



POMS PTO E- NEWS



WELCOME TO PIN OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL FROM ANN NICHOLS POMS PTO PRESIDENT

As President of the Pin Oak PTO, I want to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning students and their families. I hope that everyone has gotten off to a good start this past week. We are truly fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful school community. Our hard working Pin Oak students along with the support, dedication, and talents of our principal, Mike McDonough, and the faculty again achieved the TEA Exemplary rating

for the 2008-2009 school year!

Parental support in middle school continues to be a vital part of our success and there is a multitude of opportunities to get involved. The PTO meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the school library. I encourage all of our parents to consider joining the PTO and help support our endeavors to raise funds which will directly benefit the students and support school programs.

This newsletter is produced several times throughout the school year and will provide parents information on a variety of topics. You can also stay updated on information at the school through the PTO website at

www.pinoakpto.org, as well as the school website, www.pinoak.us.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Ann Nichols

WHY JOIN THE PTO?

One of the many reasons you have decided to enroll your child in Pin Oak Middle School is because of the great academic and social environment of the school. In an effort to continue this great tradition, parents, teacher, and students work together to make POMS the best middle school in Texas. By becoming a member of the PTO you will make a dramatic differ-

ence in your child's life. As a PTO member, you are informed as to what is happening around the school, receive by monthly newsletters, tweets, and much more. Here are just a few of the things we have done and intend to do this year: The school store raised over \$42K last year which helped us purchase ELMO's and update the Black Box in the Theater room.

Membership raised \$13K and we were able to help the Crosswalkers' Dissertation group make purchases for their Project and provide stipends to teachers to enhance their classrooms. This year with your help, we are planning a major project that will enhance the school. **Join the PTO and help us be the Best in Texas!**

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Special points of interest:

- Keep up with POMS on Twitter! Mr. McDonough is a fan. www.twitter.com/pinoakpto
- Ms. Rita Graves our former Magnet Coordinator is now the Principal of Roberts Elementary.
- Kim Delacey & Katherine Stamp yearbook advisors
- Super Sports Squad Dissertation took First Place at the national competition in DC.



PIN OAK KNOWS TEXAS



Pin Oak Team Takes Top Spot at 2009 Texas State Quiz Show Competition in Austin. At the 4th Annual Texas State Quiz Show competition held July 31, students from Pin Oak Middle School came away with bragging rights as the Texas Middle School that "knows Texas best". The team, consisting of **Kevin Dwyer, Shahryar Mansoor, Ciros Mazloom, Hijab No-mani, and Seth Uzman**, took 1st Place during the state-level of the academic competition, which tests students' knowledge of Texas history, geography, weather, econom-

ics, politics, sports, and popular culture. The contest is sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and its middle-school educational program, the Junior Historians. Team coaches Ray Frankum and John Gomez, Texas History teachers at Pin Oak Middle School, are ecstatic.

Held at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, the state-level competition, which was postponed to summer this year due to the Swine Flu scare, hosted eight schools from across Texas. Regional contests

were held in April for the Austin, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio areas. Pin Oak, for the second year in a row, took 1st Place during the Houston region-level contest, earning them a slot at state. But the rewards - and the goals - of the Texas Quiz Show go beyond mere trophies. Says Uzman, "While the competition is stressful, the program is really good at getting students interested in history and developing a positive relationship between teachers and students. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

PIN OAK IDOL MAKES STARS ! WELL . . . IN OUR EYES ANYWAY

The PTO Annual Spring Fundraiser better known as Pin Oak IDOL was a huge success!! Over 300 faculty, staff, family and friends packed the Multi Purpose Room on Friday, May 16th to enjoy the talent of 19 Acts that included solo songstress, singing duets, a cap-pella quartet, saxophone melodies, and jaw dropping dancers. The show progressed smoothly under the direction of two awesome emcees: **Daniel Chavez** and **Emily White**. The audience was entertained as well by two special guest performers: Pin Oak's own Ms. Jasmine Freeman and 2007 Pin Oak IDOL Winner Kambale Malemo.

The competition was tough and judging was hard. For the first time in Pin Oak IDOL history, the

audience was allowed to vote for the overall winner. With high judges' scores and a large vote from the audience, the **Xtreme Dances was the act crowned as this year's Pin Oak IDOL winners**. The dynamic dancing group was made up of 4 fabulous 7th graders: Pierre Phillips, Wesley Phillips, Johnny Cao, and Matthew Knight. In addition to the Overall winners, the judges selected a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the Solo Acts and a 1st place for the Group Acts. The committee also recognized the 2nd and 3rd place winners for the Group Acts. Thanks to everyone for making this event a suc-



cess!
1st Place -
Michelle Silber
singing

"I'll Be There" 2nd Place -
Lauren Robinson
singing "Red



"High Heels"
3rd Place - **Amy Chab** singing
"I'm Yours"

Xtreme Dances - First Place Group Act (no picture available)




2nd Place -
Indian Dance
performed by
Priyadarishini Radjendirane
and **Charlene Bharucha**


3rd Place -
Evelle Young
and **Adrianna Franklin** singing
"Jesus Take The Wheel"




AROUND THE OAK


WHAT CAN YOU GET FROM WWW.PINOAKPTO.ORG?

 Need to pay for your child's lunch and cannot get to the school? Go to **Parent Online** a web-based system parents can use to prepay and manage meal purchases.

 **The Source** is an online resource for parents to keep up with their child's daily progress at school.


Ready for re-launch after September 9th, .

 **Advertise your business!** The PTO website has a place for you to reach the parents of POMS. This is a great tool for your business.


 **Twitter.** Your kids do it, why can't you?

There is a lot of things that go on around Pin Oak that your kids will never tell you about.

Tweet your way through a great school year.

 Fall Fundraiser **Evening with the Stars** will be held

on November 13, 2009. This is a great event for parents and students.

 HISD is moving to **Gradespeed**. A web based grading system. Look for it in the fall. This will allow parents to view their child's grades online.



Get in the know around the Oak.

WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF TO PIN OAK

Barbara Baltazar - English (7A)

Anne Baumgarten - World Cultures (6C)

Lillian Bharucha - Dance/PE

Christina Miller - Italian (part-time)

Tanja Nagels - Spanish

Susanna Reid - Reading (6A)

Katarina Saldivar - Sp. Ed Co-teacher (6A)

Cindy Cook - Magnet Coordinator

Niccole Liston - Cheer Coach

Brenda Lanza is the new House A Clerk

Becky Cunningham returns as the Main Office Clerk

The New Foreign Language Lab is ready to go !!!



POMS faculty and staff are excited about a new addition to the foreign language department. Through specific technology funding from HISD POMS was able to purchase and install a state-of-the-art language lab that will serve all students. Serving as a

flagship school for this program, students will be able to make use of different media in their target language. Differentiation will be possible throughout the lab with teacher monitoring and assessing everyone throughout that time. This expansion of our program

allows POMS to stay on the cutting edge for language development as well as continue to meet the demands of our students for more rigor. It's a terrific addition to POMS and teachers cannot wait to start introducing the new technology to their students.

NEW SOFTWARE TO HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH

The POMS PTO has decided to use the online service "PTO Today" to help keep track of PTO memberships and volunteers. When you submit a POMS PTO membership form, the information is input into the PTO Today system by PTO volunteers. We will also be storing your volunteer information on the site so that we can contact and coordinate those who volunteer for each event.

Only a few PTO board members have access to this information and you will not receive unsolicited emails. After your information is input, you should receive an email from PTO Manager prompting you to log onto PTO Today, update your password and check your personal information for accuracy. When you log on you will also be able to volun-

teer for various POMS events and needs. The POMS PTO has high hopes for this online service and believes it will make tracking and gathering volunteers much easier than in years past. If you have any questions about PTO Manager, please contact Mimi Branham stampscrap2@hotmail.com or Laurie Tullier ltullier@att.net.

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 No School	8 PTO Meeting 6:00	9 Open House 6:30	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Pro-gress Reports	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 No School	29	30			

PIN OAK ATHLETICS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT <http://athletics.pinoak.us/home>

- Sept 3—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Ortiz at Ortiz 4:30 Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Rice at Pin Oak 4:00.
- Sept 7— Football (7th) Pin Oak vs. Kipp at Kipp 4:30
- Sept 9—Football (8th) vs. Sharpstown at Sharpstown 4:30
- Sept 10—Cross Country practice meet at TH Rogers
- Sept 12— Volleyball BHS Middle School Tournament at Pin Oak
- Sept 14— Football (7th) Pin Oak vs. Attucks at Pin Oak 4:30
- Sept 16—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Hartman at Barnett 5:00
- Sept 17—Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Pershing at Pershing 5:00
- Sept 18— Cross Country Westside meet
- Sept 19—Volleyball BHS Middle School Tournament at Pin Oak
- Sept 21—Football (7th) Pin Oak vs. Westbriar at Westbriar 5:00 * White game follows Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Westbriar at Westbriar 5:00
- Sept 23—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Welch at Butler 7:00
- Sept 29— Football (7th) Pin Oak vs. Welch at Pin Oak 5:00. Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Westbriar at Butler 5:00 Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Dowling at Dowling 5:00
- Sept 30—Football (8th) * White Game Pin Oak vs. Grace School at Pin Oak 5:00
- Oct 3— Cross Country HISD Invitational at Butler 8:30 a.m.
- Oct 5— Football (7th) Homecoming Pin Oak vs. Pershing at Pershing 5:00 Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Lanier at Lanier 5:00
- Oct 6— Football (7th) *White Game at Grace School 4:30
- Oct 7—Football (8th) Homecoming Pin Oak vs. Pershing at Butler 7:00
- Oct 10—Cross Country Pin Oak Invitational
- Oct 12—Football (7th) Pin Ok vs. Lanier at Pin Oak 5:00 Volleyball Pin Oak vs. Revere at Pin Oak 5:00
- Oct 14—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Lanier at Delmar 7:00
- Oct 17—Cross Country HISD District Meet at Butler 8:30 a.m.
- Oct 19—Football (7th) * White Game Pin Oak vs. Spring Branch at Tully Stadium 7:30
- Oct 21—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Revere at Butler 7:00
- Oct 26— Football (7th) Pin Oak vs. Dowling at Dowling 5:00
- Oct 27—Football (8th) Pin Oak vs. Dowling at Butler 7:00

KROGER: Our school is enrolled in the Kroger "Neighbor to Neighbor" Donation Program. To participate in the program you must take the Customer letter with our school barcode to the store and give it to the cashier at checkout. The cashier will scan the barcode with you Kroger Plus card. Once your card is scanned with the school barcode, it will be active for the remainder of the program year from July 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010. Each time you shop, Kroger will contribute a percentage of your eligible purchases to the program fund. You can get Customer letters with the barcode from the school office or the PTO website. www.pinoakpto.org

PIN OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA



RANDALLS: Link your Remarkable Card at your store's customer service with POMS charitable number 10955. After this, every time you use your Remarkable Card, Randalls will donate 1% of every purchase to POMS.

RICE EPICUREAN: Rice Epicurean has a points-based program to enable customers to earn money for their designated school. Link your Epicurean card to their EPoints program by enrolling at any of the store locations or at www.riceepicurean.com. Once enrolled, every dollar spent with your Experience Card earns one point. When you accumulate a minimum of 6,500 points, you can redeem them for a check to POMS.

TARGET: If you have a Target Visa card you can designate POMS as your charity under the "Take Charge of Education" Program. POMS school ID is #119733. Visit www.target.com, and click on "Take Charge of Education" to apply for a Target Visa card, or to designate POMS as your school on your current Target Visa card. Target will donate 1% of your purchases to the school.

OFFICE DEPOT: POMS will receive 5% of your purchase to use on free supplies for the school through Office Depot's 5% Back to Schools Program. Just give our school ID #70122236 to the cashier each time you shop.

CENTRAL MARKET: They are currently looking at their school donation program and may be making possible changes. You may still use your Central Market card you obtained from POMS in prior years, and any new information will be placed on the school PTO website when available.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION and BARNES AND NOBLES: The program has several ways to earn money for POMS. Clip the Box Tops from the hundreds of participating products and put them in the Box Top collection box in the school office. The "Marketplace" program allows the school to earn 8% of your total purchase when shopping online with specific retail stores. Just go to btfe.com home page and click on the "Marketplace" tab to see the store sites. The "Reading Room" program gives 6% of your books purchased at Barnes and Nobles back to the school. Just go to the btfe.com web site, click on "Reading Room", and then the shop now button and you will be taken to the Barnes and Noble website where you will follow the normal check out procedure. POMS school ID# is 956737. Opportunities to win bonus box tops for the school are also available on the btfe.com web site.

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POMS PTO website

www.pinoakpto.org



This newsletter is brought to you by the POMS PTO. The PTO is a group of parent volunteers seeking to serve the needs of Pin Oak Middle School. If you are interested in volunteering or want to know other ways you can help POMS continue to be a successful middle school please contact us via e-mail:

PTO President: president@pinoakpto.org

PTO Treasurer: treasurer@pinoakpto.org

PTO Website Coordinator: webmaster@pinoakpto.org

Newsletter Chair: deltalaw98@yahoo.com

Membership Chair: membership@pinoakpto.org

Publicity Chair: publicity@pinoakpto.org

Volunteer Coordinator: volunteers@pinoakpto.org

School Store: pinoakschoolstore@gmail.com

Like to tweet? Keep up with the PTO through our new twitter site:

<http://twitter.com/pinoakpto>

THE 2009-2010 POMS PTO BOARD

President Ann Nichols
VP 1 Communication Paula Colman
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 Blitzer & 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 Vingoe 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

VP 3 Chair Pin Oak Idol
- Latonya Ellerbee
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.