

Vote on the new PTO Board & Budget Tuesday, May 5 at 8 a.m.

Due to the Cinco de Mayo Celebration, the PTO meeting will be held in the computer lab.

Principal's Pen

Spring is officially upon us and Poe Elementary staff, students, and parents are busier than ever!

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students and teachers are working diligently to prepare for our last round of TAKS tests during the week of April 27-May 1. Please continue to support our students by encouraging them to do their BEST, reminding them to have a full night's rest, serving them a light and healthy breakfast, and most importantly, helping them arrive on time. We will have a closed campus during testing time in order to maintain a calm and quiet testing environment. For parents who are assisting as field-trip volunteers during that week, please make sure to talk to your child's teacher about arrival times. All parent volunteers should have completed the VIPS registration process. There will be no more after-school tutorials beginning Monday, April 27, and no Kid's College on Tuesday, April 28.

We continue the next several months with Auction functions, as our teachers, parents, and students enjoy a fun time together, and also begin to think about plans for next year. Last week, in Monday folders, your child brought home a "Parent/Guardian Placement Letter." Pam and I will use this information in making class lists for the next school year, and are requesting that you turn them in to the front office by May 22, 2009 for consideration.

An updated letter regarding the new "norming standards" used to measure student performance in this year's Stanford test was also sent out in Monday folders on April 20. If your child is in grade 1- 5, please refer to your Monday folder today, as you will find another print out of the Stanford results for your reference. There were no changes in norms for Kindergarten students.

Kindergarten registration is on-going. Should you have any questions regarding the registration process, contact Nelda Molina and Melva Suarez in the main office. THANK YOU to all PTO and VIPS parent volunteers who assisted with our Kindergarten Round-Up. It was a great success!

THANK YOU for helping make Poe the VERY BEST! ☺ **C. Gonzales**

G/T Testing for Students Entering Kindergarten

Our campus is participating in the Gifted and Talented testing program for entering kindergarten students. Applications for G/T testing are available in the Poe Elementary office, and are due in the main office by May 8, 2009. After an application is received, an appointment will be scheduled for the child and parent during the testing timeline, May 11-29. For information, contact Leslie Stalc at lstalc@houstonisd.org.

The PTO Needs You

It only takes a few minutes a week to make a tremendous difference at Poe. Please consider volunteering to chair one of the following Board positions for the 2009-2010 school year.

Enjoy writing? You will love being the editor of **Poe in the Know**. It's a great volunteer job that allows you to interact with parents, teachers and staff members alike. A literature lover is needed to chair the **Library** position. Like throwing a great party? Sign up to be the **Valentine's Day Luncheon** Chair. The annual benefit raises money for Poe and enhances the school's relationship with its surrounding neighborhood. To volunteer, contact Cathy Moore today at rscmoore@earthlink.net.

Reducing Poe's Footprint

A few days ago, the world celebrated Earth Day. At Poe, this is the perfect time to celebrate a teacher and a parent who are leading the charge to make the school the HISD model for successful recycling.

Third grade science teacher and conservationist Ellie Morse's passion for recycling and saving the planet is legendary at Poe. For years, Morse has been collecting recyclables at school, putting them in her car and driving them to a collection facility.

In 2008, the PTO added the position of Recycling Chair to the Board and Shelley Homeyer, a parent, architect, and minister in training, volunteered for the job. She and Morse joined forces to find out what they could do to create a properly functioning recycling program.

They called on Chris Synek, Allied Waste Industries' senior vice president for Southern operations and the uncle of a third grader at Poe. Synek immediately made a generous donation of all the recycle bins necessary to kick-start this important project. The gift saved Poe over \$1,700. In addition, Allied team members met with Morse and Homeyer to discuss Poe's needs and hopes for the future of the program. Allied performed a professional audit of Poe's recycling history and discovered that the school had the potential of recycling four tons of waste a month but was only recycling an average of 762 lbs a month in 2008. That means less than 10% of recyclable waste was actually being recycled.

In order to reduce Poe's environmental footprint, Morse and Homeyer hope to assist the school in recycling an additional 30% of waste in 2009-2010. This attainable goal can be reached with the new collection containers, educational materials, heightened awareness, and finding fun ways for students to get involved in the process. The ultimate goal is to give children lifelong skills they can use to help create a more sustainable future. If you can help with this exciting new program, contact Shelley Homeyer at shomeyer@sbcglobal.net.

Carnival T-shirt Art Contest May 4-11

Get your child's art supplies ready because the carnival t-shirt art contest is May 4-11. Details coming soon.

The Poe SPARK Park is just \$75,000 from GOOOOAL! 

If you haven't already, please consider making a tax deductible donation for this important project. Checks should be made out to the Poe PTO with SPARK Park written on the memo line. Donations may be dropped in the SPARK Park box in the school's office.

Donate \$500 or more and your name will be engraved on a plaque to be prominently displayed on the playground and athletic field.

April/May Events

Monday 04.27 TAKS Testing this week for grades 3-5	Tuesday 05.05 PTO Meeting 8 a.m. to vote on new Board	Thursday 05.14 Evening of the Arts grades 4 & 5, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 04.28 Family Night at Gugliani's - 2400 Times Blvd.	Thursday, 05.07 VIPS Thank You Breakfast 8 a.m. - cafeteria	Friday 05.22 5th Grade Graduation 6:30 p.m.
Monday 05.04 Teacher Appreciation Week	Friday 05.08 All Art Day	Monday 05.22 School Holiday