



eNews from the Hills

Feb. 18th
Vol. 11, 2010-11

Where all students learn, grow and succeed.

Published bimonthly by NHE PTA

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- PTA website
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Calendar

March



- Tuesday, March 1st
- Wednesday, March 9th
- Friday, March 11th
- Monday, March 14th – 18th
- Thursday, March 24th
- Tuesday, March 29th

- 4th grade writing TAKS
- NHE Night at Cici's
- Student Holiday
- Spring Break
- PTA Meeting (6:30pm) – Open House
- Kindergarten Roundup



Texas School Libraries

Help Save Texas School Libraries

Texas school libraries need your help. As part of Texas PTA's effort to educate the whole child, we know how important it is to ensure that all our students have access to quality school library programs.

As you watch the state and local news, you know that many hard budgeting decisions are being made during this challenging time. Unfortunately, many school library programs - programs that have proven and longstanding importance to student education - are being cut. School librarians, who are key in teaching students research, information literacy, and reading, are being asked to cover multiple campuses (leaving school with only part-time school library programs) or are being cut altogether.

We need your action to help save Texas school library programs.

State Level

Please contact your legislators and let them know that school libraries are critical to your child's success.

To send an email to your state representative or state senator, click on [Librarians ARE Teachers](#) and scroll down the page for an email form with talking points you can use. (For more information on school libraries, see school libraries and librarians are important.)

- Students need access to quality school library programs and research materials, such as the [K-12 Database Program](#), which has been zeroed out in funding. (Click on K-12 Database Program link above to learn more.)

- Please let legislators know that school librarians ARE teachers. School librarians instruct students every day and work with teachers to help students meet curriculum requirements. Certified librarians hold a master's degree and must have a least two years of classroom teaching experience. Current definitions of instructional staff do not account for the work of our state's school librarians.

Local Level

At the local level, please talk with school board members and administrators about the importance of protecting school library programs and ensuring libraries are staffed with certified school librarians.

Send email and letters to district board members and administrators about the value parents place on strong school library programs.

Thank you for your commitment to a quality education for all children. Parents are the ultimate voice for student success.



Ahoy, Matey!

Prepare to **Set Sail with NHE** aboard the USS Falcon!

Cruise-themed
Dinner, Cocktails, Auction & Casino Night

Saturday, April 16, 6:30pm
Park Central Crowne Plaza Suites
Coit & LBJ

RSVP by returning this form and payment
to the NHE office

Questions? Linda West 972-866-9046



WE'LL BE THERE! We need _____ tickets @ \$30 each = \$_____

Names: _____

We can't attend but want to make a tax-deductible donation* \$_____

Donation to help cover teacher tickets \$_____

Total \$_____

cash check Visa/Mastercard # _____

Expiration _____ Zip Code _____

Signature _____

*All proceeds benefit the programs and projects of the Northwood Hills Elementary PTA.

Auction Donations

What do the following have in common...

- **Prestonwood Country Club Cotillion classes**
- **\$100 Aquazoom gift certificate**
- **Weekend at the Las Colinas Four Seasons**
- **2 dozen Sprinkles cupcakes**
- **Honorary RHS Eaglette**

They will all be available for bidding at this year's annual spring auction! And we need more! That's where you come in.

Do you own a business? Do you have any connections, tickets to a sporting event, vacation home? Ready to put together a group dinner or kids' party? Please consider donating your item to the auction.

Remember, money raised at the auction goes for assemblies, field trips, teacher appreciation dinners, teacher grants, Multi-Cultural Night, Pancake Supper, facility and grounds improvements, Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, Lone Star Challenge, Think Tank, library books, AR tests, and **lots of other cool stuff for YOUR kids and YOUR school!!**

To donate, fill out the Donor Form at <http://nhepta.org/auction.asp> and leave it in the NHE office to the attention of Linda West. (Form is also attached to this eNewsletter email).

This year's auction and casino night is **4/16/11**. The theme is a cruise theme, "**Set Sail with NHE Aboard the USS Falcon.**"

Amazon.com Fundraiser



Going, going, but not quite gone!

The NHE PTA is wrapping up our online fundraiser through Amazon.com, but you still have time to place any last minute orders as long as the link is still active. Remember NHE automatically earns between **4% and 10% on all purchases** made on Amazon.com **originating from the link on our NHE PTA website @ <http://www.nhepta.org>**. This is a convenient way to shop and help out the school at the same time without any additional cost to you!

You must start from the NHA PTA website anytime you want to place an Amazon.com order for us to receive credit for the purchase. Spread the word to your friends and family, since anyone can participate.

Thank you for all of your support!

Did you know?

Did you know?



This is a new section that will be a continuing part of the eNews publication. A significant or interesting story will be highlighted on a regular basis in this section relating to our fellow district schools. Please read on and enjoy!

At Richardson High School...

- ✓ Recently received their NCEA/ACT (formerly Just for Kids Higher Performing Schools) recognition/rating.
- ✓ We showed growth in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies (all possible areas).
- ✓ We are commended in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies (again possible areas).
- ✓ We hit the top in all areas with growth and all areas commended.

Richardson High School was the ONLY high school in RISD to have growth and commended in all areas.

There is press info and full reports about all schools on the web site: <http://www.nc4ea.org/HPschoolstx>.

- Robin Stevens



Save the date for Kindergarten Roundup at Northwood Hills Elementary

Parents of soon-to-be kindergartners attending Northwood Hills Elementary can learn about their future schools and get their children registered for the fall at the upcoming kindergarten roundup on Tuesday, March 29 at 6:00p.m. in the school library.

The roundup is a good way to find out everything from how to join the PTA to what teachers children might have and tour the classroom.

Principal Kazdoy and other staff members will give parents an overview of the school and review school policies. Teachers will describe a typical school day, and Parent-Teacher Association leaders will recruit members.



Kindergarten registration is available on-the-spot at roundup, although parents can register later. Children must be 5 on or before Sept. 1 to register. Parents must provide proof of residency, immunization records and the child's birth certificate. Children also must have had a medical exam within a year of the first day of school.

- Robin Stevens

Link to the story on *Neighbors go.com*: <http://neighborsgo.com/stories/65185>



Northwood Hills Elementary Think Tank Celebrates 12 Years of Science and Math Exploration

Northwood Hills Elementary Think Tank, originally called the Nest, is celebrating its twelfth year of science and math exploration. The Think Tank was started in 1999 by a group of NHE parents and teachers and spearheaded by Maria Conroy, a former NHE kindergarten teacher. Almost 100% of the Think Tank supplies and equipment are provided by the NHE PTA and parents.

The Think Tank is a hands-on, self directed, active learning laboratory. It is taught by Cheryl Derrington and a parent volunteer from every class in each grade. Parents of former NHE students, who are now in high school and college, even come back to

volunteer in this fun learning environment. The students participate in small groups and work on math activities and science experiments. The goal for each child is to develop a love of math and science and discover the fun and excitement in each.

Grades 4th-6th attend the Think Tank during the first semester of school and K-3rd attends the second semester, with each class staying for an hour a week. Northwood Hills Elementary is the only elementary school in the RISD that offers this program.

Just last week, kindergarten and first grade students worked with magnets and experimented with wind and what causes it. They will use the Beaufort scale to measure wind speed and make their own wind speed indicators. Second and third graders are experimenting with capacity, the sun's reflection off the moon and learning how to use microscopes. Math is centered on fractions and visual thinking.

The students' favorite tradition is the Pentomino Challenge where everyone races against the clock and each other completing pentomino puzzles. A pentomino is composed of five **congruent** squares, connected along their edges and there are 12 different **free** pentominoes, often named after the letters of the **Latin alphabet** that they vaguely resemble. Kindergarten through sixth grade participate in the challenge all eager to be a smart pentomino puzzle winner.

Each year for the school auction, Ms. Derrington and Tracey Thomson donate a highly sought after "Night in the Nest" where kids are treated to a themed night of science and pizza. Past year's themes include Grossology, CSI Investigations and Science Olympics.

- Robin Stevens

Link to the story on *Neighbors go.com*: <http://neighborsgo.com/stories/66219>



From left to right: Ashleigh Oteng-Mensah, Kate Stevens, Teacher-Ms. Cheryl Derrington, Jaden Vo

Richardson High School 5K

Benefiting the RHS Eagle Fund



Saturday, March 5, 2011
RHS Eagle Stadium
Registration begins at 7:30 AM
Race starts at 9 AM
Awards at 10 AM

Students run for \$15!

Where to Register:

Early-bird registrations until February 26

Register online: www.rhs5k.com, closes February 26

Register in person: Run On! Richardson, 1469 W. Campbell Road, Richardson

Packet pick up dates: March 1 - 3, at Run On! Richardson

Sign up sheet attached to eNews email.

For more information please see www.rhs5k.com .

Upcoming NHE Night at Cici's – Support Dinner



Night Out at Cici's!

NHE Support Dinner

Join us! Northwood Hills gets 10%!



Join us for lunch or dinner at Cici's Pizza (Coit & Spring Valley) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Sign your receipt and place it in the NHE box and Cici's gives back 10% to support our PTA projects.

Next Event: March 9th (Note day change due to Spring Break)

Historian Scrapbook!

We are collecting pictures to assemble an Historian Scrapbook for Northwood Hills Elementary! Pictures from the Walk to School Day, Fairy Tale Dress-Up Day, any of the events from Red Ribbon Week, and Bingo Night or any other school events.

Please submit your pictures to Lisa Shatz, at lisa.shatz@utdallas.edu or if you only have prints please contact Lisa and pick-up from school will be arranged.
Thank you for your support!



Terracycle: Waste to Products and support your school



Have you seen teenagers carrying those cute purses made out of CapriSun packs? Well, guess what... There is a company that recycles candy wrappers, Ziploc bags, Aveeno products, and more, into cool, eco-friendly products (like a bicycle chain picture frame!) AND they pay schools and nonprofits for used packaging. That's where we come in!

If this program interests you, go to <http://www.terracycle.net/>, sign up to collect items, indicate that you are benefiting NHE, they send you a prepaid shipping label, you send in your items, and they pay NHE \$.02 per item!

Their minimum shipping numbers are pretty high (500 CapriSun pouches per shipment), so it would be great if someone was willing to head up a collection site for the whole school. Let me know!

Linda West

nickandsimonsmom@sbcglobal.net

How can you support your school!?

Clip Box Tops and Labels for Education all year long!

Send into your teacher anytime!

Contest runs all year – ice cream parties for top earning classes!

Box Tops for Education



* Expiration date matters!

* **Make sure the date is visible and not in the past.**

* Don't clip too small! **Cut each box top at least 1" wide.**

* *Cheerios, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Kleenex, Juicy Juice and more!*

Labels for Education







* **Full barcode must be visible** (see picture).

* But we don't need the entire label!

* Campbell's, Swanson, Prego, V8, Spaghettios and Pepperidge Farm.

Earn funding for NHE on your everyday purchases!

	<p>Tie your Target REDcard to NHE at Target.com.</p>
	<p>Link your Tom Thumb Reward card to charity #3797.</p>
	<p>Scan barcode with your Kroger Plus card at the start of each school year.</p> <p>Print the barcode here!</p>
	<p>Shop with NHE ID #70096135 at Office Depot.</p>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

Join NHE PTA

Join NHE PTA Today!

Family Membership \$16
Single Membership \$9

Local dues go to NHE, and benefit YOUR children, teachers, and YOU:
 Just to name a couple, did you know TX PTA members receive:

14% off T-mobile monthly fees
5% off Southwest Airlines Travel

Join TODAY and find out more!

Thank you!

Questions? Elba Morgan-Knox, epmk@sbcglobal.net

NEW Online Volunteer System!



RISD launched a new Volunteer Online Application for the 2010-11 school year. Prospective volunteers can access the Volunteer Application by navigating to the RISD website at <http://www.risd.org/www.risd.org>. Click on **Community-Volunteer Opportunities**. At this point, you can elect to proceed in English or Spanish, and any RISD school can be selected as a preference. The information submitted will be used not only for the background check, but also allow schools to contact approved volunteers for their specific school needs.

This application will only be active for the current school year, through 6/30/11, at which time it will be purged and volunteers will be asked to submit new information for the following school year. NHE is very appreciative of ALL of our volunteers, and appreciate your cooperation and understanding during RISD's transition to this new system!

NEW! At NHE this year! PTA en Espanol!

NHE will now have general meetings in Spanish the Friday morning after the MONTHLY General meetings. The same information covered in the General meetings will now be covered in PTA en Espanol meetings, as well as a Q&A period for Spanish-speaking parents/caregivers. Please forward this article to anyone you know that could benefit from this information.

The next meeting will be scheduled in the NHE Library.

Nuevo Este Año en NHE! PTA en Espanol!

Están invitados a asistir las reuniones en Espanol. Haga Preguntas, y Aprenda informacion acerca de la escuela. Las reuniones solamente serán mensuales.

Los Viernes por la mañana en la biblioteca.

Regístrese en la oficina y la junta será en la biblioteca de 8:15-9:00 am.

If you like this E-News, you should check out our website...

www.nhepta.org !

Stay informed and updated with NHE information. You can view calendar of events and meetings, as well as general school information. Bookmark it today!

Quick Links

Northwood Hills Elementary School - www.risd.org/schools/nwhe/index.htm

Richardson Independent School District (RSID) - <http://www.risd.org/>

Westwood Junior High - www.risd.org/schools/wwjh/index.htm

Richardson High School - www.risd.org/schools/rhs/index.htm

