

GALATAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

HELPING HOUNDS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016



The purpose of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to (a) promote the welfare of children at, and promote the mission of, Galatas Elementary, as expressed by its Administration, under the direction of the Principal; (b) foster cooperation between parents, teachers, and the Administration for the purpose of educating the children at Galatas; (c.) unite school and community efforts in securing the best education for Galatas students; and (d) engage in fundraising activities for the educational and recreational benefit of the children and faculty at Galatas, as determined by the PTO and in accordance with the PTO by-laws

The PTO Newsletter, as well as other information related to the PTO is available online at <http://galatas.conroeisd.net/PTO>

A Letter from the PTO President

Dear Parents,

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start! I am amazed every year at how smoothly the transition takes place from long lazy summer days to the busy schedule of the school day. We are thankful to have a dedicated staff at Galatas Elementary that helps to make this transition a smooth one for our children. As the president of the PTO I am very appreciative of all the hard working volunteers that help to support our staff so they can get our children ready for another wonderful school year.

The PTO was very busy the first few weeks of school as Galatas prepared to welcome back students. The PTO worked hard to deliver school supplies to classrooms before the first day, provided our fabulous staff with a back to school breakfast and lunch, and welcomed new parents with a very special Kindergarten breakfast on the first day.

Thank you to all the families and staff who have joined our PTO. Without this support we could not continue to provide top-notch educational enrichment activities for our students. On average, our PTO is able to raise and spend over \$275 per student to fund these programs. To date, 63% of our student body and faculty have joined the PTO with almost \$15,000 raised through our Friends of Galatas Program. It is never too late to join the PTO and/or make a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Galatas. The money raised will go

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is already October and we are planning for our winter activities. During the holiday breaks, we would like to see our students continue to read every day for at least twenty minutes. When reading with your child, ask him questions about the characters, setting, plot, and encourage him to make inferences and predictions about what will happen next in the story. Journal writing can also be a fun way to record their adventures and maintain their writing skills over the breaks.

This year, we will continue to focus on developing a love of learning and improving student attendance. Please help us with these goals by encouraging your child to be at school, on time, every day. We also ask that you avoid scheduling family vacations while school is in session. Students learn and experience academic success when they are present for direct instruction and hands-on learning activities.

Our dedicated faculty and staff uphold high standards of academic excellence for every student that steps through our doors. We are proud of our students and the distinctions they earned this past year in the areas of Math, Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness. Assisting us in maintaining our high academic standards and student

A Letter from the PTO President

Continued from page 1

directly back to support the students and faculty at Galatas Elementary. I encourage all parents to attend our monthly PTO meetings to see how the money you help to raise is spent. I think you will truly be amazed at how much we are able to provide for our students and staff so they can have one of the best learning environments in The Woodlands!

As we move further into fall we look forward to many exciting PTO sponsored events. October will mark a busy month for PTO as we help sponsor Walk To School Day and Red Ribbon Week. Both of these programs promote making good choices while living a healthy lifestyle. Our programs team is busy planning a fun filled reading week to encourage all students to read every night as well as Science Day at the end of October where students will learn all about chemistry while whipping up some spooky potions!

As we enter November you will begin to hear more about our first school fundraiser! Boosterthon is a school wide fun run that the entire student body participates in. It promotes healthy living, teaches important character traits all while promoting school spirit! This year our highly anticipated Fall Fun Run will be organized and run almost entirely by our own PTO volunteers so that we can maximize our highest return of profit. Planning meetings have also begun for our spring fundraiser, A Suesstastic Springetti. Springetti will be all about Dr. Suesstastic this year and it is shaping up to be a very memorable evening of fun for all our Galatas families! Both of our fundraisers are successful each year thanks to all of the volunteers who dedicate their time and talents!

As you read through this newsletter I hope you are as excited about the school year as I am! Our volunteers work hard every day to make Galatas one of the best educational environments for our children. I am very proud to serve as PTO President at our school and look forward to another great year.

Sincerely,
Heather Weis,
PTO President

A Letter from the Principal

success is our fabulous PTO. It is through their generosity that we are able to provide many educational opportunities for our students: in-house field trips, fine arts presentations, guest speakers and tutors. Collectively, our Great Greyhound Tutors meet with over one hundred students each day. They provide targeted academic support through individual and small group instruction for both reading and math. These groups are fluid and allow for students to enter and exit tutoring as needed. The PTO is also instrumental in helping us purchase computers, computer software, and instructional materials for every classroom.

We look forward to continuing the partnerships with our Galatas families and community businesses to provide an outstanding educational experience for all of our students. I encourage you to be involved in your child's education. Together, we are educating our future leaders!

Best regards,

Denae Wilker





HOSPITALITY UPDATE



Hospitality provided Panera bagels and Chick-fil-A, for a back to school breakfast prior to Galatas teachers attending a district wide staff development day on August 17th. Hospitality was pleased to arrange treats for Kindergarten's Teddy Bear Tea for incoming students. We also hosted a tailgate themed September luncheon for our very deserving teachers and staff.

A yellow circular logo with the text "Y is for Yearbook!". The letter "Y" is large and red, "is for" is in a smaller black font, and "Yearbook!" is in a large, blue, bubbly font.

Y is for **Yearbook!**

It's time to order your yearbook at balfour.com! These hardcover books full of the year's best memories will arrive at Galatas at the end of the year, in time for yearbook signing day at school, but need to be purchased in advance online. The early-bird price of \$30 is still available. Families of 4th graders can congratulate their Top Dog with a special ad in the yearbook for just \$20 this fall. Top Dog ads can be purchased and created at balfour.com. If you have questions or any pictures to submit, please email Katy Clarke at galatasyearbook@gmail.com with any questions.



Reading Week

Ahoy there mateys! Reading week will be lots of fun this year! Our theme this year is pirates. The kids will become "bookaneers" and search for the true treasure: books! Our scurvy greyhound crew will be challenged to read 50,000 minutes during the week - a swashbuckling goal that we know they can meet! Be on the lookout for daily reading prizes, estimation jar prizes, and our special themed days. Families are invited to a special Bedtime Story night presentation by Main Street Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 11th at 6 and 7 pm.

They will perform a lively rendition of the popular children's book: "Duck for President" in honor of the upcoming elections. Hope to see you there!

Reading week events are funded by PTO fundraising efforts. THANK YOU for your generous support of PTO that makes programs like Reading Week possible!



Potions Day

Our Science Celebration Day this fall will be on October 31st. Our greyhounds will get to investigate different kinds of mysterious potions and learn about how chemistry is an important part of our lives.

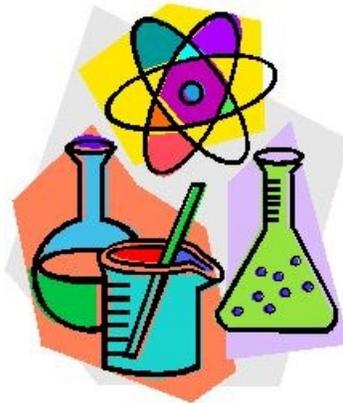
They will also be treated to grade level programs featuring the Houston Museum of Natural Sciences' "Cool Chemistry" show. We are excited to bring this interactive, educational program to Galatas!



Calling All Scientists!

Galatas will be holding its 7th Annual Science Fair on
January 25th and 26th!

All grades are welcome to participate. Watch for more information to come home later in the year in your children's backpacks, and start thinking about science projects!



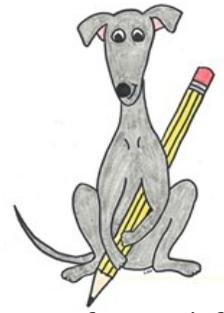
Science Camp Recap

Galatas rocked science camp last year! Greyhounds spent the week learning all about the geology, with special hands-on activities that focused on rocks & minerals, volcanos & earthquakes, and dinosaurs! A special highlight was our walk through "Journey to the Center of the Earth" - a total immersion experience! Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked so hard and gave so much of their time to make this amazing camp a reality.

Thank you for supporting PTO and PTO events!



Requesting Student Input for the Greyhound Gab



The Greyhound Gab is our school's literary newsletter. Each month, students from different classes can submit a creative writing piece to be published in the newsletter. Topics can include:

Book review

Teacher/staff interview

Original poetry

School event report (ex. first day of school, Storybook Parade, etc.)

While the entries should be students' work, there may be need for parents' edits. The pieces do not need to be long; the purpose of the newsletter is for our Greyhounds to be creative and see their work published!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Please submit your child's piece according to the schedule below to Lesley Work at galatasgab@gmail.com OR submit a hard copy in the Greyhound Gab box located below the teacher's mailboxes behind the front office.

All students are invited to participate unless parents have submitted an Educational Record Restriction Form. All work will be labeled with student's first name, last name initial, and section number.

Month	Sections to participate	Submission Deadline	Gab Publication
October	22,32,33,41,42,59	10/07/16	10/14/16
November	23,34,43,44,59	11/11/16	11/18/16
December	11,24,35,45,59	12/09/16	12/16/16
January	K1,13,36,46,59	01/13/17	01/20/17
February	K2,14,25,47,59,make-ups	02/10/17	02/17/17
March	K4,16,26,37,59	03/24/17	03/31/17
April	K5,17,27,48,59	04/21/17	04/28/17
May	K6,18,28,38,59,make-ups	05/19/17	05/26/17



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT BUSINESS IS FUN!!!

Junior Achievement's unique system provides the training, materials, and support necessary to bolster the chances for student success. The impact is measurable, too. Students who participate in Junior Achievement programs demonstrate a significant understanding of economics and business concepts.

JA's elementary school program is the foundation of its K-12 curricula. Themes progress each year and offer fun hands-on activities and interactive discussion to help students understand what a community is, how we are part of it and the different roles we each have in the community. It also explores basic finance, business and economic concepts.

Teaching Junior Achievement is EASY! Each class needs just 1-2 volunteers and each session has step-by-step lessons and materials making teaching it a breeze. The kids have fun and you can enjoy some extra time in your child's class. There is very little time required for these lessons. A short training session will be offered prior to your classroom experience.

Sign up to teach JA through your room parent. Hurry! Spots fill up fast.

Dates/Times subject to change

Kindergarten: April 24-28, 2017 Time TBA

1st Grade: May 15-19, 2017 2:00 – 2:45pm

2nd Grade: April 17 – 21, 2017 Time TBA

3rd Grade: January 9 – 13, 2017 Time TBA

4th Grade: Thursdays (5) beginning January 12, 2017 from 1:50-2:20pm.

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!

All volunteers must be on the pre-approved volunteer list via the CISD/school website

If you would like more information or have questions, please email romneyhaas@gmail.com or arochin@tgver.com



With your help, **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** is a great resource for our school! Last year we received over \$5000 from this wonderful program, so please clip and **send in Box Tops to your class each month**. Collection deadlines are as follows (but you can turn yours in any time during the month): **Sept. 30th - Oct. 28th - Nov. 18th – Dec. 6th – Jan. 27th – Feb. 24th – Mar. 31st – April 28th – May 26th**

As is the tradition, the class that collects the most Box Tops each month will be awarded the **Greyhound Traveling Trophy** and will be featured in the Gazette. The teacher of the winning section will receive a Starbucks drink of her choice delivered. As a special incentive, **the teacher with the highest total for the entire year will receive a \$50 gift card!**

Box Tops are found on participating products – please go to www.boxtops4education.com for a complete list, coupons and special offers. We also collect Campbell's Labels for Education, Tyson A+, and Community Coffee labels.

Labels do expire, so please check the date and get them in quickly to your classroom.

We appreciate your continued participation! Any questions can be directed to Missie Hill and Romney Haas at galatasboxtops@gmail.com.



Missing your umbrella? Jacket? Hair ribbon? Water bottle?

Try looking in the Grayhound Lost and Found. The rolling rack is typically in the gym/cafeteria either on the stage or against a wall. Feel free to check for your lost items during a lunch visit or other meeting. We try to return all labeled items!

Last day to claim for Fall will be November 18, 2016. All remaining items will be donated to Interfaith Hand Me Up Shop.

For questions contact: email galataslostandfound@gmail.com or Sheryl Brandt.



TREASURER'S CORNER

My name is Jennifer Reitzer, this is my second year as treasurer, and I continue to be impressed with everyone's generosity and hard work to raise money for our PTO. Our PTO provides so many wonderful things to enhance our children's education. To begin, the money raised through Springetti (our spring fundraiser) was used to update the technology in the school, and we were able to grant the entire teacher wish list. This included instructional materials for all grade levels and the music program, a Wow cart (ipad cart), printers, and \$12,000 worth of Mimios (projectors). We were also able to use the money left over at the end of the year to pay over \$10,000 toward testing and tutoring for our students, and we renewed the computer licenses for Mathletics, Mentoring Minds and Raz Kids.

We always start our year with a Membership campaign, and I am pleased to say that we met our monetary goal by raising \$25,000. We also received money from 3 corporate sponsors this month. Chick-fil-A provided \$1,000 toward our PE program, Hunter Orthodontics provided \$1,500 toward Raz Kids and Dr. Wagner provided \$1,000 toward our art program. Another fabulous way that our PTO earns money is through different match programs. Amazon Smile paid us \$50 this month... please don't forget to register for this program as it is an easy way for our PTO to raise money. We also made \$750 through our Spirit Days at Nails of America, \$62 from Nestle Toll House, and \$750 from Kroger.

In the next newsletter I will have a detailed report of how our membership money, corporate sponsors and fall fundraiser money was used to better your child's education. Thanks again for your donation of time and money to benefit our PTO!! It is truly appreciated. Everyone is welcome to come to our monthly PTO meetings where I provide a detailed list of how the PTO money is being spent.





A person's a person, no matter how small...



Our annual Galatas FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT is right around the corner!

Friday, November 11th
6:30 pm

Every WHO **tall** and **small** are invited to join us for the showing of a classic movie by a **Seusstastic** author!

Grab a blanket/pillow and the entire family to join us under the Pavilion to watch this classic film with *everyone's favorite elephant!*

Doors open at 6:30 pm and the showing begins promptly at 7 pm.

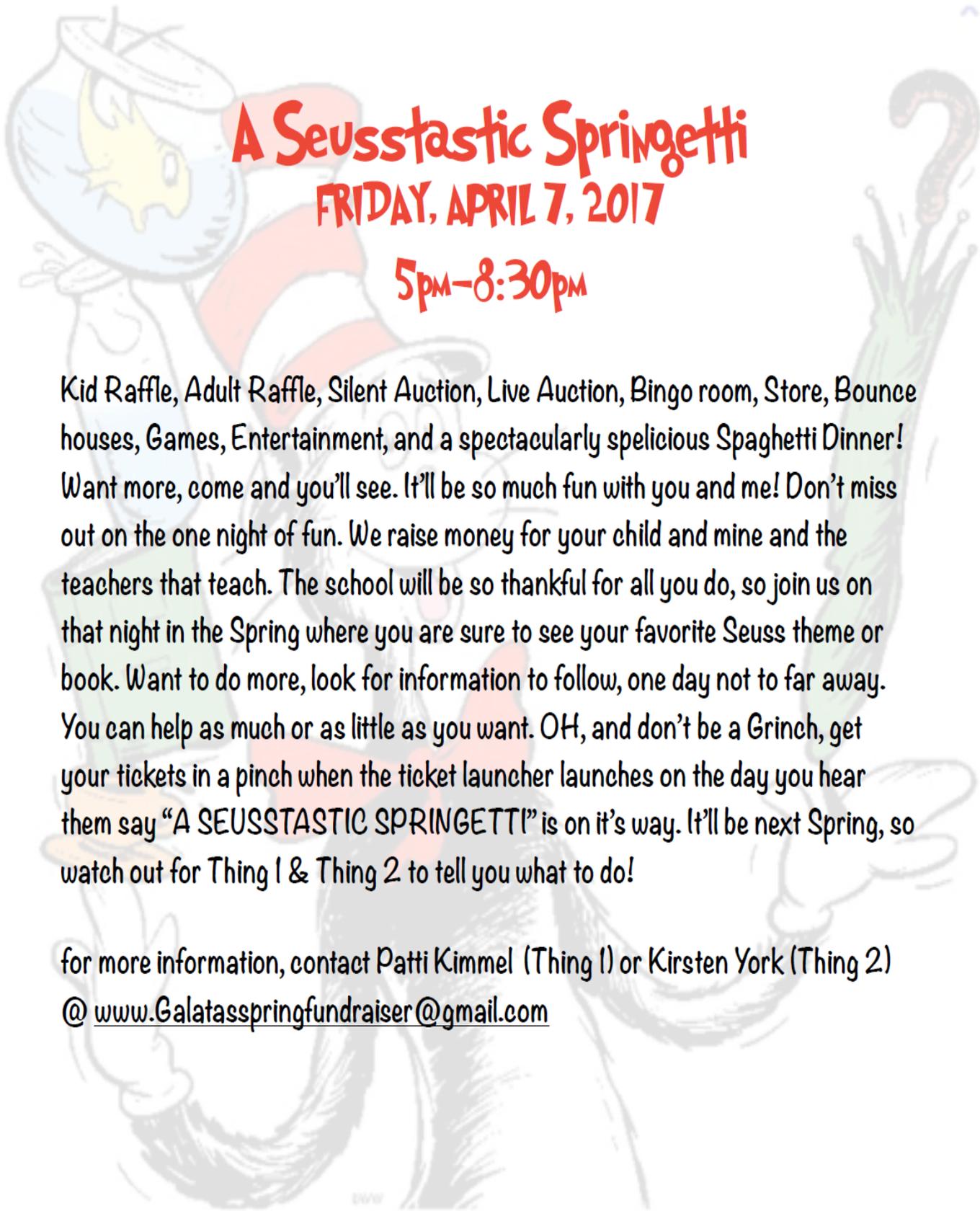
The PTO will be serving **Seusstastic** refreshments including free popcorn, baked goods, and bottled water.

Or you are free to bring your own beverages.

With **brains** in your **head** and **smiles** on **faces**, we will also have a photo op to commemorate this FUN family night! See you there!

Feel free to email galatasspecialevents@gmail.com if you have any questions!

Galatas Movie Night



A Seusstastic Springetti

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2017

5pm-8:30pm

Kid Raffle, Adult Raffle, Silent Auction, Live Auction, Bingo room, Store, Bounce houses, Games, Entertainment, and a spectacularly spelicious Spaghetti Dinner! Want more, come and you'll see. It'll be so much fun with you and me! Don't miss out on the one night of fun. We raise money for your child and mine and the teachers that teach. The school will be so thankful for all you do, so join us on that night in the Spring where you are sure to see your favorite Seuss theme or book. Want to do more, look for information to follow, one day not to far away. You can help as much or as little as you want. Oh, and don't be a Grinch, get your tickets in a pinch when the ticket launcher launches on the day you hear them say "A SEUSSTASTIC SPRINGETTI" is on it's way. It'll be next Spring, so watch out for Thing 1 & Thing 2 to tell you what to do!

for more information, contact Patti Kimmel (Thing 1) or Kirsten York (Thing 2)
@ www.Galatasspringfundraiser@gmail.com





Galatas Elementary will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week October 24th – 28th. Our goal for this event is to help kids learn to make good decisions through daily messages, fun presentations, and cool give-aways.

Monday, October 24: “Voting for My Future to be Drug Free” (Wear red, white and blue)

Tuesday, October 25: “Your Choices are the Key to Your Dreams” (Pajama Day)

Wednesday, October 26: “Too Bright for Drugs” (Wear shades and neon colors)

Thursday, October 27: “Socks to Your Knees. Say No to Drugs Please” (Wear crazy socks)

Friday, October 28: “United We Stand against Bullying and Drugs” (Wear your school spirit wear)

Volunteers are needed to help decorate Friday, October 21st. If you can help, please email Alice Hynes at alice-hynes@mac.com.