

COUNCIL TALKS

Garland ISD Council of PTAs Newsletter

August 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Labor Day**
(student/staff holiday)
- 3 **First PTA Council Meeting**
Dr. Bob Morrison, speaker
9 a.m. - Harris Hill Annex
- 13 **Leaderpalooza**
Training for local PTA leaders
8 a.m.-noon - LCHS
- 18 **Connection Day**
- 24 **Outstanding PTA Entries Due**
Any programming conducted since April 2014 is eligible.
- 30 **Early bird membership reporting deadline** (www.txpta.org)

OCTOBER

- 1 **Second PTA Council Meeting**
9 a.m. - Harris Hill Annex
- 15 **Deadline to submit local PTA memberships to Texas PTA**
Deadline for each local PTA to submit Council dues of \$50 to Suellen Atteberry, Council Treasurer
- 20 **Early Voting**
begins for November elections
- 31 **Last day for early voting**

NOVEMBER

- 4 **Election Day**
 - GISD bond election
 - National, state and local elections

The President's Pen

Sharon Wainscott, Council President
s.wainscott@verizon.net • 972-278-3753



What a summer! I am ready for school to start so I can get a little rest. Between National Convention in Austin, Summer Leadership Seminar in Houston and helping with several sessions of Parent Orientation at the University of North Texas, I am exhausted.

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

The Council Board has been busy preparing for the new school year. The first meeting of the GISD Council of PTAs will be Wednesday, September 3, at 9 a.m. in the Garland/Rowlett rooms in the Harris Hill Administration Building Annex. Dr. Morrison will be our speaker. Start the year off right by attending this meeting and/or having a representative from your local PTA at the meeting.

BACK THE FUTURE!

Texas PTA has started a new campaign. Texas PTA wants everyone to "Back the Future." All local PTAs are encouraged to use this campaign during membership drives. This isn't just a membership drive, it is a branding. For more information on "Back the Future," follow the link: www.txpta.org/back-the-future/

SEPTEMBER IS CONSIDERED MEMBERSHIP MONTH

I am continuing Suellen's goal of an increase of at least 3 members per local PTA this year. The early bird membership reporting deadline is September 30. Texas PTA will be conducting Connection Day again this year. Connection Day will be September 18. Please call, text or email the total number of members recruited by your PTA so far this year to Texas PTA.

See President's Pen, page 2



SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Dr. Morrison will be guest speaker at the first GISD Council of PTAs meeting of the 2014-15 school year.

Wednesday, September 3, at 9 a.m.

THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Topic	Page
2014 Bond Election.....	4
Arts in Education.....	7
Bonds, Boundaries, School Boards.....	3
Calendar of Events	1
Directory/Yearbook form	8
Historian form.....	9
Leaderpalooza (Training for local leaders).....	4
Legislative	4
Membership Theme.....	6
Outstanding PTA.....	10-12
President's Pen.....	1-2
Programs	1, 2
PTA Connection Day	6
Reflections	7
Schools of Excellence	5

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Continued from page 1

LEADERPALOOZA!

Council will be conducting an **Officer and Chairman Training** on Saturday, September 13, at Lakeview Centennial High School. We will also include a "live" session of **Foundations: Leader Orientation** in this training. The Officer and Chairman Training will be free while the Foundations: Leader Orientation course will cost \$8. The workshops that will be presented include President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, Programs, Arts in Ed, Parent Ed/Volunteers and Legislation. (Workshop options subject to change.)

NATIONAL PTA SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

Last year, Pat Mullins and many schools in Garland ISD worked on earning a National Schools of Excellence award. Only 169 schools nationwide earned the honor. Of the 169 schools, 42 are in Texas and 34 of those are in GISD. Yes, you read that right. **Nearly 20% of the schools NATIONWIDE that received the award from National PTA are right here in Garland ISD!**

Congratulations to all of the schools for all the work they did to receive this award. Check out the list of schools on page 5 of this newsletter.

OFFICER LISTS

Please send your officer lists to Texas PTA by following this link:

<http://www.formsite.com/txpta/form671768383/index.html>

Please also include my email, s.wainscott@verizon.net, to send a copy to me.

JOIN THE COUNCIL BOARD!

We have several openings on the Board. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the Council Board.

I hope everyone had a great summer and is enjoying the cooler August than in years past.

Sharon

GISD COUNCIL OF PTAs FACEBOOK FAN PAGE!

NEXT TIME YOU'RE ONLINE,
LOOK UP THE
GARLAND ISD
COUNCIL OF PTAs
ON FACEBOOK,
AND "LIKE" US!

NEED A PROGRAM FOR YOUR MEETING??

Scope out

"Ready, Set, Achieve"

on the **txpta.org** website.

BONDS, BOUNDARIES AND SCHOOL BOARDS

Sharon Wainscott, Council President

During Summer Leadership Seminar, I attended a workshop entitled Bonds, Boundaries and School Boards. I felt this information would be beneficial for our Council at this time.

BOARDS

TRUE OR FALSE:

Texas School Board Members get paid to serve.

False

A Texas law dating back to 1905 says school board members cannot be paid. It is allowed in other states.

TRUE OR FALSE:

School board members can hire and fire teachers.

False

Under the law, the school board can only hire and fire the superintendent. That is the board's only employee. The superintendent recommends hires and terminations and the board either accepts or rejects the recommendation.

Relationship with the Public:

- The school board is elected by the public
- Their responsibilities are far much broader than representing the voters.
- Their ultimate responsibility is to all students and at times, that can be in conflict with what an individual parent may want for their child or a particular group of voters may want.

How to influence school boards and superintendents:

- Attend school board meetings or send a representative.
- Establish regular meetings with the superintendent as a group.
- Stay informed through district communications.
- Encourage superintendent to use PTA as a resource and feedback channel.

FYI: The school district is currently seeking opportunities to share information about the 2014 Garland ISD Bond Election. Contact Kelli Sigler at 972-487-3017 or ksigler@garlandisd.net to schedule a presentation for your PTA meeting or other civic organization.

BONDS

TRUE OR FALSE:

Bond dollars can be used to pay for teacher salaries

False

No, bond funds can only be used for capital improvements, not for general operating expenses such as salaries and supplies.

TRUE OR FALSE:

Any increase of local funds for a school district must be approved by voters.

True

Yes, school boards are not authorized to raise the tax rate beyond a \$1.04 on M&O (Maintenance and Operations) and cannot raise the tax rate on I&S (Interest and Sinking) without voter approval.

TRUE OR FALSE:

If a bond fails, it really doesn't impact the day-to-day instruction of my child's school.

False

Without bond money, school districts will need to redirect educational funds used for instructional programs and services to fund increased building maintenance costs and repairs.

PTA Role:

- Host voter registration drives
- Host informational meetings
- Serve as district ambassadors
- Share factual information
- Be prepared to combat false information

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If I am at school, can I openly advocate for or against a school bond?

Yes, you are a citizen and not a school district employee. As such, you may share your opinions with others on school property. **HOWEVER**, you cannot distribute pro or con literature and signage on school premises during the election cycle.

Can the PTA endorse or oppose the bond program?

Yes, the PTA may speak for or against a bond package if the members have voted one way or the other.

Can the PTA distribute the resolution or other pro/con bond information through PTA newsletters and PTA websites?

Yes, the PTA can distribute information through newsletter and websites. **HOWEVER**, you cannot utilize district resources to distribute the information, such as putting pro/con fliers in student folders or backpacks.

Can the PTA invite speakers to attend a PTA meeting to discuss the bond, even if those speakers are pro/against the measure?

No, while the PTA may have voted as a group to support or oppose the bond, there can be no electioneering on school district property, even if it is after hours. **HOWEVER**, you can host an information meeting where non-partial representatives can speak.

remember!

Be informed, be engaged and be a voice.

BACK TO SCHOOL AND LEGISLATURE IS BACK TO WORK

By Alan Smith PTA Council Legislative Chair

We are all busy getting the kids ready for school. School staff members have been preparing the buildings and classrooms to be ready for the students. It is a very busy time of the year.

But while this is all going on, the State Legislature is coming out of hibernation and preparing to meet and pass laws. The Legislature meets in Texas every two years. This is the year.

And while the legislature is in session, local, state and national elections are coming down to the November final vote. Who will be our new Governor and Lieutenant Governor? Who will be elected Senators and Representatives?

REGISTER TO VOTE

If you have not registered to vote, do it. You must be registered at least 30 days prior to the election. You can request registration information here:

www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote

If you do not register, when you contact a legislator about an issue that is important to you, they will likely turn a deaf ear to your plea. Basically, if you are not yet a registered voter, you will want to register to vote so you can have your voice heard in November.

Another reason you will want to register is that this November, the Garland ISD is holding a bond election.

BE INFORMED

Don't settle for using rumors as a source of information. Spend time learning about the candidates for office. Attend an information meeting about the bond election. Be prepared when you enter the voting booth November 4th.



2 0 1 4

GARLAND · ROWLETT · SACHSE

Tiffany Veno
GISD Communications Coordinator

The Nov. 4 ballot will include an additional item for voters in Garland, Rowlett and Sachse. Garland ISD's Board of Trustees approved calling a bond election at a special meeting Aug. 18.

Voters will decide whether to approve the \$455.5-million bond proposal. The district currently intends to use the bond, if approved, to address aging facilities, student safety and 21st-century education. A new Career & Technical Education facility and natatorium are also included in the current bond proposal.

Projections show an Interest and Sinking (I&S) tax rate increase from \$0.2133 to \$0.4151 over a six-year period, with the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) rate remaining at \$1.04. This could result in approximately \$200 more in taxes for the owner of a \$100,000 home, but would have no impact on district residents aged 65 and older whose property taxes have been capped due to senior citizen exemptions.

Visit the district website at www.garlandisd.net/bond2014 for more information.



LEADERPALOOZA!

TRAINING PROVIDED BY COUNCIL PTA

Rodney Rowan, 1st VP-Aide
CameronsDad66@gmail.com • 972.278.0404 talk or text

GISD Council PTA provides training to your PTA. Over the summer, board members attended both National and State PTA Conventions to build our training toolboxes.

A great place to get PTA training is at our **Leaderpalooza** event on Saturday, September 13, at Lakeview Centennial High School. Please save the date and let your group know. We hope to see you there!

BREAK-OUT TRAINING SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Arts in Education
- Legislation
- Membership
- Parent Education
- Programs
- Volunteers
- Youth Protection

Bravo!!!!

Pat Mullins, Council of PTAs Parent Educator, Volunteer Coordinator and Youth Protection Chair • pmullins@garlandisd.net

National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. At a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

The path to excellence starts with a joint commitment of PTA and school leaders to work together to achieve PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. Through the School of Excellence program, the PTA and school will gain new ways to engage families in school decision-making, such as improvements to programs, practices and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts.

THE STATISTICS:

169 schools in the United States of America were designated a School of Excellence

42 Texas schools were designated a School of Excellence

34 Garland ISD schools were designated a School of Excellence

GARLAND ISD SCHOOLS EARNING THE 2014-16 SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE RECOGNITION INCLUDE:

Elementary Schools

- Abbett Elementary School
- Back Elementary School
- Beaver Technology Center for Math & Science
- Bradfield Elementary School
- Centerville Elementary School
- Classical Center at Vial
- Club Hill Elementary School
- Couch Elementary School
- Davis Elementary School
- Dorsey Elementary School
- Golden Meadows Elementary School
- Heather Glen Elementary School
- Hickman Elementary School
- Hillside Academy for Excellence
- Kimberlin Academy for Excellence
- Lister Elementary School
- Luna Elementary School
- Park Crest Elementary School
- Pearson Elementary School
- Roach Elementary School
- Sewell Elementary School
- Shorehaven Elementary School
- Spring Creek Elementary School
- Giddens-Steadham Elementary School
- Stephens Elementary School
- Toler Elementary School
- Walnut Glen Academy for Excellence
- Watson Technology Center for Math & Science
- Weaver Elementary School
- Williams Elementary School

Middle School

- Houston Middle School

High Schools

- Garland High School
- Naaman Forest High School
- North Garland High School



SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

everychild.onevoice.

back the future



Kathy Parks, Membership Chairman-Council PTA, kparks1105@gmail.com

Hello everyone! It's that time of year when we say goodbye to our darlings, when they head back to school. Me? I am SO ready.

It also means it is time to kick-start your membership drives. This year, Texas PTA has decided to launch a campaign which will be on-going each year. This membership theme is "Back The Future". All locals are asked to utilize this campaign in addition to your PTA theme. Texas PTA is also asking local PTAs to host a "Back The Future" day that includes students, parents, staff, neighbors, business leaders and community members. The idea is to host events across Texas at the beginning of the school year when excitement is high to celebrate education.

NEW THIS YEAR

While in the past, there was a minimum age for students to be a member of a PTA, that rule has been dropped. Now, ALL students have the ability to join PTAs this year, from prekindergarteners up to high school seniors. Texas PTA is strongly encouraging middle school PTAs to promote this new membership group. However, at the elementary level, it's up to each PTA.

Another big change is the membership year. In the past, it ran from mid-March to the next March. Now, however, the membership year aligns more closely with the school year, beginning August 1 and ending July 31.

BENEFITS OF JOINING A PTA OR PTSA:

- PTAs work for all kids and parents in the school.
- PTAs are advocates for students and parents
- PTAs provides education for parents
- Companies offer discounts on products or services through Texas and National PTA

LEADERPALOOZA – LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOPS

We will be hosting training on September 13 at Lakeview Centennial HS. During this training session, not only will you be gaining knowledge about your volunteer position, but I will be giving away membership promotional items. So don't miss out.

CELEBRATE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Don't forget to apply for any all awards that you can through Texas PTA. Send me your President's name and Membership Chair's email information for my contact list. I plan to send out reminders and updates via email.

Sharon Wainscott, council president, has set a goal of a 3% membership increase per local PTA. I know everyone can accomplish this. Anyone can join your PTA. While the P and the T stand for parents and teachers, don't forget about the students, other staff members at your school (office staff, food service etc,) campus volunteers, campus improvement team members, community members and business partners. Membership is year 'round.

Any questions hit the email button. I'm here for you.

BACK THE FUTURE AND GET CONNECTED!

Join PTAs all across Texas for PTA Connection Day: September 18

Call, text, or email the total number of members your PTA has recruited so far this year to Texas PTA on September 18!

Staff will be standing by to record your information. We will keep a running tally of our statewide total. Watch the total rise and know that your PTA is counted in that total! Participating PTAs will be eligible for a prize drawing.



PTA REFLECTIONS:

Express



YOUR ARTISTIC TALENTS!

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

PHOTOGRAPHY

VISUAL ARTS

FILM PRODUCTION

LITERATURE

REFLECT ON THE THEME. CREATE AN ORIGINAL WORK. BE RECOGNIZED.

2014-2015 Theme:



My name is Celia Q. Proffitt and I am excited to be the 2014-15 Arts in Education Chair for the Garland ISD Council PTAs. I look forward to organizing a successful Reflections contest and finding other creative opportunities for student participation. As you can see above, this year, the Reflections theme is:
The World Would Be a Better Place If

You can get a head start by visiting the Texas PTA website at www.txpta.org, where resources for the contest have been uploaded. There will be more information to follow.

Some important dates to keep in mind:

- Turn in Reflections entries for judging..... December 5- 6
- Reflections Reception at the Curtis Culwell Center January 8

If you have questions, please contact me at celiaproffitt@gmail.com

2014-15 GARLAND COUNCIL OF PTAs DIRECTORY/YEARBOOK GUIDELINES

Entries must be postmarked by April 8, 2015

Drop off at the

April 8, 2015 Council meeting

or mail one (1) copy of the directory/
yearbook, postmarked by April 8, 2015
to:

Amy Jordan
6026 Lakecrest Dr.
Garland, TX 75043

Graded directories/yearbooks will
be on display at the PTA Spring
Luncheon planned for Friday, May
15, 2015. Directories/yearbooks
should be picked up at that time.

- **Highest**
Gold seal with blue & gold ribbon
grade of 90-100%
- **Honor**
Gold seal with blue ribbon
grade of 80-89%
- **Honorable Mention**
Gold seal only
grade of 70-79%
- **Participant**
No award
grade below 70% or postmarked after
April 8

Note: Names to be included in
directory/yearbook (See C2 to right)

National PTA President

Mr. Otha Thornton
1250 North Pitt St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Texas PTA President

Leslie Boggs
7600 Chevy Chase Dr
Austin, TX 78752

Council President

Sharon Wainscott
101 Sheridan Dr.
Garland, TX 75041

JUDGING CRITERIA

I. General Appearance

- A. Neat and legible. May be printed, typed, duplicated or handwritten.
- B. Attractive, but inexpensive, and a size convenient to carry.

II. Contents

- A. Outside Cover
 1. Name of local PTA2%
 2. Town and State2%
 3. Council.....1%
 4. Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers2%
 5. Year (2014-15)2%
- B. Title Page
 1. Name of local PTA and date of organization.....2%
 2. Town and Council (applies only to units in a council)2%
 3. Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers2%
 4. Year (2014-15)2%
 5. Date, time & place of reg. mtgs (2nd Tuesday, 7pm, school).....5%
- C. Following Pages
 1. PTA Purposes (Objects)5%
 2. Names of National, State, and Council President5%
 3. Names of Local PTA Officers and Chairmen.....5%
 4. School Faculty (PTAs with campus).....5%
 5. Local Board of Education School Trustees5%
 6. Texas State Board of Education & Commissioner.....5%
 7. State Legislators (Gov., Lt. Gov., Senators & Reps)5%
 8. Complete detailed program for the year.....10%
 9. Order of Business.....5%
 10. School/District calendar (w/holidays, semesters, beg./end of 6 weeks)5%
 11. A short history of school or name of school.....5%
 12. Bylaws with original approval date or revised date.....10%
(Bylaws should be printed in directory/yearbook or include a note that bylaws have been distributed to members with a copy clipped in the book for grading.)
- D. Optional Contents
 - Dates of council meetings (if your unit belongs to a council)
 - List of PTA past presidents
 - List of Life Memberships and/or Extended Service Awards presented by PTA
 - Dedication, motto, PTA colors (blue and gold)
 - Other items useful to YOUR members

**PLEASE INSERT A COPY OF THIS FORM
IN YOUR BOOK FOR JUDGING!**

Include a ziploc plastic bag for each
directory/yearbook submitted.

GARLAND COUNCIL HISTORIAN BOOK GUIDELINES

Due Date: April Council Meeting, April 8, 2015

For questions contact:

Sharon Wainscott

3101 Sheridan Dr.

Garland, TX 75041

s.wainscott@verizon.net

972-278-3753

PTA Unit Name _____

Check one:

- Early Childhood
- Elementary
- Secondary
- Council

PTA President _____

Telephone _____

Street Address _____

City _____

ZIP+4 _____

Historian Book submitted by:

Name _____ Position _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

All PTA units are encouraged to take part in the Historian Book evaluation. The Historian Book should be a record of the activities and achievements of your PTA unit. The cover should be of a durable material. Official binders are available from Texas PTA but are not required.

****IMPORTANT****

To receive the highest award for your unit, please read the requirements carefully and follow them exactly. To avoid confusion use only this official form.

CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED FOR:

- **Highest Honor**
all 11 required items plus 3 or more suggested items
- **Honor**
all 11 required items
- **Honorable Mention**
6 to 9 required items
- **Participant**
5 or less required items

****NOTE**** *On judging day, please have someone responsible for book drop-off. Books are to be turned in before meeting begins at 9 a.m. Judging will take place after the Council PTA meeting. Books will be returned through interschool mail.*

The first pages must contain the following information:

1. A completed copy of this form in a plastic sleeve should be the first thing in the book for evaluation purposes. (Please do not glue down; we grade on this sheet and need to take it out.)
2. Blank page. (Certificate will be placed here after evaluation.)
3. Cover sheet with name of PTA, School, Council, and school year covered in book.
4. Index or Table of Contents.
5. Picture of school or meeting place.
6. A page containing the following information:
 - a. Number of students*
 - b. Number of teachers*
 - c. The Principal*
 - d. Number of PTA members
7. List of Officers and Chairmen.
8. List of meeting dates.
9. Annual Budget.
10. Copy of bylaws. (In addition to those that might be in Yearbook/Directory; must be a hard copy not a disk.)
11. Copy of printed Historian's Yearly Report

In addition to the (11) required items, your book should include as many of the following items as possible.

1. Copy of Directory/Yearbook.
2. Copies of newsletters and other publicity.
3. Accounts of special projects and unit sponsored activities.
4. Awards presented to your PTA unit. (i.e. membership, etc)
5. Information from meetings, programs, parent education courses, etc.
6. Information from all State and National meetings attended. (I.e. name badges, handouts, etc.)

****TIPS**** *Include ONLY PTA related pages in your book. DO NOT include the minutes of the Executive Board meetings. HAVE FUN!! BE CREATIVE!!*

GISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

Monthly Outstanding PTA Activity Guidelines

Sharon Wainscott, Council President, s.wainscott@verizon.net

During the school year, the Council PTA sponsors a monthly “Outstanding PTA” awards program. The program not only allows local PTAs to let their light shine and earn recognition for their work, but it also allows us to share successful strategies and ideas with the other local PTAs in the school district.

Entries can be mailed, delivered in person or emailed. The guidelines are pretty simple:

- Complete the Entry Cover Form with general contact information for your PTA and your campus, and include with your entry.
- Write a description of your PTA’s activity that includes the information listed on the Outstanding PTA Award Application attached.
- A maximum of 300 words, handwritten or typed will be accepted.
- Please do not use your PTA name within the text (all PTA names are covered for judging)
- If you have copies of flyers, programs, photos, etc. to support your entry, please feel free to include. However, do not send “one of a kind” items, as they will not be returned.

Your PTA may submit only one entry per month - but you are not limited to a timeframe for any given entry. For example, a program from the end of one school year can be submitted at the beginning of the next school year.

Judges will consider the originality of idea, participation of parents, staff and students, as well as community involvement. Keep the Objects of PTA in mind as you plan the entry.

During the annual PTA Spring Luncheon, scheduled for May 15, 2015, the Council will present “Outstanding PTA of the Year” awards. Your PTA must enter at least three (3) monthly contests during the 2014-15 school year to be eligible to submit an entry for the **Outstanding PTA of the Year**.

Outstanding PTA for month of:	Entry Submission Deadline - 5 p.m. on	Winner announced at Council meeting in
September 2014	September 24, 2014	October 2014
October 2014	October 29, 2014	November 2014
November 2014	November 19, 2014	December 2014
December 2014	January 28, 2015	February 2015
January 2015	January 28, 2015	February 2015
February 2015	February 25, 2015	March 2015
March 2015	March 25, 2015	April 2015

GISD Council of PTAs Monthly Outstanding PTA Activity Entry Form & Cover

Email entries to:
S.wainscott@verizon.net

OR

Mail to:
Sharon Wainscott
3101 Sheridan Dr.
Garland, TX 75041

Date Submitted:	
Date of Activity:	
Title of Activity:	
School Name:	
School Principal's Name:	
PTA Name:	
Name of PTA President:	
President Phone:	
President Email:	
Submitted By:	
Submitter's Phone:	
Submitter's Email:	
Name of Person(s) Organizing Event:	

GISD COUNCIL OF PTAs

Monthly Outstanding PTA Activity Entry

(attach to Entry Cover Form!)

Award Application for Month of:	
Title of Activity :	
Date of Activity:	
Number of Participants:	
Description of Activity: 300 word maximum (Use additional sheet if necessary) <i>Please include copies of invitations, photos, drawings, etc., that will help others visualize your event!</i>	
Name of Speaker(s), if any	
What did you like best about activity?	
What would you change?	
Comments from students, parents, staff:	