

HAMILTON
ELEMENTARY



PTO Pulse

www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

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COMING UP!

WEDNESDAY &
THURSDAY,
11/16 & 11/17,
NATURE
TRAILS FIELD
TRIPS FOR 3RD
& 5TH GRADES

TUESDAY,
11/15, PICTURE
RETAKES

FRIDAY, 11/18,
4TH GRADE
GARDEN DAY

HOLIDAY,
MON 11/21-
FRIDAY 11/25

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President's Message

By Holly Garcia, PTO President

It was great to see some new faces at our first PTO evening meeting! I realize that the PTO is one of many things you have competing for your time, and I know the board and I appreciate it when other PTO members take the time to attend our meetings.

I hope if you weren't able to attend our evening meeting, you will feel free to e-mail me or any board member any time you have questions about what is being done through the PTO. Have a safe, Happy Thanksgiving!

Happy Thanksgiving



Giving Thanks

A lions' roar of thanks to all those who helped with check-in at 50s Day and Thanksgiving lunches, to our Thanksgiving lunch servers, and all of our parents who brought in clothing for our sister school clothing drive!

Thanks to all our 5th grade parents who helped with BizTown, and an extra-special thanks to Melanie Meldrum and Jenni Jones for organizing the volunteers! You are all *pawsome*!

Directories Arriving Soon!

As per our publisher, the 2011-2012 directories should be arriving any day now. Once they are in and ready to go home, we will notify you via e-mail blast. In the meantime, if you need assistance with any directory-related material, please e-mail Michelle at directory@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

Calendars

Don't forget that you can still purchase our NEW Hamilton PTO 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 coming school year a great one!

Hamilton's Harvest



Our wonderful butterfly and vegetable gardens have been planted and need some TLC! If you would like to volunteer at the school, but have limited time, this is a great opportunity.

We need volunteers to water the gardens on a regular basis- especially the vegetable garden. This can be done after school hours and on the weekends, or even before or after car rider line. Perfect for working parents! Our broccoli and cauliflower plants wilt very quickly, so any time you can give is greatly appreciated!

Please e-mail Allison at volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com if you are interested!

Nature Trails

Don't miss your last chance to train to help with the 3rd grade and 5th grade CFISD Nature Trails field trips tomorrow, **Tuesday, November 15th**. Third grade training is **10:00-11:30 a.m.**, and 5th grade training is **12:30-2:00 p.m.** The actual field trips are scheduled as follows:

3rd Grade

11/16: Bard, Dommer, Neiderhaus, McSpadden

11/17: Rodriguez, Chrapliwy, McClosky

5th Grade

11/16: Haley, Harris, Ferrell

11/17: Smith, Holliday, Norwood



If you are interested, then please log onto PTO Manager to volunteer for these events or contact Mary at naturetrails3@hamiltonelementarypto.com for 3rd grade or Lisa at naturetrails5@hamiltonelementarypto.com for 5th grade.

Be a Principal Pal!

Join your fellow grade-level volunteers for a chance to supervise the kids while they are in recess and lunch. This is a great way for moms and dads to help the teacher, and it is fun to see how the kids interact. It's also a great opportunity for someone who doesn't want to commit to a long-term volunteer activity. Please e-mail the chairperson listed for each grade if you would like to volunteer for any of the dates and times listed below:

5th: Tuesday, Nov 29th 11:40-12:45: volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com

4th: Wednesday, Nov 30th 10:40-11:45: volunteers@hamiltonelementarypto.com

1st: Monday, Dec 5th 1:10-2:15: principalpalsK1@hamiltonelementarypto.com

K: Wednesday, Dec 7th 11:10-12:15: principalpalsK1@hamiltonelementarypto.com

3rd: Friday, Dec 9th 12:40-1:45: principalpals@hamiltonelementarypto.com

2nd: Monday, Dec 12th 12:10-1:15: principalpals@hamiltonelementarypto.com

Junior Achievement

The JA dates have been set! We will begin in January 2012 with first grade. To find the dates and times for a specific grade level and Social Studies teacher, go online to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and click on the PTO Manager tab on the left.

If you are planning on volunteering for JA and you have not selected JA in your PTO Manager profile Interests, please do so now, so we can find you. E-mails will be going out after Thanksgiving to volunteers registered in PTO Manager.

If you have any questions, please contact JA Campus Coordinator Anya at jachievement@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

Did You Know?

The PTO organizes a faculty favorites' binder that is updated annually. You will find all your child's teacher's favorite things listed in it. You can find this binder at the front desk.



Science Fun!

First grade volunteers will have the opportunity to bring the Eggs & Nests demo into the 1st grade classrooms. Training will be **November 17th from 9:30-11:30 a.m.**, and the demo will be presented to Hamilton's 1st graders on **December 8th**. Again, if you are interested, please log on to PTO Manager to volunteer for these events or contact Marianne secretary@hamiltonelementarypto.com.

If you want to be sure to hear about the animal demonstrations and field trips as they approach, then please make sure that you have Science Activities checked as one of your volunteer interests in PTO Manager.

VIPS "Blips"

Stacie Kilgore was spotted logging in some extra volunteer hours in order to earn money from her employer that will go directly to Hamilton! Thanks Stacie!

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.

Save the Date!

Planning has begun for the 2012 Family Fun Fest!

Saturday, April 14th, 2012

3p.m.-7p.m.

CFISD Exhibit Center

Telge & 290 (next to the Science Resource Center)

My name is Cindy Schluter and I will be the Family Fun Fest Coordinator this year!

Meetings will begin in December, so be looking for an e-mail blast from PTO Manager on how to sign up!

There are many ways you can help: Auction Item donations, cash donations, or lending your talents or time. We appreciate anything you can do to help make this years' fundraiser a success!

Some of our Fun Fest teams will be:

- 1) **Volunteer Coordinator** – Coordinate, schedule and work with teams to secure adequate volunteers and proper placement.
- 2) **KidZone** – Work with KidZone coordinator on design and activity selections and day of event set-up and tear-down.
- 3) **Teacher Auction** – Work with teachers on auction item selection, populate auction sheets and set up auction area on day of event.
- 4) **Silent Auction** – Document donations, set up auction display boards, coordinate auction finalization.
- 5) **Basket Auction** – 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** – Work with Food and Beverage coordinator, volunteer time to cook at event, help with concession set-up, and volunteer day of event.
- 7) **Fundraising** – Work with fundraising coordinator on paw donation collection and display, and/or solicit donations via e-mail & personal contact.
- 8) **Checkout** – Design efficient checkout process and coordinate and facilitate check out. Assist with actual checkout on day of event.
- 9) **Photography** – Capture festivities for yearbook according to school photography guide lines.
- 10) **Other**- possibly more to come!



Fun Fest Q&A

Answers to your questions about the Family Fun Fest!

- 1) Why are we doing the Family Fun Fest again?
 - a. 98% of survey respondents who attended the event “liked” it.
 - b. Of various fundraising ideas, 85% of respondents “liked” this type of fundraiser.
- 2) Why are we changing locations?
 - a. Cost: 1/3 the cost of Tin Hall
 - b. Space: More space and open areas with covered portion.
 - c. Set-up: Facility available for set-up the day before the event at no charge.
- 3) Why are we doing baskets again?
 - a. 80% of survey respondents wanted to continue having baskets as a fundraising item.
 - b. Basket guidelines will be different (smaller maximum values, but can have multiple baskets per class).
- 4) Why do I have to pay for activities at the Fun Fest?
 - a. This is our major fundraiser and is meant to be a fun way of raising money to help our children have the best education possible.
With all the budget cuts occurring, our school benefits greatly from contributions and support from the PTO.
 - b. We try very hard to keep the costs as low as possible, while having fun activities and achieve our fundraising goal.
- 5) What is the fundraising goal for Family Fun Fest 2012? And how much does PTO fund raise in total?
 - a. Fun Fest - \$25,000 goal
 - b. Other fundraisers - \$38,000 total: cookie dough \$28,000; spirit shop projected \$5,000; other (Sonic, Orange Leaf, PTO dues): \$5,000
 - c. Total PTO budget for the year is about \$63,000

These are great questions that I have received from our parents at Hamilton and I wanted to let everyone know the answers!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support of our fundraisers for Hamilton PTO!

Please contact Cindy Schluter at majorfundraising@hamiltonelementarypto.com if you have any questions.

EatCypress

Be on the lookout for the free EatCypress Card on the Sponsor Tab of your 2011-2012 directory. Once you have your directory, remove your card from the directory and activate your card on www.EatLocalRewards.com. Shop at participating merchants who will swipe your card or scan the QR code to generate donations for your school and earn points towards rewards for you to use on future visits! No expiration, no obligation - earn money for Hamilton all year long!



Spirit Nights



We've got Spirit, Yes We Do!

Don't forget our new bi-monthly spirit nights! Join your fellow Hamilton lions the 1st Thursday of the month at Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt from 4 -8 p.m., and then again the 3rd Thursday of the month at Sonic. Take a break and join your friends and classmates on these nights for some socializing, fun and food, while supporting our school!



Attention 5th Grade Parents!

We need your 5th grade baby photos!

(Age 3 months to one year old works best)

Every year at Hamilton Elementary, the PTO publishes a 5th Grade Memory Book as a gift for the 5th 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 5th 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 5th 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.

Thank you for your help in making this a special gift to our 5th graders. Please contact Lisa at memorybook@hamiltonelementarypto.com if you have any questions.



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 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 or contact president Holly Garcia directly at 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.