuable products and services for the Huffman community. Additionally, they are important sponsors of **FFFFF** and the Huffman PTA. When you visit one of our Key Business Partners, please mention that you are from Huffman; the students and the school benefit because sponsors donate a portion of their profits to Huffman.

Find the Key Partner names on page 1 of this newsletter, also advertised throughout our PTA directory, and conveniently linked to our website, www.huffmanpta.org.

Upcoming Events

Fri., 2/2 – Deadline for submitting yearbook pictures for 5th grader, messages to children

Thurs., 2/8 – Starbucks w/Stevens for parents of K and 1st graders, 8AM in the Library

Fri., 2/9 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Tues., 2/13 – Little Hawk Library Time, 1PM

Wed., 2/14 – Class Valentine Parties

Thurs., 2/15 – Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A, 6-8 PM

Fri., - 2/16 – Multicultural Night, 6-8 PM

**Mon., 2/19 – Teacher Development Day
No school for Plano Students**

Mon.-Tues., 2/19-20 – Collin County Days

Tues., 2/20 – TAKS reading test for 3rd and 5th grades, TAKS writing test for 4th grade

Mon., 2/26 – Next H.E.L.P. meeting after school

Weds., 2/28 – Texas PTA Legislative Day

**Thurs., 3/1 – Family Dinner and Open House,
5-7 PM (Tasha to confirm by phone tonight)**

Mon-Fri, 3/5-3/9 – Spring Break, no school

Yearbook Reminders and Updates

1. **Personal messages** to your favorite Hawk(s) are due **Friday, February 2**. For only \$5.00, you may create a message in 120 spaces (a “space” counts as a letter, punctuation or a space between words) that will appear in the 2007 yearbook. What a great way to celebrate your child’s personal victories, encourage him for continued success, or simply tell your child how proud of him you are. Forms are available in the YO packet and on the website.

2. **Last call for 5th grade baby pictures!** Parents, if you have a 5th grader and have not sent in a “little person” picture, now is the time to do so! Please write your child’s name on the back of the picture, place in an envelope with “ATTN: Abby Ray” marked on it and submit to the homeroom teacher. Photos are due **Friday, February 2**.

3. **Yearbooks are still available for purchase!** If you did not purchase your child’s yearbook at Huffman Hello registration, then you still have time to purchase a book! Books are \$20.00 and will be filled with an assortment of photos and other surprises to commemorate your child’s year.

For any purchase, we accept cash or check. Checks should be made out to “Huffman PTA.” If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the yearbook chair, Abby Ray at yearbook@huffmanpta.org.

Plano ISD Council of PTAs met on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. The following are some highlights from the meeting

- Reflections entries were judged at the area level on Sat. 1/20. Results have not been finalized.
- Area Spring Workshops scheduled for 4/21 in Frisco. Workshop ideas being solicited now. Area awards will be announced that day.
- MLK Ceremony January 18 –**Huffman** received Honorable Mention for the Diversity Leadership Awards.
- Ski Plano! (2/3) is the single largest fundraiser for Plano Education Foundation.
- Council’s nominees for Lifetime PTA – Pam Seeger. Extended Service award to Elise Gold.
- Total PTA membership (statewide) is down 2%. Spring membership drive is recommended.
- Vendor Fair coming 3/31 with program and fundraising ideas for local PTAs. Also will have info, materials and opportunities for families.

Local author and speaker Joy Weaver presented the day’s program based on her book titled “Just Ask Joy... How to be Socially Savvy in Every Situation.”

Key points included “Treat people the way you would want them to treat you,” and “Remember, people do business with people they like.”

Ms. Weaver’s bio is available at www.planopta.org/programs.

The next meeting of the **Plano ISD PTA Council** is Tuesday, March 27 from 10-11 AM at the Administrative Building, 2700 W 15th St. The program that follows will be presented by **AXA Advisors**, one of Huffman’s Key Business Partners, and is titled “**College Planning 101.**” The programs usually last about an hour.



PTA QUICK LINKS

Plano Council PTA
<http://www.planopta.org/>

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

Area 15 PTA
<http://www.area15.txpta.net/>

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

Keep your child’s meal account current. Visit www.paypams.com to stay informed about your balances.