

HAMILTON  
ELEMENTARY



# PTO Pulse

[www.hamiltonelementarypto.com](http://www.hamiltonelementarypto.com)

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## COMING UP!

DISTRICT  
HOLIDAY,  
MONDAY 1/16

PTO MEETING,  
TUESDAY 1/17,  
9:30AM

FAMILY FUN  
FEST  
PLANNING  
MEETING,  
TUESDAY 1/17,  
10:30AM

SONIC SPIRIT  
NIGHT,  
THURSDAY  
1/19

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## President's Message

By Holly Garcia, PTO President

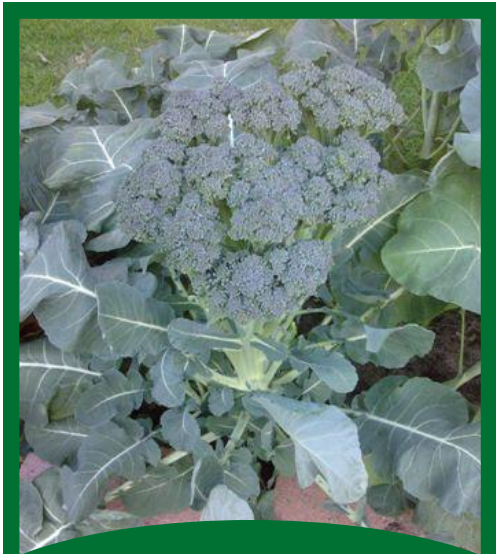
Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good break and got to enjoy time with family and loved ones. If you haven't been by the school yet this year, be sure to check out our new vegetable garden! Allison Lemel, our garden committee chair, and the garden committee have been helping tend the garden our Hamilton lions helped plant, and the results are impressive. We've included some photos in this issue for you to see how great it looks. The wonderful thing about this new vegetable garden is that our children are experiencing hands-on learning and seeing firsthand how vegetables grow. One class even got to sample some fresh lettuce. We may turn some skeptics into veggie lovers after all! I can't thank all of you enough for your continued support of the PTO, which in turn provides programs such as the vegetable and butterfly gardens. They really do make a difference in our children's education.

## How Our Garden Grows

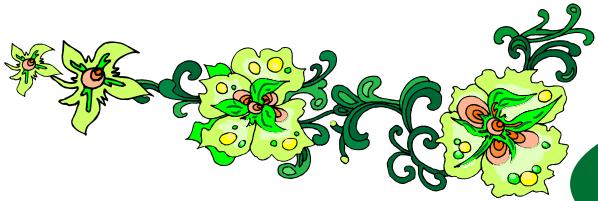
Join us for the January PTO Meeting on Tuesday, 1/17, 9:30AM, SPA Room



Check out the fresh lettuce from our new vegetable garden!



Our Hamilton lions have helped cultivate some hearty broccoli plants!



## Nominating Committee

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the PTO nominating committee. As a member of the committee, you will gather candidates for open positions on the PTO Board. There are several board positions that will be open for the 2012-2013 school year:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- VP Major Fundraising
- VP Minor Fundraising
- Co-VP VIPS
- Co-VP Communications
- VP Membership

If you know of someone you feel would be great on the PTO board and would like to be a part of nominating that person, or if you have any questions about what a board position entails, please contact Holly at [president@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:president@hamiltonelementarypto.com).

## Eat Cypress Cards

Don't forget to activate your EatCypress Card on [www.EatLocalRewards.com](http://www.EatLocalRewards.com)! Shop at participating merchants who will swipe your card or scan the QR code to generate donations for Hamilton Elementary and earn points towards rewards for you to use on future visits! No expiration, no obligation - earn money for Hamilton all year long!

## Calendars

Don't forget that you can still purchase Hamilton PTO 2011-2012 calendars featuring our talented Hamilton lions' artwork at any time in the school office. At just \$8, they're packed with all the dates and reminders you'll need to make the rest of the school year a great one!



*Thank You*

Thanks to Kristie New, our party coordinator, and all our homeroom moms, homeroom helpers, and grade-level coordinators who made our holiday parties a success!



### Adopt-a-Family Success!

Thank you to all our parents, homeroom parents, and teachers who helped with the adopt-a-family program for our sister school. Thank you to all who donated money, and thank you to Norma Gross, Heather Smith, and Elise Selz for delivering the sister school adopt-a-family donations to Holbrook before Christmas. Thanks also to Girl Scout troop 15209 for gathering gently-used coats to donate in addition to the gifts.

## Volunteer at our Sister School

Holbrook Elementary School needs volunteers to help on a regular basis in their library on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. and/or from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Their librarian will take any time within these ranges that you can help, so if you work in the W. Tidwell and 290 area, and can take a longer lunch once in awhile, this would be a great global opportunity.

Please contact Ms. Mahlmann at [brenda.mahlmann@cfisd.net](mailto:brenda.mahlmann@cfisd.net) for more information. If you have any questions about sister school activities, please contact Norma at [sisterschool@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:sisterschool@hamiltoelementarypto.com).

## Go Wild with Science Activities!

Please take a look at PTO manager to volunteer for the following **January Science Resources** events:

### 1st grade Chinchilla/Small Mammal Training:

Jan. 11, 9:30-11:30am, at the SRC - contact Marianne at [1sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:1sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com) with questions.

### 2nd grade Reptiles Class Demonstrations:

Jan. 23 - time TBA - You must have attended the training in order to handle the animals. However; other volunteers will be needed to assist the children with their 2 finger touch & the slide show presentation. Contact Jennifer, at [2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com) with questions.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Insects:

**Training** - Jan 20, 9:30am - 12:30pm

**Demo date** - first week of February 2012- contact Jennifer, at [2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com) with questions.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Body Coverings:

**Training** - Jan. 27, 9:30am-12:30pm

**Demo date** (approximate) - February 2012- contact Jennifer, at [2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:2sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com) with questions.

### 4th grade Aquatic Bird Study Skins Training:

Jan. 27, 9:30am-12:30pm, at the SRC - contact Teri at [4sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:4sciencecoordinator@hamiltoelementarypto.com) with questions.



## Library Opportunities

Are you looking for a new volunteer opportunity? Do you like to interact with students of all ages? The library currently has two volunteer opportunities available: Monday afternoons from 12:30-3:30pm and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m.– 12 noon. These are weekly commitments. Duties include checking books in and out, re-shelving books, and any other duties with which Mrs. Lucas needs help. It's easy, fun and you often get to see your kids and their friends in action! If you are interested, please contact Sarah at [library@hamiltoelementarypto.com](mailto:library@hamiltoelementarypto.com).

## Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is here! First Grade JA is starting their 5 week series January 10th and will continue through February 7th. All of the grade level dates are posted in PTO Manager. We are still in need of volunteers, so login to PTO Manager and check the dates to see if you can participate. Your lesson plan and materials are already provided; all you have to do is present the material! Spring JA training is available at the Berry Center January 24th from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. For reservations, please contact [richards@jahouston.org](mailto:richards@jahouston.org).



# 2012 Family Fun Fest

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
3-7pm, CFISD Exhibit Center

**First Volunteer Meeting: January 17th**

**SPA room, 10:30 am**

**(immediately following the PTO general meeting)**

**Who should attend?:** Anyone interested in more information about the event or volunteer opportunities and volunteers already signed up.

**Meeting Topic:** We will discuss the planning schedule, any new ideas, answer questions about committees, and more! We want you to volunteer in the area that interests you the most!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for a position, please contact: Cindy Schluter at [majorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:majorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com), or email the committee head directly!

## Fun Fest Teams

- 1) Volunteer Coordinator **(NEEDED!)** – Coordinate, schedule and work with teams to secure adequate volunteers and proper placement.
  - 2) KidZone – **Jennifer Muse** - Work with KidZone coordinator on design and activity selections and day of event set-up and tear-down. If interested in being a part of this team, contact Jennifer at [kidzone@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:kidzone@hamiltonelementarypto.com).
  - 3) Teacher Auction – **Lisa Lorenz** - Work with teachers on auction item selection, populate auction sheets and set up auction area on day of event.
  - 4) Silent Auction – **(NEEDED!)** Document donations, set up auction display boards, coordinate auction finalization.
  - 5) Basket Auction – **(NEEDED!)** Work with homeroom moms on basket guidelines, coordinate basket collection at school, organize early display of baskets, and supervise auction on day of event.
  - 6) Food & Beverage Team – **Cherie Lynch** - Work with Food and Beverage coordinator, volunteer time to cook at event, help with concession set-up, and volunteer day of event. If interested in being a part of this team, contact Cherie at [foodandbeverage@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:foodandbeverage@hamiltonelementarypto.com).
  - 7) Fundraising – **(NEEDED!)** Work with fundraising coordinator on paw donation collection and display, and/or solicit donations via e-mail & personal contact.
  - 8) Checkout – **(NEEDED!)** Design efficient checkout process and coordinate and facilitate check out. Assist with actual checkout on day of event.
  - 9) Photography – **Anya Lucas** - Capture festivities for yearbook according to school photography guide lines.
- Thank you for considering an area to volunteer!



## Family Night Funds

Thank you to all of our community who came to our Sonic and Orange Leaf Family Nights in December. We raised over \$200 to give to our sister school for their holiday parties by selling Sonic Community cards, and we raised over \$200 to go back to Hamilton Elementary. Remember that we will continue our Family Nights on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month, so be sure to stop by and spend some time with your fellow Hamilton lions, have a snack and support our school at the same time!

### Did You Know?

Spouses or immediate family members of **Exxon-Mobile employees** can also apply volunteer hours towards grants for Hamilton Elementary. Please check with your employer for more information. This is a great way to turn your precious time into funds for our school.



## Hamilton's Got Talent

Do you know of a talented individual or group (singers, actors, dancers, or any other type of performer) or a staff member with special talents on Hamilton's campus? If so, we would like to hear about them! We are compiling a list of possible entertainers for the VIPS Appreciation Event to be held on Friday, April 20, 2012.

To be considered as a part of the VIPS Appreciation Event, please email the information listed [on this form](#), to Kim Nash at [Kimberly.nash@cfisd.net](mailto:Kimberly.nash@cfisd.net). Please make sure to include "Appreciation Event Entertainment" in the subject line. **Deadline for submissions is March 2, 2012.**

## Attention 5th Grade Parents!

### We need your 5<sup>th</sup> grade baby photos!

(Age 3 months to one year old works best)

Every year at Hamilton Elementary, the PTO publishes a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Memory Book as a gift for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to celebrate their last year of elementary school. (This is separate from the school yearbook.) A committee of volunteers takes photos all year, then prepares the book for printing. We also include baby photos of all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. It's a great project, but we need MANY photos to make this book a success. We need your help on the first step....

**Send a baby picture of your 5<sup>th</sup> grader "attention PTO Memory Book" to school.** Be sure to write your child's name on the back of the picture. (Photos will not be returned.) OR,

DIGITAL IMAGES ARE EASIEST! Scan & email the baby photo to Lisa at [memorybook@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:memorybook@hamiltonelementarypto.com).

Thank you for your help in making this a special gift to our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Please contact Lisa at [memorybook@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:memorybook@hamiltonelementarypto.com) if you have any questions.

### VIPS "Blips"

Teri Horswell was spotted spending her day at Hamilton helping with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade arthropod demonstrations in December. You are "pawsome", Teri!

If there is a volunteer you would like to see recognized in our Volunteer Spotlight or VIPS Blip, please e-mail Holly at [president@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:president@hamiltonelementarypto.com).



### Stay "In the Know" with the PTO!

All PTO Pulse newsletters are distributed via our new PTO Manager system. Be sure you are in our PTO Manager database to receive them. Go to our website [www.hamiltonelementarypto.com](http://www.hamiltonelementarypto.com) and click on the PTO Manager tab to sign up.

### Thoughts? Comments?

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](http://www.hamiltonelementarypto.com) or contact president Holly Garcia directly at [president@hamiltonelementarypto.com](mailto:president@hamiltonelementarypto.com).

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.