



Hamilton Elementary PTO PULSE



October 10, 2011

~ www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

~ Volume #22, Issue #5

Stay "In the Know" Keep Your PTO Manager Information Up-To-Date

President's Message

By Holly Garcia, PTO President

For the past several years, around the holidays, the faculty, staff and parents of Hamilton have collected money to adopt a family at our sister school. Everyone has come together to give back to our Cy-Fair community. Although it was never done with any intent other than to lend a helping hand, we recently learned that Hamilton Elementary

has won a CFISD Partners in Education Partnership Award. After being nominated by the faculty and staff at our sister school, the Hamilton Elementary Sister to Sister School Adoption Program was selected in the Volunteer, Partnership Program Award category as the winner for the district, due in part to our holiday adopt-a-family program, snack and clothing drives. As Dr. Bartlett mentioned in

last weeks' Lions' Lines, this is just one of a few distinguished awards our school has received so far this school year.

I would like to congratulate and thanks Dr. Bartlett, Ms. Kubinski, Norma Gross (our sister school coordinator), and all of you who have helped in the past with our Christmas gift donation program, snack drives and clothing drives. We look forward to continuing these

programs, and we will also continue to support our sister school in other ways. It truly does take teamwork to make the dream work, and it is a great feeling to know that our Hamilton Elementary community has made an impact not only here at Hamilton but at our sister school too!



Frozen Food Fundraiser Pickup



One Day Only, Tuesday, October 18th

Thank you for supporting our Delicious Delights frozen food and EnviroVogue Totes fundraiser! The pickup date is **Tuesday, October 18th from 2pm-3pm & 4:30-6:30pm**. Please make arrangements to pick up your orders during that time period. **We do not have freezer space to accommodate orders that are not picked-up.**

If you have any questions, please e-mail Amanda at minorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

Coming in November: PTO Evening Meeting

Please join us for this special evening meeting!

In an effort to include as many PTO members as possible and accommodate those busy schedules we all have, Hamilton PTO has booked an evening meeting.

This PTO meeting is scheduled for **Monday, Nov. 7th**. The meeting will start promptly at 6:00 pm, and will end by 7:00 pm. No babysitting will be available, so please plan accordingly. *We hope to see you there!*

Hamilton Volunteers Are The Best!

We'd like to thank all our volunteers who helped with Biz Town interviews, our library volunteers, principal pals volunteers, clinic volunteers, fall picture volunteers and Monday Mailers volunteers! You are all "pawsome"!



Principal Pals Lunch/Recess Opportunities

Our first round of Lunch-Recess Duty is in session. Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped the staff this time around. Throughout the year we will continue to support the staff in this way. This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone who has a limited time to volunteer and loves to see their children in action during lunch and recess!

If you have not yet signed up, please contact our Principal Pals chairs listed below. The next dates to volunteer are:

2nd Grade-Oct 11th—please contact Lindsay at:
principalpals@hamiltonelementarypto.com

3rd Grade-Oct 14th—please contact Lindsay at:
principalpals@hamiltonelementarypto.com

5th Grade- Oct 19th—please contact Allison at:
volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Stay in the Know: By Keeping Your Information Up-To-Date

Please check if you have assigned a teacher to your child in PTO Manager. Unfortunately, if there is no teacher assigned to your child, you will not get important information though out the year concerning your grade and class. It only takes a couple of minutes!

Go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and click on the PTO Manager tab. After you have logged in (forgotten passwords can be e-mailed to you) follow these steps:

- 1) Click on the My Information tab.
- 2) Click on step #3 – Students.
- 3) Either click on edit/delete (to update/remove) or
- 4) New student (to add)
- 5) Click on OK/Save.

This is also a good time to update any changes in Steps 1 & 2. And, **always click "OK/Save"!** If you have any questions, please contact Allison or Julia at volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

A Class at Hamilton for Moms and Dads: Gardening Class!

Please join other Hamilton parents and friends on **Monday, October 24th from 9:00-9:45** as master gardener Stephanie Baker shares her knowledge about gardening. This month's gardening topic will focus on how to attract Monarch butterflies to your garden and watch for the migration. Stephanie will meet all those interested out at the benches by the gardens at the front of the school. We'll see you there!



Junior Achievement Training

JA Training Reminder: **Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, 9:30-noon** at the Berry Center. First time volunteers are required to take the one-time only training.

Please reserve your seat and materials at vipsrsvp@cfisd.net. Include your name, school, and grade you are interested in presenting. If you would like more information about the JA programs, please e-mail koroz@jahouston.org, or call 713-682-4500 ext. 250. Questions? Call Partners in Education at 281-894-3950.

PTO Calendars

It's not too late to pick up your 2011-12 PTO Calendar! Available in the office and at every Spirit Sale, it's filled with all the important dates you'll need throughout the school year.



Save the Date!

Cy-Fair ISD
Board of Trustees
Candidate Forum
Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 7pm
at the
Berry Center



Volunteer Opportunities

Thank You for Being So Generous With Your Time and Talents. We Couldn't Do It Without You!

The Clinic Needs You

If you have a limited amount of time to volunteer and love working with our Hamilton lions, the clinic could use your help! No experience needed, just a warm and caring heart! The following shifts are still available for the month of October:

Wednesday, October 12th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 14th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday, October 17th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18th 9:00-12:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 20th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 21st 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday, October 24th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 25th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 27th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Friday, October 28th 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Monday, October 31st 9:00-12:00 a.m. and 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Please contact Angela at clinic@hamiltonelementarypto.com if you can help fill any of these time slots. Nurse Matthews and our Hamilton children appreciate any help you can provide!



5th Grade Day

5th Grade Day is a Hamilton tradition, funded by your PTO, where the 5th grade class has an all-day celebration commemorating their time at Hamilton. On Tuesday, May 29, 2012 our current 5th graders will kick-off their day with a talent show and end the day with fun theme-centered games, activities and food. Each 5th grade class member will receive their own Memory Book. As an added treat, there will be a 5th grade pool party on the last day of school, May 30th.

To accomplish all this, we need about 60 volunteers. The most help is needed right now with design, food & beverage and games & activities.

Currently, volunteers to head these subcommittees are still needed:

--Donation Committee: need a Lead or Co-leads and 2 support parents

--Games & Activities Committee: need a Lead or Co-leads and 2 support parents

--Decorating Committee: need a Lead or Co-leads and 1 support parent

--Staging/Clean-Up Committee: need a Lead or Co-leads and 2 support parents

Fall Fundraiser Pickup

To efficiently distribute all the fundraising items, we will need volunteers to help. If you have an hour or more to help on Tuesday, October 18th during fundraiser pick-up, (2-3pm or 4:30-6:30pm) please contact Amanda at minorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

Math Tutoring Program

We are getting ready to roll out our Math Tutoring Program and we need your help. You just need to have a desire to help our students brush up on their math skills. The teachers provide the props; all you need to do is show up.

Teachers prefer that you work with students a couple of times a week, but if your schedule only allows one volunteer day per week, we'll take it. A tutoring session usually lasts about 15 minutes. If you volunteer one hour per tutoring day, you can help 4 students (or 4 groups of students). If you can volunteer 1 1/2 hours....well, you can "do the math!"

This program has been a HUGE SUCCESS in the past, but we can't do it without you!

If you're interested in joining the Math Tutoring Program email Leah at mathtutoring@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Remember, all 5th grade parents are invited to attend the talent show, but you are only allowed to stay for the rest of 5th Grade Day if you are on the volunteer list.

If you'd like to play a part in this very special, memorable day and head up one of the subcommittees or have questions, please contact Holly at: 5thgradeday@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Please go to:

www.hamiltonelementarypto.com click on the PTO Manager tab (look under volunteer interests) if you'd like to stay in the loop and help out on 5th Grade Day.

Virtual Volunteer: Are You Registered?

If you are new to volunteering at Hamilton Elementary, please be sure to register in the Cy-Fair ISD V-Volunteer system. Everyone who volunteers should log their hours. Cy-Fair ISD receives grants based on accurate volunteer hours. State and federally- funded programs are based on these numbers and bond ratings can be positively influenced as well. The district also reviews the volunteer hours to see the levels of involvement in each area for budgeting purposes.

Our front desk receptionist, Lori Sassos, will log your hours for you when you volunteer on campus. If you receive a name badge with "Volunteer" printed below your name, than your hours are being logged. If you receive a

Make sure your volunteer hours *always* count. Accurately logging all your hours really matters—read below.

name badge with "Visitor" printed below your name, this means you are not registered with Cy-Fair's V-soft program. You can register by going to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and clicking on "V-Volunteer Registration" under our Quick Links (bottom of page). You will then receive a confirmation e-mail and your hours will now be logged.

When you volunteer off campus, either at home, or somewhere like the Science Resource Center, you will need to log your hours on your own by clicking on the red tab "Virtual Volunteer" from the PTO website.

Questions? Please e-mail Julia or Allison at volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Cultural Arts Corner: Fire Safety Demonstration

Another wonderful program brought to Hamilton students funded by *your* PTO!

On Thursday, Sept. 29th the Cypress Creek Fire Dept visited our kindergarten and first grade children. The firefighters instructed the children on Safety and Fire Drills, in addition to providing them a tour of a fire truck and the opportunity to "high five" a firefighter in full fire-fighting gear. They got to explore a smokehouse and they learned how to be safe in case of a fire.



An important safety lesson for the kids.



Hamilton students in line to climb aboard the fire truck.

On the right:
Students *bravely*
enter the
smokehouse.



We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

We are excited to kick off not one, but two school spirit nights in conjunction with two local area establishments! The first Thursday of the month we will have spirit night at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt. The third Thursday of the month we will be at Sonic. Take a break and join your Hamilton community on these nights for some socializing, fun and food, all while supporting our school!

Just Chillin' at Orange Leaf

It was great to see so many of our Hamilton families and staff at Orange Leaf Frozen yogurt last Thursday! Thanks to all who came out to enjoy some refreshing frozen yogurt at our first school spirit night, and congratulations to our \$5 Orange Leaf gift card door prize winners! What a scrumptious way to support our school!



Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Biz Town Update

Biz Town is only two weeks away! This is a really fun event where the children go through the interview process for a job, and then go to the Biz Town facility for a day of hard work!

Please note these important dates:

Biz Town training

October 18th or October 20th from 4-6 p.m. at the Biz Town facility at 3710 Dacoma, Houston. If you have already completed the training, there is no need to repeat it. For more information or directions, please go to the JA Biz Town website: <http://houston.ja.org/new.html>

VIPS Blip

Jennifer Metz was seen checking to make sure our Hamilton Lions looked as cute as they always do while in line for Picture Day.

Leslie Hawkins was seen cruising through the hallways gathering students and teachers for Picture Day to keep the schedule running smoothly.

Kim Weingart was caught spending time in the workroom laminating and cutting after helping with BizTown interviews.

Way to go Jennifer, Leslie and Kim! You're all "pawsome"!

If there is a volunteer you'd like to see recognized in our Volunteer Spotlight or VIPS Blip, please e-mail Holly at president@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Biz Town Schedule

October 25th- Norwood, Harris and Smith homerooms

October 26th- Ferrell, Haley and Holliday homerooms

If you would like to volunteer, please go to PTO volunteer manager to sign up. If you have already marked Biz Town as an interest, you will still need to sign up on PTO manager to volunteer. **Go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com** . **Click on PTO Manager tab (upper left). Log in and go to the "Events" tab to sign up. Please note that there are different events listed: each training day, the Biz Town event on the 25th and the Biz Town event on the 26th. Please be sure to sign up for all that you are able to help with.**

Biz Town is such a fun day for our 5th graders, and we are so grateful for our wonderful parents who help to make it a success!

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you to make this event a huge success!

Contact Melanie and Jennifer at: biztown@hamiltonelementarypto.com



Did You Know?

Many students benefit from reading & math enrichment programs that are purchased with PTO funds. These programs have a lifelong impact on the children. Your support with PTO fundraising efforts, membership dues, purchasing from the Spirit Shop and more, directly affect Hamilton kids.

Thank you!



- Tues. 10/11: PTO Meeting, 9:30am, SPA room
Fri. 10/14: 2nd Grade Garden Day
VIPs Fall Conference, 8am-2pm, Berry Center
Tues. 10/18: Fundraiser Pick-Up, 2-3pm or 4:30-6:30pm
BizTown Training 4-6pm
Candidate Forum, 7pm, Berry Center
Thurs. 10/20: Sonic Spirit Night
Fri. 10/21: 3rd Grade Garden Day
Mon. 10/24: Gardening Class, 9-9:45am
BizTown Training 4-6pm
Tues. 10/25: BizTown Field Trip (for Norwood, Harris & Smith)
JA Training, 9:30am-noon, Berry Center
Wed. 10/26: BizTown Field Trip (for Haley, Holliday & Ferrell)

Looking Ahead:

- Tues. 11/1: 50th Day of School
9am-1st Grade Program
9:55am-Kindergarten Program
Fri. 11/4: Spirit Shop (open during all lunches in the cafeteria)
Mon. 11/7: Author Visits 4th Grade
Evening PTO Meeting, 6-7pm
Fri. 11/11: Veteran's Day Program, 9:30am

Parents Welcome

**21st Annual
VIPs Fall Conference
Friday, Oct. 14, 2011
8am – 2pm
Berry Center**

This is an "adult only" event.



Important Topics Covered in this Conference:

- ✓ Youth Internet Safety
- ✓ Helping Students Handle Stress
- ✓ Take Care of Your Health While Maintaining a Busy Lifestyle
- ✓ How Parents Can Assist Kids at Home Developing "Number Sense"
- ✓ And Many More!

Keynote Address:

Cultivating Complaint Free Zones

Registration Fee is \$20 and includes continental breakfast, lunch and conference materials.

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.