



POMS PTO NEWSLETTER



THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP!

Alex Nichols **POMS PTO President**

I am sure that many parents like me are wondering how this school year has flown by so quickly. The month of May always brings a host of activities—awards, celebrations, the endings of one school year, and new beginnings for our 8th graders as they leave us a few weeks from now. As we close this year I want to recognize our Nominating Committee – Cindy Wood, Carol Beittenmiller, and Tricia Taper for the wonderful job they did putting together our new slate of officers (see pg 7) for the upcoming school year. Thanks to the parents who stepped up to take on new positions and to those who are staying on the board– I look forward to working with such an enthusiastic group! I want to recognize and thank **all** of the parents who volunteered their time and talents to the school this past year. Some of the accomplish-

ments by our PTO members include:

Anne Baronitis and her team worked with the Fine Arts faculty to put on a wonderful “Evening with the Stars” in November with a dinner and showcase of talent by our students.

Dena Robinson and Sharyn Baker have been the driving force of our school store for the third year. They coordinate the many aspect of running the store, including scheduling of parent volunteers who work at the store before and after school, as well as lunchtime. Thanks to everyone who has helped staff the store--you have been integral to the success of the store being the major fundraiser for the PTO!

Kathy Vingoe and Mary Beth Yard have made our teachers and faculty feel appreciated throughout the year, and they assisted with Magnet Week as well.

Christine Wilson created a new website for the PTO this year and has kept it updated with information for parents, while Shahara Wright has created and sent out the eNewsletters.

Latonya Ellerbee was hard at work with her committee to put on the Pin Oak Idol show on May 15, 2009. It was a great evening of entertainment so I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did!

There are many, many other parent volunteers too numerous to mention by name who have helped with a myriad of events throughout the year from field trips, academic tournaments, dance, cheer, fine arts, music, 8th grade promotion activities, sporting events...it's parents like you that help make Pin Oak such a wonderful place for our kids.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!

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POMS CHEERLEADERS ARE NUMBER ONE

POMS Cheerleaders took 1st place in the 2009 Greater Houston Cheer and Dance Explosion at Barnett Stadium on Saturday March 28th.

Margana Wood ~ 1st place Tumbling Pass & Jump Sequence

Stunt Group ~ 1st place: Kylynn Maldonado, Katie Froehlich, Adrianna Franklin, Katie Fikaris, Leah Catley

Team ~ 1st place Middle School.

Congratulations Girls, we are all proud of you!



Problem Solving at Pin Oak Reaches New Heights

With wins this year Pin Oak students have topped \$200,000 dollars in prize money. Four teams from Pin Oak Middle School have once again taken home top honors in regional and national contests.

Team **Super Sport Squad** took first place in region and has earned an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C for a week in June to compete for the national championships.

Emily Christians, Emily White, Maddie Cooper, and Kate Beittenmiller have created and implemented a program to teach students with special needs basic sports skills and developed a curriculum to be used by teachers throughout the district. Each young lady will win a \$3,000 dollar savings bond, a guarantee of at least \$3,500 more, and a chance at a \$5,000 dollar bonds at nationals

Also recognized by e-cybermission at the regional level for excellence in the application of Math and science is the Team of **Stay'n Alive** with **Lila Lowe, Morgan Taper, and Lauren Sigmon**. These young la-

dies researched and developed a proposal to construct a cistern in our outdoor environmental study area to conserve water. After construction and implementation, the team would like to see data collected on water conservation and hopes the project can act as a pilot program for other schools to follow. Each young lady has won a \$2,000 dollar savings bond.

Recognized by the Christopher Columbus Foundation for community innovations as a top 30 national finalist is **Gone with the Wind** with **Rachel Nolen, Elizabeth Ramirez and Megan Cameron**. This team designed and constructed a model roof that they tested in a series of wind tunnel experiments to find the optimal angle for roof designs to survive hurricanes. We will know on April 28th if the team has been chosen to compete for the national championships at Disney World in June.

Last, but certainly not least, we have one more team that has been chosen for state finalist by Siemens We Can Change the World/Discovery

Channel

Environmental Contest. Team **Picture This** with **Cassandra Tullier, Donia Idressi,** and

Nina Carter **Setting a course for the future!**

created and ran an environmental film festival for students from all over the country to enter their own film about an environmental issue they believe in and then ran break out sessions to encourage an open exchange of ideas between adult and kids.

We will know on May 4th if the team has been chosen to compete for the national championships in New York City this summer.

Good Luck Girls, you make us all Pin Oak Proud! Kudos and hurrahs go to the dissertation coaches **Ms. Linsley, Ms. Furnari, and Mr. Scott**.



THE SCHOOL STORE HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Weekly Volunteers: Gary Fruge, Sr., Elizabeth Sanford, Marlene Matterson, Tina Reibold, Claire Coale, Airraca Bell, Ann Moore, Lisa Lehmann, Candy Hannis, Allison Sutton, Della Schapiro, Dana Abramczyk, Leisa Lovy, Julie Fikaris, Christine Wilson, Laurie Tullier, Andrea Clay, Kathy Vingoe, Mary Beth Yard, Cynthia Goodman, Judy Snelling, Wendy Warnke, Suzie Wernette, and Kerri Van Dusen.

Thanks to the many volunteers at

the Pin Oak School Store, the PTO has already raised over \$33,000 from the store alone. The funds go directly back to improving the school. Along with upgrades to the drama department, the PTO was also able to assist the school with the purchase and installation of 32 ELMOS. These digital video presenters allow the teachers to show almost anything on a large screen or monitor. The improvements won't stop there. Mr. McDonough will be presenting another "wish list" to the PTO soon.

A great big THANK YOU goes out to the following volunteers who have worked tirelessly all year to help us accomplish this huge achievement:

Chairs: Sharyn Baker, Dena Robinson.

If you would like to join this successful team next year, you may contact the store at pinoakschoolstore@gmail.com. With your help, we can continue to fund improvements to an already wonderful school!



STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Highlights of Pin Oak during the 2008-2009 School Year

School Wide Achievements

- 2008 National Blue Ribbon Award
- 2008 TBEC Honor Roll School
- 2007-08 TEA Exemplary Rating
- 2007-08 No Place For Hate® Campus
- 2008 TMSA Official Conference Focus School
- 2008 TEA Distinguished Progress School
- 2008 Blue Ribbon School Site Visit Campus
- 2008 HISD ASPIRE Student Growth Ranking # 1

Academic Achievements

- History Fair – Highest Number to Regionals!
- Geography Bee – One on to State Level
- Texas Quiz Show – Reigning State Champs!
- Regional Award Winners for E-Cybermission – will break \$165k
- Speech & Debate program flourishing.
- Christopher Columbus Award Winners 2 yrs in a row.
- Yearbook featured by Taylor in Year

- End Catalog.
- Over 1700 Applicants to our School.
- UIL Academic Competition Continues with Success.
- Opened up The STABLES.

Upcoming 2009-2010 School Year

- Foreign Language Lab
- New Exploration Courses for 6th graders.
- Grade-Speed Program to increase communication with parents.
- Community Town Hall Meeting
- Boys Lacrosse

<http://www.pinoak.us/parents/docs/stateOfTheSchoolsAddress2009.ppt>

CYBERBULLYING

Pin Oak Student Survey

- 338 Completed Surveys:
- 45% of students reported that they do not have family rules regarding Internet use
- 35% of students reported that they have received an angry, offensive, or rude email or text message
- 67% of students reported having a profile on a social networking site

Signs your child may be a victim of cyber bullying

- Unexpectedly stops using the computer
- Appears nervous or jumpy when an instant message, text message or email appears
- Appears uneasy about going to school or outside in general



PIN OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Appears angry, frustrated, or depressed after using the computer
- Avoids discussions about what they are doing on the computer
- Becomes abnormally withdrawn from usual friends or family
- Quickly switches screens or closes programs when you walk by
- Uses computer at all hours of the night.
- Gets unusually upset if he/she cannot use the computer
- Laughs excessively while using the

- computer
- Avoids discussions about what they are doing on the computer
- Uses multiple online accounts or uses an account that is not their own.

How to keep your child safe online

- Create an Internet Use Contract
- If you can't beat them, join them
- Know who your child is communicating with
- Be aware of what your teens are posting
- Blocking/Parental Controls
- Lead by example

<http://www.pinoak.us/parents/docs/cyberBullying2009.ppt>

PIN OAK SPEECH & DEBATE SQUAD

The Pin Oak Speech & Debate Squad competed in its last tournament of the year on April 25, 2009 at U of H's 6th annual Middle School Speech, Debate, and Theater competition. 38 students from Pin Oak competed in the tournament which included 300 students from 11 schools across the Houston area. The team won 2nd place Sweepstakes, following our rivals Lanier.

Outstanding Student Achievements:

Daniel Chaves: 1st place Spanish Soapbox; 3rd place Declamation.
Ethan Campbell: 2nd place Soap-

box Speaking, 5th place religious text. Alexander Nelson-Fryar: 2nd place TV commercial; Debate Octo-finalist. Edmar Bustos: 2nd place Spanish TV commercial; 3rd place Spanish storytelling; 9th place Spanish storytelling. Edwin Quieh: 1st Spanish TV commercial; 2nd place impromptu speaking; 3rd place Spanish soapbox; 7th place Spanish storytelling. Marin Cabrera: 2nd place impromptu speaking, 2nd place Spanish soapbox. Grant Silverman: 3rd place group lip sync. Kevin Dwyer: 3rd place lip sync; Lincoln Douglass Debate Finalist. Carolina Trevino: 3rd place group

improvisation; 6th place audition. Laura Jimenez: 5th place audition; 8th place group improvisation. Lizzeth Almendarez & Taylor McCurdy: 8th place improvisation. Michelle Silber: 4th place vocal solo; 8th place group improvisation. Alex Hoffman: 6th place soapbox speaking. Herman Aguilar: 4th place Spanish soapbox. Valery Pokliyado: 2nd place solo lip sync, 4th place dance. Adam Kassem: 3rd place group improvisation. Amy Chab: 3rd place vocal solo. Julien Abvani & Seth Uzman: Debate Octo-finalist.

2009-2010 Pin Oak Cheer Squad

Katie Fikaris
Olivia Brown
Adrianna Franklin
Marqelle Christian
Katie Froehlich
Arrianna Jefferson
Kylyan Maldonado
Kailyun Johnson
Hailey Lassiter

CONGRATULATIONS!

Brianna McGowan
Cierra Loflin
Jordan Miller
Blaire Roberts
Karielle Parker
Nadirah Perkins

Courtney Springer
Alanis Simon
Tytianna Wright
Mascot: Alexis McConnell-Ibarra
Manager: Destiny Williams

PIN OAK

POMS hosted its 4th annual Pennies for Patients penny war. POMS raised a total of \$1,181.00 for the benefit of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Congratulations to the 6th grade class for having the most pennies and fewest silver change and dollar bills. It helped that there was a 50 dollar bill in both the 7th and 8th grade jars, setting them each



back about 25,000 pennies. For their efforts, the 6th grade class will receive a popsicle party this month. POMS is looking forward to next

PENNY WAR

year where it will attempt to break its own record of raising \$1,645.00.

Special Mention: Hoops for Heart
POMS raised a total of \$715.28 in just one week. The top fundraiser was Joshua Quimbly raising \$329.28. Ms. Fredricks will still accept monies donated that has not been turned in.

PTO BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS STILL OPEN

The POMS PTO 2009-2010 still has room for you to help. Here are a list of Board and Committee positions that are still available for you to volunteer. If you think it may be too much for you to handle alone, pick a friend to help you.

- President Co-chair

- VP 3 Fundraising
- 6th Grade Orientation chair
- Pin Oak Idol chair
- Fun Food Fridays chair
- School Store Candy Sales Coordinator

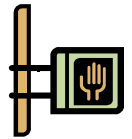
Here is a link to the PTO website

where you can download the volunteer form which has descriptions of all the positions... <http://www.pinoakpto.org/forms/pinoakpto-volunteer-form.pdf>

We want to thank all of those who have volunteered for the POMS PTO 2009-2010 Board and Committee positions.



SAFETY FIRST: CROSSWALKERS MAKING IT HAPPEN



After years of school administrators and parents trying to make the crossing conditions on Glenmont Street safer, a Pin Oak Dissertation Group, The Crosswalkers (Kevin Dwyer, Alex Hoffman, and Seth Uzman), have made great progress. The Crosswalkers chose to investigate and implement improvements to Glenmont to provide better visibility of pedestrians around the crosswalk. Glenmont Street is at the boundary of the cities of Bellaire and Houston and de-

termining which city was responsible for which phase of their proposal was a challenge. They met with Bellaire Mayor Cindy Siegel and Houston Public Works and Engineering's Katherine Parker and Richard Smith to determine which jurisdiction could help in which area and learned a great deal about matters of boundaries and responsibility. The Crosswalkers have so far been able to have the crosswalk repainted, signs added to eliminate parking during the peak after

school rush, and obtained funding from the Pin Oak PTO to plant hedges along the front to funnel pedestrians to the crosswalk instead of scattering across Glenmont. Special thanks go to Principal McDonough, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Fernandez for working with the team as well as advisors and parents -- a little encouragement goes a long way. Congratulations to The Crosswalkers for choosing a project that benefits the entire school community and making it a reality!



SUPER SPORTS SQUAD S.W. REGION WINNERS

The Super Sports Squad is an eighth-grade community service group from Pin Oak Middle School who wanted to help special needs children become more involved in sports and active games. They researched motor skills (such as throwing, catching, kicking, etc.) and sports that can be modified for disabled people. Then, they created a three month long

program where the four eighth-graders could teach sports to a group of special needs children at their school and monitor their progress every few weeks. They taught soccer, kickball, tee ball, and basketball to improve several separate motor skills. The kids had a lot of fun with each other and by the final week, were close friends. When they tallied scores and graphed their data, the results were astounding! One of the motor skills even quadrupled from the first to last test! The group was so proud of what they had done that they wanted everyone to be able to make a difference. They decided to create a

manual to explain to others how to recreate the program in their own school, record their own results, and experience their own success. They had the manuals printed and distributed to schools all over the state and were proud to see other Texans following their example. They used their data to enter an online contest and won 1st place in the southwest region in the U.S. They are going to Washington DC this summer to compete for nationals. House A 8th Grade Group members are Emily White, Mady Cooper, Emily Christians & Katie Beittenmiller under the leadership of Teacher Jamie Scott.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Thank you to the following Pin Oak PTO members for their generous support!

PLATINUM CHARGERS - \$500+

Parents:

Susan & Cliff Atherton
Lisa & Paul Hill
Cynthia & Brian Hughes
Cheryl & David Lawrence
Dena & Larry Robinson
Pat & Angie Sigmon
Joyce & Joseph Villarreal
Kathy & C.H. VanLandingham

Student:

Sarah & Emma Atherton
Caroline Hill
Patrick Hughes
Christopher Lawrence
Kyle Robinson
Lauren Sigmon
Joseph M. Villarreal
Aaron & Clara VanLandingham

GOLDEN CHARGERS - \$250-\$499

Parents:

Carol & Gordie Beittenmiller
Lori & Stephen Long

Student:

Kate Beittenmiller
Jake Long

SILVER CHARGERS - \$100-\$249

Parents:

Anne & Don Baronitis
Bonnie & Stan Beard
Carrie & Curt Carlson
Andrea & Brian Clay
Cheryl & Tom Cooper
Alma Reyes & Mike Fernandez
Rebecca & John Fueger
Diane Wilson Gilson & Harry Gilson
Kim Reider & Raul Gonzalez
Rubina & Fareed Khan
Gail Edmiston & Tim Leatherwood
Sandra & Tom Peacock
Manuela Tentoni & Stefano Sdringola
Suzanne & Roger Wernette
Angela & Faron Wiley

Student:

Mary Baronitis
Daley Beard
Alexandra Wells Carlson
Jada Clay
Madeline & Ben Cooper
Lucas Fernandez
Michael Fueger
Michael Gilson
Courtney & Tyler Gonzalez
Sara & Tania Khan
Michael Leatherwood
Julie Peacock
Chiara Sdringola
Chris Wernette
Jonathan Wiley

Pin Oak Middle School

601 Glenmont
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Phone: 713-295-6500

Fax: 713- 295-6511

E-mail: www.pinoak.us



THANK YOU TO THE 2008-2009 POMS PTO BOARD

President Ann Nichols
VP 1 Communication Cindy Wood
VP 2 Activities Tricia Taper
VP 3 Development Becky Fueger
Secretary Kim Reider
Treasurer Carol Beittenmiller
Parliamentarian Barbara Roberts
Historian Sharyn Baker
VP 1 Chair Website Christine Wilson and Cathy Sharp
VP 1 Chair Newsletter Shahara Wright
VP 1 Chair Publicity Diedre Fontaine
VP 1 Chair Membership Ruby Perez
VP 1 Chair Orientation OPEN
VP 1 Chair Student Directory Dena Robinson

VP 2 Chair Fall Event Anne Baronitis
VP 2 Chair 8th Grade Promotion Lise Cameron
VP 2 Chair Open House Roxanne Palacios
VP 2 Chairs Staff Appreciation Kathy Vingo and Mary Beth Yard
VP 3 Chairs Magnet Week Kathy Vingo and Mary Beth Yard
VP 3 Chairs School Store Sharyn Baker and Dena Robinson
VP 3 Chair Pin Oak Idol Latonya Ellerbee
VP 3 Chair Box Tops Renee Bowling
VP 3 Chair Fun Food Fridays Latonya Ellerbee

INTRODUCING THE 2009-2010 POMS PTO BOARD

President Ann Nichols
VP 1 Communication Paula Coleman
VP 2 Activities Becky Kringel
VP 3 Development Kim Reider
Secretary Maria Perez
Treasurer Carol Beittenmiller
Parliamentarian Jay Aiyer
Historian Sharyn Baker
Volunteer Coordinators - Mimi Branham & Laura Tullier
VP 1 Chair Website Christine Wilson
VP 1 Chair Newsletter Shahara Wright
VP 1 Chair Publicity - Andria Blitzler & Sharon Veldman
VP 1 Chair Membership - Carrie Carlson
VP 1 Chair Orientation OPEN
VP 1 Chair Student Directory Ruthie Piller
VP 2 Chair Fall Event Angela Sigmon
VP 2 Chair 8th Grade Promotion - Renee Bowling & Lisa Somera
VP 2 Chair Open House - Becky St. Denis & Ann Marie Falloure
VP 2 Chairs Staff Appreciation - Cindy Stafford & Elizabeth Sanford
VP 3 Chairs Magnet Week - Kathy Vingo and Mary Beth Yard
VP 3 Chairs School Store:
School Store Byers - Kathy Vingo & Mary Beth Yard
School Store Uniforms - Lisa Lehmann & Candy Hanis
Asst. Treas. School Store - Dana Abramczyk
School Store Vol. Cord - Lisa Tullier
School Store Candy Sales OPEN
VP 3 Chair Pin Oak Idol OPEN
VP 3 Chair Retail Partnerships Renee Bowling
VP 3 Chair Fun Food Fridays OPEN

This Newsletter only gives you a glimpse of what the PTO does on a daily basis for POMS. As you can see we do a lot! By joining the PTO you will be a part of your child's education! To show your support for our school and to help ensure a successful and positive year for all our students please take a moment and join the POMS PTO.

