



Huffman Herald

The *PTA* Newsletter

Message from the President, Cara Mendelsohn

Welcome back from Fall Break! ***Did you notice what has happened while we were gone?*** The construction has moved out of the front entry! Our new K-1 wing has opened! Our new stage is complete! The staff has a new staff lounge! Our PTA “stuff” has moved to a new location! WOW- it all looks GREAT!! The classroom sizes are just amazing. Please have a look and experience a few “Huffman Proud” moments.

To match the beautiful new building, PTA has some “house warming” gifts on the way. First, a new entry mat that should last us until the next remodel! The drawing of the mat is posted by the front door. It is both a safety and beautification item. Second, a new PTA display cabinet to be located between the front door and office will be installed in the coming weeks. We’ll have displays of spirit wear, information on upcoming events, awards, and more! Third, PTA is purchasing some new recess equipment for every grade level.

Good things going on:

- Huffman PTA won 2 State PTA awards for 05/06.
- Book Fair went great – see details inside the newsletter.
- We had more moms at Muffins with Mom, dads attend Donuts with Dad and families come to Literacy Night than ever before!
- We had such a positive response to Grandparents Lunch that we’re going to do it again in the spring!
- We’re getting a new marquee for the school.
- We’ll be launching an engraved brick fundraiser in the next several weeks to raise money for murals and other beautification items.
- After school programs have blossomed at Huffman – Mad Science, Choir and Spanish are going on right now. We’ve got a new Chess club and Environmental Club this year. Art classes are coming!
- The Huffman directory will be coming out this week. Notice the HUGE increase in community partners!

Please join us:

The **next PTA meeting** is **10/19 at 6:30 p.m.** in the gym. EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to attend. Our Huffman Choir will be performing as well (so you have to come!).

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You are welcome to invite your friends and relatives to visit our school and share a special Veteran’s Day program with us on 11/10. We’ll be offering tours of the new building and provide refreshments. We will ask for adults to RSVP, so please watch for details!

If you are not getting emails from PTA, please sign up by emailing webmaster@huffmanpta.org. We send out all sorts of information – about programs at the school, parent education information, ways to get involved and MORE!

Huffman PTA is for everyone – and together we are Building Success!

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?

Oh, What a (Spirit) Night!

By Margie Pisterzi, VP – Fundraising

The September Spirit Night was held on the 21st at Charo Chicken in Plano. We appreciate Charo Chicken hosting the event and donating a portion of the proceeds from the evening to Huffman!

Special thanks to Assistant-Principal Sarika Simpson who was our featured guest star for the evening. We also want to thank everyone who attended this past event. Don't forget to check out the pictures on our award - winning website!



Assistant Principal, Sarika Simpson was Spotlited

We look forward to seeing everyone at this month's Spirit Night that is scheduled for **October 26th** at **Potbelly** on Park between Preston and Ohio. Please join us as our special guest will be **Principal Len Stevens**. See you there!

Wheels of Freestyle

By Leslie Gilvar, VP – Programs

The kids were excited as they watched some of the world's top Extreme Sports Athletes perform an assembly to remember! This assembly, held following Fall Break, was a thrilling way to gear up for Red Ribbon Week (October 23-27) as students learned how to say "NO" to drugs. The high energy show was a cool performance to reinforce some positive life lessons. The kids watched high-flying stunts while learning important character traits and seeing positive role models.

Mr. Stevens was challenged to have a BMX bike jump over his head. Was he up for the challenge? You'll have to ask your child to tell you all about it...



Book Fair is a Big Success

By Susie Learmont, Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who "Dove into a Book" during Book Fair Week. All of the activities surrounding Book Fair were a success and it was great to see everyone at Muffins for Mom and Donuts with Dad. We really liked meeting all of the Grandparents who took time out of their day to spend with their grandchildren. A special Thank You for stopping by the Library and buying a book or two for your child. We profited about \$2,000 which will be used to enhance the library and pay for other PTA sponsored functions. We Love Our Huffman Parents; Dive Into Reading!!!



Students and Moms line up for Muffins



Grandparents of Jason T., Fourth Grader

If you took any pictures during Book Fair Week, please forward them to Zepur Ohanian at zepohanian@comcast.net
Needed are pictures of the following events:

- Muffins with Mom
- Doughnuts with Dad
- Grandparent Lunch

These pictures will be great for our Huffman Scrapbook!

Congratulations and Thanks to our Entertainment Passbook Superstar Sellers!!!

We are very excited to announce the class room winners as this year's top sellers for the Entertainment Passbook fundraiser sales event.

Mrs. McCasland's 4th Grade sold 47 books

Mrs. Fawcett's 4th Grade sold 42 books

Congratulations and thank you again!



The winning classes will receive a certificate of accomplishment and a pizza party in recognition for their outstanding contributions and top sales of the Passbooks. The two *individual* Top Sellers have also received a special gift.

The total number of Passbooks sold this year was **485**, which **netted the school \$3,800.00** for use in enhancing our children's educational programs and for field trips.

We want to again thank all of the people who contributed their time and efforts in supporting the Entertainment Passbook Fundraiser. Overall, the fundraiser was a terrific success and we look forward to future events in supporting our students and school.

Directory Update

**By Lara Ashmore,
Membership & Directory Chair**

The Directory should be available when you read this! If you are a member of the PTA, you can expect delivery

of your Huffman Directory and PTA membership card in the week following Fall Break. They are being sent home with your child. As a member of the PTA, you also receive a printed Huffman Calendar. If you did not get your calendar yet and you paid your PTA membership dues, please contact Lara Ashmore,

membership@huffmanpta.org. If you would like a Huffman Directory, you can still join the PTA for \$10 and receive both the Directory and Calendar. The PTA Membership/Registration Form is available from www.huffmanpta.org under Forms—fill it out, turn it in and we will make sure you get a Directory and Calendar.



Volunteers of the Month September 2006 By Traci Koen, VP – Volunteers

For September, the PTA would like to recognize these outstanding volunteers:

Lara and Reed Ashmore

Lara has created and is maintaining our awesome Huffman PTA website as well as putting together the PTA directory that will be available to all Huffman PTA members after fall break. Her husband, Reed, has been instrumental in helping with the database. Both played a **HUGE** role in updating our PTA technology and communication capabilities. With an effort such as this, the hours on the front end are tremendous and will enable us to be more efficient in the long run! Thanks, Lara and Reed!

Deb Ross

Deb is the Hospitality chairperson this year. With our building under construction, Deb has remained flexible when plans had to change or alternative accommodations needed to be found. Deb orchestrated the events such as the Back to School Teachers' Lunch, the Yahoo/Boohoo coffee, Parent Information Night meetings as well as assisting with Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom. Hospitality is a volunteer position that is very busy the first few weeks of school. Deb made us all feel welcome as she set up event after event wearing her contagious smile. Thanks, Deb!

Sandee Black

Sandee is our Library Coordinator and Book Fair Chairperson this school year. In addition to spending hours unpacking books and helping to get the library ready for our students, Sandee staffs the library. Sandee and other parent volunteers aid students in selecting and checking out books.

As we all know, the book fair was a big success and Sandee did an amazing job planning, organizing, and staffing each and every day with volunteers! Thanks, Sandee!



Huffman

Fifth Graders will be heading off to the Collin County Adventure Camp October 30 thru November 1. This 427-acre "Outdoor School" is located in an area of Northeast Collin County, approximately one hour from Plano. It is managed by Metropolitan Dallas YMCA and is a camp opportunity offered to all Plano ISD Fifth Graders.

Camp curriculum focuses on environmental education, which is based upon the fifth grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science and Social Studies. While at camp, students will:

- complete water quality research
- participate in hands-on lessons as teachers lead them through the prairie and forest trails
- examine native Texas plants and animals
- participate in a compass activity, archery, canoeing/fishing
- participate in a challenge course
- complete an astronomy lesson

If you would like to help with this field trip, please email volunteers@huffmanpta.org.



We are putting the call out for all available volunteers for our big **Teacher Appreciation Tailgate Party** on **Nov. 3rd**. We will need people to help coordinate, set up, clean up, bring food/drinks, decorate, supply some music, maybe park a truck for the tailgate like last year - we will take all the help we can get. Please contact Tara Cannon (teacherappreciation@huffmanpta.org) with whatever you would like to do or contribute.



The school cafeteria's POS system has the ability to prompt brief messages on the screen for both the student and cafeteria employees. The message will pop up when a student enters his or her keypad number. If you have specific limits or messages to be placed in your child's account, please email Edith Sosa, Food & Nutritional Services Manager at edith.sosa@pisd.edu and include the following information:

* **Student Name**

* **Grade**

* **Message** (i.e., no snacks, allergy - milk, \$0.65 snack limit, \$2.99 daily limit, or no pork)

Please discuss any limits with your child.

Also, please note that the cafeteria will provide students with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich if a student's account is at zero balance. Parents may use the PayPams service at www.paypams.com for convenient online payments or make payments in the school office. Please keep your student's account paid up. The cafeteria staff is unable to make loans.

The cafeteria staff appreciates each and every one of the students at this school and look forward to seeing them each day. Please feel free to call Edith Sosa for any questions at 469-752-1908.

From the Front Office:

Your Child's Pictures

If you paid for pictures, you should be getting them very soon. Look for them in your child's backpack in the next day or so. If not, ask your child if he/she received them.

Retake Day - early morning of October 16

If your child needs his/her picture retaken due to closed eyes, etc., please send your child that day with the package received. If your child was absent on picture day or new to the school since Sep. 20, the office has envelopes to be filled out. Payment must be made prior to the retake being done.

Coming up...

RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country. This year Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated October 21-29.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug free lives with the ultimate goal being the creation of a drug free America.

And, perhaps more importantly, Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.



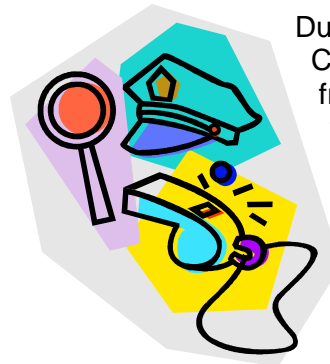
During Red Ribbon Week

The Plano Police Department will be joining forces with Huffman PTA, teachers and staff to promote child safety and drug prevention throughout the week.



October 25 McGruff Assembly at 9:30 AM McGruff the Crime Dog has been featured by the National Crime Prevention Council since 1978 to "Help take a Bite out of Crime". McGruff will be visiting Huffman as part of Red Ribbon Week. McGruff has changed his focus to stay with the times: educating kids about gun violence, bullying and internet safety. You can read more about McGruff in the story [How McGruff Became the Crime Dog](#), and visit www.mcgruff.org for some more kids' fun. The website has answers to everyday challenges that face our kids. The website is great for parents and kids!

October 27 Cafeteria Cops



During lunch times on Friday, Crime Prevention Officers from Plano Police Department will visit our cafeteria and interact with students. The program helps students establish and reinforce that "Police are our Friends."

Dress themes for the week

- Mon.** – "Be on a winning team!"
 - * Wear your favorite team jersey or T-shirt
- Tues.** – "Don't get mixed up in drugs!"
 - * Wear mix-matched clothes
- Wed.** – "We are too cool to do drugs!"
 - * Wear sunglasses or a hat
- Thur.** – "Together we can beat peer pressure!"
 - * Twin day – dress exactly like one of your friends
- Fri.** – "We are ready to be drug-free!"
 - * Wear something red

Notice of Bylaws Revisions

By Abby Ray, Past President

A bylaws committee consisting of Sue Benton, Jaime Kin, Viki Patterson, and Abby Ray has been formed to revise and present the Huffman PTA bylaws and standing rules to our community.

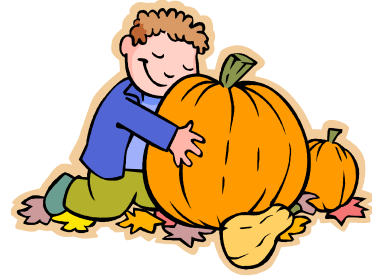
You may be wondering why we are reviewing the bylaws at this time. Actually, it is a national PTA requirement that all local – that is, each PTA chapter's -- bylaws and standing rules be updated every five years.

Did you know that the bylaws provide the structure and framework of our organization as dictated by the National PTA and State PTA? We do have the discretion to "fill in the blanks." This structure provides unity among all of the chapters but also allows for local control in determining certain specifics.

For example, the national bylaws framework dictates that "the officers of this Local PTA shall be a president, (*number*) _____ vice president(s), a secretary, (*a historian*), and a parliamentarian." Locally, we are allowed to set the number of vice presidents and decide whether or not to fill the optional historian position. For your information: The bylaws committee is recommending four vice presidents – one for programs, another for volunteers, a third for fundraising and a fourth for communication – and supporting the acknowledgment of a historian position.

So, where are we in this process? The committee has met twice and has penned the first draft. We have one more meeting scheduled to read the "final" document that will be presented. Next, the document will go to the executive board for their review. **The document will then be posted at the school and on the website on Monday, October 16.** Following a 30 day review period, a motion will be brought forth to accept the proposed document during the regular meeting on Thursday, November 16. Upon approval from our general membership, the document will be forwarded to National PTA for their final approval. We anticipate that this new document will go into effect the 2007-2008 school year.

You are encouraged to review the document and bring forth any questions or comments you might have. We always welcome your thoughts in this process.



Halloween Safety Tips

October 31st is a time when treat-loving goblins, ghosts and scary monsters are out for an evening of fun. Mom and Dad need to make sure trick-or-treaters of all ages are safe on this special occasion.

- Look for trick-or-treat options: special community parties at private homes, schools, or churches
- Make sure costumes are easy to walk in, fire retardant, and visible at night (light colored materials, reflective appliques, etc.)
- Use face paint or makeup as a safe alternative to masks
- Talk about street safety (more children 5 to 14 are killed on Halloween than on any other evening of the year)
- Arm children with flashlights
- Allow children to visit only homes where you know the residents
- Accompany children as they trick-or-treat; establish geographic boundaries for older children, as well reasonable curfews
- Carefully inspect all treats before letting children eat any of their goodies.

Halloween is an exciting time for children. Make safety your number one goal!

Parenting Quick Tips
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October is Spirit Month at Snip-its!! Mention the two magic words "Huffman PTA" and our PTA will receive 10% of that receipt. Help build a successful PTA!!

Announcing the Huffman PTA News Blog

The Huffman Elementary PTA is proud to announce a news Blog! What is a Blog? It is a cutting-edge Web forum for communicating information quickly to a group of people. The technology enables the PTA to publish information in a timely manner to parents and the community. The Blog will automatically archive the news and announcements and you will be able to search on specific topics.



Visit the Huffman News Blog
www.huffmanpta.blogspot.com

The blog is also linked in from the PTA Home page. It does not replace our Web site but supplements the content. Right now the Blog is just a link to more news but soon the news headlines from the Blog will be incorporated into our current home page.

Bookmark the PTA blog and check it often for updates!



Huffman Staff Texas PTA Life Members

A PTA Life Member is an honor given by the PTA to people in the community who have shown consistent and exemplary service to children, families or the PTA. This Honorary PTA Life Membership is available from both National PTA and Texas State PTA. The Huffman PTA pays the yearly dues for our current staff members who are Texas Honorary Life Members as a thank you for their service. We would like to recognize the following Huffman staff members who are currently Texas PTA Honorary Life Members. Some were given this honor by the Huffman PTA and others were given the honor from other PTAs. We are proud to have them as part of our Huffman Community!

- Christine Barlow
- Carolyn Curfman
- Judy Curry
- Sue Duty
- Claudia Eckert
- Aaron Else
- Jennifer Eppler
- Shawn Greenberg
- Jeff Israel
- Lindsey Jensen
- Nancy Matthews
- Deanna Murray
- Ted Sealey
- Len Stevens
- Marci Watson
- Karen Lynch

Thank you for your service to our children and the Huffman Community!

Membership Update

By Lara Ashmore,
Membership & Directory Chair

“Building Success” PTA Membership Campaign

Thank you Huffman and the community for helping our PTA exceed our membership goals this year!

Category	Last Year	This Year Goal	This Year Actual
Total Members	398	415	416
Staff	100%	100%	100%
Community/ Businesses	11	10	34

As a result of our community participation, we will earn the Hand-in-Hand Community Partnership Award and the Golden Apple 100% Staff Participation Award! We are well on our way to the 10% Increase in Achievement Award. It is NOT too late to join! We need only 31 more total members for the 10% Award. Grandparents, other relatives, friends, and neighbors can join the Huffman PTA to help us BUILD SUCCESS this year with all of our programs and activities!

The Membership/ Registration Form is available from www.huffmanpta.org under Forms. Volunteer time is not required for PTA membership although we love it when members can volunteer.



Publication Permission Forms

Do you want your child to be in the Huffman Yearbook? If so, you must turn in a Parental Consent form for publication permission. Only children who have written permission on file with the PTA can be in PTA publications like the Yearbook and Directory! Forms were in all back-to-school packets and sent home in early September with every child who did not have one on file. You must give permission EVERY year.

The Parental Consent Form is available from www.huffmanpta.org under Forms. Please get these forms in now—we currently need over 200 forms for our 530 students! Even though the Directory is already printed you can still submit the form to be included in the Yearbook and other PTA publications.

After School Programs



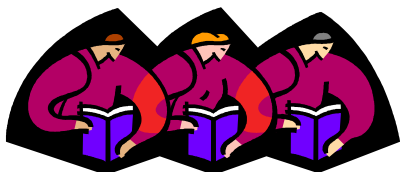
Please volunteer as a DI Coach for 2006-2007. The tournament date is Feb. 24, 2007 at PSHS. We are in desperate need of volunteer coaches at all grade levels for preparation for the competition. We also need judges for the tournament. Be sure you have a background check completed through our front office. Contact Jennifer Eppler if you are interested. Jeppler@pisd.edu or 469-752-1978



New Huffman Environmental Club!

The new-forming **Environmental Club** will initially

be for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders – and Parent volunteers! The club plans to meet once monthly after school on Mondays (starting October 16th). Meetings may include school beautification, habitat and ecosystem protection, litter awareness, composting, recycling and of course lots of outdoor fun! We are still open for ideas and input... **AND, it is not too late to sign up!** Contact Brigitte Petersen: 214-647-1156 or environment@huffmanpta.org (please reference Environmental Club). Look for registration forms in YO packets!



Come to Study Buddies!

It's FUN and FREE!

High school boys and their moms from Young Men's Service League (YMSL) are available to help with homework and tutoring every Monday from 7 to 8 PM at the Havery Park Apartment clubhouse.

Earn Hawk Bucks by coming and get FREE snacks and drinks!

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT!!! Thur. 10/12 – Art Night w/Reflections Kickoff

6:30-8:00 PM in the Huffman Gym

Thur. 10/12 – PTA Directory available to members

Fri. 10/13 – Noon release for students

Mon. 10/16 – Picture Retake Day

Mon. 10/16 – First meeting of Huffman's new **Environmental Club**

2:45-4:00 PM in the Huffman Cafeteria

Thur. 10/19 – Evening PTA Regular meeting and Choir Performance

6:30 PM in the Huffman Gym

Fri. 10/20 – Spirit Assembly

8 AM – Gr. K,1,2 / 8:45 AM – Gr. 3,4,5

October 23 – 27 – Red Ribbon Week

Wed. 10/25 – McGruff Assembly

Thur. 10/26 – Spirit Night at Potbelly

(Park and Ohio location) Come and meet **Len Stevens**, our Principal!

6:00PM

Fri. 10/27 – Cafeteria Cops during grades' lunch periods

Sun. 10/29 – Daylight Saving Time ends – "Fall Back" clock settings

Mon. thru Wed. 10/30 - 11/1 – 5th Grade Collin County Adventure Camp

Fri. 11/3 – Tailgate Teacher Appreciation Party

Remember:

Family Art Night Tonight!!

From 6:30 until 8 o'clock tonight, October 12, join other Huffman families for fun and creativity in the cafeteria. PTA is providing art supplies; you provide the inspiration!



Information will also be available on how to submit your child's completed artwork to the Reflections competition, which is not required for participation.