



# HUFFMAN HERALD

The PTA Newsletter

## Message from the President, Cara Mendelsohn

### Spring has Sprung and We're not Done!

I've got Spring Fever; how about you? I'm happy to have the sunny days and warm weather back. And I'm ready for a break from our school routine and to have some down time with my family. I hope you will enjoy this time as well.

But when we get back from break, it will be time to get "back to work" with PTA. We've done some great things this year, and there is more to do! If you haven't yet ordered an **engraved brick** (or two, or three!), there isn't much time left. Please send in your order to be part of this lasting fundraiser. The money we raise will pay for a big mural on the wall across from the library. I think the mural will transform the feel of the building, but we can't do it without your help.

Our big fundraiser of the year, the **Family Festival**, is coming **April 13**. This will be an unforgettable event for you and your kids! Please consider how you could help. Maybe you know of someone who can donate an item, a service, or a collection of things we can sell at the auction. Maybe **you** have a service you could provide that you'd be willing to donate. Would your employer consider providing drinks or a bounce house? If we pitch in together, we'll hit our target! If you would like to get involved with the Family Festival (this year's theme is **Freaky Friday!!**), please email Margie Pisterzi at [margie@pisterzi.com](mailto:margie@pisterzi.com). Donation forms are on the website and can be dropped off in the office.

There is more planned for the year, and you are welcome to be part of it. **PTA Elections and Meetings, Used Book Sale, Honor Choir Performance, Bike Rodeo, Teacher Appreciation Week, Field Day, PTA Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, Student Award Ceremony, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation, Year-End Classroom Parties and more!** If you want to get involved in any of these activities, please contact Traci Koen at [volunteers@huffmanpta.org](mailto:volunteers@huffmanpta.org).

So please, enjoy your time off, and come back refreshed to help us finish the year off with **Huffman Pride!**

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**Tonight is Huffman's Open House. Dinner at 5:30  
Open House from 6:00 to 7:30 at the school.  
See you there!**

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



Kaleidoscope  
Dinner My Way  
Tutoring Club  
Planet Burrito  
Knowledge Points  
Avon-KT Handley  
Snip Its

Arbonne-Amy Mitchell  
Huntington Learning Center  
First Choice Emergency Room  
Willow Bend Chiropractic  
Dr. Stephen Rayburn, D.D.S  
Sigma Tutors  
Doug & Jeanne Wieser

The Viking Craftsman  
American Standard  
Huffman Girl Scouts  
Charo Chicken  
Adventure Kids  
AXA Advisors-Abe Mansour  
Cub Scout Pack #265

Motophoto  
Wal-Mart  
Maximedia Recording Studios  
Sport Clips  
Pump It Up!  
Burris and Associates/Certainteed  
Allegra Print & Imaging

# What Has Your PTA been Up To?

## Spirit Night

### By Margie Pisterzi, VP – Fundraising

The February Spirit Night was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> at **Chick-Fil-A** in Plano. We want to thank Chick-Fil-A for their hospitality and their generous donation from the evening's proceeds.



The **Third Grade Teachers** were our featured guests for the evening; we appreciate **Ms Duty, Ms Thompson, Ms McKenzie and Ms Schmitz** (pictured with two of their students) 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!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the **March 22nd** Spirit Night at **Planet Burrito**, Park and Parkwood, from **6-8PM**. Please plan to join us and our special guests, **Huffman's Second Grade Teachers!** See you there!

## Volunteers of the Month February 2007 By Traci Koen, VP – Volunteers



There were **three** ladies nominated for their tremendous efforts in **February**, and these ladies have much in common. Each one of them works full time and has a fifth grade son.



### Tara Cannon –

Tara has the PTA position of Teacher Appreciation this year and has just done an amazing job. This is Tara's first PTA position and she just took the ball and ran with

it. Tara bakes and decorates cakes to celebrate the teacher birthdays each month and from what I hear, they are mouth watering. Tara also planned the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual tailgate themed lunch in the fall for the teachers, and in February, coordinated the Valentine themed lunch for the staff in the teacher's lounge. I am certain that with all she has done this year, the Huffman staff feels appreciated! Thank you, Tara!

**Michelle Rodriguez** – Michelle co- chaired the latest Huffman family event, Multicultural Night. Those of you who attended may realize how much planning and work an evening of that magnitude entailed. Michelle is a very creative person and has a way of turning ideas into reality. Michelle works more than full time running a family business and did not even hesitate when asked to take on this position. I guess that gives merit to the saying, "If you want something done, ask a busy person!" Michelle is also very involved in all aspects of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade parties and events and has been an invaluable volunteer for Huffman for many years. Thank you, Michelle!



### Debbie Liu – Debbie, along with Michelle

Rodriguez, co-chaired the latest Huffman family event, Multicultural night. The evening was full of excitement and learning about other cultures from around the globe. Debbie's gift for organization and planning was instrumental to the success of the evening. Debbie also works full time and always seems to make room in her schedule to volunteer for our Huffman PTA. Debbie has been a strong and consistent volunteer throughout her children's years at Huffman. Thank you, Debbie!

Another thing that these volunteers have in common is the fact that their youngest children will be moving on to Renner Middle School after this school year. Since each of them has been an invaluable volunteer for Huffman's PTA throughout the years, their absence will be felt by all. On that note, any of you that may have thought about volunteering or taking on a PTA position for the next school year, please contact Traci Koen at, [volunteers@huffmanpta.org](mailto:volunteers@huffmanpta.org) because we will most definitely need you!



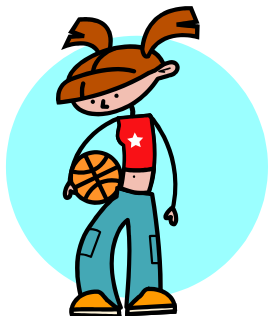
# Multicultural Night, February 16, 2007



**WOW!! If you were at Huffman PTA's Multicultural Night, you know why it is a favorite event!**

## "Fun and Games Around the World" Celebrating Huffman's Multicultural Diversity

Friday, February 16



Could you feel the happy excitement in the air? The night included the Huffman **Cub Scouts** leading the flag ceremony, the Huffman **Honor Choir** singing like angels (and with a 5th grade conductor- way to go Lindsey!), the amazing **Parade of Nations** with all the colorful native attire, the adorable **Mexican Dancers**, the **Lion Dancers** who helped us celebrate our new building and the **Chinese New Year**, games and activities from other countries, not to mention the huge array of displays and artifacts from so many countries (and food!).

**Multicultural Night** is one of those events that pulls our entire school community together, because it truly takes everyone's efforts to make it meaningful. We were very lucky to have such a large number of people that volunteered their time to **plan** this program, **set up** for the event, **dress in native attire**, **rehearse** for the choir performance, put a **display board** together of their native country, bring **artifacts, games and food**, and **clean up**. If you were one of the many, many people that volunteered, **THANK YOU**. You truly have made a memorable and beautiful experience for the students and families of the Huffman community.

Our co-chairs for the event, **Michelle Rodriguez and Debbie Liu**, were incredible in every way and we thank them for the terrific job!

If you didn't participate this year, please consider signing up next year - this is a wonderful opportunity for your family to **share your culture and history with pride** and teach all of our children about our small differences and larger commonalities. **(We learned that night that kids of all ages and from all backgrounds like games, prizes, and dessert!)**

## 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 13<sup>th</sup>** will be **our lucky day!**

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

## 3rd Annual Used Book Swap and Sale

Do you have good books sitting around that your kids have outgrown? **GIVE THEM TO US!!** Bring in five books for the book sale and get a certificate for one free book! Old to you is new to someone else.

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.

Paperbacks will sell for only \$.25 and hardbacks \$.50!!

This book sale is for CHILDREN'S age appropriate books (K-5th grade) only. No comics or Chick-Fil-A type books will be accepted. Our goal is to get books for the kids to READ over the summer.

We need your books to make this a success!! Please contact Sandee Black, our Library Volunteer Chairperson at [library@huffmanpta.org](mailto:library@huffmanpta.org) if you have questions about the event.

## Huffman Rising Stars Destination Imagination Team Performs an Outstanding Show!



**Rising Stars!**

Our Huffman 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Destination Imagination Team performed their play for the "Make it New, it is Up to You!" Non-Competitive Team Challenge at the NEXt Regional Event on Saturday, February 24, 2007 at Plano Senior High School.

### What is DI?

"You've heard of spelling bees, quiz bowls, robotics competitions and science fairs. In fact, there is probably a special event for every subject taught at school. Well, Destination Imagination is none of those things – and all of those things! Destination Imagination is a place where kids take what they know and what they are good at and learn to apply it to solve challenges, working together and cooperatively with a team and pushing the limits of imagination to best not their competition, but themselves.

Destination Imagination is a community-based, school-friendly program that builds participants' creativity, problem solving, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways.

Teams of five to seven members work together to apply creativity, critical thinking and their particular talents to solve a Team Challenge.



### Rising Stars Team Challenge 2007: Make it New, It's Up to You! For the Huffman 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Team Focus:

- Understanding geography
- Researching landmarks
- Changing a landmark
- Designing and building
- Making an invention
- Writing a play
- Sequencing steps

- Making noises
- Performing in front of an audience
- Working with others

### The Destination: What is the Challenge?

*"Your Challenge is to make up a Play. You will be in it and you will present it to an audience. Your Play will have a Landmark that changes. A Landmark is a well-known, special place. Some or all of your team must get inside the Landmark. You will also create an Invention. It will make a noise. Your Invention will change the Landmark in some way. Your Play will have many Characters, and one Character wears a hat you have made out of newspaper."*



### Rising Star Team Members: (pictured above)

Claire Copilevitz-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Girl- Carla (far left)  
Radhika Vaishnav-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Girl- Miley (2<sup>nd</sup> on left)  
Sara Ashmore-1<sup>st</sup> Grade, Girl- Elizabeth and Statue of Liberty (middle)  
Hailey Ashmore-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Dog- Sapphire (2<sup>nd</sup> on right)  
Brittany Griffith-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Girl- Catherine (far right)

Team Manager: Lara Ashmore  
Staff Sponsor: Jennifer Eppler

Huffman Team members Claire, Radhika, Sara, Hailey and Brittany researched inventions and landmarks and wrote a play about 4 girls who find a dog and a time machine in the park. The time machine, and the dog named Sapphire, take the girls on the adventure of a lifetime to the pyramids of ancient Egypt and the Statue of Liberty in New York City. The Huffman Rising Stars performed a fabulous show at the regional event and had a fun time working together to solve the challenge this year.

For more information on DI please visit <http://www.idodi.org>

Join the Huffman Destination Teams next year! Each fall, students have the opportunity to join a DI team. Watch for the DI registration forms going home early next year in the YO Packet!

## “But, Everyone is Doing It!”

Peer pressure is a basic human reaction which peaks during adolescence.

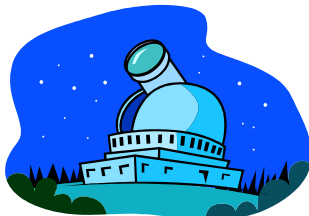
Parents CAN help children handle peer pressure successfully:

- Be a role model. Your actions speak volumes.
- Communicate constantly with your child.
- Give your child many opportunities to make decisions and experience the consequences of those decisions.
- Hold your child accountable for his/her actions and decisions.
- Know your child's friends' pastimes, hangouts and parents.
- Make room and time for your child and his/her friends in your home.
- Teach assertiveness. Urge your child to speak up if uncomfortable with the behavior or language of his/her group.
- Share personal stories of difficult choices made for the “right” reasons.
- Introduce your child to new friends through multifamily activities.
- Encourage individuality, originality and uniqueness.

### Parenting Quick Tips

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Submitted by Rose Taper, Chairperson for Parent Education



## What does a Planetarium have to do with Planet Burrito?

Well, nothing. It's just a coincidence. Our students will visit an **inflatable, indoor planetarium** during the week of March 19-23. It will be up on the school stage for the students to walk in, look up and check out. Ask your kids about it. It's cool. These are **your PTA funds** at work.

Important PTA funding is raised through events such as **Spirit Night**. **March's** fundraiser will be held on the **22nd** at **Planet Burrito**, located at Park and Parkwood. The **Second Grade Teachers** will be our special guests. Planet Burrito has no relation to our Planetarium. We just thought it was fun to do together.



## Outdoor Air Quality Poster Contest Open Through April 18



**Plano's Health Department** is sponsoring a poster contest for students **Grades 1-5** with a theme of outdoor air quality (ozone, alternative fuel use or transportation, air pollution and its prevention, etc.) All must be original art – no magazine cutouts.

There will be **prizes and recognition** from the Mayor and City Council to winners in several categories.

Contact **Janet Tucker**, at the **Health Department**, **972-941-7143** for more information, [janett@plano.gov](mailto:janett@plano.gov)

Bring your student entries to the Huffman front office and PTA will deliver them to the contest officials.

## Plano's Recycling Challenge



The City of Plano is challenging residents to increase their recycling to meet a city-wide goal of **25,000 tons** from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. This means that each household needs to recycle 741 pounds of materials, including newspaper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, junk mail, cracker

boxes, cereal boxes, cardboard boxes, aluminum and steel cans, plastic #1 and #2 bottles, cardboard and glass bottles and jars.

As of January 31, 2007, we are 1,191 tons, or 14.3%, below our targeted goal.

**RECYCLING IS EASY!** Put all recyclables in your cart (green w/black lid). If you still have a divider in your cart, call 972-769-4150 for removal (no cost for removal).

**Do your part to meet the Challenge—recycle all you can.** When you **recycle more** and throw away **less trash**, you can use a smaller trash cart. Switch from a 95-gallon trash to a 68-gallon trash cart and save \$2.60 on your monthly refuse bill. **That is an annual savings of \$31.20!** And remember, you can get a second recycle cart at no additional cost.



For more information on residential recycling, go to: [www.livegreeninplano.com](http://www.livegreeninplano.com) and click on Recycling in the green shaded area.



**Super Bowl bound Colts Boosters in the Huffman front office and hallways!**

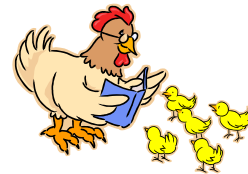


## INCOMING KINDERGARTEN

If you know a family who will have a Kindergartener next year, please email Cara Mendelsohn ([president@huffmanpta.org](mailto:president@huffmanpta.org)) with their name. We are starting our annual list to make sure we get the word out about special events, including Little Hawk Library Time, parent information night and kindergarten roundup.

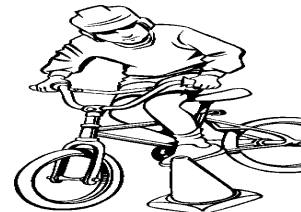
For a list of required registration documents, visit [www.pisd.edu/parents/registration/criteria.shtml](http://www.pisd.edu/parents/registration/criteria.shtml)

### “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 **Tuesday, March 13, at 1PM** in the Huffman Elementary library.

### Huffman Bike Rodeo Rescheduled



HEY, KIDS! You won't want to miss Huffman's first annual Bike Rodeo, featuring a safety check, ID engraving, obstacle course, STUNT SHOW and GREAT PRIZES!!! So mark your calendars and tell all your friends, family and neighbors about the NEW DATE:

Saturday, May 19, 2007

Same time: 9AM – 12 NOON

Same Place: Huffman Elementary parking lot

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 interested in participating in this fun-filled event.

