



# MST PTA CONNECTION

Volume 14 Issue 4

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Karen Leo, Editor

## A Message from the President

Hello MST Families!

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end! I would first like to thank my family for supporting me through this very exciting and busy year! My second thank you goes out to my amazing board. They are the backbone of this PTA and are fabulous at coming through no matter what obstacles are thrown in their way. My third and final thank you goes out to you, the volunteers. Whether it was coloring hair at the Carnival, selling Passbooks for Sky Ranch, watching a class during a teacher luncheon, or selling books at the Book Fairs, you all have been excited and eager to help out.

MST volunteers are always geared up and ready for the next event. The best part is that the volunteers are not just the parents of MST's kids, but the kids themselves, grandparents, teachers, and even kind hearted friends who don't even have children who attend MST. You all each deserve a million dollars, but since I'm not insanely rich, a huge "Thank you" and my undying gratitude will have to do! Thank you all for a wonderful year; it was a pleasure serving as your President.

Christie Weaver  
MST PTA President  
[president@mstpta.com](mailto:president@mstpta.com)



## Thank You!!! MST's Got Talent!!

A huge thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, our talented students and teachers, and the staff at West Junior High for helping to make our 3rd Annual Talent Show and Dinner a great success! Without your help, we never could have pulled it off so well. You guys are the best!!

Keep up the practice for next year! We can't wait to be surprised!

## Looking for Parent Volunteers of 6th graders for school year 2011-2012

As you know, 6th grade is a mementos year for our kiddos. Help make it the best! If you will have a 6th grader for school year 2011-2012 and would like to participate on the committee that will plan and coordinate the activities below, please contact Sheryl Donihoo by email at [sdonihoo\\_75081@yahoo.com](mailto:sdonihoo_75081@yahoo.com).

**Graduation:** Venue  
Programs  
Pennants

**6th grade newsletter:** Every six weeks

**6th grade photos:** to assist yearbook person and to do slide show

**Graduation "after party"**

**6th grade t-shirts:** Design  
Print  
Frame one for 6th grade hall

**Winter Party - Valentine's Day Party - Graduation**



**There's so much you can be involved in so contact Sheryl today!!!!**

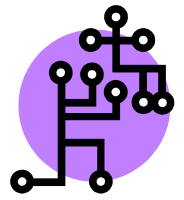
### PTA Membership



Together we can make a difference in the education of our children. We invite you to get involved and join the PTA. The cost to join is \$7 per individual. Sign up online at [www.MSTPTA.com](http://www.MSTPTA.com) now and membership will be valid for the 2011-12 school year or you can email membership to obtain a form at [membership@mstpta.com](mailto:membership@mstpta.com)

### Calling all Volunteers!!!

Whether it's a school or PTA function, a teacher in need, help for the library or clothes for the school nurse's clinic, there are tons of opportunities to get involved! MST logs thousands of volunteer hours and that's why you are at the right school! Be sure to stop by the volunteer table at the Back to School Meet and Greet as we always need you and it's a great way to make new friends!



### Arts in Education - Reflections 2011 - 2012

#### "Diversity Means"

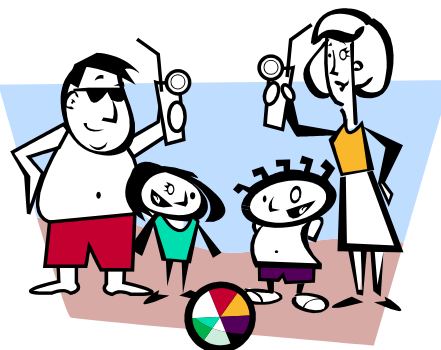
It's never too early to begin thinking about entries for the 2011 - 2012 PTA Reflections Program. The theme for 2011 - 2012 is "Diversity Means". The Reflections program is creativity expressed through the arts. The works are judged by their creativity, originality and mastery of media, but most importantly on interpretation of theme. The categories for entry are literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography, and film/video production. So get those creative juices flowing and start thinking about how you would like to express what "Diversity Means" to you. For more information about specific rules and requirements please contact Allison Lord, [allison@jacl.net](mailto:allison@jacl.net)



## Parent's Corner

### No Need to Drop the Beach Ball on Educational Fun in the Summer

We've previously featured (in the 2010-11 PTA newsletters) highlights on three unique museums in the DFW area, hoping to familiarize our MST families with fabulous, family-friendly places. Let's take a look at what those great local spots have in the works for summertime.



From engineering to magic to survival skills, **Sci-Tech Discovery Center**, in Frisco, is planning for scores of half-day and full-day camps. The camps are designed for ages 5-11. Stephanie Crean, the center's Education Director, informs that there will be a wonderful new exhibit, too, starting June 18. *Playing With Time* "explores things that happen too fast or slow for the eye to see." More summer events include Beatle's Day and the new *Cars 2* movie. For more information on all of the summer excitement above, visit their website: [www.mindstretchingfun.org](http://www.mindstretchingfun.org)

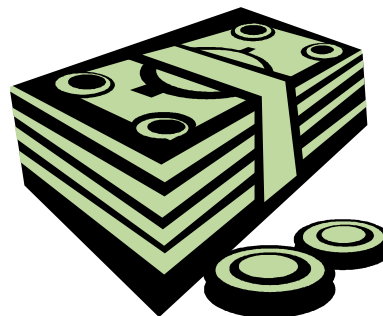


**Dallas Heritage Village** is closed during the hottest month, August. But, during June, Melissa Prycer, Director of Education, says they "will be celebrating the 15<sup>th</sup> birthday of everyone's favorite donkeys, Nip and Tuck!" Festivities even include a Party Animals Sleepover, on June 18. Then, in July, the village hosts an *Old-Fashioned Fourth*. Ms. Prycer's excitement is contagious - "we'll be making ice cream, exploring the re-designed Doctor's Office, playing games, and making patriotic crafts." Go to the website for more information and to purchase tickets in advance (just \$4!): [www.dallasheritagevillage.org](http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org)

Last, but certainly not least (come on now, a 'money factory' cannot be the least of anything), is the **Bureau of Engraving and Printing**. It doesn't come as much of a surprise that according to their website, June-July is the BEP's "Peak Season." They extend their hours and are open on weekdays! Please check the website for the most up to date information. Reminder: This place is free! Yep, that's right - the place that makes money charges you nothing to enter. Check it out: <http://www.bep.treas.gov/tours/fortworthtxtours.html>

Some people start planning in early spring for summer, but it's not too late - there are still camps available and plenty of day trip ideas. Have a safe and happy summer!

Debbie Pope, MST PTA Parent Education



## May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month

### Quick Facts:

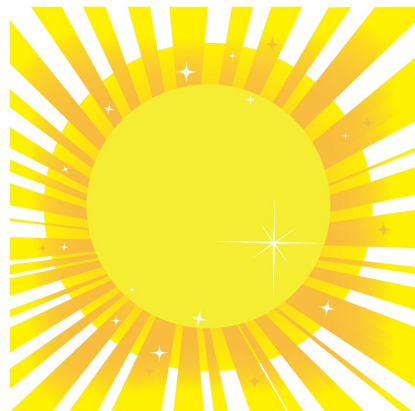
40-50% of Americans who live to age 65 will have non-melanoma skin cancer at least once ([www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org))

- Midday at peak of summer means the sun is high in the sky and has less atmosphere to pass through, resulting in more exposure to UVB rays.
- UV can penetrate clouds

People with certain risk factors are more likely than others to develop skin cancer. Risk factors vary for different types of skin cancer, but some general risk factors are having:

- A lighter natural skin color.
- Family history of skin cancer.
- A personal history of skin cancer.
- Exposure to the sun through work and play.
- A history of sunburns early in life.
- A history of indoor tanning.
- Skin that burns, freckles, reddens easily, or becomes painful in the sun.
- Blue or green eyes.
- Blond or red hair.
- Certain types and a large number of moles.

For more information, visit the National Cancer Institute's Skin Cancer Risk Factors.



### Protecting Children from the Sun

Just a few serious sunburns can increase your child's risk of skin cancer later in life. Kids don't have to be at the pool, beach, or on vacation to get too much sun. Their skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they're outdoors.

**Seek shade.** UV rays are strongest and most harmful during midday, so it's best to plan indoor activities then. If this is not possible, seek shade under a tree, an umbrella, or a pop-up tent. Use these options to prevent sunburn, not to seek relief after it's happened.

**Cover up.** Clothing that covers your child's skin helps protect against UV rays. Although a long-sleeved shirt and long pants with a tight weave are best, they aren't always practical. A T-shirt, long shorts, or a beach cover-up are good choices, too—but it's wise to double up on protection by applying sunscreen or keeping your child in the shade when possible.

**Get a hat.** Hats that shade the face, scalp, ears, and neck are easy to use and give great protection. Baseball caps are popular among kids, but they don't protect their ears and neck. If your child chooses a cap, be sure to protect exposed areas with sunscreen.

**Wear sunglasses.** They protect your child's eyes from UV rays, which can lead to cataracts later in life. Look for sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.

**Apply sunscreen.** Use sunscreen with at least SPF 15 and UVA and UVB protection every time your child goes outside. For the best protection, apply sunscreen generously 30 minutes before going outdoors. Don't forget to protect ears, noses, lips, and the tops of feet. Take sunscreen with you to reapply during the day, especially after your child swims or exercises. This applies to waterproof and water-resistant products as well.

Follow the directions on the package for using a sunscreen product on babies less than 6 months old. All products do not have the same ingredients; if you or your child's skin reacts badly to one product, try another one or call a doctor. Your baby's best defense against sunburn is avoiding the sun or staying in the shade.

Keep in mind, sunscreen is not meant to allow kids to spend more time in the sun than they would otherwise. Try combining sunscreen with other options to prevent UV damage. For more information, visit [http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic\\_info/children.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/skin/basic_info/children.htm)

Learn how to perform periodic self checks for spots & other symptoms. See also: <http://www.fda.gov/Radiation-EmittingProducts/RadiationEmittingProductsandProcedures/Tanning/usm116425.htm>

## *Look What We Did, MST!!!*

Ever wonder where that fundraising money goes? Well, let's see.....

This year in addition to help with staff appreciation and luncheons, your dollars were hard at work helping with class parties, sending children to the Council Play, funding the carnival, helping with Multicultural Night, providing eyeglasses for children through the nurse's membership and so many more things we just don't even think about!

When it's all tallied up and expenses are paid, here's where the rest of our funds were disbursed:

### **Kindergarten Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$250.60

Total amount disbursed: \$250.60



### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$369.40

Total amount disbursed: \$369.40

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Approved Disbursements**

Total of all teacher choices: \$649.20

Total amount disbursed: \$649.20



### **3rd Grade Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$486.20

Total amount disbursed: \$486.20

### **4th Grade Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$659.29

Total amount disbursed: \$659.29



### **5th Grade Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$691.28

Total amount disbursed: \$691.28



### **6th Grade Approved Disbursements:**

Total of all teacher choices: \$296.28

Total amount disbursed: \$296.28

So..... all you do helps the PTA do what we do, which helps the teachers do what they do, which helps our kids do what they do! *Get the connection?!?!*



## MST Upcoming Attractions!



### Start Collecting Now For MST's Fall Electronics Recycling Drive!

MST's Robotics Club will be holding another Electronics Recycling Drive in the fall, so over the summer, be sure to set aside items that you want to donate. Also mention the drive to your neighbors, family and friends - donations help the Robotics Club and the planet.

A small reminder note to save on your refrigerator will be sent home soon in an upcoming Thursday folder.

Items that will be collected include:

- cell phones
- laser and inkjet cartridges
- iPods
- video games and consoles
- scientific and graphing calculators
- DVD movies, working condition w/ case
- GPS devices
- PDAs
- digital cameras
- laptops
- small household appliances
- household batteries

Please note that there will be no charge for taking computers unless you want the hard drives destroyed (\$5 per unit).

Printers, monitors, and televisions can be recycled free with Goodwill at certain locations. Find out more information at <http://reconnectpartnership.com/>

If you have questions, please contact the PTA's environmental chairperson at [environmental@mstpta.com](mailto:environmental@mstpta.com).



Our **Fall Carnival** will be on **September 23rd** this year! Please consider donating some time and/or resources over the summer to help with planning it. It's a huge event for our school and always proves to be great fun for the whole family! To get involved, please contact Dawn Simmons at 214-405-8499. Be sure to check out the MST PTA website this summer for more information!

## Multicultural Night - Fall 2011

MST will host its annual Multicultural Night in November 2011. This event is great way to showcase the diversity in our school. It's a fun-filled evening where you and your family can experience other world cultures, as well as share your own. We hope this year the event will be even bigger and better than before.



We would love for you to participate and share your cultural heritage by showcasing the things that make your culture unique, such as cultural artifacts, clothing, jewelry, coins, maps, posters, books and flags. While you are on summer break be thinking of how you can share your culture with other MST families at Multicultural Night.

Plan to join us for this world exploration. Look for more information on the event as well on how to participate at the beginning of the new 2011-2012 school year.



## Letter From The Editor

As the school year winds down, I know many parents are saying, "OMG! No more free time for me! What am I going to do with these kids all summer?!?! Well believe me, I only wish I could be home with mine all summer long! Seven years ago, I was a stay at home mom for seven years and circumstances caused me to go back to work. You know, I still have never gotten used to being away from them all day or not being there when they come home from school. After seven years, there's still a tug at my heart when I see a mom with her kids walking into my office building and I can tell she's at home with them. So, look at those kiddos and be so happy if you get the whole summer to spend with them. And if you need a little "me" time, there are all kinds of camps going on or swap play dates with friends at each other's houses so you all get some "me" time. BUT take a deep breath and treasure the fact that you're with them because take it from me, you never get over the feeling of it when it's gone. Have a wonderful summer!