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AUSTIN ADVISOR

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From the Principal's Desk

Dr. Ann Poore
aepoore@garlandisd.net

Email has had a huge impact on our ability to communicate with each other. It is especially important in middle school. We have heard that parents do not always get the information that we send home. We also have a huge issue with spam. Our district has put an email filter in place

which does a great job of filtering spam. Sometimes it captures important email from parents. If you send an email and do not get a response in 48 hours, please call our office at 972-926-2620. We will know to look to see if we can locate the missing email. We may ask you to send it to the person on the phone. She can forward it to the appropriate teacher. We do have a way to indicate that a certain email address is safe. We just have to know that you are having trouble getting your emails through our system. It does take a while to work on all of this. It is worth it when we succeed. Email is such an efficient way to communicate. Please call and let us know if you do not receive a response. We really do want to hear from you!

Now that Choice of School has ended, it is time for parents to help students select courses for the next school year. Sixth and seventh grade students will receive Choice of Subject forms before spring break. Eighth graders will receive subject choice information after spring break. Parents should review the information, help students select courses, sign the forms and return them to school. As always, our counselors are available to talk to you about any concerns.

Bad Weather "Makeup Day" Announced

The January 17th bad weather day will be made up on Friday, June 1, 2007.



2006-2007 Dance Schedule

March 2, 4-6pm
(7th grade parents chaperone)

April 13, 4-6pm
(6th grade parents chaperone)

8th Grade Dance
"An Evening in Paris"
May 5, 7-9:00pm
At the Atrium

Membership News

Michelle Turner

mbarclayturner@yahoo.com

Thank you friends, family, staff and community members who joined PTA in our fall membership drive. We currently have 710 members, which earned us the 500 Club Membership Award. It's not too late to join PTA and help impact the future by investing in our kids today. Watch for information on how to sign-up to come home soon.

PTA members, in addition to supporting our local school, are a part of a large network of local, state and national advocates for all children. Benefits include access to parenting resources (in English and Spanish), support for public education, and possible discounts from local businesses. Visit www.pta.org and click on Members for more details (username and password are on the back of your membership card, which came stapled to your student directories in November).



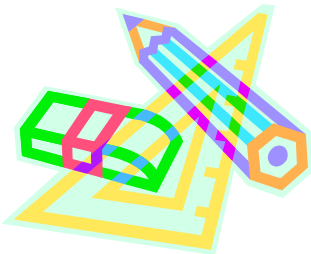
Why is dyslexia a gift?

Dyslexic people are visual, multi-dimensional thinkers. We are intuitive and highly creative, and excel at hands-on learning. Because we think in pictures, it is sometimes hard for us to understand letters, numbers, symbols, and written words.

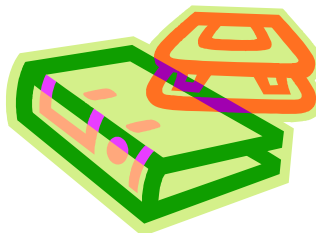
We can learn to read, write and study efficiently when we use methods geared to our unique learning style. What is Davis Dyslexia Correction? Davis Dyslexia Correction® provides tools to overcome problems with reading, writing, and attention focus. These methods enable children and adults to recognize and control the mental processes that cause distorted perceptions of letters and words. Once students can be sure that their perceptions are accurate, they can resolve the underlying cause of their learning difficulties through methods that build upon their creative and imaginative strengths.

The Davis approach is not based on tutoring or drill, but actually resolves the root causes of problems experienced by individuals with language-based learning difficulties. The Davis program is explained in detail in the book, *The Gift of Dyslexia*. More information can be obtained at <http://www.dyslexia.com/program.htm>.

School Supply Orders for 2006-2007



**COMING
SOON!**



Do you enjoy running around all over town looking for that long list of required school supplies? Do you enjoy standing in long lines at the store? Do you have time to take off work or spend your weekend shopping for school supplies? Does your student enjoy hauling all those supplies with them on the first day of school?

If not, then consider ordering your school supply kits from PTA! The kits are custom made according to our teachers' requirements to insure your student has exactly what they need. AND, their supplies will be waiting for them in their first period class on the first day of school - or you can pick them up from the school the week before school starts!

The teachers are compiling supply lists, and order forms will be available soon! We listened to your suggestions from last year, and will be using name brand products in our kits. Don't miss out on this great opportunity! Orders are placed before school is out this year! For more information, contact Cindy Butler @ cinbutler@yahoo.com.

Book Fair Sales



Last year the Book Fair sales were the highest they've ever been . . . and we topped that this year! Mrs. Lobb and Ms. Borland appreciate all the volunteers who donated their time. The library receives the proceeds, and they will be used to purchase new books.

Thank you . . .

To all of the wonderful parents that attended the extremely informative "AIM for Success" presentation last month.

Nominations are Open

Whether you are concerned about helping students, interested in legislative activity, or just want to be actively involved in your child's school, there is a place for you in PTA. The Austin Academy Nominating Committee is currently seeking volunteers to serve on next year's PTA Board. If you would like to be part of an enthusiastic group of supportive parents promoting education, involvement, and advocacy, please complete the enclosed interest survey and return it to the school office. A committee member will contact you with additional details. You may also contact us through our website at <http://aapta.tripod.com>. Officers will be elected at the April 2nd Association meeting and installed at the May 10th meeting. This is a great opportunity to make a difference, meet other parents, and support your child's school.

PTA Executive Board Nomination Form

Austin Academy PTA compiles their 2007-2008 PTA Executive Board during the month of March. If you are interested in serving in one or more of these areas for the next school year, please complete and return this form as indicated below. This is **only** an interest survey, and does **not** obligate you to serve. A Nominating Committee member will contact you to discuss your interests.

Job descriptions are printed in our Standing Rules, a copy of which is in the school office, or are available by contacting any board member via our website at <http://aapta.tripod.com>.

OFFICERS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st VP – Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd VP – Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Historian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd VP – Budget and Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentarian |

CHAIRMEN:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts in Education (Reflections Program) | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Delegate | <input type="checkbox"/> Room Rep. – 6 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council Delegate (Alternate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Room Rep. – 7 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Room Rep. – 8 th grade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Directory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Appreciation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website Administrator | |

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: (not voting members but invited to board meetings)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2008 8 th Grade Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Escape Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Service Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Tops, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dance Concessions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Speakers Coordinator | |

Please place a 1, 2, 3, etc. next to the position(s) of interest and return this form to the school office by **March 2, 2007** or mail it to the address below. You may also e-mail your interests or questions to: Fanchon Sherley at mom3ead@verizon.net. Thank you for volunteering!

Austin Academy PTA Nominating Committee
1125 Beverly Dr.
Garland, TX 75040

YOUR NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Child's name: _____ Grade/Homeroom: _____

Easy Fundraising Opportunities

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 Cindy Pratt at (972) 463-1551 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 you 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.

Get Money Back for Austin Academy

Office Depot

Office Depot offers all customers 5% back to our school on all purchases. Our ID # is 70097196.

Target

Target Visa Card - You can register your Target Guest Card or Target Visa online at http://target.com/target_group/schools/search_school.jhtml. Our ID # is 98159.

Box Tops for Education

Cathy Shine

shineonme@ev1.net



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.

Welcome to another great year at Austin Academy. Our goal this year is to raise \$300 through the Box Tops for Education program. So far we've earned \$167.80. 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.

Stay Connected!

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



Eighth Grade Dance

Plans for the 8th grade party are underway, which will be held on May 5th at The Atrium at the Arts Center downtown Garland. Several committee chairs have been identified and would love your ideas and help. Please contact one of them and offer your assistance. The students have picked “An Evening in Paris” as the theme for this year.

- Party Chairman:** Nefe Day mikenefeday@tx.rr.com
- Party Chairman:** Patty Clark pclark@rcslip.com
- Publicity:** Paige Hernandez plhernandez@bordenhamman.com
- Decorations:** Angie Navarro 972 202-1907
Sandy Brown shbrown@garlandisd.net
- Refreshments:** Angie Navarro 972 202-1907
Sandy Brown shbrown@garlandisd.net
- Door Prizes/Donations:** Karen King Karen.King@CapitalOneAuto.com
- Photographer:** Lynda Marrow l.morrow@verizon.net
- Tickets:** Rose Hainline rosehainline@yahoo.com
- Chaperones:** Sandy Hawkins SMHawkin@garlandisd.net



Preventing Violence in Schools

The recent tragic and violent events occurring within schools have increased awareness of the need to ensure that schools are safe and nurturing places that contribute to student learning. When done in a sensitive way, talking about these, or other potentially frightening topics, will not increase children’s feelings of worry or sadness. In fact, it is usually through discussions with a trusted adult that children are able to feel safer and less afraid.

Parents are encouraged to help children cope by keeping the following tips in mind:

Maintain routines and normal activities

As much as possible, children and adolescents are better able to cope with stressful situations if they are provided with a safe and predictable environment. Maintaining routines and normal activities whenever possible is therefore very important.

Encourage children to write about their thoughts and feelings, or to draw pictures reflecting their experiences

This will provide them with an outlet to share their experiences.

Discussion is ongoing

Answering questions and addressing fears does not necessarily happen all at once. New issues may arise or become apparent over time, and discussions should be had on an ongoing and as-needed basis.

Be an active participant

It is important that adults monitor children's exposure to the media so that they can be available to answer questions or provide support. If children choose to watch movies about 9/11 or reports about the movies' releases, parents are encouraged to invite an open discussion about their perceptions, thoughts, and feelings.

Make sure children know where to turn for support

Decide who your children can contact and where they can go if they become upset or overwhelmed. Come up with a plan for who they can talk to at school, such as a guidance counselor, should the need arise.

These [tips](#) were provided by New York University’s [Child Study Center](#) The Department of Homeland Security has also created a great site for [parents](#) and [kids](#) to learn how to prepare for emergencies.

(Reprinted with permission National PTA website, www.pta.org)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 FEBRUARY	13	14	15	16	17 District Pentathlon at Austin
19 No extended day	20 No extended day TAKS Writing 7 th grade	21 Track Meet at Rowlett	22 Track Meet at Rowlett	23	24 Band Solo and Ensemble Contest at Austin
26 Practice TAKS Math	27 Practice TAKS Reading Fine Arts preview for 5 th graders	28 Track Meet at Williams	1 MARCH Track Meet at Williams 6 th grade Choir Festival Special Events Center	2 Dance 4-6pm Austin Academy students only	3
5	6	7 Track Meet at Rowlett	8 Track Meet at Rowlett	9	10
12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17 Spring Break
19	20	21 Track Meet at Williams	22 Track Meet at Williams	23	24
26 Teacher Cluster Meetings No extended day classes; no after school tutoring	27	28 Track Meets Boys at Williams Girls at Rowlett	29 Track Meet Williams	30	31
2 APRIL Choir Pre UIL and PTA Association Meeting	3	4 Track Meet at Williams	5 Track Meet at Williams	6 Student and Staff Holiday	7
9	10 Last Extended Day classes	11	12 Spring Play at the Plaza Theatre	13 Spring Play at the Plaza Theatre	14 Spring Play at the Plaza Theatre