



AUSTIN ADVISOR

A Publication of the Austin Academy PTA
Winter 2017 Edition

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From The Principal's Desk

John Fishpaw JRFishpa@garlandisd.net

On behalf of Austin Academy faculty and staff, we sincerely appreciate the parental support and involvement during the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year. This year our goal was to model citizenship and serving others through the house system. Our staff and students voted on and adopted eight precepts that focus on our expectations at Austin Academy. Students and staff have been able to earn house points based on how they treat one another through the demonstration of the precepts.

Our students, staff, and PTA have also participated in numerous service projects. Students donated spare change in our Change for Harvey drive to help assist victims of Hurricane Harvey. During our Mac and Cheese Please drive, Austin Academy collected over 1500 boxes of macaroni and cheese for the Good Samaritans of Garland. Veteran Appreciation Month allowed students to write notes of appreciation, as well as collect candy for veteran associations. The service projects have been excellent opportunities for our students to learn about assisting others and allowed our PTA to earn two GISD Outstanding PTA awards during the first semester.

As the first semester is rapidly coming to a close, we encourage all students to maintain their focus as final exams are scheduled for December 13, 14, and 15. For the majority of our 6th graders, this will be their first exposure to taking semester final exams. Please continue to check your student's binder and planner in an effort to keep informed of upcoming assignments, exam reviews, and exam schedules. Please contact the campus should you have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your student at Austin Academy.
Enjoy the winter break!

John Fishpaw, Principal

**SAVE THE DATE:
8th GRADE DANCE
MAY 12, 2018
Granville Atrium**

A Word From Our PTA President

Hello to all of our Austin Academy for Excellence families! I can't believe how quickly the first half of this school year has gone by! Thanks to the PTA Board, dedicated AAE parents, staff and volunteers, we've accomplished quite a lot in a few short months!

Here are a few things that AAE PTA has already accomplished this year:

Membership: We have over 300 members and would love to have more to exceed last year's total of 400+! There is still time to join the PTA, your support makes a huge difference in funding programs for our school. You can join online at www.joinpta.org, www.pt-avenue.com, or fill out a membership form.

Teacher Appreciation: PTA provided dinner on both evenings during school conferences as teachers were not able to leave the school. We also celebrated teachers birthdays with a big cake. This year AAE started Teacher of the Month and PTA presented awards and gift cards for the winners.

Reflections: We had more entries this year for the Reflections contest than we've had in a very long time. Thank you to all the students who participated!

Spirit Wear: The PTA designs and sells spirit-wear throughout the school year to not only promote school spirit, but to raise money for the school. This year we've added many personalized items. Austin spirit-wear can be purchased online at www.pt-avenue.com/ShopGP.asp

House Parties and Concessions: The PTA supplied each student with House shirts and sold snacks and Kona Ice for the winning house each 6th weeks. During Volley and Basketball home games PTA sold concessions to help raise funds to support various PTA initiatives throughout the school.

Community Projects: This year our PTA started monthly community projects to give back, help others, and make a difference for those in our community. So far we've collected \$1083 for Hurricane Harvey Relief, 1523 boxes of Mac&Cheese for local food pantries, and 100's of cards and almost 100 pounds of candy for Military Troops!

These are just a few highlights of what AAE PTA Board and volunteers have accomplished in the past three months to help our school be the best Middle School in GISD! In addition, PTA also handles Career Speakers, Spirit Nights, Student Directory, School Supplies, Volunteer Coordination, AAE Newsletter, Book Fair, 8th Grade Dance, Parent Education and Programs. One of the biggest impacts the PTA makes on the school is through funding programs and supplies for school wide initiatives. We need your help and support to make AAE the BEST! Please join AAE PTA and help us reach our goal of 500 memberships!!

Thank you for your ongoing support of AAE PTA!

GO EAGLES!

Ruth Vaughan, AAE PTA President



Yearbooks can be ordered online
<https://goo.gl/W2DaWv>
or through the office.

We will be selling yearbooks until Feb 2.



Austin Spirit Wear
can be purchased online at:
www.pt-avenue.com/ShopGP.asp

AAE – This is Our House

Empower #ourhouse

Inspire #wingsup

Integrity #truegrit



THEATER NEWS:

Auditions for the spring play, *Macbeth*, will be held on January 9th and 10th from 4:10 to 5:15 in room 11.

NJHS NEWS

NJHS students should be working on Spring service hours. We will have a few more opportunities for a chapter project for those NJHS members who did not complete this in fall. Each member must participate in one chapter project a year, in addition to their service hours. If you have any questions, please see a member of the NJHS Board or either Mrs. Roell or Mrs. Ayers.



ART NEWS:

Art Zero Hour is back! Starting in January.

If interested, check with your counselor.

PTA COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

Collecting/delivering Macaroni and Cheese (1523 boxes) for local food bank

Collecting/delivery candy & cards for the military at Ft. Sam Houston



WARRIOR AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Serving patients, next-of-kin and Family members of

Operation Iraqi Freedom,
Operation New Dawn and
Operation Enduring Freedom

"The WFSC appreciates the many generous donors who have assisted us by providing the following items for distribution to Wounded Warriors and Family Members."

Gift Cards, Baked Goods, Candy, Individually Wrapped Snacks, DVD's, Popcorn, Diapers, Formula, Baby Wipes and Personal Hygiene Products

Warrior and Family Support Center

"Where sacrifice and bravery find the support of a grateful nation."

ATHLETICS NEWS:

Girl's 7th grade Basketball schedule:

B Team Game Time: 5:30

A Team Game Time: 10 minutes after B Team ends

January 8 Sellers vs. Austin
January 17 Austin vs. O'Banion
January 22 Austin vs. Schrade
January 29 Brandenburg vs. Austin
February 5 Bussey vs. Austin

Tournaments:

B Team January 13 @ North Garland High
A Team January 27 @ North Garland High



Girl's 8th grade Basketball Schedule:

B Team Game Time: 5:30

A Team Game Time: 10 minutes after B Team ends

January 11 Sellers vs. Austin
January 18 Austin vs. O'Banion
January 25 Austin vs. Schrade
February 1 Brandenburg vs. Austin
February 8 Bussey vs. Austin

Tournaments:

B Team January 13 @ South Garland High
A Team January 27 @ South Garland High

Ticket prices for all games:

\$2.00 for Adults

\$1.00 for Students

Boy's 7th grade Basketball Schedule

B Team Game Time: 5:30

A Team Game Time: 10 minutes after B Team ends

January 8 Austin vs. Sellers
January 17 Schrade vs. Austin
January 29 Austin vs. Brandenburg
February 5 Austin vs. Bussey

Tournaments:

B Team January 13 @ Rowlett High
A Team January 27 @ Rowlett High



Boy's 8th grade Basketball Schedule

B Team Game Time: 5:30

A Team Game Time: 10 minutes after B Team ends

January 11 Austin vs. Sellers
January 18 O'Banion vs. Austin
January 25 Schrade vs. Austin
February 1 Austin vs. Brandenburg
February 8 Austin vs. Bussey

Tournaments:

B Team January 13 @ Naaman Forest High
A Team January 27 @ Naaman Forest High

CHOIR NEWS:

--Austin Academy Choir sent 88 students to the GISD Middle School Solo and Ensemble Contest on October 28th, 2017, in addition to hosting this event open to over 700 GISD students. 87 soloists received a First Division rating, one soloist received a Second Division rating, and one ensemble received a First Division rating. Of the 88 soloists, 26 were Outstanding Soloist Nominees. Of the 27 Outstanding Soloists Winners selected *contest-wide*, 15 were Austin students, by far more than any other school. We are so proud of these singers!

--7th and 8th grade choirs perform at NorthPark Mall for "Sounds of the Season" Performance Series: A Cappella Choir & Men's Chorale on 12/7, and Girls Select and Treble Choirs on 12/8.

--Choir Winter Concert (all choirs): Mon. 12/11 @ NFHS, 7:15pm



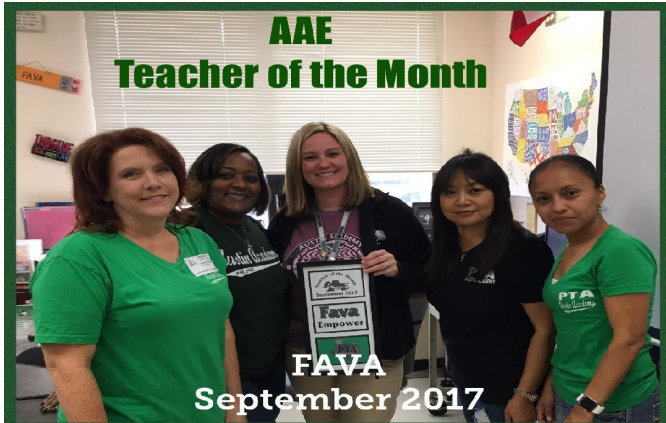
ORCHESTRA NEWS:

Orchestra students had a great party DD Ranch on November 3rd! They enjoyed hayrides, campfire, paddle boats, games and food.

Our Honors Orchestra had 30 students participate in the TMEA Region 3 All Region Clinic & Concert on Dec. 8-9th. It was a great concert!

The orchestra students performed their Winter Concert on Dec. 11th at GHS. The music was wonderful and everyone enjoyed the holiday music. Additionally, 33 band students joined the honors orchestra for their full orchestra piece, "Peer Gynt Selections".

We are looking forward to our Solo/Ensemble contest on Sat. Jan. 20th. It will be held at Webb Middle School.



We Love our AAE Teachers, Administrators and Staff!



**AAE PTA Awards from the GISD Council of PTA's
Fall 2017 SEMESTER:**

Outstanding PTA	Honorable Mention	September 2017
Outstanding PTA	Winner	October 2017
Outstanding PTA	Winner	November 2017



Austin Academy of Excellence PTA
everychild. onevoice.®

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NEXT PTA ASSOCIATION MEETING.

****Dates are subject to CHANGE with one week notice****

FEBRUARY 6, 2018 Time TBD**

APRIL 4, 2018 Time TBD**

UPCOMING PTA PROGRAMS

AIM FOR SUCCESS

MARCH 20, 2018 - Parents Program 06:00 PM - 07:00 PM

MARCH 23, 2018 - Student Programs 02:00 PM - 04:00 PM



AUSTIN ACADEMY PTA FAMILY INFORMATION

FOR SCHOOL DIRECTORY/PTA MEMBERSHIP /VOLUNTEERS

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE#: _____ EMAIL: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____ HOUSE: _____

STUDENT NAME 2: _____ GRADE: _____ HOUSE: _____

STUDENT NAME3: _____ GRADE: _____ HOUSE: _____

****PLEASE CHECK FIELDS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STUDENT DIRECTORY**PROVIDED ONLY FOR PTA MEMBERS****

___*ALL* ___ NAME ___ ADDRESS ___ PHONE# ___ EMAIL ___*NONE*

CHOOSE YOUR PTA MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- \$ _____ 1 MEMBERSHIP = \$9.00
- \$ _____ 2 MEMBERSHIP = \$15.00
- \$ _____ 3 MEMBERSHIP = \$22.00
- \$ _____ STUDENT MEMBERSHIP = \$6.00
- \$ _____ TEXAS LIFE MEMBERSHIP = \$6.75
- \$ _____ BUSY PARENT MEMBERSHIP=\$50
(OPTION FOR PARENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE TIME TO VOLUNTEER)

Checks Payable to
AUSTIN ACADEMY PTA.
ATTACH PAYMENT AND
RETURN COMPLETED FORM
TO AUSTIN ACADEMY

\$ _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED CASH:** _____ **CHECK#:** _____ **CREDIT CARD:** _____

Name(s) For Membership(s): _____

BE ACTIVE! BE INFORMED! BACK THE FUTURE! JOIN PTA!

BE A VOLUNTEER

How would you like to receive VOLUNTEER Communication? TEXT: _____ EMAIL: _____ BOTH: _____

Grade Level(s) for which you would like to VOLUNTEER: 6th: _____ 7th: _____ 8th: _____ Any: _____

Time(s) for which you would be able to VOLUNTEER: _____

CHOOSE EVENT(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR:

- _____ SNACK DONATIONS _____ House Parent _____ Book Fair _____ Fundraising
- _____ Field Trip Chaperone _____ 8th Grade Dance _____ Career Day Speaker
- _____ Teacher Appreciation Donations _____ Request Businesses Donation

_____ ****ALL**** _____ ****VIP** I can Volunteer In-a-Pinch**

AUSTIN ACADEMY PTA BOARD MEMBERS:

Officers:

President	Ruth Vaughan	brindisi1985@aol.com
1 st VP Programs	Andrea Hardgrave	ahardgrave31@gmail.com
2 nd VP Membership	Jennifer McAlister	mcalisterjen@hotmail.com
3 rd VP Budget/Finance	Maricela Saldana	saldanam@verizon.net
Secretary	Stephanie Hilburn	shilbun1@verizon.net
Treasurer	Tina Scott	tnlscott@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Marylee Lajoie	mlajoie4@tx.rr.com

Standing Committee Chairs:

House Party Rep	Zaida Hernandez	hzaida25@yahoo.com
7 th Grade Room Rep.		
8 th Grade Room Rep.		
Snack Attack	Tammy Buckner	tambuck3@yahoo.com
	Julie Macatee	juliemacatee@msn.com
8 th Grade Dance	Julie McCracken	jeamc28@verizon.net
	Stephanie Ingram	spoulan@hotmail.com
Arts in Education	Rene Bennett	renelbennett@yahoo.com
Book Fair	Sarah Ali	sarah6210@gmail.com
Career Speakers	Barbara Baker	akasnicklfrtz@yahoo.com
Council Delegate	OPEN	
Council Delegate	Tara Major	temajor4ever@gmail.com
Historian		
Legislative Action	Jeff Baker	akajeffb-gpta@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Tammy Benson-O'Brien	mikentamo@yahoo.com
Parent Ed	Elena Taylor	etaylor@foxrothschild.com
School Supplies	Donna Bailey	bailey1992@verizon.net
Spirit Wear	Stephanie Ingram	spoulan@hotmail.com
	Julie McCracken	jeamc28@verizon.net
Special Projects	Michelle Moreno	tmk2004@verizon.net
Student Directory	Michele Taylor	mtyler302@hotmail.com
Teacher Appreciation/ Hospitality	Janessa Brewer	aquanessa@yahoo.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Melissa Huffman	mahuffma@garlandisd.net
Website/Publicity	Tom Gallagher	thomasgallagher@mac.com
Concessions	Misty Hemmingway	misty75042@icloud.com
Principal	John Fishpaw	JRFishpa@garlandisd.net