



Hamilton Elementary PTO PULSE



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~ www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

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No Matter How Much Time You Have To Volunteer, You *Can* Impact a Child's Life!

President's Message

By Holly Garcia, PTO President

A few years ago, when my daughter started kindergarten and before I became PTO President, I decided to become a reading fluency volunteer. I loved the idea of working one-on-one with the kids and making a direct impact on their school experience. Several years before that, when it was only my son in school, I was lucky to even make it up to the school. With my daughter not yet in

preschool, I found that the flexibility of volunteering in the workroom, and the convenience of baking or buying cookies and treats for the hospitality committee both suited my life at that moment. Now, as PTO President, I've had to focus my volunteer time in different areas—things like science activities, principal pals and Junior Achievement—short-term commitments that I very much enjoy.

Many of us have experienced similar situations. Regardless of what "season" of life you are in, there are

ways in which we can use your help. To help you find out how you can have an impact here at Hamilton, we've created a quiz to match you with a volunteer activity that suits you. Check it out, (pages 4 & 5) and find your "match"!



Fundraising News

Thank you for supporting our Delicious Delights fundraiser! We will update you on how well we did once we have our final numbers in.

Don't forget that the pick-up date is **Tuesday, October 18th from 2:00-3:00 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Please make arrangements to pick up your orders during that time frame. 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.



Membership News

Thank you to everyone who has joined the PTO this year! We had a total of 600 families join and that is including 100% of the staff! We really appreciate your involvement and hope to see you at the PTO meetings.

Thank you,
Lynda O'Donnell
VP of Membership



Thank You

We'd like to thank all our Book Fair volunteers, Vision and Hearing Screening volunteers, hospitality volunteers, workroom volunteers, spirit shop volunteers and those who helped count our fundraiser money! You are all "**Pawsome**"!

First round of Principal Pals Volunteers: Coming Soon!

Job description: Parents will supervise the kids while they are at lunch/recess. It's 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.

To Sign up, go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com

Click PTO Manager and log in.

Click "events."

Scroll down to find event (example-1st-Lunch/recess).

Click "volunteer for event".

Fill in your name and click "save."

It's that easy! Hope to see you there!

Homeroom Parent Update

Thank you to Grade Level Coordinators and Homeroom Parents for volunteering. We are looking forward to a great year!

There is one class which needs a co-homeroom parent; the current homeroom parent would like someone to help with the responsibilities.

Ms Ferrell—5th Grade

If you are interested, please contact

Allison Lemel/Julia Meyers
volunteer@hamiltonelementary.com



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Mon 9/26:	Online Book Fair Closes
Tue 9/27:	Storyteller Visits
Thu 9/29:	Fire Department visits K & 1st, 9am-12
Thu 10/6:	Fall Portraits
Fri 10/7:	Spirit Sale during all lunches
Mon 10/10:	Student Holiday--no school Parent/Teacher Conferences
Tue 10/11:	PTO Meeting, 9:30am, SPA Room
Fri 10/14:	2nd Grade Garden Day
Tue 10/18:	Fundraiser Order Pick-up

PTO 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!

PTO Manager Factoid

Did you know you can easily find a Chairperson for every event on PTO Manager!

1. Go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com .
2. Click on PTO Manager.
3. Log in.
4. Click on 2011-2012 Hamilton Elementary Chairperson List.

Did You Know?

If you have not assigned a teacher to your child in PTO Manager, you'll miss out on a lot of important information and opportunities throughout the year!

Go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and click on PTO Manager.



Reading Fluency

If you love to read and enjoy working with children, then this is the place for you. No experience is necessary. On average, reading mentors spend an hour or two with students twice a week. Each reading session is 15 to 20 minutes per student. As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to help students directly. A short training session will be provided before mentoring starts.

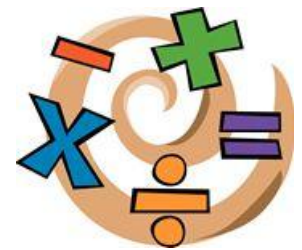
To sign up, go to www.hamiltonelementarypto.com and click on the PTO Manager tab on the left. You will find "Reading Fluency" on the Interests tab. Please consider volunteering in the Reading Fluency Program and make a difference in the life of a child!



Jr. Achievement

Junior Achievement is a program that teaches students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. As a JA volunteer, you will present a lesson that has already been prepared for you to your child's class for about 30-45 minutes once or more. To find out more details about the awesome program please visit <http://houston.ja.org/>. As always, we are in need of at least one volunteer per Social Studies class for grades K-4.

If you are interested in volunteering for this program, please select JA in PTO Manager under "Interests". If you are a new JA volunteer, you must attend volunteer training at the Berry Center **Wednesday, September 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** if you have not already done so. Please reserve your seat and materials at vipsrvp@cfisd.net. Include your name, school, and grade you are interested in presenting. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Anya at jachievement@hamiltonelementarypto.com



Things Just Aren't Adding Up and Hamilton Students Need Your Help!

We are getting ready to roll out our Math Tutoring Program and we need your help. You don't have to be a math major or a potential card counter. 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

Don't be Alarmed!



The Cypress Creek Fire Dept will be at Hamilton, in front of the gym, on **Thursday, Sept. 29th** from **9:00 to 12:00** to instruct our kindergarten and first grade children on Safety and Fire Drills. Students will explore a smokehouse and a fire truck and learn how to be safe in case of a fire.

This great program is brought to you by your PTO!

Volunteer Match Up

Not sure how to get involved at Hamilton Elementary? Take our quiz to find out what volunteer activity may work for you!

1. Due to various commitments, I cannot be at the school, but I would like to help in some way.
Try these committees: Hospitality, Workroom, Fundraising
2. I can help for 30 minutes to an hour once a month or every few months.
Try these committees: Monday Mailers, Art Helper, Principal Pals, Spirit Sale, Garden Care
3. I need flexibility; I never know when I'll be able to help.
Try these committees: Principal Pals, Workroom, Hospitality, Garden Care
4. I can help once or twice during the year for a single event:
Try these committees: Science Activities, Field Day, Book Fair, Junior Achievement, Hospitality, Fundraising
5. I am able to help weekly.
Try these committees: Clinic, Reading Fluency, Math Mentors, Library
6. I like to be behind-the-scenes.
Try these committees: Workroom, Monday Mailers, Art Helper, Hospitality, Garden Care, Fundraising
7. I like to be in the classroom with the students.
Try these committees: Junior Achievement, Science Activities
8. I like to work with children one-on-one.
Try these committees: Reading Fluency, Math Mentors

Are You Going To Miss Out?

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 throughout the year concerning your grade and class.

Please log on 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"!



9. I like to see all the kids at Hamilton in different settings.

Try these committees: Spirit Sales, Library, Book Fair, Principal Pals, Clinic, Fundraising

There is something for everyone at Hamilton Elementary! If you have found your “match”, be sure to go www.hamiltonelementarypto.com , click on the PTO Manager tab and click on “Interests” to get involved!

Attention 5th Grade Parents:

Biz Town Update

We are so excited about Biz Town this year! 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!

There are two volunteer opportunities to help with Biz Town:

1) The **interview day at Hamilton on October 6** in the Library. Volunteers should arrive at 9:00. Parents and students are encouraged to dress in casual business attire. Parents will be provided a question sheet and will be asked to interview the children. Some parents choose to bring props like phones, family pictures, pen holders, etc. to make it seem more businesslike. We need approximately 20 volunteers for this day. If we get

enough volunteers, the process should only take a couple hours.

2) The **Biz Town event on October 25th and 26th**. Norwood, Harris and Smith are going on the 25th, and Ferrell, Haley and Holliday are going on the 26th. We need a minimum of 16 parents for each day and a maximum of 28. You would need to be able to arrive at the Biz Town facility by 9:00am. In addition, **you will need to attend the Biz Town training on either October 18th or October 20th**. The time of the training is from 4-6. If you have already completed the training, there is no need to repeat it. Biz Town is located at 3710 Dacoma, Houston. Their website is <http://houston.ja.org/new.html>.

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! If you would like to volunteer, please go to PTO 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. The website is www.hamiltonelementarypto.com . **Click on PTO Manager tab (upper left), log in then go to the "Events" tab to sign up. Please note that there will be five events listed. One for the interview day, one for each training day, one for the Biz Town event on the 25th and one of the Biz Town event on the 26th. Please be sure to sign up for all that you are able to help with.**

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



VIPS Blip

Joanne Harrell was caught helping Student Directory Chairperson Michelle Watts with the student directory confirmation forms that came home last week. Although Joanne came to school specifically for one of our PTO Workroom training sessions, she also stayed to help Michelle. Michelle says, “Having Joanne’s help made the task easier, quicker and more enjoyable. To me, that’s what volunteering is, jumping in where you can and having a good time with others while you do it.” Way to go, Joanne! You are “**pawsome**”!

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.

Volunteer Spotlight:

Gerri Becker



PTO workroom to Hospitality to Principal Pals to Spirit Shop to Field Day, and has been doing so for over a year now.

Gerri Becker, a retired grandmother and Hamilton volunteer, is a shining example of how retirees can continue to be positive role models for the younger generations. Grandmother to Hamilton lion Nathan, and mother-in-law to 2nd grade teacher Ms. Becker, Gerri is involved in several volunteer activities at the school. She volunteers in everything from the

As a former paraprofessional in the Cy-Fair ISD for 31 years, Gerri finds she misses the interaction she had with students, her favorite thing about her new role as a volunteer. She says, "They are just so eager in everything they do. They want to be your friend. It is a great feeling when they recognize you and are happy to see you again." She remembers

fondly the first time she volunteered, and her grandson saw her. "He gave me the biggest grin and seemed proud that I was at his school."

Now with a year of volunteer experience under her belt, Gerri offers this advice to anyone wanting to get more involved at Hamilton, "Go for it! It is very rewarding. You make new friendships and look forward to the days you volunteer."



These volunteers were *caught* helping out on the recent eye, ear, weight and height screening days. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers! We couldn't do it without you!



Save the Date!

Cy-Fair ISD
Board of Trustees
Candidate Forum

Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 7pm

at the
Berry Center



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.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to Hamilton Elementary. Here you can see just how far your PTO stretches every dollar raised to bring outstanding programs to your students. Financial information and the PTO's budget are posted on our website: www.hamiltonelementarypto.com click "Financial" (black horizontal bar just under the logo).

Income YTD

Fundraising Profit-Catalog	\$ 22,900.00	
Fundraising Income-Family Fun Fest	\$ 17,700.00	
Prior Year Remaining Funds	\$ 38,000.00	
Net Profit from Spirit Sales	\$ 4,600.00	
Membership and Party Dues	\$ 9,000.00	
Other Income	--	
Gross Profit		\$ 92,200.00

Budgeted Operating Expenses

School Supply Expense	--	
Bank Fees	\$ 150.00	
Sales Tax	\$ 1,000.00	
Treasurer Supplies	\$ 100.00	
Website Expenses	\$ 500.00	
VIPS Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	
Workroom Supplies	\$ 100.00	
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 2,850.00

Budgeted Program Expenses

Class Parties	\$ 3,600.00	
Donations	\$ 400.00	
5th Grade Day and Memory Book	\$ 3,000.00	
Biztown	\$ 3,300.00	
Cultural Arts	\$ 16,500.00	
Destination Imagination	\$ 150.00	
Field day	\$ 600.00	
Junior Achievement	\$ 100.00	
Laminating	\$ 700.00	
Learning Subscriptions	\$ 7,700.00	
Library-Books and Authors	\$ 5,000.00	
Literacy Library	\$ 5,000.00	
Prior Year Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	
School Improvements	\$ 32,125.00	
Staff Development	\$ 1,000.00	
Student Recognition	\$ 700.00	
Teacher Appreciation	\$ 1,500.00	
Teacher Requests	\$ 1,000.00	
Tutoring	\$ 5,800.00	
Veteran's Day	\$ 175.00	
Total Program Expenses		\$ 89,350.00

Net Surplus: \$0