



Hamilton Elementary PTO PULSE



August 29, 2011

~ www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

~ Volume #22, Issue #2

Check Out What's New at the Spirit Sale this Friday, during All Lunches, In the Cafeteria!

President's Message

By Holly Garcia, PTO President

It is hard to believe the 1st week of the 2011-2012 school year is over already! We had an awesome turnout of volunteers for Meet the Teacher and the 1st day of school, and things were accomplished quickly. Thank you to all who volunteered! I'd also like to give a "shout-out" to the PTO board for all the hard work they have done in preparing for this new school year and the support they have given me. You rock, ladies!

Also, welcome new parents, guardians and friends of Hamilton Elementary! Our PTO board had the pleasure of meeting several of you at our "Hamilton 101" informational meeting on the 2nd day of school. I hope you were able to take away some helpful information with you, and please feel free to contact me or any board member with questions you may have. You will find our contact information on the PTO website.

We have another busy year planned here at Hamilton, so be sure to check your inbox every other week for the PTO Pulse.

We will keep you "in the know" about what is going on with the PTO! Let's make it a great year at Hamilton Elementary!



Did You Know?

By popular demand... The "pawsome" PTO calendars are now available in the front office for \$8! Stop in and get your calendar filled with all the important dates you need to make this a great school year!

2011-2012 PTO Membership

By: Lynda O'Donnell, VP Membership

THANK YOU to everyone who has already paid for membership!

For those of you who haven't, your \$10.00 PTO Membership fee must be collected no later than **Sept. 2nd** in order for your family to receive the student directory.

On this date the final count will be totaled and the directory sent off to print.

The PTO also requests \$5 per child for the Holiday and Valentine Parties. This \$5 will pay for pizza, bottled water, cookie and paper goods for BOTH parties.

Pay for your PTO Membership before the deadline of **Friday, September 2nd** or you will miss out on this year's directory!

Payment Options:

1. If you'd like to pay by credit card log on to: www.hamiltonelementarypto.com
2. To pay with cash/check fill out and return the membership form (came home the first day of school- or - print off of our website) along with payment in an envelope marked "PTO MEMBERSHIP" by Sept. 2nd.

Questions? E-mail Lynda at: membership@hamiltonelementarypto.com

*Non-members WILL NOT RECEIVE A STUDENT DIRECTORY



- Mon. 8/29: **Curriculum Night:** 2nd Grd. @ 5:30pm
- Tues. 8/30: Storyteller Visits
Curriculum Night: 3rd Grd. @ 5:30pm
4th Grd. @ 7pm
- Wed. 8/31: Fundraiser Kick-Off During Large group
- Fri. 9/02: Spirit Shop open during all lunches
Deadline for Membership/Directory Forms
Deadline for Directory Artwork Contest
- Mon. 9/05: Labor Day--no school
- Tues. 9/06: Storyteller Visits
Curriculum Night: Kdg. / PPCD @ 5:30pm
5th Grd. @ 7pm
On-line Book Fair Begins
- Mon. 9/12: **Curriculum Night:** 1st Grd. & LS @ 5:30pm
In-school Book Fair begins
Book Fair Family Night: 4:30-7pm
- Tues. 9/13: Storyteller Visits
VIPS Breakfast, 9:30am, cafeteria
PTO Meeting following VIPS Breakfast
- Wed. 9/14: Book Fair Family Night: 4:30-7pm
Fundraiser Orders & Money Due

NEW: PTO Suggestion Box

If you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share anonymously with the PTO board, we now have a suggestion box at the front desk. We look forward to your input!

You're Invited to the Annual VIPS BREAKFAST

Please join us for the annual VIPS Breakfast on September 13th at 9:30 in the cafeteria.

Committee chairs will be available to answer your questions about our great array of volunteer activities. Immediately following the breakfast, we will have our 1st PTO meeting in the SPA room.

We'd love to see you there!

PTO MANAGER UPDATES

Be sure to update your child's teacher, your contact information, and your volunteer interests (if you'd like to volunteer) in PTO Manager, and don't forget to hit "Save" after each step to ensure that all your information is correct!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com
2. Click PTO Manager
3. Click blue log in button
4. Log in with email and password
5. Click "My Information"
6. Step 1 –make changes
7. Click "Save" (no changes just click save)
8. Step 2-interests
9. Click the things you are interested in
10. Click "Save"
11. Step 3 –Click on your child's name
12. Update "Class" (this is what teacher your child has this year)
13. Click "Save"
14. YOU MUST CLICK "SAVE" AFTER EACH STEP!

Questions about PTO Manager?
Contact Julia and Allison at:
volunteer@hamiltonelementarypto.com



READER PARENT SIGN-UPS GOING ON NOW

Reader Parent sign ups are going on right now! If you have limited time to volunteer and you love to read aloud, this is a great opportunity to volunteer in your child's classroom. You will read for 10-15 minutes to your child's class a few times throughout the year. New this year: parent reader sign-ups are divided by grade. You can find "parent reader" under "Interests". Don't delay—sign-ups for parent reader close September 16th.

HOMEROOM PARENT SIGN-UPS GOING ON NOW

Homeroom Mom duties include working with the teacher on two holiday parties, creating and collecting donations for the auction class basket for our Family Fun Fest fundraiser, organizing the Reader Parent list, finding volunteers to help at the Fun Fest and helping/finding volunteers to monitor the students during lunch/recess once every nine week grading period. This is always a popular event. Multiple sign-ups will be decided by Dr. Bartlett and the PTO President, Holly Garcia. To sign-up, go to PTO Manager under the EVENTS tab. Sign-ups will close on September 16th.

*sign ups are under the "EVENTS" tab NOT under "Volunteer Interests"

Directory Deadline is Soon!

You must "opt-in" by Sept. 2nd to be included in this year's directory.

The Hamilton Elementary PTO uses an "Opt-In" methodology pertaining to the publishing of your family's personal data in the student directory. This means, your family's personal information by default will not be included in this year's publication unless you specifically choose to do so using the following website. Within this site you will be able to update your family information as well as other important information before providing a response indicating your decision to publish this information (or not to publish, or what to publish). **Returning Hamilton families** will require their Family ID to access the site, which you should have received via e-mail the week prior to school beginning (check those spam folders if you did not receive). New families can use this tool too! New families will not have received an email and **will not** need the Family ID for the web tool.

Hamilton Directory Site:
<http://mydirectorypublisher.com/hamilton>

The Hamilton Elementary Student Directory contains useful information such as school related phone numbers, web sites, staff listings, PTO Board and Committee lists, class rosters, family contact information and much more. Do not miss your opportunity to get your copy of this useful tool. A complimentary copy of the Hamilton Elementary 2011-2012 Student Directory is included with your paid PTO membership.

The PTO would also like to thank all of the local businesses and individuals that chose to support our efforts by advertising in last year's directory. If you or your business is interested in advertising in this year's Student Directory, please see the following for more detail.

www.hamiltonelementarypto.com/documents/PTODirectoryAdRates2011-12.pdf

Calling All Hamilton Artists!

Art Work for the Student Directory due Sept. 2nd! Get out your paper and pencil!

If your child would like to submit art work to be considered for the Student Directory, please use a half piece of copier paper (4.25"X5x5"), draw with pencil or pen (no colors, markers or crayon). Orientation can be portrait or landscape. Please return the art work to their homeroom teacher on or before September 2nd. Please be sure to include name, grade and homeroom teacher's name on the back.

Questions about directory or art work contest for directory? Contact Michelle: directory@hamiltonelementarypto.com



September Spirit Sale This Friday!

Many thanks to all the families and volunteers who made our Meet the Teacher Spirit Sales such a huge success! Our September Spirit Sale will be this Friday in the cafeteria during all lunches. Come join your little lion for lunch and shopping, or just send money for him or her to spend.

Our great Spirit Sale volunteers are always there to help, and as little as 50 cents of spending money can make your child's day! We'll have all the fun school supplies the kids love, plus we've restocked on Medium and Large youth size spirit shirts, so your child can show school pride during Spirit Day every Friday.

We are proud to feature, NEW for September; mom/dad embroidered tennis visors, as well as snuggly fleece blankets for the fall! And don't forget your Hamilton calendar, packed with all the dates you'll need to make the coming school year a great one. See you at the Spirit Sale!

Of course, you can browse and contact us at www.hamiltonelementarypto.com/spiritcart.html

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Our Cookie Fundraiser is back by popular demand!!!

Our frozen goodies are back and better than ever! We have also added the eco-friendly EnviroVogue totes for all your shopping needs. And be sure to check out our online catalog, which offers everything from wrapping paper to jewelry to goodies for the kids. This is a great way for family and friends from all across the U.S. to participate in our fundraiser! As always, we offer the "Busy Parent" option of your tax-deductible cash donation.

- ✓ **Kick off is this Wednesday, August 31st** during large group. Please look for your selling kits in your child's backpack!
- ✓ **Orders and money are due Wednesday, September 14th.**
- ✓ **Orders will be available for pick up Tuesday, October 18th from 2-3pm & 4:30-6:30pm. ****

Questions? Contact Amanda:
minorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com



****We do not have freezer space to store orders overnight so please make arrangements (with a friend or neighbor) for pick up during the allotted time frames.**

Book Fair Volunteers Needed!

If your friends can find you perusing the aisles of Barnes and Noble any given day, please consider becoming a Book Fair volunteer!

The Book Fair will be held at the Hamilton Elementary Library from Monday, Sept. 12 to Friday, Sept. 16. It will be open during school hours all week, plus two Family Nights (Monday 9/12 & Wednesday 9/14) so everyone has a chance to browse and shop for new favorite titles.

To volunteer, please log on to PTO Manager and go to the "Events" tab. There you will find the schedule, and you will be able to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Book Fair chair Silvia at bookfair@hamiltonelementarypto.com



The Book Fair is Coming --- in the Library *and* Online!

Support our Library: Shop, Volunteer, Donate.

Come to the Book Fair Sept. 12th - 16th in the Hamilton Library.
Special Family Shopping Nights: Mon. (9/12) & Wed. (9/14) from 4:30-7:00 pm.

The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! Mark your calendar for our Family Nights where the whole family can join in the fun. You can also contribute books to your child's classroom library. The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading.

See you there!
Jennifer Lucas
Hamilton Elementary Librarian



COMING SOON: Online Book Fair!
Shop Scholastic online to benefit our library.
Online book fair dates are 9/06 - 9/26

For a complete Book Fair schedule and all the details you need visit: www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

Under "**Help Support the Library**" there is a link to Hamilton's Book Fair webpage. You can shop Scholastic online 24/7 from this link too! (Beginning Sept. 6th)

All online orders ship to the school with *no shipping fee!* Why not give your child's wish list to family and friends so they can shop online for the upcoming holiday season!

Attention 5th Grade Parents!

Biz Town Chairperson & Volunteers Needed

Junior Achievement Biz Town is a fun day when 5th graders spend a day "working" at the Biz Town facility while learning important social and economic concepts.

The JA Biz town Chair will work with JA, Ms. Kidd and the faculty liaison to organize a date and volunteers for this fun special day. Biz Town training will be held on October 18th and 20th, while Biz Town itself will be held on October 25th and 26th.

This is a memorable day for the 5th graders—you don't want to miss it!

5th Grade Day Chairperson Needed

5th Grade Day will be here before you know it! This full-day event is a fun way to send our Hamilton 5th graders off to middle school.

The 5th Grade Day Committee Chair will oversee the sub-committees of Food and Beverage, Games and Activities, Decorations and Pool Party, all of which will be headed by sub-committee chairs.

Help make this once in a lifetime event simply "pawsome" for your 5th grader!

Are you interested in being a chairperson for either of these? Please contact Holly president@hamiltonelementarypto.com

If you are interested in either being a Biz Town volunteer or on the 5th Grade Day committee, please go to the PTO Manager tab at www.hamiltonelementarypto.com click the blue log in button, then "My Information" tab, step #2 "My Interests" and click on "5th Grade Day" or "5th Grade Biz Town". Remember to click save!



Volunteer Pictures from Meet the Teacher and the 1st Day of School

We caught some of our “pawsome” volunteers wearing the new Hamilton Volunteer Shirts.



Our Spirit Shop volunteers at Meet the Teacher



Helping staff take-home the folders the first day of school

We wish to express sincere gratitude to all volunteers for their dedication to the students at Hamilton Elementary.



Thanks to our giving volunteers, tremendous teachers and the outstanding and caring staff; Hamilton Elementary will continue to be one of the best elementary schools in CFISD and the entire state!
What a great team!

Thoughts? Comments? Questions?

If you have anything you'd like to ask, comment on, or share with the PTO Board, you can contact us via our website at www.hamiltonelementarypto.com or contact President Holly Garcia directly at <mailto:president@hamiltonelementarypto.com>.

Stay “In The Know” With the PTO

All PTO Pulse newsletters are distributed via our PTO Manager system. Go to our website www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and click on the PTO Manager tab to sign up.

The purpose of the PTO is to provide fund-raising activities that will culturally and fundamentally promote the welfare of the student and enhance their overall learning experience. The information contained in this newsletter is provided by Hamilton Elementary PTO for informational purposes. We reserve the right to refuse or edit any submissions. Our website is updated continually.