



# Huffman Herald

The *PTA* Newsletter

## Message from the President, Cara Mendelsohn

*"Just because everything is different doesn't mean that everything has changed"*  
Irene Peter

Every day when I drop my kids at school, something has changed! Maybe it is a few more bricks on the outside of the building, a new piece of décor in the front office, a bin in the workroom or even my child's class schedule! We're in the middle of a true transformation at Huffman. It is an exciting time to be here. Things are different, from the outside to the inside, but like the quote says, that doesn't mean everything has changed.

What has stayed the same? **PTA's role in the school.** Our mission, since Huffman's doors opened over 20 years ago, has been to be a partner with the school to help students grow and succeed. Our theme this year, "Building Success" plays on this same mission and the physical changes happening at Huffman. Our continued success will be determined by you – the Huffman parents. If you haven't already joined PTA, please do! Your support in dues is necessary for our continued programming and enrichment activities at Huffman. Your assistance in volunteering would also be welcomed. Everyone belongs here! Check out our calendar and pick an event that you can attend, that you can give an hour or two of your time to help with – and give us a call (or email) to let us know that we can count on you.

But there is a lot that is different in our PTA this year. We've been responsive to our community needs by dropping some old programs and trying out some new ones that better fit our needs. You'll still see some of our old favorites like our special Veteran's Day ceremony, Literacy Night, Multi Cultural Night, and our Family Festival, but we've added some new things too! We hope you will be excited to participate in Art Night, Chess Club, Citizenship Week, Earth Science Month, Science Fair Kickoff Night, Bike Rodeo (co-sponsored by the Huffman Cub Scouts), Environmental Club, Family Bingo/Spelling Bee Night, Fine Arts Night, and our Year End Student Award Ceremony!

As you can see, there is a lot going on! I invite you to be part of the excitement and look forward to sharing these special times with you. Cara

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## Huffman *PTA* Executive Board

<b>President</b>	<b>Cara Mendelsohn</b>
<b>1st VP (Programs)</b>	<b>Leslie Gilvar</b>
<b>2nd VP (Volunteers)</b>	<b>Traci Koen</b>
<b>3rd VP (Fundraising)</b>	<b>Margie Pisterzi</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Ann McKeown</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Viki Patterson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Susie Learmont</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Zepur Ohanian</b>
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	<b>Sue Benton</b>
<b>Past President</b>	<b>Abby Ray</b>

# What has your *PTA* been up to?



## ***This year, our PTA has already accomplished many things.***

- Successfully advocated for the passage of a City of Plano ordinance.
- Received a \$1000 in kind donation from Wal-Mart and delivered items to Huffman.
- Designed, printed and bound the Huffman PTA Calendars.
- Four Board members attended a PTA conference and received training in Austin, TX
- Launched a new "Gold Key Partners Program" for developing business partners with Huffman PTA.
- Coordinated and hosted the Huffman Hello including packet stuffing, school supplies, spirit wear and snacks. Thank you to the many volunteers who made it all happen.
- Assisted with new student registration.
- Received a \$5000 grant from "Aunt Dot's Kids" for targeted programming and enrichment.
- Hosted the Boohoo/Yahoo Coffee on the first day of school.
- Initiated our first major fundraiser of the year, Entertainment Passbooks.
- Held our first Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A for parents to get to know each other and visit with "Princess Nurse."
- Provided two birthday celebrations for staff members, a group who had summer birthdays and our August birthdays.
- Hosted a Back to School luncheon for the staff before school started.
- Unpacked and set up the library.
- Earned a \$400 award from the City of Plano for our Residential Recycling Incentive Program.
- Started a BLOG! Did you know we get an average of 578 hits a day on our website?
- Had many volunteers spend lunchtime helping students learn the new cafeteria procedures.
- Funded a 2 day author visit for 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades from Ms. Ralles – an inspiring, creative, and instructional speaker!
- Provided students' school supplies from a variety of business and church partners.
- Awarded a \$100 grant from the Texas PTA for Environmental Education.
- Held our first PTA meeting of the 2006-07 year.
- Hosted our annual "Back to School Bash" – what a great time!

## **Children's Advocacy Report**

At the last PTA meeting in May 2006, our PTA board decided to adopt a very big advocacy project – to promote the passage of a City of Plano ordinance that would limit where registered sex offenders with a minor victim could live.

We identified the project as important to our community and the whole city, and knew it matched PTA's mission statement. We obtained approval from Texas PTA and National PTA to pursue the project, completed much research, spoke with the Mayor and City Council members, met with the Plano police, interviewed officials from other cities, had many parents and community members express their opinions to the City Council, prepared presentations and spoke on behalf of the Huffman PTA to the City Council, community and reporters.

Our PTA was featured in the Dallas Morning News, Plano Star Courier, West Plano People, on KRLD Radio show and Channel 8. Our belief is that the ordinance will add a layer of safety to the areas around our schools and be significant to our students that walk and bike to school. Statistics showed that offenses against children happened most often after school and by an acquaintance (other than a relative). Statistics also tell us that offenders are less likely to move to cities that have these types of ordinances.

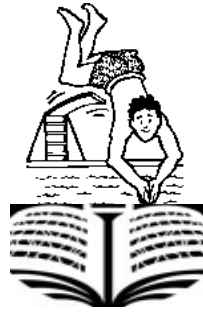
**We are proud to say our group effort has been successful** and Plano adopted the resolution that basically bars offenders from living within 1000 feet of a school, park or day care center. For more information about this project, please check out our website at [www.huffmanpta.org](http://www.huffmanpta.org). This project is just another example of how Huffman parents can work together to make a positive difference in our community.

**GO HAWKS!!!**

## **Passbook Sales by Margie Pisterzi, VP Fundraising**

On behalf of the Huffman PTA we want to thank everyone for supporting the Passbook fundraising event. As a reminder, you and your friends can continue to support Huffman and purchase additional books through **November 30, 2006**. To do so, go online to [www.fundraising.entertainment.com](http://www.fundraising.entertainment.com). Our school's account number is 283653.





**DIVE INTO A GOOD BOOK!  
Huffman Book Fair – Sept. 11-15**

Moms, come share delicious muffins! Grand parents or other relatives, come during your student's lunch time! Dads, come for some donuts! Muffins or donuts, along with juice or milk, will be available for purchase in the cafeteria from 7 AM until classes start at 7:45. See the **schedule on page 12** for these and other fun events you can enjoy with your children as part of the Huffman **Book Fair!**

If you would like to preview a sample of the many wonderful books that we will be offering at the Book Fair, please feel free to check out the display in the library.

All profits from Muffins with Mom and Donuts with Dad will be donated to a local non-profit to be selected by one of our student leader groups.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Look for the Sally Foster packet in your child's backpack on September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Huffman earns 50% on every item sold!

- Premium gift wrap
- Bath salts and body lotions
- Chocolates and mixes for baked goods
- and other gifts for everyone on your list

Plus, subscribe to or renew your favorite magazine and Huffman earns 40% of the subscription price.

And if that isn't enough, NEW for 2006 is Cookie Dough in 10 delicious flavors! It comes frozen and ready to bake. And the best part is that Huffman earns 40% of every cookie dough item sold.

The sale runs from September 18<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> and if you have a couple of hours to spare, we would appreciate your help. Please contact **Jaime Kin,**

**Sally Foster Chairperson** at (469) 737-8988

**WANTED:**

**Cool, Creative, Colorful Cover  
for the 2006-2007 Huffman Yearbook!**



Looking for a creative 5<sup>th</sup> grader willing to design a cover for the 2006-2007 Huffman yearbook.

Put your thinking caps on, sharpen your pencils, crack your knuckles and get busy!

That's right. The PTA is sponsoring a contest to find the coolest, most creative and most colorful yearbook cover yet! The contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. A panel of "outside" judges will review the entrants and select the top entries. The top entries will then be presented to the school and the Huffman students will select the 2006-2007 Huffman Elementary yearbook cover by casting their votes with beans! The winning artist will also receive his/her yearbook on the house compliments of your PTA.

**Now, for the guidelines...**

1. The theme of the yearbook is **"Building Success."** So, you will need to incorporate pictures or symbols associated with construction (an excavator, a hard hat, a hammer, etc.) into your artwork.
2. You may use ANY type of art medium (except for 3D). This includes crayons, map colors, markers, paints, digital imagery, graphic design, photography, and stickers. The more colorful your drawing, the better. The goal is to fill the majority of the paper with design.
3. If you use the computer to assist in your cover design, then you will need to save your work in a JPEG file and submit both a hard copy of your design along with the disc on which it is saved.
4. Create your masterpiece on either an 8 ½ x 11 piece of white copy paper (paper upright in "portrait" position) or on an 11 x 14 piece of white copy paper (paper horizontal in "landscape" position).
5. You may enter as many times as you want – there is no limit!
6. **DO NOT** write your name on the front of your artwork. Instead, please write your name, homeroom and phone number in PENCIL on the back of your submission. (If you are selected as the winner, then you will be asked to "sign" your masterpiece!)

Please submit your cover designs to the main office by **Friday, September 22.**

Our judges will review the submissions, the school will vote and a winner will be announced on Monday, October 16!

Please contact Yearbook Chairman, Abby Ray at [yearbook@huffmanpta.org](mailto:yearbook@huffmanpta.org) if you have any questions!



## My Favorite Place ... 2006 Reflections Call for Entries!

Now is the time to start working on your Reflections entry! Here are some helpful hints to get you started!

### First... Think!

Take some time to think about the theme, "My Favorite Place". Entries are judged not only on creativity, but also on how the work relates to the theme.

### Second... Talk!

To your parents, to your teachers, to your friends, explore new ideas, let your imagination soar.

### Third... Work!

Take time to work on your entry. Work on it for 30 minutes to an hour and then take time to think about it before starting again. Make sure that you keep your entry clean and neat!

### Fourth...Enter!

After your work is completed, get an entry form from your teacher or the office. Make sure to:

Title your work and relate your title to the theme

Fill in the Optional Artists Statement (this really helps the judges understand your work and your thought process in creating your piece.)

Have your parent sign the form—your entry cannot advance without a signature!

Turn in your work. Art should be mounted, matted and wrapped in plastic with the entry form attached to the back.

Music and Literature: Submit two copies of your work along with a completed entry form.

**Deadline for entries is Nov 1st.**

**You can enter as many times as you want in as many categories as you want.**

Please contact event chairman, Ellen Cavalier at 972-380-5640 or [reflections@huffmanpta.org](mailto:reflections@huffmanpta.org) with questions about **Reflections or Family Art Night.**

## Family Art Night

**Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:00PM**

Bring the whole family! Bring your imagination! Come create some fantastic, fun art! Enter your creation in the Reflections program and get a chance to win a great 'arty' prize.

### What is Reflections?

The PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The Texas Reflections program has the most participation of any PTA program with entries totaling over 75,000 across the state. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: literature, musical composition, photography, the visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video. In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art.

Each year, the Reflections Program challenges students to create art that interprets a specific theme.

Students participate in the Reflections Program by submitting entries to their local PTA or PTSA. Any PTA/PTSA in good standing is eligible to sponsor a Reflections Program.

(Excerpted from the Texas **PTA** website)

### Six areas of Participation

**Visual Arts** – drawing, painting collage, printmaking, fiber/metalwork, computer gen'd art (Max. size applies)

**Literature** – poetry, prose, drama, short story (Max. size applies)

**Photography** – single, collage (incl. retouched work)(Minimum and max sizes apply)

**Music** – composition with or without lyrics, a cappella & instrumental

**Dance/Choreography**

**Film/Video Production**



## From the Front Office

### **Carpool Procedures Review:**

#### **Drop off**

Both lower and upper carpool can be used for drop off in the morning. (Buses should be finished dropping off students at 7:15; however, if there are still buses in the lower carpool line while you are dropping off your child, please do not pull around the buses.) If you plan on dropping off your child between 7:15 and 7:30 AM, please use the lower carpool. If your child is not eating breakfast at the school, then they will wait in the gym, supervised by teachers, until 7:30 AM. Signs are posted at exit points of driveway directing you to turn left out of the lower carpool and right out of the upper carpool.

#### **Pick up**

The lower carpool is designated for buses, daycare vans and 5th grade pick up only. If your 5th grader has a younger sibling, they will join your younger sibling in upper carpool for right now. Please wait at designated line so that our 2 buses and daycare vans can pull ahead to pick up their designated students.

The upper carpool is designated for K thru 4th grade. Each grade will be sitting in their designated area.

Please place the following information on a sign, paper plate, or piece of paper indicating the following information:

**Student name(s)**  
**Grade level**

Place that information in the passenger side window so that the teacher at the corner can radio ahead to the designated areas. Please do not leave your car unattended at anytime in the carpool line. This will slow up the process and get frustrating to many parents who are following the procedures. If you are going to park, you must do so only in designated areas.

#### **Walkers**

All walkers/bike riders will be dismissed out of the front door. Bike riders will go to the bike racks. Walkers will be required to cross the street at the crosswalk area at the corner. Safety is the most critical issue in this procedure. We will not sacrifice the safety of the child to increase the speed of drop off / dismissal. Please adhere to the procedures. If they change, we will communicate those changes to you in advance.

## **News from Plano ISD Council of PTAs**

**by KT Handley, Council delegate  
for Huffman PTA**

On August 22, **Plano ISD Council of PTAs** held its first regular meeting of the 2006-07 school year, in the Board Room at the PISD Administration Building.

Budget and fundraiser issues were presented, voted on and passed unanimously. An announcement was made that **Area 15** (to which Plano belongs) will have no Fall workshop, since most councils do their own Spring training. Council President, **Robyn Tatman** was pleased to announce that PISD advanced four of the 128 entries which have qualified for the National **PTA Reflections** competition (2005-06 contest). There are many artistically talented students in PISD. Final judging has not yet occurred.

There are currently two board positions in need of a volunteer chairman; they are **Arts in Education** and **Publicity**. Partners in Education were noted, for their contributions to the district totaling more than \$50,000.

After the season-opening Council meeting, **Superintendent Doug Otto** spoke to the PISD Council Board members and delegates. One key topic of interest was the **calendar's** delayed start for the 2007-08 school year, which will cause an extended summer break in 2007 but will be balanced out in the summer of 2008. At issue is a question of whether final exams-out will be completed before winter break. Currently, the first day of school is expected to be Monday, August 27, 2007.

In a **Q&A** session, **Dr. Otto** announced the opening in Fall of 2007 of an as-yet unnamed elementary school in the SE corner of the district. He discussed at some length the school ratings received by PISD and compliance and implementation issues for the accompanying legislation. Finally, there was discussion about **Key School** initiatives, which will be continued as data continues to be collected.

Next month's regular Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 26, at 10:00 AM at the PISD Administration building. All **PTA** members are invited to attend.

### **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/>



everychild.one voice.®

## PTA Membership Enrollment Month is September 2006



Texas PTA representatives met with Governor Perry to receive his proclamation making September 2006 the "PTA Membership Enrollment Month." Pictured (l-r) Director of Member Services Julee Parsons, First Vice President Jan Wilkerson, President Michelle Humphreys, Gov. Rick Perry, Membership Chairman Amber Fulton, Second Vice President Sharon Goldblatt and Executive Director Kyle Ward.

**PTA** is a grassroots organization made up of parents, teachers and others around the state who have a special interest in children, families and schools. PTA membership is as diverse as Texas is in cultures, education levels and parenting skills. By joining a PTA, a member automatically becomes part of the largest child-advocacy organization in the state — over 650,000 strong across Texas.

Studies have proven that membership in PTA provides your child and other children around you with a greater chance of achieving in school. As a PTA member, you are more likely to be an informed, involved parent. These are dangerous times for children. More than ever, it is important for parents to learn ways to keep children safe, trouble free and involved in school. PTA is the best place to gain that knowledge.

### 2006-2007 Huffman PTA Goals

- \*Academic Achievement
- \*Community connectiveness
- \*Student Development in Character & Citizenship
- \*Awards
- \*PTA Training
- \*Teacher Support

## HELP WANTED

We have the biggest and BEST PTA board ever, but there are still a few jobs open. They are:

- **Literacy Night Coordinator** (one night event - easy!)
- **Family Bingo Night Chairman** (one night event)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Coordinator** (very important job!)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Coordinator** (very important job!)
- **Math Night Coordinator** (one night event – easy!)

If you are interested in heading up any of these roles, please email Cara Mendelsohn at [president@huffmanpta.org](mailto:president@huffmanpta.org)

## Welcome our Newest Chairmen:

Christi Swanner – Citizenship Week  
Empress Gilbert – Science Fair Kickoff Night

## Join the Huffman PTA

We want YOU to join the Huffman PTA! Membership is **\$10 a year** and you receive all the benefits of the PTA, plus a printed school phone directory, and a printed school calendar. Please contact our PTA Membership Chairman, Lara Ashmore, at [membership@huffmanpta.org](mailto:membership@huffmanpta.org) or download the membership form online at [www.huffmanpta.org/membership.html](http://www.huffmanpta.org/membership.html) and turn it into the school office.

### You should join the Huffman PTA because:

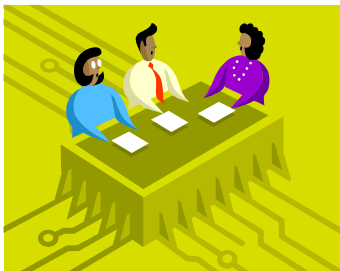
- Membership funds **benefit your child** (including paying for field trips and certain school supplies)
- You value education and want to support your local school, teachers and students
- Our PTA provides programs to enrich your child's education (such as author visits, science programs and more)

Show your Huffman pride and join the PTA today!

## Parent-Teacher Conferences Are Coming!

### *Do you know what to ask?*

As a parent or caregiver, you play an important role in your child's academic achievement. By taking the steps to get involved in your child's education, you can bridge the gap between home and school to ensure your child's success in learning and in life. Parent Conferences are a great time to share information, and both the teachers and parents are responsible for making that happen.



#### GETTING THE MOST OUT OF PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

\*Before the conference, write out questions you want to ask and jot down what you want to tell the teacher. Be prepared to take notes during the conference and ask for an explanation if you don't understand something.

\*Talk with the teacher about your child's talents, hobbies, study habits and any special sensitivities he might have, such as concerns about weight or speech difficulties.

\*Tell the teacher if you think your child needs special help about any special family situation or event that might affect your child's ability to learn. Mention such things as a new baby, an illness or a recent or upcoming move.

\*Tell the teacher what kind of person you want your child to become and what values are important to you.

\*Ask the teacher for specific details about your child's work and progress.

\*Ask about specific things you can do to help your child. At home, think about what the teacher has said and then follow up. If the teacher has told you that your child needs to improve in certain areas, check back in a few weeks to see how things are going.

\*Approach the teacher with a cooperative spirit. If you disagree with the teacher about an issue, don't argue in front of your child. Set up a meeting to talk only about that issue. If the teacher's explanation doesn't satisfy you, arrange to talk with the principal.

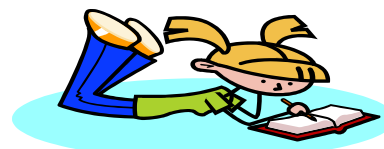
*Reprinted with permission- U.S. Department of Education, "Questions Parents Ask About Schools," 2003. To view online, go to [www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/pfie/questions/](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/pfie/questions/) or email a request to [edpubs@inet.ed.gov](mailto:edpubs@inet.ed.gov)*



## Fighting the Homework War?

- **Make homework and learning a high priority in your home**
- **Establish a routine time for homework**
- **Let children choose where they are most comfortable to do homework**
- **Have a homework supply box**
- **Offer favorite snack and beverage**
- **Make sure distractions are at a minimum**
- **Draw clear boundaries that you are there as a resource, but not there to do the homework for them.**
- **Busy yourself with household chores or reading during homework time**
- **Be available for trips to the library or other learning sources.**
- **Be a good role model by letting children observe you reading, balancing your check book or engaging in a learning activity.**

*Courtesy of Practical Parent Education, 2006*



## Fall 2006 Parenting Classes

Are you parenting a strong-willed child? Would you like to learn to discipline with love and logic? Do you wonder whose homework it is anyway? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, Practical Parent Education has a class for you. Visit [www.practicalparent.org](http://www.practicalparent.org) for a schedule of fall classes.

## Directory Ads Now on Sale!



Huffman Elementary PTA is proud to announce a new business partnership program for Huffman. The Gold Key partner program will help businesses market to over 500 families who reside in our immediate area, while supporting the educational programs of our students.

Benefits of our program include:

- ↪ Website link from the business to our Huffman Elementary PTA website (**average 578 hits per day**).
- ↪ Business logo on the front page of our monthly newsletter.
- ↪ Full page advertisement in our Student Directory.
- ↪ Gold Key Partner sticker for the business.
- ↪ Invitation to our community events including MultiCultural Night and our "Freaky Friday" Family Festival.

A letter to businesses and the advertisement order form are on our website at [www.huffmanpta.org](http://www.huffmanpta.org) and are available in the front office. Orders are due by **September 12, 2006**. If you have suggestions on companies but need assistance, please contact Margie or Cara.

Thank you for YOUR help in supporting Huffman!

Margie Pisterzi, VP, Ways & Means,  
[fundraising@huffmanpta.org](mailto:fundraising@huffmanpta.org) (972) 612-5948

Cara Mendelsohn, President,  
[president@huffmanpta.org](mailto:president@huffmanpta.org) (972) 267-6123

## HELP EARN \$\$\$ FOR HUFFMAN!



Earning \$\$\$ for our school is as easy as **1, 2, 3**

- 1. Clip** - Clip **BoxTops** and **Campbell's** labels from hundreds of participating products
- 2. Shop** - Shop your favorite online stores at the BoxTops Marketplace.
- 3. Charge** - Earn a full 1% on every purchase for our school with the Box Tops Visa® card. Enjoy a low introductory APR and no annual fee. Apply today at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) or call 1-800-650-0235.

**REMEMBER: Bring in your labels! Your classroom could be the lucky winner of an ice cream party!!**

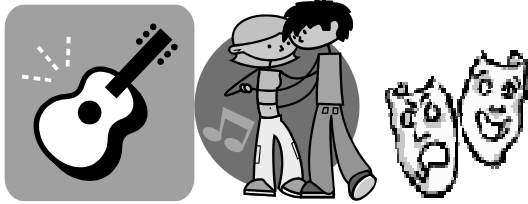
**The classroom with the most collections by November 30 will receive an ice cream party.**

**BONUS BOXTOPS \$\$\$ !!!** Huffman can earn even more \$\$\$ when you **sign up online for the BoxTops Booster Club by February 28, 2007**. So, please help increase our school's earnings by signing up today!

### Forget to order your Huffman yearbook?

No problem. Stop by the front office and simply complete the front of the order envelope and include your payment in either cash or check. The price is \$20.00 and checks can be made to "Huffman PTA."

Did you miss our first news letter, the August edition of the Huffman Herald? You may find back issues online at [www.huffmanpta.org/news.html](http://www.huffmanpta.org/news.html)



## Awesome Arts Festival

Bring the whole family to a FREE day of performances and hands-on activities in music, dance, visual art and theater at the Plano Centre on Saturday, September 9th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.awesomearts.org](http://www.awesomearts.org)

## Spirit Wear Update

T-Shirts that were backordered are here, and sweatshirts are due soon. If you have not received your shirt, if you would like to order a shirt or sweatshirt, or if you have a question about an existing order, contact Tracy Copilevitz at [spiritwear@huffmanpta.org](mailto:spiritwear@huffmanpta.org). An order form for the sweatshirts will be included in the October newsletter to place orders in time for those chilly days of November!



### Joseph T. Huffman

**April 24, 1837 – October 4, 1908**

Born in Spencer County, KY on April 24, 1837, Joseph Huffman moved to Collin County, Texas in 1858. He settled with his wife near White Rock Creek.

Joseph Huffman was very active in the Baptist Church and was a charter member of the Frankford Masonic Lodge, whose purpose was to “foster good schools.” He was one of the early farmers in the area Huffman Elementary School is located today.

He died on October 4, 1908 and was buried at Frankford Cemetery, where his grave can still be visited today.

## After School Programs

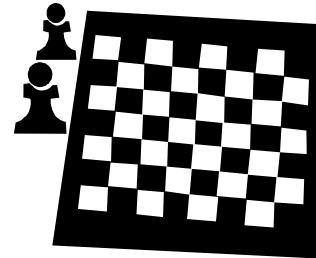


Beginning September 11<sup>th</sup>, Spanish Lessons will start on Mondays after school and run for 12 weeks, through December 4<sup>th</sup> from 2:45pm – 4pm. A class will be held for Grades K – 2<sup>nd</sup>, and one for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Lynn Benjamin at [afterschool@huffmanpta.org](mailto:afterschool@huffmanpta.org) or call 972-733-0594.

The Classics will be returning to Huffman for after school Art Classes.

Mad Science in partnership with NASA is offering a new Space science-based after school program called “Academy of Future Space Explorers”. This program will run for 8 weeks.

More information will follow in the next few weeks regarding fall registration and dates for After School Art and Mad Science.



## Chess Club – The Sport for the Mind

We need more adult volunteers to help coordinate the student participants. No experience required; if questions about the game come up, just ask the kids for help!

Chess helps children improve their ability to concentrate and teaches good sportsmanship. Club meetings will begin after school (2:45 PM) and will last until 4 PM. The program will begin with fourth and fifth graders and will add younger grades later on.

Get involved! Contact Rich Black [chessclub@huffmanpta.org](mailto:chessclub@huffmanpta.org).

## Upcoming Events

**Mon. 9/4 – Labor Day – No School**

**Sat. 9/9 – Arts Festival at Plano Center**

**Mon. 9/11 – After school Spanish begins**

**Tues. 9/12 – Deadline for Gold Key Partner  
Ads to be used in Directory**

**Book fair Week:**

**Mon. 9/11 – Muffins with Mom**

**7 – 7:45 AM** in the Huffman Cafeteria –  
**Author Visit in the Library (time tbd)**

**Tues. 9/12 – Word Count Contest**

**Wed. 9/13 – Grandparent Lunch  
during your child's lunch hour**

10:30-11 AM – THIRD Grade

11-11:30 AM – FOURTH Grade

11:30-12 PM – FIRST Grade

12-12:30 PM – FIFTH Grade

12:30-1 PM – SECOND Grade

1-1:30 PM – KINDERGARTEN

**Thur. 9/14 – Literacy Night**

**6 – 7:30 PM** – Staff will have age-appropriate  
literacy stations set up to encourage and  
strengthen literacy

**Fri. 9/15 – Donuts with Dad**

**7 – 7:45 AM** in the Cafeteria

**TWO WEEKS 9/18 - 9/29 – Sally Foster sales  
packets come home and return**

**Mon.–Thur. 9/18 to 9/21 – Reading Challenge**

**Mon. 9/18 – PTA Board Meeting**

**Time: 9:30 AM** in the Huffman Cafeteria

**Wed. 9/20 – Picture Day**

**Thur. 9/21 - Spirit Night with Sarika Simpson**

**Time: 6 PM** at Charo Chicken (Coit at Park)

**Fri. 9/22 – Deadline for Yearbook Cover  
Contest entries**

**Fri. 9/22 – Student holiday,  
Parent / Teacher Conferences**

**Mon.–Fri., 10/2–10/6 – Fall Break - No school**

**Mon. 10/9 – Classes resume for Plano ISD**

**Thur. 10/12 - Next Monthly Newsletter**

**Thur. 10/12 – Art Night w/Reflections Kickoff  
6:30-8:00 PM** in the Huffman Cafeteria

## PTA Meeting Schedule for 2006-2007

**Monday, Sept. 18th at 9:30 a.m. -**  
Board meeting

**Thursday, Oct. 19th** at an evening time TBA -  
Regular meeting and 2nd grade evening choir  
performance

**Thursday, Nov. 16th** at evening time TBA -  
Regular meeting and Science Fair Night Kick-off

**Monday, Nov. 20th at 9 a.m. -**  
Board meeting and Practical Parenting speaker  
on "Giving Children Responsibility for  
Themselves and Encouraging Motivation in  
Children".

**Monday, Jan. 22nd at 9 a.m. -**  
Board meeting and Practical Parenting speaker  
on "Communicating Effectively with Children at  
All Stages".

**Monday, Mar. 26th at 9:30 a.m. -**  
Board and regular meetings

**Monday, Apr. 23rd at 9:30 a.m. -**  
Board meeting

**Monday, May 14th at 9:30 a.m. -**  
Regular PTA meeting and Volunteer  
Appreciation Brunch

## Are You Invited? YES, YOU ARE!

PTA Board meetings are open to all Huffman  
parents, even if you haven't joined PTA (yet!).  
We'd love to include you in our mission – which  
is to help make the school GREAT! Our next  
board meeting is **September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

