



AUSTIN ADVISOR

A Publication of the Austin Academy PTA

School Phone Number: 972-926-2620

Austin PTA Website: <http://aapta.tripod.com>

Daily Announcements at: www.garlandidschools.net/austin

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From the Principal's Desk

Dr. Ann Poore
aepoore@garlandisd.net

As we begin another school year, we ask parents to help us ensure that all of our students are dressed in a way that will allow them to maximize the educational opportunities at school. Please review the dress code with your students to be certain that you and your student understand the standards of dress that are required at school. Our goal is for student dress to create no distractions at school. That is why we insist on natural hair colors and hair styles that are not so unusual that they disrupt the learning environment or otherwise identify a student as out of the acceptable range. We ask that parents read shirts carefully before allowing students to wear them to school. We want to be sure that no one is offended by the language on a shirt. We also want to be sure that the shirt does not contain a double meaning or inference that would not be appropriate at school. For instance, there is a shirt which depicts Al Pacino in his role as Scarface. This image is not appropriate for school. The character that is depicted was a criminal who is not an appropriate role model for students. Another shirt displayed the slogan, "I had a nightmare last night. I dreamed that I was blonde." This type of slogan is insulting to some students at school. It is not appropriate for school. Our goal is to encourage students to exhibit tolerance for individual differences.

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A Word from Your PTA President

Janet E. Thompkins
jethompkins@msn.com



Welcome to another exciting year at Austin Academy and to the award-winning Austin Academy PTA. If you are new to the school, you will soon learn that our teachers and staff members are compassionate, caring and quite helpful, and I'm sure you will grow to care for them as much as I have. This is my 6th and final year at AAE, and the teachers and staff members will **always** hold a special place in my heart!

Last school year our PTA increased its membership to over 700 members and received recognition for the Largest Membership in the Middle School Division from Area 14 as well as the GISD Council of PTAs. We hope to repeat that successful membership drive and exceed the previous year's numbers again. By joining the PTA, your membership helps us provide school enrichment gifts such as a complete technology center in one of the portables. In return, we pledge to continue to provide information and programming for our parents to assist them with making decisions for their children, and meet the needs of the faculty and staff of the school. Everyone who joins the PTA will benefit from the rich diversity of its members, and I hope that you will become part of the many accomplishments we strive for in the coming year. The PTA publishes a newsletter at the beginning of each 6-week grading period to keep you informed of important dates, provide studying tips, and other useful information for parents, students and faculty.

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Meet the Teacher Night September 10th

Tammy Lobb, 1st V.P. Programs

lobbtamj@verizon.net

The first meeting of the PTA will be in conjunction with the "Meet the Teacher Night," **September 10th**. The PTA meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. The business meeting will include approving the PTA budget, the fundraisers, and presenting the audit report. There will also be an opportunity to join PTA and sign up as a volunteer. Following the meeting, you can meet your child's teachers and receive a quick tour of the school.

Parking is at a minimum around the school, so additional parking will be available at the nearby Alternative Education Center with shuttle buses running regularly between locations. The center is located at the corner of Miller and Country Club roads. Come early for the PTA meeting and beat the rush! Hope to see you there.

From the Principal's Desk *(continued)*

We do not want to see clothing which contains words or depictions that could insult an individual or group of students. Please help us with this issue. We also ask that parents closely monitor the length of shorts and skirts. They must be at least fingertip length. That means that when the arms are hanging loosely at the sides. The entire fingertip must touch fabric. If the skirt, dress, or shorts do not stay fingertip length when the student moves through the halls, they are not acceptable at school. An ideal look for school is a shirt with no words or slogan printed on it. Then no one has to spend time reading shirts for appropriate content. Please check to be sure that the fabric on the shoulder of a garment is at least three inches wide. We want students to enjoy the school year and to spend time at school learning. We do not want dress code issues to interfere with the learning environment. Finally, please help us remind students that any cell phone present at school **MUST** be powered off and locked in the student locker for the duration of the school day. Phones should never be in classrooms, restrooms or hallways. If a student needs to have a phone available for after school use, it should come into the building enclosed in a backpack or other container which can be locked away in the locker during the school day. The phone should not be visible during the school day. Students do not need electronic games, ipods, or CD players at school. They should leave these and similar items at home.

A Word from Your PTA President *(continued)*

You can visit our website at <http://aapta.tripod.com> to get more current information and find out how to contact our board members. You are encouraged to frequent our school's announcements that are maintained on our website at www.garlandisdschools.net/austin. These are both great tools to keep you aware of what's going on at the school and in our community. Many of our teachers have separate web pages to aide in your child's learning experience. It's really incredible to be able to click on a link and find the entire 6th Grade Science Book online!

As I mentioned above, we have an award winning organization. Our PTA has been the recipient of numerous awards over the last few years, including: Outstanding Middle School Principal, Outstanding PTA of the Year – Middle School Division, PTA with Outstanding Perfect Attendance at Council Meetings (two years in a row), Award of Excellence for our Directory, and other Outstanding Membership Awards, to name a few.

Are you sufficiently enticed? If so, may I now direct you to the PTA's website mentioned above, click on the Membership link, and fill out the Membership form? For those without access to a computer, please pick up a form in the school office, or call our Membership Chair, Lisa Lippoldt, at 972-530-3512.

If you need anything, please email me at jethompkins@msn.com or jthompkins@gibsondunn.com, or call me at (972) 342-4732.

Room Representatives

Your PTA Room Representatives will need your help throughout the year with volunteering as homeroom representatives, assisting with bake sales and chaperoning dances. Please fill out volunteer forms that will be sent home with your child or log onto our website and print out a form to volunteer and return it to school. You can also contact your room representatives through the contact information below. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated and will ensure a successful year for your child at Austin Academy!

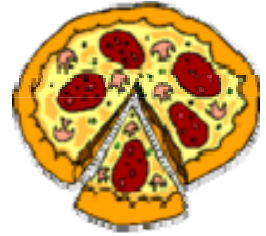
6th Grade: Debra Graham
972-278-7034
dgraham410@msn.com

7th Grade: Amber Johansen
972-303-3373
amberjohan@aol.com

8th Grade: Diane Camp
972-926-2620
dlcamp@garlandisd.net

**2007-2008
PTA Reflections
Contest Theme
"I Can Make
A Difference By..."**

**2007-2008
PTA Environmental
Awareness Contest
Theme
"What Can I Do"**



PTA Membership Sign-up

Lisa Lippoldt 972-530-3512
AAE_PTA@yahoo.com

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year!

Our PTA membership drive for the 2007/2008 school year began at the 6th Grade Orientation and will conclude on Friday, September 14th.

Every homeroom class that receives 100% membership participation by **September 14th** will be awarded a Pizza Party!

We will also be giving our awesome Austin Academy Faculty a dessert party when they achieve 100% participation as well. A PTA Membership form will be sent home the first day of school with an envelope attached. If you haven't already joined PTA, please fill out the form completely and place form and dues/donation INSIDE the envelope provided. Have your student return the envelope to his/her homeroom teacher. Any payment over the \$3.00 that goes to the National and State PTAs is tax deductible.

EVERYONE who joins PTA will receive a
FREE SCHOOL DIRECTORY.

So encourage your relatives, neighbors, business associates, etc. to join a vital organization, which puts children first always!! This year we are looking for 700 new and veteran PTA members, so support the award winning Austin Academy PTA and join today!!!

PTA Membership Dues

Basic

1 Member \$6

2 Members \$10
(Same family please)

Supporting

1 Member \$35

Additional members \$5

Join PTA and
receive a

FREE SCHOOL
DIRECTORY

with each membership!

Box Tops for Education

Cathy Shine

shineonme@peoplepc.com

Welcome to another great year at Austin Academy. Our goal this year is to raise \$450 through the Box Tops for Education program. There are 3 simple and easy ways for you to participate in this program.

1. 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.

2. 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 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 orders are flagged so that a percentage (up to 8% depending on the store) will be sent back to Austin Academy.

3. Charge – Earn 1% of every purchase for Austin Academy by using a Box Tops Visa. This card has low APR's, and no annual fees. You can apply today at boxtops4education.com or call 1-800-650-0235.



"We make a living by
what we get. We make
a life by what we give."

Sir Winston Churchill

Student Directory Cover Contest

Draw a design that captures the spirit of student life at Austin Academy. If your entry wins, it will be featured on the cover of this year's directory! Second and third place will also be displayed in the directory.

**The top three winners will receive Target gift certificates as follows:
First - \$20, Second - \$15 and Third - \$10.**

The artwork must be the student's original work. Entries must be in portrait format on 5 ½ x 8 ½ paper and they must be submitted in **BLACK INK** only! Student identifying information such as name, grade and homeroom teacher must be written on the back or it cannot be judged.

The following information must be included in the artwork: Austin Academy for Excellence and 2007-2008.

All entries are to be turned in to **Mr. Roger by Friday, Sept. 14th.** Watch for a flyer in your packet on the first day of school.



Stay Connected

With your Student and the PTA by visiting the Austin Academy PTA website at <http://aapta.tripod.com/>

STUDENT DIRECTORY SPONSORSHIPS

The Austin Academy PTA is looking for family-friendly businesses and associations to help sponsor the Student Directory with a full or partial page advertisement. The directory is free to all PTA members and will be delivered by early November. Sponsorship forms, payments and camera-ready artwork should be submitted by October 5th. Electronic artwork can be emailed to

pinkyreyes@verizon.net.

For more information, please contact Pinky Reyes at 469-964-6646 or pinkyreyes@verizon.net.

Sponsorships are subject to the approval of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Directory Sponsorship Prices:

\$35 - Business Card size ad

\$50 - Half page ad (5" x 4")

\$75 - Full page ad (5" x 8")

Grocery Cards

As easy as...

1

Shop...

2

Show Your Card...

3

Receive Savings for your school!

Thank you for your support!

Grocery Shopping Fundraising

By shopping using your grocery card at Tom Thumb, Kroger, or Albertson's, you can help us raise money. Your local grocer store will donate up to 4% of your spending. The donation will cost you nothing but will support Austin Academy!



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.

Contact Tina Luttrull at 972-429-3643 or at scottandtina@verizon.net to receive a Kroger Share Card. All you have to do is ask the cashier to scan the card before your groceries are scanned, and Kroger will donate 1% of your total purchases directly to Austin Academy.



Albertson's will donate up to 3% of your purchases to Austin Academy. Take your Albertson's Preferred Savings Card to Customer Service, and have your card linked to our account # 49000900424. Or, you can go on-line following the community partners links at www.albertsons.com.

We Need You!

Volunteers are very important at Austin Academy. The kids may get to where they don't want you here but the children and the school still need you! I challenge each of you, Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, to sign up for at least one volunteer opportunity this school year. There are so many different opportunities available that most everyone can find something that fits their interests and schedule. Even if you think you will NEVER be able to volunteer, go ahead and fill out the paperwork now. You never know what might happen this winter or next spring and if you do become available, you'll be prepared. I promise if you don't want to be bothered, you won't be. Together we can make a difference! Questions? Contact Mary Ellen Sargent at 972-414-6999 or austinvolunteers@gmail.com



Snack Attack

Thursday,
October 25, 2007
During Homeroom
(1:50 – 2:10)

The 6th grade room representatives are responsible for handling this. We will be selling donated pre-packaged items such as Little Debbie snacks, cupcakes, cookies, chips, etc. for 25 cents each. This has proven to be a huge hit with the students and an excellent fundraiser for PTA. However, its success depends on the participation of our parents by sending snacks for us to sell. The parents in the grade level sponsoring the dance that month (6th grade) donate the snacks.

Please bring snacks to the school office sometime the week before the dance, but no later than 1:30 p.m. on October 25th, so that we can make this sale a success. Label them "snack attack." Volunteers will also be needed to sell the snacks during homeroom and should arrive at 1:30 p.m. and leave about 2:15 p.m.

If you will donate snacks and/or time, please contact Pam & Paul Liston at 972-412-6039 or at pamela.liston@listonlaw.net.

There are no "attacks" without the snacks!

Snack Attack Dates: Oct. 26th – 7th Grade
Dec. 14th – 8th Grade Jan. 11th – 7th Grade
Feb. 15th – 6th Grade April 11th – 8th Grade

2007-2008 Dance Schedule

September 21, 4-6pm
(8th grade parents chaperones)

"Halloween Dance" October 26, 7-9pm
(6th grade parents chaperone)

"Winter Dance" December 14, 7-9pm
(7th grade parents chaperone)

January 11, 4-6pm
(6th grade parents chaperone)

"Valentine Dance" February 15, 7-9pm
(8th grade parents chaperone)

March 7, 4-6pm
(7th grade parents chaperone)

April 11, 4-6pm
(6th grade parents chaperone)

"8th Grade Dance" - May 3rd
At the Atrium



A smart,
simple way
to make
a difference
every day.

With the WaMoola for Schools[®] Program, you can support your favorite school every time you make a purchase with your Washington Mutual Debit Card.

Enroll and earn points with every purchase – use it for groceries, movies, travel and everyday stuff

At the end of every year, they'll donate cash based on the points you've earned.

The school you select can use their donation for books, supplies, repairs, a special event or whatever they need most – there are no guidelines and no strings attached.

You pay nothing to enroll and there are no limits to the points you can earn.

Austin Academy PTA would like to continue their award Winning tradition, but we need your help. Please purchase your “Passport to Achievement” today.

Join PTA!!!

By joining PTA, you become part of a nationwide organization promoting parent involvement, parent education and child advocacy. Your Basic MEMBERSHIP dues support a network of information resources and training opportunities. Your donations support our programs such as:



Parent Education
Teacher Appreciation
Student Scholarships
Teacher Training

This is your opportunity to become a member of our PTA and support it with your donation. Everyone who joins our PTA will receive a FREE SCHOOL DIRECTORY. Join with a family member and save! Questions? Contact Lisa Lippoldt, Membership Chairman @ 972.530.3512 or AAE_PTA@yahoo.com.

Basic Membership *(dues)
\$6.00/Membership
\$10.00/Two Memberships (same family please)

Busy Parent Membership * (dues plus donation)
\$35.00/Membership
\$40.00/Two Memberships (same family Please)

**your donations are tax deductible minus the \$3.00 for National & State dues.*

TODAY is what we live for and **TOMORROW** is what we **HOPE** for and the **PAST** is history that we cannot change but **SHARE** our experience with others so that they too can **UNDERSTAND** about life. We **ALL** can make a **DIFFERENCE!**

Living is all about **GIVING** of ourselves and helping others.

It does not matter where you came from, but how you **FINISH** in life.

Written By Marie Purser

Austin Academy 2007-2008 PTA Board

Name	Position	Email Address(es)
Janet Thompkins	President	jethompkins@msn.com ; jthompkins@gibsondunn.com
Tammy Lobb	1 st VP - Programs	lobbtamj@verizon.net
Lisa Lippoldt	2 nd - Membership	AAE_PTA@yahoo.com
Joanie Templeton	3 rd - Budget/Finance	JLTemple@garlandisd.net
Fanchon Sherley	Secretary	fsherley@casaviewbaptist.org ; mom3ead@verizon.net
Tammy Dana-Bashian	Treasurer	Tammy.danabashian@softwarespectrum.com
Jo Dell	Historian	jodell@dellfamily.net
Sheila Byrne	Parliamentarian	sbyrne2208@yahoo.com
Felecia Kolshorn	Arts in Ed	Felecia7@tx.rr.com
Debbie Hard	Council Delegate	debbiesdesigns@netzero.net
Marie Purser	Council Delegate	MariePurser8@aol.com
Kathy Singleton	Environmental	Kathy2sing@tx.rr.com
Carmen Rider	Hospitality	Carmen.rider@idearc.com
Leah Nolan	Legislative Action	lnolan@mahillconsulting.com ; leahnolan@verizon.net
Debi Block	Newsletter	bdblock_7@msn.com ; dblock@garlandisd.net
Linda Marzolf	Parent Ed	limarzolf@tx.rr.com ; limarzol@garlandisd.net
Janice Chapman	Publicity	JRChapma@garlandisd.net ; jrc4856@verizon.net
Debra Graham	6 th Grade Rep	dgraham410@msn.com
Amber Johansen	7 th Grade Rep	amberjohan@aol.com
Diane Camp	8 th Grade Rep	dlcamp@garlandisd.net
Tina Luttrull	Special Projects	scottandtina@verizon.net
Pinky Reyes	Student Directory	pinkyreyes@kruvand.com
Diann Taylor	Teacher Appreciation	Dlt2510@msn.com
Mary Ellen Sargent	Volunteers	austinvolunteers@gmail.com
Lori Faulhaber	Website Administrator	lorifaul@tx.rr.com
Committee Chairs	8 th Grade Dance	
Tammy Lobb	Book Fair	lobbtamj@verizon.net
Cathy Shine	Box Tops, etc	shineonme@peoplepc.com
Tamara Cleveland	Career Speakers	tcleveland@unitrin.com
Bonnie McGee	Girls Escape	bmcgee@clm.org
Lisa Johnson	Holiday Service Project	lijogreta@yahoo.com
Kim Bonar	Dance Concessions	Artistmom1@verizon.net
Susan Watkins	School Supplies	rhwatkins@msn.com
Pam and Paul Liston	Snack Attack	pamela.liston@listonlaw.net
Dr. Ann Poore	Educational Liaison	aepoore@garlandisd.net

Calendar of Events August/September 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 26	27 First Day of School	28	29	30	31	SEPTEMBER 1
2	3 Labor Day Student and Staff Holiday	4	5	6 Volleyball vs. O'Banion at O'Banion 5:30 & 6:30 pm	7	8
9	10 Meet the Teacher PTA Meeting 6:30-8:30 pm	11 Football vs. Schrade at Rowlett 5:30pm & 7:00pm	12	13 Volleyball vs. Bussey at Austin 5:30 & 6:30 pm	14	15
16	17 No After School Tutoring District Teacher Meetings After School	18 Football vs. Coyle at Rowlett 5:30pm & 7:00pm	19	20 Individual Pictures Volleyball vs. Lyles at Lyles 5:30 pm & 6:30 pm	21 School Dance 4-6pm <i>Austin Academy Students Only</i>	22
23	24 Extended Day Classes and Buses Begin 4:00 - 4:50 pm	25 Football vs. O'Banion at HBJ at 5:30pm & 7:00pm	26	27 Volleyball vs. Sellers at Sellers 5:30 & 6:30 pm	28	29
30						