



New PTA Website and Facebook Page!

For up-to-the-moment announcements, photos, and event invitations, check out our new website at HeightsPTA.org and join us on facebook at [HeightsPTA](https://www.facebook.com/HeightsPTA).



*Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.
~ Anthony J. D'Angelo*

The Wildcat Monthly

Richardson Heights Elementary PTA Newsletter

October 2011

Happy Fall Heights Families!

We have one six weeks grading period down and five more to go. We have so much going on at school this semester. I am happy to say we had our first day of clusters just a couple of weeks ago. Our students are learning and having fun in their clusters. There are future fashion designers, artists, environmental scientists, fitness and dance instructors, paleontologists, and veterinarians in at Heights. I loved walking around and seeing them all learning and creating together. We will continue these clusters through November. **If you are interested in sponsoring a cluster, we would love to have you or any family or friends come share your talents with our kids!** Our Parent Education team will host a Night of Clusters so that you can learn how to facilitate a cluster in the next semester. Please consider attending so you can support our kids. The more parents we have, the smaller the groups will be. The information will be coming soon.



Thank you so much for supporting your kids through our passbook fundraiser. All of the proceeds from this fundraiser were ear marked for clusters and other enrichment. **We raised over \$2,000!** This is so helpful to our teachers who did not have to dig into their own pockets for materials and supplies for their clusters.

We also celebrated the first six weeks at our first assembly the first week of October. Our students had so much fun dancing and celebrating their successes. Our assemblies are on Thursday mornings at the end of the six weeks. Please be checking the teachers' communication for the specific dates and times. Our specials teachers do a great job of coordinating these assemblies.

We are still working on our Edline web pages but they are up and running for any parent with a special code. We are to give each parent a code to be able to see private teacher pages. You will see links to school related sites and teacher assignments on their pages. It will definitely help you keep tabs on everything going on in the classroom. If you did not attend Meet the Teacher in September, you do not have your code. Please come by the office and pick up your code. Since these are private codes, we request that you come to the office and they are not sent home with the children. You may call the office at 469-593-4400 to let us know you are coming so we can have it ready for you.

~ Jenny Lanier, RHE Principal

Hello Heights Families!

I hope you enjoyed some extra time with your families over our recent four day weekend. The cooler weather has been a welcome gift and a sign that our fall activities are in full swing at Heights. One fall activity that we look forward to every year is the Reflections Art Program. This year's theme is "Diversity Means..." Kids interested in participating in the program were



able to participate in an after school workshop to help inspire their creativity. Students were able to express themselves on this topic by painting, dancing, photography, music, drawing, coloring, and writing projects. Our students consistently produce prize winning artwork for this great program.

Reflections Workshop on 10-5-2011

Another fantastic art opportunity we offer at Heights is the Go Van Gogh program in partnership with the Dallas Museum of Art. Volunteers spend time at the museum learning about particular artistic styles and pieces of work so they can share this with the students at Heights. The kids then get to create their own museum worthy project. Over the years they have created King Tut fans, mosaics, and my personal favorite, the Art of the Lone Star State. Heights has been providing this enriching activity for over 10 years now and we are the ONLY school in RISD to offer it. Not only is this fun and inspirational for the kids at Heights, but it has paid off with the large number of Heights students that continue on to the Art Magnet programs at West Jr. High and Richardson High School. Former Heights student Morgan Weidner even had a piece of art displayed at the DMA last year and sold a print of it! This is a real feather in our school's cap, and we are proud to be the only place in Richardson that your student can get this. If you are interested in helping with the projects in your child's classroom let us know. Deborah Durham Stanley and Carter Tinsley are in charge of this amazing program as well as the Reflections program.

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Reflections is
creativity expressed
through the arts. The
2011-12 Theme is
"Diversity Means..."

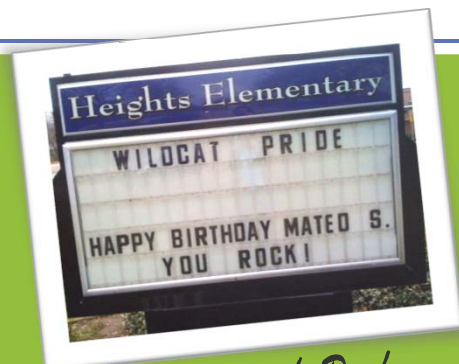
Forms and guidelines
are in the Reflections
Display in school
front entry.

Submission Date:
October 19, 2011

**Entries are
submitted 7:30am -
8:30am and 3:00pm -
3:30pm in Cafeteria**

Awards Ceremony:

December 8th,
6:30pm, Cafeteria



Celebrate the Day!

Happy Birthday Marquee!

Remember to sign up to have your child's name posted on the marquee in front of the school.

Only \$5 for this fun way to celebrate!
Forms are available in the front office.





This month is also the **Heights Multicultural Night**. This is a fun night when we gather at the school to sample food from the rich cultural heritage that is our Heights community. Be sure to bring a dish to share and your appetite on **Thursday, October 20 at 6:30**. The staff will also be teaching us a little more about the AVID program our school participates in. It is a great program to help get our kids prepared for success in secondary schools, college, and life!

The **Richardson High School Homecoming parade** is **Friday, October 21** this year. Make sure to look for our sixth grade float. Each year our sixth graders get to decorate and ride in a float representing our school in the parade.

As you can see Heights has a lot to offer. Your children are in a great place!

~ *Jenny Holben, PTA President*

Volunteer in the Library!

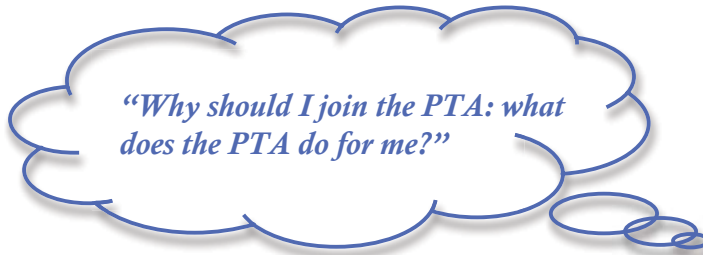
Volunteers are always welcome and needed in the library to shelve books. Spend as little as 15 minutes or as much as an hour or longer to help re-shelve books for the benefit of your child and the school. Younger siblings are always welcome, and Mrs. Nowacki will show you how to shelve books. Stop by the library soon!

Read to Your Child's Class!

You are invited to read a storybook to your child's class during their weekly library time.

- ★ Readers are needed for Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades.
- ★ Read to your child's class regularly or only once or twice a year as your schedule allows.
- ★ Bring your child's favorite storybook to share or let Librarian Mrs. Nowacki choose one for you.
- ★ Younger siblings are always welcome to join you in the library.
- ★ English and Spanish speakers are welcome. Parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles can be readers.
- ★ Mrs. Nowacki will treat you like royalty during your library visit.
- ★ Your child will be proud to have you visit the library. The class will love you for reading to them.

Contact Susan Cluiss (972) 231-4843.



Our PTA sponsors the Family Picnic, Multi-cultural Night, Chili Cook-off, and Carnival. It provides you this informative newsletter each month, marquee announcements, and a student directory. It pays for gym equipment for the school like the "Beast" and rock wall. The PTA provides the teachers dinner when they have to stay late to meet with you (Meet-the-Teacher Night and Open House). It keeps school entryway planters fresh and watered. It provides enrichment programs like Go Van Gogh and Reflections, to name just a few.



Of course, now you are asking yourself, *"What can I do for my PTA?"*

JOIN! Bring a dish for the Multi-Cultural Night; bring chili for the Chili Cook-off (or just vote for your favorite), set up for an event; clean-up afterward; support the fundraisers; bake a cake for the Carnival cake walk; be a room parent; read a book to a class; teach a cluster; bring a dish for the teacher dinner; water a plant.

Besides reaping the benefits from all of the activities above, your child will learn from you what it means to be a contributing member of a community—the Richardson Heights community—and, be proud of you for it. We would love for you to join us! *See forms attached.*



Logging Your Volunteer Hours at Heights?

If you aren't already, please stop by the front desk at Heights to log your volunteer time. It is very important that we keep a record of these hours to maintain our federal tax exemption. Any time spent on Heights programs counts, whether you are at the school, working offsite, or from home. *Thanks, and know how much we appreciate you!*

Helping Your Child with Test-Taking...

You can be a great help to your child if you follow some of these tips about tests and testing:

- Encourage your child and provide praise for the things that he or she does well.
- Meet with teachers and ask for test preparation activities that you and your child can do at home.
- Make sure that your child attends school regularly.
- Provide a quiet place for studying at home and make sure your child is well rested on school days.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home.
- Help your child avoid test anxiety.

You can help reduce test anxiety by encouraging your child to do the following:

- Plan ahead. Start studying for the test well in advance to avoid "cramming" the night before.
- Get a good night's sleep before the day of the test.
- On the day of the test, read all directions carefully before beginning work.
- Look quickly at the entire test to see what types of questions are on it. This tactic will help determine how much time to spend on each part of the test.
- Skip difficult questions and go on. If there is time at the end of the test, return to them and try again.



Tom Thumb

Did you know? Tom Thumb will donate a percentage of our purchases to our school (a check each quarter), as an easy fundraiser. If you give your Tom Thumb Reward Card number to Trish in the office she can link it to our school.

This information was drawn from the booklet "Helping Your Child Succeed in School" from the "Helping Your Child" series which provides parents with information, tools, and activities they can use at home to help their children develop critical skills for academic success. For more information, or to see the entire booklet, go to www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html.

Also, please send any ideas for topics you would like to see addressed through articles or speakers to Becky Campbell at cbcampbell@mac.com. As Parent Education chairperson on the PTA board, it is my goal to provide relevant information to parents as we strive to help our children prosper emotionally, physically, and academically. Thank you!



Richardson Heights Elementary PTA Membership 2011-2012



\$8.50 each*

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Mother's Last Name | First Name | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Father's Last Name | First Name | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | |
| e-Mail Address | | |
| _____ | | |
| Home Phone | Cell Phone | |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Children's Names | Teacher | Grade |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

* Life Membership Award Recipient \$6.25

Please submit dues with application.



Aplicación Para Membrecía del PTA 2011-2012 (Asociación de Padres y Maestros)



\$8.50 Membrecía
Individual*

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nombre de la Madre (Apellido) | Primer Nombre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Nombre del Padre (Apellido) | Primer Nombre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Correo Electrónico | | |
| _____ | | |
| Teléfono En casa | Teléfono Celular | |
| _____ | _____ | |
| Nombre de su Hijo(a) | Maestro | Grado |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

*Por favor mande su dinero con esta aplicación.

GOT DRUGS?

On Saturday, October 29th, 2011, from 10 AM – 2 PM, the Richardson Police Department and the Richardson Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association will sponsor a *National Take Back Initiative* local collection site for the safe and easy disposal of any unwanted, unused, or expired pharmaceutical or over-the-counter (OTC) medications.

The *National Take Back Initiative* is coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Individual local collection events are sponsored by local law enforcement agencies and are open to all Americans. Proper disposal of unwanted prescription or OTC medications will serve to 1) reduce the environmental impact of trashing or flushing, and 2) remove the opportunity for accidental ingestion or intentional abuse.

Here are some things you need to know about Richardson's local "Take Back" event:

- The event will be set up as a "drive thru and drop off" so that participants will not have to park and exit their vehicles.
- The event location will be on the south side outer parking lot of the Richardson Civic Center/City Hall located at 411 W. Arapaho Rd. (@U.S. 75). Entry and exit is easy from Belle Grove Drive.
- Program participation is anonymous. No identification will be requested and substances turned in for destruction will not be inventoried or logged. Police are present for participants' safety and event security.
- All participants must retain possession of their own medication during the collection process, from home to point of disposal.
- Participants may dispose of solid dosage medications (pills, capsules, etc) in its original container or by removing the medication from its container and dumping it into the disposal box.
- All pharmaceutical liquids, such as cough syrup, will be accepted in their original consumer containers, and tightly sealed to prevent leakage.
- Intravenous solutions, intravenous medications, and syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens.
- Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in disposal containers.





ATTENTION STUDENTS:

ART WANTED

Now is your chance to show your artistic talent!! The PTA is accepting original artwork to be published in this year's directory. Your drawings should show what "Life at Heights Elementary" is like. We want students in ALL grade levels to participate.

Here's what you need to do:

- Use only white paper
- Draw only in black pen or marker (HINT: Draw in pencil first, then trace over in black pen or black marker)
- Draw a picture or self-portrait of activities in class, P.E., the library or courtyard, etc. (Of course, drawings of your teachers will be gladly accepted!)
- Complete the slip at the bottom of this page. Attach to your drawing and give it to your teacher.

Don't wait! The deadline to submit artwork is Friday, October 28, 2011. We can't wait to see your original designs!!!!

SUBMIT BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

Child's Name: _____

Teacher and Grade: _____

My drawing is of: _____

TEACHERS: Please turn in to the PTA mailbox in the office.

PTA DIRECTORY INFORMATION

(SUBMIT BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year. It is time to get started on the PTA Directory. The directory is useful for both parents and students and is available solely to PTA members. If you haven't yet had the chance to register as a PTA member, please make sure you do, so you can get this valuable tool! Only those PTA families who release their information in WRITING will be included in the directory. Once you have become a member, please complete the information below and return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

THE PTA DIRECTORY IS FOR PTA AND STUDENT USE ONLY. ANY OTHER USE IS PROHIBITED.

Please PRINT all information you would like included in the PTA Directory:

Child's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Child's Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email _____

Teacher: _____ Grade _____

Mother's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Father's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Other children (siblings) attending Heights:

Child's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Teacher: _____ Grade _____

Child's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Teacher: _____ Grade _____

Child's Name: (last) _____ (first) _____

Teacher: _____ Grade _____

I AUTHORIZE THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO BE PRINTED IN THE PTA DIRECTORY.

_____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature

Parent's Printed Name

If you have any questions about your inclusion in this year's directory, please contact A.J. Castaneda @ annaajo44@gmail.com



INFORMACIÓN DEL DIRECTORIO DE PTA (SOMETA POR VIERNES, 4 DE NOVIEMBRETH)

Estimados padres,

Recepción al año escolar 2011-2012. Es hora de conseguir comenzado en el directorio de PTA. El directorio es útil para ambos padres y estudiantes y está disponible solamente para los miembros de PTA. ¡Si usted todavía no ha tenido la ocasión de colocarle como se cerciora de un miembro de PTA, por favor lo hace, así que usted puede conseguir esta herramienta valiosa! Solamente incluirán a esas familias de PTA que lanzan su información en la ESCRITURA en el directorio. Una vez que usted haya hecho un miembro, termine por favor la información abajo y vuelva esta forma al profesor de su niño cuanto antes.

EL DIRECTORIO DE PTA ESTÁ PARA PTA Y EL USO DEL ESTUDIANTE SOLAMENTE. SE PROHÍBE CUALQUIER OTRO USO.

IMPRIMA por favor toda la información que usted quisiera incluido en el directorio de PTA:

Nombre del niño: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Dirección del niño _____

Número de teléfono: _____ Email _____

Maestro: _____ Grado _____

Nombre de la madre: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Nombre del padre: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Otros niños (hermanos) que atienden a alturas:

Nombre: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Maestro: _____ Grado _____

Nombre: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Maestro: _____ Grado _____

Nombre: (pasado) _____ (primer) _____

Maestro: _____ Grado _____

AUTORIZO LA INFORMACIÓN ANTEDICHA PARA SER IMPRESO EN EL DIRECTORIO DE PTA.

Fecha: _____

Firma del padre

Nombre impreso del padre

Si usted tiene cualesquiera preguntas sobre su inclusión en directorio relativo a este año, entre en contacto con por favor A.J. Castaneda @ anna44@gmail.com

