



MST PTA CONNECTION

Volume 15, Issue 2
December 15, 2011

Message From the President . . .

It's hard to believe that the school year is half over, but winter break is almost here. We have a lot of fun events coming up, including our winter music concert tonight with the band, orchestra, and choir performing. In January we have Reading Night, with many fun activities including a book swap. February brings us to our annual talent show and a chance to show off your unique skills. In March we will have open house, followed by art night in April. We will close the year with our 6th grade graduation in May. If you have never attended some of these events before, I urge you to join in the fun. Have a safe and happy winter break and Happy New Year.

I hope that all of you have as positive an experience as we have had here at MST.

Debbie Springsted
MST PTA President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elections for Nominating Committee will take place at Reading Night on January 26. We need 5 members and 2 alternates to help identify candidates for next year's board. If you would like to serve on the committee, the board or want more information about board positions, please contact Rebecca Patterson at 1stvp@mstpta.com.

Fundraising is Crucial

How important is the money that MST raises? Well in the past we have purchased projectors, classroom supplies, hand sanitizer, a new laminator for the school, provided school supplies for children who could not afford them and glasses for students in need and filled many, many other needs MST has. This year we have been able to give scholarships to MST families for Sky Ranch, provide supplies for class parties and host all our annual traditions at MST like multicultural night.

But we plan to do a lot more... please help us by supporting your MST PTA!

Thank you to all the families who did participate in the Enjoy the City fundraiser. MST made \$1141.50 from this fundraiser. We also did very well with the mixed bag fundraiser. MST will earn approximately \$1800 from that fundraiser.

Things coming your way... We will be hosting our annual holiday store from December 12th to the 18th. Kids will be able to take time during the day to shop for family and friends. There are many reasonably priced items, so make sure you remember to send your child prepared if this is something you would like to participate in.

Have an excess of used books lying around the house collecting dust? MST will be having a book drive in conjunction with Reading night. Please set some books aside to donate to MST and help the PTA earn money in the process.



Thanks to all the students who participated in the Reflections program at MST.

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved Award of Excellence in the PTA Reflections Program. Please wish them the best as they move on to the District level of judging.

Jawadul Carim
Sneha Bista
Deemah Pulak
Naha Arefin
Zainab Aziz
Summayah Carim
Nora Arefin
Awwab Saddiqui
Jacob Lord

Multicultural Night 2011

On November 17th MST hosted its annual Multicultural Night. The evening was a huge success due to the many participants. This year eight countries were showcased: Angola, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Germany, Mexico, Nepal, and Pakistan. Families set up booths which displayed cultural artifacts, maps, posters, books, clothing, jewelry, coins and flags. There was even a variety of ethnic foods to sample which were all delicious and fun to eat. For a special treat, guests were entertained with an awesome Pakistan Cultural Folk Performance, which was performed by our own MST students. A great big thank you goes out to the performers for their very entertaining show, as well as to Uzma Oureshi for coordinating it.

To add to the fun and learning of the evening, the students played a game of “name that country” trivia as they went from country to country learning about the different cultures. A game board was handed out with facts about the participating country and the student had to match the countries to the facts. After completing the game boards, the students had a chance to trade in them in for a multicultural bookmark. In addition, throughout the night, students and their families voted for their favorite display. Ethiopia was the big winner, followed by Pakistan and Bangladesh. Congratulations to all!

Multicultural Night has proven to be a great way to showcase the diversity in our school. Thank you to all the parents and students who hosted booths, and to all who attended and made this an enjoyable and educational night to remember.

Save The Date: MST Reading Night

January 26th, 2012

The 30th annual RISD Council of PTAs Used Book Fair is just around the corner and we need your books! The Council brings the local PTA units together to hold the sale and split the profits with us. We will earn money for MST and help fund the JJ Pearce Memorial Scholarship. Please send your gently used books to school beginning now until reading night on January 26th. We will have many of the books available to swap during reading night and all leftover books will go to the sale. We are unable to accept damaged books or computer books. Thank you for your support.

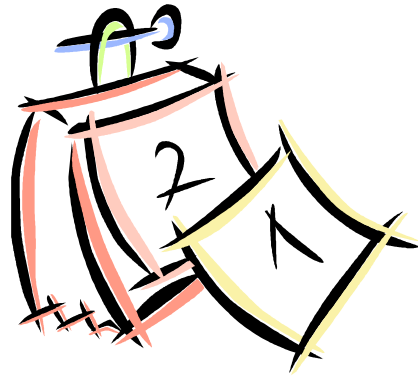
Special Thanks . . .

Thank you so much to our families who have already donated to the “**No Hassel Fundraiser**”, with particular thank you to the Uligeri, Johnson, Van Goor and Bajracharya families who bring our total to 5 Super Donation so far!!! Thanks to the generosity of our MST families the PTA has raised almost \$1800 so far. Great Job everyone!!!! Please submit your form and donation to the office in the lock box, if you have not yet donated and want to do so.

Family	Grade	Teacher	Donation Level
Monarraz	1st	Griffin	Basic
Uligeri	3rd	Hollingsworth	Super
Lamendola	3rd	Hillingsworth	General
Manzena	3rd	Brocke	Basic
Johnson	6th	Meniffee	super
Dibya bajracharya	6th	Dyson	Super
Wendosen	Kindergarten	Larkin	Basic
Law	Kindergarten	Bridgewater	General
Kirsten Randolf	5th	Naranjo	General
Sablan Family	6th, 2nd	Hollingsworth	General
Fell Family	Kindergarten, 2 nd	Bridgewater, Kent	Basic
Lee Family	4 th , 6 th	Starnes, Meniffee	General
Spencer Van Goor	Kindergarten	Bridgewaters	Super
Shannon	2 nd	Huggins	General

Fourth Annual MST Talent Show & Dinner

Our show will be held on February 23 this year. More information about auditions will be distributed soon, so start working on your routine.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

Upcoming PTA Meetings

December 15	Band, Orchestra & Choir Performances
January 26	Reading Night
February 23	Talent Show & Dinner (Location to be determined)
March 22	Open House
April 19	Art Night
May 30	6 th Grade Graduation (BHS)

Enjoy The City

Congratulations to the following students. They were the highest sellers at MST and will earn a lunch for themselves and their teachers!

Teacher	Grade	Student	Books Sold
Claborn	2	Brianna Warner	12
Mays	3	Evan Hebert	8
Mays	3	Joseph Brownlee	6
Hemmingsen	1	Degan Ward	6

RISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

2011-2012

PAC offers RISD parents and guardians an opportunity to present district-wide issues to the Superintendent, top administrators, and representatives of the Board of Trustees. PAC meetings are designed to address topics of concern that are of district-wide interest. Your 2011-2012 MST Elementary PAC Representative is Leanna Norton. Leanna will attend the meetings in order to present your district-wide questions and concerns. **Please contact her directly with your questions via US Mail, e-mail or telephone. Questions may also be submitted at the MST office.** Leanna will present the issue at the next PAC meeting and get back to you personally regarding the district's response.

The minutes of the PAC meetings will be posted at www.risd.org under "About RISD/FAQs".

Questions and concerns MUST be submitted two (2) weeks in advance of each meeting, so please submit your questions prior to: **Friday, January 27, 2012**

Your participation will be kept strictly confidential, although Leanna must have your name in order to respond to your question – your name will be left off the form submitted to the district PAC chairman.

Leanna Norton
PAC Representative 2011-2012
518 Westwood Dr.
Richardson, TX 75080
[214.546.1855](tel:214.546.1855)
LeannaNorton25@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor . . .

Are you as excited about the Winter Break as we are? I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to some relief from car pooling, extra-curricular evening activities, homework and alarm clocks! My family and I are highly anticipating our own Holiday Celebrations, but more than that I think we are all ready for a break. I am looking forward to some laid back days watching movies and playing games with my children.

Whether you are celebrating a seasonal holiday, traveling across country or just staying home and catching up on your reading list, it is my sincerest hope that you all have a safe and happy Winter Break and that you come back refreshed and ready for a bright new semester.

Have a very Happy New Year!

My Thanks,

Heather Barrow