

GALATAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO

HELPING HOUNDS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 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,

It is hard to believe we have celebrated the 100th day of school and are halfway through the school year. Time sure does fly when you're working hard, learning and having fun! I think our students and parents both work hard to make Galatas Elementary one of the best schools in The Woodlands and I am excited that our PTO has lots of "fun" and exciting news to share in this PTO newsletter.

After ringing in 2016 and returning from the holiday break, it was quiet as we got back into our routines. It was not long, however, before the PTO began working hard to provide our students with programs and educational enrichment activities. We ended January with our 7th annual Science Fair with over 120 students participating. Our programs committee has been very busy planning in-house field trips for each grade level including several presentations from The Houston Museum of Natural History. We welcomed over twenty new families to Galatas Elementary and hosted a Newcomer's Coffee at the beginning of February.

Our students will celebrate Go Texan Day at the end of February and the PTO will sponsor a school-wide Texas themed presentation for all our cowboys and cowgirls. Planning has already started on our science week that will occur in May. This is a very special week for both students and staff as we bring a science theme to life with interactive labs and guest speakers.

A Letter from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of our third grading period. Spring break and State Assessments will be upon us before we know it. Our fourth grade students will participate in the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) beginning in March with the writing test. Later in May, both third and fourth grade students will take STAAR reading and math tests. Our faculty and staff have been working with our students since the beginning of the year to prepare them for these important tests. We feel confident that our students are well prepared and ready to demonstrate their knowledge of the curriculum on these rigorous tests.

As we launch into the last quarter of the school year, please encourage your child to work hard and remain focused. It is just as important now as it was in the beginning of the year to be in attendance and on time for school each day. This is a good habit that will be appreciated by your child's future professors and employers. Every day of instruction is extremely important and we value the time that we spend with your child.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff, I would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers that have supported our school

A Letter from the PTO President

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All of these programs are only possible with funding provided by our generous parents and corporate sponsors. I would like to thank all of our families for their support and participation in our Fall Fundraiser. We were able to raise over \$40,000 for new technology needs, PE equipment, and programs. Our students learned the importance of health and fitness with all their fundraising efforts which ended in a very fun, muddy run! Our Fall Fun Run has become an annual tradition for both our families and staff and I am proud of all the hard work our PTO volunteers provided to make this a fun event for our students.

Over the next few weeks you will learn more about our annual spring fundraiser, Springetti. This year, our theme is All-Star Springetti and it is shaping up to be a very exciting night with lots of family friendly entertainment, a delicious pasta dinner, adult and kid raffles, and both silent and live auctions. This is our largest fundraiser and it takes many volunteers to make it a success. Please consider volunteering for this event and don't forget to buy your tickets early as it sells out every year.

I hope you will take the time to read through this PTO newsletter to learn about the many great things our PTO has done so far this year. I am amazed everyday to see the amount of time and talent our PTO volunteers provide to make Galatas the best learning environment possible for our students. I am thankful to be surrounded by these great parents and even more grateful to be part of this special place, Galatas Elementary!

Sincerely,

Heather Weis
PTO President

A Letter from the Principal

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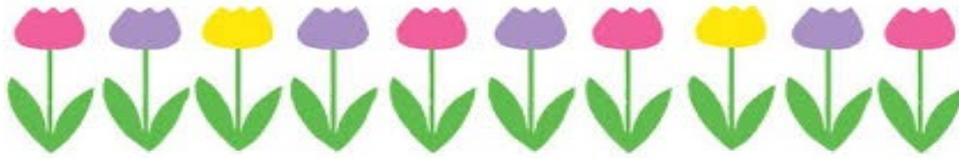
this year! It is because of you that we are able to provide our students with so many wonderful educational experiences inside our classrooms. We hope that you will join us on March 3, for our annual Parent Appreciation Luncheon during your child's scheduled lunch period. More information on this special event can be found in the Galatas Gazette.

Enjoy your spring break!

Denae Wilker

Principal





Treasurer's Corner

I can't believe that we are already in the middle of February! It has been an eventful few months with the PTO. Fundrunner's was a great success, and we made a profit of \$41,017.12. This profit allowed us to purchase an iPad cart and to approve multiple "wish list" items from teachers that we often aren't able to approve until the end of the year. Here is a list of how the PTO money has been utilized over the past few months:

November 2015-February 2016:

Teacher Appreciation Luncheons: provided lunch to the teachers each month

Beautification: upkeep of the school grounds including flowers, fall décor and new front door mats

Educational Enrichment:

Author visit from Matt Tavares

Activities for Go Texan Day

Houston Museum of Natural Science in house field trips

Science fair

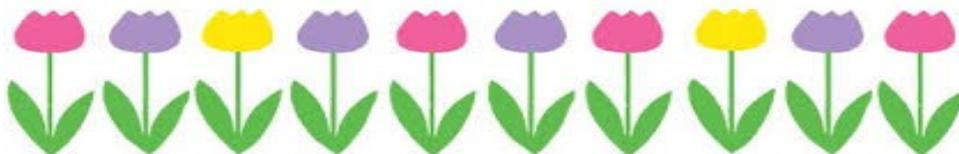
iPad cart with enough iPads for an entire class

Teacher wish list items: volleyball system for outside, educational enrichment materials and replacement of multiple projectors and bulbs.

We are looking forward to a successful Springetti to be able to continue to enrich our children's educations. Feel free to attend the PTO meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. I provide a detailed list of how your money is being used each month. It's also a great way to get involved! None of the above programs are possible without the hard work of all of our volunteers!

Jen Reitzer,

PTO Treasurer



Springetti

ALL★STARS

April 15, 2016! Springetti, you've heard about it all year long and now the time has come for this amazing event. Mom, Dad, be sure you get tickets for everyone in the family because you are not going to want to miss this one. A DJ, rock wall, bouncy house, and carnival games will ignite the hard-tops for the kids to enjoy, while the parents engage in some fabulous "shopping". Russo's will cater with an awesome spaghetti dinner and afterwards we can all indulge in some incredible desserts. Be sure not to miss out on the all-new "**Kendra Scott Balloon Pop**". The money raised this year will go towards funding an upgrade in technology equipment and programs. We've all heard the whispers in the halls and read the email blasts from room parents asking for donations and sponsorships and in order to make this Springetti fabulous, we could not do it without the help from our wonderful parents and the fabulous community. Thank you in advance for all your help.

Don't miss out; get your tickets as soon as they go on sale because they will SELL OUT!

See you at Springetti

Brandy Damico and Alicia Hudgens



2015 Fall Fun Run update

With the generous support from our Galatas families and friends, we were able to raise \$41,017.12 this past fall! With a portion of the proceeds, we have already been able to purchase an iPad cart and iPad chargers, as well as an outdoor volleyball net system. We have also contributed funds to Coach Bale's P.E. running program.

I also wanted to acknowledge our top student pledge collectors for the Fun Run: Smith J. and Virika G. both from Mrs Hill's first grade class!

Thank you to all of the wonderful kiddos who ran as well as all of the families that supported the program. And thank you to all the parent volunteers!!!

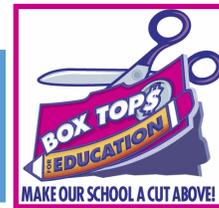


Reenie Depoy

Fall Fundraiser



BOX TOPS



Keep sending in your Box Tops! We've collected more than 25,000 so far this year. Our last three school-wide collections for the year will be March 24th, April 29th, and May 20th. Please also turn in any Campbell's Labels for Education you've saved. We are working toward earning a Visa gift card for Coach Bale to buy additional P.E. supplies with our Labels for Education points. That program will be "winding down" next year, so we'd like to spend our current points balance this spring for the Visa card, and every label helps! We appreciate your continued participation.

Happy Go TEXAN Day!!



Galatas Greyhounds celebrated "Go Texan Day" with special PTO-sponsored performances by Twice Upon a Time Storytellers. Gene and Peggy Helmick-Richardson entertained the kids with traditional Texan folklore and tales of Texas Critters. The kids loved learning about Texas history and culture with these talented storytellers.



HOSPITALITY UPDATE

The Hospitality Committee has been busy all fall expressing gratitude to all our fabulous teachers and staff! In November, our 2nd grade classes hosted a baked potato and salad bar. Pictured below is our annual Winter Wonderland Treat Day, which is hosted in December. All of our staff (even our bus drivers and crossing guards!) get to choose from hundreds of special goodies baked by our parents. In January, the 3rd grade hosted a wonderful soup and salad lunch, not to mention our popcorn snack day and Valentine treat day! We love our teachers!





Galatas School Spirit Days

We've got spirit, yes we do! We've got spirit, how about you?

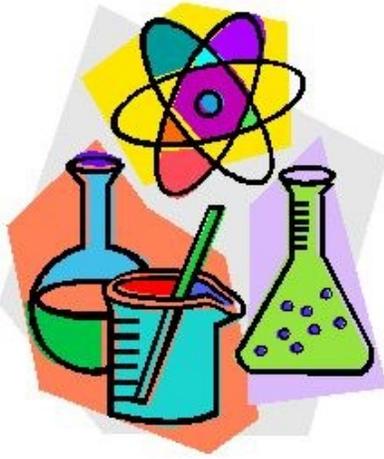
Throughout the first half of the school year, the Galatas community has shown a tremendous amount of spirit and support for our school! We have had several successful Spirit Days so far...

- ✓ September: Crust Pizza Alden Bridge and Panther Creek, we raised \$472.98
- ✓ October: Chick-fil-A Alden Bridge, we raised \$662.65
- ✓ November-December: Market Street Spirit Day, we raised \$250
- ✓ January: SK8 town, we raised \$618

That is over \$2000 from our first four events this year! Absolutely awesome!!!

We also continue to partner with the Nestle Tollhouse Café on the Waterway to supply birthday cookie cakes pre-cut and delivered right to the school. This partnership has resulted in \$200 back to our school already this year! So, if your child's birthday is coming up, you do not want to miss out on this. Such a huge hit with the kiddos!

On March 31st, we will be having a Springetti kick-off party and Spirit night at Kendra Scott at Market Street. Stay tuned for details about this and more events in the coming months! Go Greyhounds!!!



7th Annual Galatas Science Fair

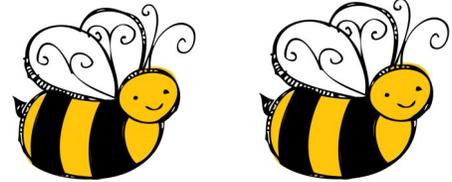
Thank you to everyone who participated in the science fair! Approximately 120 students performed and displayed experiments this year. There were so many creative and interesting projects. We are very proud of all of our young scientists!

Lost & Found

Child shrieks, "Where's myyyy.....water bottle... or sweater...or headband..."

Have you experienced the above? It might be a good time to visit our Greyhound Lost and Found Rack. You will find sweaters, jackets, headbands, water bottles and more! Located on the stage in the gym!

In-House Field Trips



PTO sponsored several "in-house" field trips in February. Our in-house field trip program provides small group, hands-on science programs for each grade; the programs are selected by the teachers to coordinate with each grade's science curriculum. In February, third graders enjoyed a presentation by the Houston Museum of Natural Science on the importance of bees. They learned about how bee hives function and the role bees play in pollination.

For their in-house field trip, second graders viewed a "Cool Chemistry" program by the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The Program emphasized making a hypothesis (a guess), observing data, and then arriving at a conclusion. The kids really loved this high-energy, exciting program complete with fire, color changing solutions, and elephant toothpaste (Be sure to ask your kid about that one!).

In March, kindergartners will be treated to a presentation by the Houston Zoo, and first graders will get to see a special production of Junie B. Jones by MainStreet Theater. Our top dogs will have their in-house field trip later this spring.

Thank you for your support of PTO that makes these programs possible!



The PTO has replacement supplies if you are in need of new ones. The following supplies are available to purchase:

Large Galatas Binders: \$7

Medium Galatas Binders (2nd Grade): \$5

3rd and 4th Grade Pencil Bags: \$5

Dividers: \$.50 each



Please contact Presha Carr at galatasschoolsupplies@gmail.com for questions or to purchase replacement supplies.



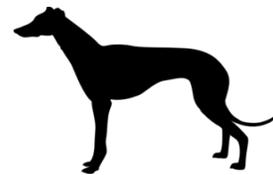
YEARBOOK NEWS

Galatas Yearbook 2015-2016 is going great! We have sold 471 yearbooks this year with 47 personal Top Dog ads at the end of the sales on January 22nd. Yearbooks will be given out at the end of school. We will have at least 30 more yearbooks for sale if you forgot to purchase your student's yearbook. In May, you can look for a flyer or email to tell you how you can purchase these limited yearbooks. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at galatasyearbook@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Meagan Smith





Requesting student input for the Greyhound Gab!

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

Book Reviews

Teacher Staff interviews

Original Poetry

School event report (ex. Go Texan Day, Springetti, etc.)

While the submissions should be the student's work, there may be a need for parent 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 next to the teacher mailboxes in 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 initial, and section number.

MONTH	SECTIONS TO PARTICIPATE	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	GAB PUBLICATION
March	K4,16,28,36,46,59	03/25/16	04/01/16
April	K5,17,37,48,54	04/22/16	04/29/16
May	K6,38,59 & make-ups	05/20/16	05/27/16

