



# AUSTIN ADVISOR

A Publication of the Austin Academy PTA

Volume 23, Issue 3

December 2009/January 2010

## In This Issue:

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dr. Ann Poore | Email: [aepoore@garlandisd.net](mailto:aepoore@garlandisd.net)

### ONLINE GRADEBOOK

Student success is our goal at Austin Academy. How can parents help students succeed? We invite parents to help by carefully monitoring student progress. There are several tools available to parents. We hope that you are familiar with these tools.

One valuable tool is the online gradebook. By clicking on the link to Online Gradebook at [www.garlandisd.net](http://www.garlandisd.net), you can establish an account to monitor your student's grades. Open the digital locker for each class to view the syllabus and to see assignments. The syllabus should allow you to see the content of the class for each grading period.

We encourage each student to maintain an assignment spiral in which assignments are recorded each period. Ask to see the day's assignments each afternoon. You can help your student budget time needed to complete each assignment. Ask your student to see graded papers when they are returned. You can tell that the assignment is graded by viewing the posting in the gradebook. As you view the grade, check on the due dates for upcoming assignments in the digital locker. Help your student learn to allocate time appropriately so that he/she achieves success at school.

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Marie Purser | Email: [MariePurserPTA@aol.com](mailto:MariePurserPTA@aol.com)

Looking back at 2009 and forward to 2010.

Austin Academy PTA has had a wonderful start to the 2009/2010 year. The reason is the tireless work of our parents and volunteers along with the support of our sponsors. THANK YOU to all of you. Your children are reaping the benefit of your sacrifices.

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful Holiday Season. It is such a busy time with all of the activities that occur and the family functions that we all look forward to. Let's all be ready to come back from the break rested and ready for the challenge to improve every day.

School Phone: 972-926-2620 | Austin PTA Website: [aapta.tripod.com](http://aapta.tripod.com)

Dance Concessions  
Teacher Appreciation  
Good Search

Page 2

Box Tops for  
Education

Career Day Speakers

Page 3

PTA Membership  
Bookfair  
Aim for Success

Page 4

Recycling, Fund  
Raising, Sling  
Backpacks

AAPTA Board List

Membership Form

Pages 5-7

## DANCE CONCESSIONS

Dana Geldon-See | Email: [danageldon.see@verizon.net](mailto:danageldon.see@verizon.net)

### THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME!!

The kids are looking forward to the **dance** which is **Friday, January 22.**

The dance will be **4 - 6 p.m.** and are held in the Gym. Feel free to come in a few minutes early. Don't forget to sign in at the front office.

All donations are appreciated and you can bring those items at the time of the dance.

We need **help** in the following areas:

Cleanup and Setup, Spray Hair Color (need patron drape (2), disposable plastic gloves), Need 3-5 serving students snacks and helping Dr. Poore serve soft drinks.

We need **donations**

From Sam's: Candy - Sweet Tart Shockers - 2 boxes; Sour Straws - 1 box each of three flavors - red, blue and green; 1 box of chocolate candy - M&M's or assorted candy bars; and 1 box of plastic gloves.

From Walmart: Large package of cheap napkins; large package of cheap paper plates; 3 or 4 cheap plastic tablecloths (\$1 each or go to the dollar store); plastic bags or cheaper table cloths to use as protection for color spray; and 25 or 30 cans of colored

### Teacher Appreciation Activities

**Brenda Doing, Chair**

Our teacher appreciation activities are going well thanks to all the parents who have volunteered their time and effort. The next event will be a soup/chili luncheon on **January 14.**

If you would like to donate food or supplies for this event, or if you would like to help serve, please contact Brenda Doing at 972-414-8985 or email [naptimebkd@verizon.net](mailto:naptimebkd@verizon.net).

*Our teachers deserve our best!*

### 2009-2010 Dance Schedule

January 22

February 12

March 26

8th grade Party --May 1  
at the Atrium at the  
PAC

### Snack Attack

January 21

February 11

March 25

### Association Meetings

February 9

April 13

May - TBD Soon!



Austin Academy for Excellence PTA is registered on GoodSearch.

GoodSearch is the search engine with a unique social mission that donates 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofits and schools selected by the users. Yahoo powers the search engine. Visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter Austin Academy for Excellence PTA (Garland, TX) as your choice of charity and earn money for Austin Academy with every internet search.

Shop the Goodshop mall at [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and earn between 3% and 20% of every purchase for Austin Academy. Find coupons and deals for more than 1,000 stores while benefiting your school.

## Student Directory

**Congratulations** to the following winners of the Student Directory Cover Contest!

**1st Place:** Lauren Purser

**2nd Place:** Juan Amaro

**3rd Place:** Damaris Mejia

**Honorable Mention:** Megan Stranz

**Honorable Mention:** Dina Campos.

Thank you to all the participants and to Elizabeth McMurphy, Linda DeWitt and Karen Calhoun for judging and facilitating the Directory Cover Contest.

Thanks to:

### **Student Directory**

**Sponsors** for their sponsorships: Perky Cox, John Willis, Mayor Ron Jones, The Garland Neighborhood Management Academy, The Garland Area Parent Association of Gifted and Talented, Florentino Andres, Mary Kay, The Grass Man, Pet Care In Your Home, The Davidson Mortgage Group, Family Health Care Associates, Broadway Auto Repair, R Music Studio, RCS Credit Solutions, LD embroidery, Don Gordon, The Liston Law Firm, Nationwide Insurance, Scott Luna, Arbonne International, Ken Purser, Law Offices of Gay, McCall, Isaacks, Gordon & Roberts, P.C., Spa with Shannan Davidson, Marie Purser, and Metroplex Foot & Ankle, LLP.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Norma Greer | Email: [nggreer@verizon.net](mailto:nggreer@verizon.net)

We are well on our way to reaching our goal this year of raising \$450 through the Box Tops for Education program. There are 3 simple and easy ways for you to participate in this program.

**Clip!** – Clip box tops from hundreds of participating General Mills products and send them to school with your child. The collection period will take place during the school dances, but children are welcome to bring them to school any day and leave them with their homeroom teacher.

**Shop!** – Shop your favorite on-line stores (there are over 200 to choose from) at the Box Tops Marketplace. First, log on to [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) and sign up to be a member of the Box Tops Booster Club. Member benefits include on-line coupons, book and movie reviews, and time saving recipes. General Mills has assured us that your e-mail address will not be sold to other companies.

Once you have become a member, all you have to do is enter the Box Tops Marketplace and start shopping. By shopping through the marketplace, your on-line

## CAREER DAY SPEAKERS

Sarah Swanner | Email: [sassy5@ont.com](mailto:sassy5@ont.com)

Thank you to the following Career Speakers who came to homerooms during Parent Involvement Week in November. We appreciate the time and skills you shared with our students.

For more information about exploring career options, visit the BLS Career Information Homepage at [www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm).

PAM LISTON

RICK BUTLER

TRINA ANDRES

DAN NEWLAND

TERI BUTLER

CINDY ORTICIO

MEL MUZKIZ

GRANT SUTTON

ALAN SEE

FELISA CONNER

DR. HERLINDA GLASSCOCK

JOHN SCHLOSSER

SHIRLEY HALLMARK

DR. KIM HOBSON

JASON BROWN

KIM HUFF

BRUCE HARD

PAUL LISTON

MIKE CURLEE

RAY GUZMAN

RITA RITCHIE

LAURA BALLARD

DIANE DEVINE

DIANE PERKINS

JAVIER SOLIS

LOIS GOODIN

BARRY DANA-BASHIAN

JAMES SISK

TASH EVEN

VINOD CHERIYAN

SHADE STRINGER

TOM WINKLER

GLORIA DEJESUS-ILUSTRE

DAVID DENKER

DAWN FORD

MIKE HALLMARK

PERKY COX

LARRY NORTH

## MEMBERSHIP

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Sarah Swanner | Email: [sassy5@ont.com](mailto:sassy5@ont.com)

### Going for the GOAL!

Thank you to all of the Austin Parents and family members who have already pledged their support through PTA membership. We are very close to reaching our goal. It's never too late to join the team!

New members can join any time throughout the school year. A membership form is at the end of this newsletter.

If you have already joined and not yet received your free Student Directory and Membership card, please contact Sarah Swanner at [sassy5@ont.com](mailto:sassy5@ont.com).

# WE WANT YOU

### AIM FOR SUCCESS

An assembly entitled "Aim for Success" will be presented to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Thursday, January 21. The purpose of the program is to challenge students to adopt the practice of "sexual purity." The dangers of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases will be discussed. The advantages of abstinence will be presented. An anonymous survey will be given to students at the end of the program. Parents may hear a preview of the assembly on Thursday, January 14, at 7:00pm in the Austin Academy cafeteria.

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

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Melora Wilt, Book Fair Chair | Email: [melsmail33@yahoo.com](mailto:melsmail33@yahoo.com) | Phone: [972-864-0672](tel:972-864-0672)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We can't have a Book Fair without our wonderful parent volunteers! They run the cash register, assist students with selecting books, monitor student activity, reorder books, keep things orderly, and can visit with the other parents and hopefully make some new friends in the process! It's fun, and you have an opportunity to see all the students come through.

This is the library's only fundraiser. We want our Library to have enough funds to provide a comprehensive, innovative library that meets our students' and staff's needs.

Teenagers/Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, etc. needing community service or volunteer hours can volunteer, too! Volunteers are needed 8:45 – 3:50 during school days.

Please contact Melora with available dates and times you can help.

**Beginning January 25, 2010**

### PTA Membership Dues

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#### Basic

1 Member	\$7
2 Members (Same family please)	\$12

#### Supporting

1 Member	\$35
Additional members	\$5

Contact Sarah Swanner for more information  
[sassy5@ont.com](mailto:sassy5@ont.com)



## RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

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**Pam Padon** | Email: [thepadons@verizon.net](mailto:thepadons@verizon.net)

### Recycle for the Environment and Raise Funds for **Austin**

Austin recycles materials through EcoPhones, which now recycles not only cell phones and printer cartridges, but a number of other items. The complete list:

Cell Phones (no accessories), Ink Jet Printer Cartridges (empty), DVD Movies & Videogames, Portable DVD Players, Laptop Computers, MP3 Players, X-Boxes, Sony Playstations, Wii, Digital Cameras & Digital Video Cameras (DVRs), Digital Picture Frames, Portable Navigation & GPS Devices (Garmin, Magellan, Tom-Tom)

You or your child can drop off your recyclables (don't forget to save those ink cartridges and old cell phones) at the front office. There is a box for recycling materials.

## RAISING FUNDS WHILE SHOPPING

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Albertsons will donate 1% of your purchases to Austin Academy. Use your Albertsons' Community Partners Card with every grocery purchase and earn money for your school. You can pick up an Austin Academy Community Partners Card in the file folder on the front desk in the school office.



At Tom Thumb, just take your Reward Card to the Courtesy Booth to link your card to the Austin Academy Account: # 9773. If you do not have a Reward Card, you can obtain one at the Courtesy Booth. Present your card to the cashier each time you check out, and you will save money and raise money for Austin Academy at the same time.



**Office DEPOT.**

Office Depot's Rewards Program offers up to 10% back to our school. Our ID number is 70097916. Please remember to add Austin Academy as your school of choice while shopping at Office Depot.

## Sling Backpack

### Fundraiser -

\$10

**The Austin Academy for Excellence PTA is selling sling backpacks in school colors with school and team name and eagle emblem. Pick up your order form in the school office or contact Tammy Dana-Bashian.**

**[dana-bashian@msn.com](mailto:dana-bashian@msn.com)**

## 2009-2010 PTA BOARD MEMBERS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>mail Address(es)</u>
<b>President</b>	Marie Purser	mariepurserpta@aol.com
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP – Programs</b>	Mindy Schneider	mindy.schneider06@yahoo.com
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> - Membership</b>	Sarah Swanner	sassy5@ont.com
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – Budget/Finance</b>	Tammy Dana-Bashian	dana-bashian@msn.com
<b>Secretary</b>	Debbie Hard	debbiesdesigns@netzero.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Christy Motes	christymotes@gmail.com
<b>Historian</b>	Nicole Sutton	gigem96@verizon.net
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Laura Ballard	laballar@cisco.com
<b>Arts in Ed</b>	Elizabeth McMurphy	EKMcMurp@garlandisd.net
<b>Council Delegate</b>	Melora Wilt	melsmail33@yahoo.com
<b>Council Delegate</b>	Kathy Singleton	Kathy2sing@yahoo.com
<b>Environmental</b>	Pam Padon	thepadons@verizon.net
<b>Hospitality</b>	Hanh Louk	hlouk@verizon.net
<b>Legislative Action</b>	Allison Bair	allisonbair@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter</b>	Tama Barnes	tamabarnes@verizon.net
<b>Parent Ed</b>	Margaret Finley	margaret.finley@verizon.net
<b>Publicity Rep</b>	Tia Rew	tqrew@garlandisd.net
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep</b>	Linda Williamson	the4williamsons@verizon.net
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep</b>	Cindy Pratt	crpratt@verizon.net
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Rep</b>	Wendy Settle	<a href="mailto:wwsettle@yahoo.com">wwsettle@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Special Projects</b>	Nicole Hall	jaylareign@yahoo.com
<b>Student Directory</b>	Melanie McCauley	Melanie80@verizon.net
<b>Teacher Appreciation</b>	Brenda Doing	naptimebkd@verizon.net
<b>Volunteers</b>	Susan Koo	skoo1000@gmail.com
<b>Website Admin</b>	Elise Mosty	emosty@garlandisd.net
<b>Principal</b>	Dr. Ann Poore	aepoore@garlandisd.net

### SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Vol. (reports to Volunteer), SP(report to Special Projects), BF (report to Budget Finance), 8<sup>th</sup> (reports to 8<sup>th</sup> grade RmRep)

<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance (8<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Felisa Conner	fconner@ci.garland.tx.us
<b>Book Fair (SP)</b>	Melora Wilt	melsmail33@yahoo.com
<b>Box Tops, etc (SP)</b>	Norma Greer	nggreer@verizon.net
<b>Career Speakers (Vol.)</b>	Sarah Swanner	sassy5@ont.com
<b>Holiday Service Project (SP)</b>	Nicole Hall	jaylareign@yahoo.com
<b>Dance Concessions (BF)</b>	Dana Geldon-See	danageldon.see@verizon.net
<b>School Supplies (BF)</b>	Susan Watkins	rhwatkins@msn.com lilypad004@yahoo.com
<b>Snack Attack (BF)</b>	Brandy Garcia	brandymichellegarcia@ymail.com

# WE WANT YOU

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (All students in same family on ONE form, Please.)  
 Home Room: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Basic Membership * (dues)
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- 1 Membership: \$7.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Memberships same family: \$12.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Busy Parent Membership * (dues plus donation)
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- 1 Membership: \$35.00 ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Memberships Same Family: \$40.00..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Texas Life Member Credit\*\*..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Enclosed: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Paying with a check is highly recommended. Please place your child / children's name(s) on the memo line of your check. Please place money and form INSIDE envelope and return to homeroom teacher.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
 AUSTIN ACADEMY PTA!!!**



*\*All dues/donations are tax deductible minus the \$4.00 for National and State PTA dues.  
 \*\* If you have been awarded a Texas Life Membership, you may use it at ONLY one school, and may deduct \$2.25 from the total due that school.*