



Charger PTO Chatter

PIN OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO

4601 Glenmont Drive • Bellaire, Texas, 77401 • www.pinoakpto.org 16 August 2011

Principal's Message

I hope you have all enjoyed your summer! I look forward to seeing our returning students and to welcoming our incoming class of sixth graders to the POMS community. Our faculty, custodial staff, parents, and the PTO board have been busy preparing for the upcoming school year.

Pin Oak is beginning its 10th year of existence. The 2010-2011 school year was my first year as principal of POMS. I could not be prouder our students and our entire school community! We had an OUTSTANDING year last year. We celebrated with award winning recognitions such as the TBEC Honor Roll School and a TEA Exemplary Campus. The teachers at POMS continue to have high expectations for all students.

The rigor in the classrooms is evident by the incredible number of increased commended performance on TAKS. Way to go POMS students, staff, and parents. Our collaborative efforts contribute to the success of each and every student!

I would like to offer a few reminders to ensure that we get off to a smooth start. The first day of school is Monday, August 22. We do have a NEW start time and end time for the 2011-2012 school year. The first bell will ring at 8:05 and classes begin at 8:15. Please note that this is a change from the 8:30 start time. The school day ends at 3:30.

Contrary to popular lore, the Dress Code for the 2011-12 school

year will remain the same. I want to stress that we will have dress code checks. All students are expected to follow dress code throughout the entire year.

Please also remind your student to complete summer homework. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have summer homework!

On the first day of school, August 22, we will host a parent coffee at 8:30 in the school library. Please stop by and meet the administrative team, the PTO Board and other POMS parents. I look forward to working with you! It is going to be a GREAT year!

Susan Monaghan,
Principal

How To Stay Connected

Phone 713 295-6500
Fax 713 295-6511

Websites

POMS: www.pinoak.us
Links to handbook, house blogs, language programs, fine arts programs, sports, clubs, and calendar

PTO: www.pinoakpto.org
Links to volunteer registration, membership, and activities

Address
4601 Glenmont
Bellaire, TX 77401

HISD: www.houstonisd.org

Parent Student Connect/Gradespeed: www.houstonisd.org/HISDConnectDS

Prepaid Lunch Cards: www.parentonline.net

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by Caroline Quenemoen
Please send news to
caroline.quenemoen@gmail.com

TRANSPORTATION

Bus

HISD determines your child's eligibility for transportation and



sends a card to you by mail with your assigned stop, pick-up, and drop-off time. Occasionally, the bus may run behind schedule and drop your child off at school after the late bell. His tardiness will be excused as long as he goes to the front office to get a late pass. If you have any problems or concerns, contact HISD transportation at (713) 613-3040.

Car

You may drop and pick up your child at the front entrance to the school. Please do not go to the back parking lot as it is reserved for bus transportation.

CAFETERIA

Breakfast

The First Class Breakfast Program sponsored by HISD provides a free breakfast to all students.

Lunch

Your child may bring lunch from home or purchase it at school by using a prepaid lunch card or cash. Available for purchase is a changing menu offered by HISD Food Services as well as à la carte

items, such as Papa John's Pizza, chicken sandwiches, french fries, ice cream, smoothies, slushies, juice, and water. To prepay and manage meal purchases, visit www.parentonline.net. The system will ask for a user name and password, the name of your child's school, and student ID number.



SCHOOL STORE

The Pin Oak School Store sells a wide variety of school uniforms, supplies, and spirit items. Your purchases directly benefit the school. All store profits are returned to students and the school through student support, teacher support or capital improvements throughout the school.

The store will be featuring new products, seasonal products and just plain fun items throughout the school year. Come by and get your essential school items and look for those things that will place a smile on your face. We are located in the Commons, next to the lunch line near the microwaves. Our regular hours are Monday-Friday, 7:45-8:15 a.m. and 3:00-3:30 p.m. and during normal lunch periods. The school store accepts cash, checks, and credit cards (Mastercard and Visa credit cards only.)

SCHOOL UNIFORMS:

- * Pick up uniforms Friday, Aug. 19, and Sat., August 20 from 12-2.
- * Uniforms are sold at the School Store throughout the year!
- * Hoodies, Polo-Shirts, Fitted Polo-Shirts, and T-Shirts are all available for purchase.
- * For jackets and skirts, please go to Academic Outfitters, 5475 West Loop South #150, Houston, TX 77081, Tel: 713-660-0206, visit www.AcademicOutfitters.com, or e-mail Kim@AcademicOutfitters.com. We have samples in the school store.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

- * Check the SUPPLY LIST for 2011/12.
- * The School Store carries supplies all year as requested by the teachers.
- * We also sell special project supplies and a lot of fun and seasonal items.

FUN FOOD FRIDAYS

Pin Oak students know the weekend is near when the smell of fresh baked cookies makes it to their classroom! Right before Friday dismissal, the PTO sells cookies to students and faculty. Stop by for a yummy treat!

HOMWORK AND GRADES

Every student receives a planner to record homework assignments and upcoming tests. Each grade and cluster also has a blog should the planner happen to be blank! Links to the blogs are on the school website, www.pinoak.us, under "Class Information."

To check grades and missing assignments, register for HISD's

"Parent Student Connect" (www.houstonisd.org, click on "Parents" and then PSC Login in drop down menu. This link will guide you through the set-up: PSCConnect Demo. If you used "The Source" in 2010/11, you do not need to register again. If you are a new parent, please have your child's SSN and School ID number ready when registering.

Trip to Boston

All Pin Oak 7th and 8th graders are invited to visit historic Boston with the Chargers! In conjunction with Smithsonian Student Travel, Mr. Wagner will host a 5 day trip to Boston, Salem, Lexington and Concord, and Plymouth in the spring of 2012. The cost for a student is \$1497 and includes roundtrip air transportation, hotel, breakfasts and dinners, ground transportation, all entrance fees and gratuities, and insurance. Contact Mr. Wagner (gwagner@houstonisd.org) with questions or for more information. Spaces for the trip will be limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration deadline is August 31.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

The POMS afterschool program runs every day until 6 p.m. Please contact the main office to register.

Peer Tutoring

The Pin Oak Peer Tutoring Program allows you to get help on your school work from fellow Pin Oak students in the library. Look for the schedule once school starts.

Pin Oak-isms

Pin Oak students and faculty have their own specialized vocabulary. To be in the know, consult the following list of frequently used terms:

POMS: Pin Oak Middle School

Advocacy: A student's "homeroom", held M-Th, during which he does various activities

House commons: Each house has its own common area with couches and tables where meetings are regularly held

Stables: When a student fails to do homework, he is sent to a room (usually the back room in the Library), called "Stables", to complete his homework during lunch

EWTS: Evening with the Stars, the school's main fundraiser, held November 12 this year

Pin Oak Idol: The school-wide talent show held annually in May for students from all grades

Black Box: The Theatre classroom, also called Caja Negra

PIN OAK FOR PARENTS

PTO Membership

By joining the Pin Oak PTO, you help support the school, its programs and services. PTO funds are used to provide classroom supplies, upgrade technology and support the activities and services that directly benefit the students and faculty of Pin Oak Middle School. Your contribution to the PTO funds those efforts.

PTO BOARD, 2011-2012

If you need to contact a board member, you will find e-mail links at pinoakpto.org/pinoakpto-about.html.

Executive Board

President	Roxanne van Ravenswaay
President-Elect	Andy Chan
VP - Communication	Sharon Veldman Alison Bell
VP - Activities	Laura Dew & Martha Woulfe
VP - Fundraising	Linda Ashman & Tami Owen
VP - School Store	Andy Chan
Recording Secretary	Ginny Martin
Corresponding Sec.	Tonya Betts
Treasurer	open
Parliamentarian	Christine Betzer
Principal	Susan Monaghan

Communications

Publicity	Beth Brown
Directory: Logistics	Priscilla Kennedy
Directory: Ads	Elizabeth Connolly
Newsletter	Caroline Quenemoen
Technology	Neal Waxham

Activities

Charger Camp	Denise Mccarthy Beth Euscher
Open House	Anne Marie Falloure Becky St. Denis
Magnet Week	Kathy Vingoe Kristin Dawson
6th Grade Orientation	Cheri Cho
8th Grade Activities	Liz McGuffee Mimi Branham
POMS Moms	Becky St. Denis Ann Marie Falloure
Hospitality	Mary Capistran Paula Permenter
Teacher Appreciation	Tammy Thompson Kathryn Berg
Volunteer Coordinator	Maria Gomez

Basic membership is as low as \$5 and covers all adults in one household. By supporting at a higher level, you increase our ability to meet the academic, social, and extracurricular needs of our students and community. All contributions to the PTO are tax-deductible as the PTO is a 501(c)(3) organization. To join, please go to www.pinoakpto.org/membership.

Evening with the Stars

Mark your calendar! From 6-9 p.m. on Friday, November 4. The Pin Oak PTO will host *Evening with the Stars*, the school's main fundraiser. This wonderful event includes a carnival for the entire family, performances by the Fine Arts Department, games, food, silent auction, and a raffle. Look for more details in upcoming newsletters.

Booster Club	Les Owen John Ashman
High School Day	Laura Dew, Karen Wagner, Martha Woulfe
Track/Fun Run Beautification	Angie Simon Angela Roth

Development

Membership	Laurie Lowery Bridget Purdie
EWTS	Lynne Goddard Elyssa Schultz
Pin Oak Idol	Cody Congdon Kelly Cummings
Fun Food Fridays	Forreste Markowitz Windy Sides
Book Fair-Fall Book Fair-Spring Hospitality	Joanna Veigel open Mary Capistran Paula Peremeter
Retail Partnerships	Ginny Martin

Store

Uniforms	Kathy Bowlin Suzanne Shelby
Staffing	Madeline Spector
Finance	open
Novelty	Kristy Compton Lynda Knight
Candy	Denise Savrick