

PTA NEWS

11/30/2016

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Links:

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Would you like to join the RCE PTA mailing list?

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Important Info and Upcoming Dates

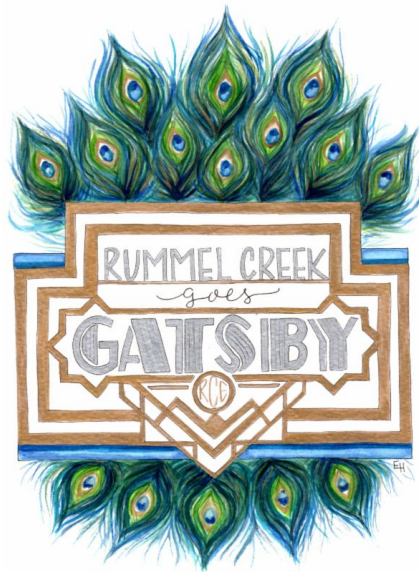
It's a busy time of year for everyone with the holidays around the corner, but your "RCE Goes Gatsby" auction team is in full swing. This is our largest fundraiser and is held only every other year, with the proceeds sustaining our budget for 2 years! With the current state funding crisis it's more important than ever that we raise the needed funds to continue many of our special programs at RCE! Please be sure to review all "Gatsby" information coming home in emails and backpacks to find out how you can best support and participate in their efforts. Let's make "RCE Goes Gatsby" our best auction ever to help RCE maintain its standard of excellence for our children!

Please visit www.rcepta.com and be sure to like the "Rummel Creek Elementary", "RCE Auction", and "RCE Life Events Team" Facebook pages.

UPCOMING DATES (extended calendar at www.rcepta.com):

[Click here](#) to go to the calendar and select "Subscribe" at the bottom to sync the PTA Calendar with your calendar so you never miss out!

Date	Event	Time
12/1	Deadline for Coat Drive for Sister School Sherwood Elem.	
12/2	PTA General Meeting (kiva)	9:00 a.m.
12/6	5th Grade to Symphony	
12/6	"RCE Goes Gatsby" Kick-Off at Elaine Turner City Centre	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
12/7	RCE Choir Performs at Zoo Lights	7:00 p.m.; 8:00 p.m.
12/8	Retirement Reception for Blanca (our fabulous custodian!)	3:30 p.m.
12/9	4th Grade to Austin	5:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
12/9	Deadline for contest for "Gatsby Getdown" videos	
12/14	Deadline for contest for "RCE Goes Gatsby" Gift Card Drive	
12/15	PTA Staff Appreciation Cookie Exchange for Staff	
12/16	Spirit Rallies	8:45 a.m. PK-2; 9:45 a.m. 3-5
12/16	Holiday Parties	10:00 a.m. PK-2; 11:00 a.m. 3-5
12/16	Early Dismissal	12:00 p.m.
12/19-1/3	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break	
1/3	Deadline for School Bell Award Nominations	
1/4	School Resumes	7:55 a.m.
1/6	PTA General Meeting (kiva)	9:00 a.m.
1/10	Spirit Night - Los Tios	
1/11	Deadline for all "RCE Goes Gatsby" auction donations	
1/16	NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	



Elaine Turner Kickoff Party: Tuesday, December 6th 6-8PM

- Join us for an Auction kickoff party with light bites
- 15% of the proceeds from our evening will be donated back to RCE

Gatsby Getdown: Now- Friday, December 9th

- Record your kids Getting down to our Gatsby music, Post on Facebook (your page and RCE Auction), Tag 3 friends, Send video to gatsbygetdown@gmail.com with your kid's/teachers name for the chance to be featured on KRCE!
- Donate to RCE Auction at <http://bidpal.net/rcegoesgatsby>

RCERoules Shopping Event: Now- Sunday December 11th

- Just in time for shopping... shop Joules Athletics! Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/687710264726962???ti=ia>
- 15% of the proceeds will be donated back to RCE

Gift Card Drive: Now- Wednesday, December 14th

- Grab a gift card in any domination, write down the amount and turn into your teacher for Auction
- The class with the highest value of gift cards wins a "prize"... so does your teacher!
- **Current Standings: Rincon is in the lead, with Hansen as a close 2nd! Remember- it's the class with the highest value of gift cards!**

Lookbook Submissions: Now- Friday, January 6th

- Visit the below weblink to purchase lookbook ads:
<https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/catalog/items.html?>

itemType=6

- Purchase your ad(s) (\$50 for full page, \$25 for half)
- Submit your favorite family or child's photo to ashleyk.marshall@yahoo.com

Message from the Principal

Happy December Rummel Creek!

I hope you had a good time of food and fun with your family over Thanksgiving. Students returned rested and ready to work. Last Tuesday, every staff member left with a fabulous pecan pie to enjoy for Thanksgiving. Thanks to PTA parents who made this possible for us. It was a delicious addition to our Turkey Day feast.

What a nice surprise to see so many students bringing their dollars in to contribute to the National Day of Giving. So far RCE has collected over \$350 to give to our favorite charity - Spring Branch Education Foundation. This organization does much to contribute to field trips, teacher grants and other learning opportunities for students and staff.

This evening, our fourth grade students will present the traditional 'Nutcracker Musical'. The student performances have been stellar. The singing has been beautiful, the dancing was magical and all speaking parts were 'on point'. We are so fortunate to have 35 parents that volunteered their time to help with this production. A big thanks for the hard work of Kathleen Aldrup and her co-chairmen Melanie Lloyd and Jennifer Richman. I am looking forward to the last presentation this evening. This is one of my favorite things about Christmas time in an Elementary School.

Nancy Harn
Principal @ Rummel Creek Elementary
713-251-6700

Call to Action on the School Finance Crisis

Important call to action from Spring Branch Speaks! Please read and call. If you did not receive the information below directly from Spring Branch Speaks, please join www.springbranchspeaks.com. The success of our district depends on you staying informed and acting!

We need your help. The Texas Legislature will convene in 40 days on January 10, 2017. As of today, there are NO legislative proposals to fix the school finance crisis. SBISD faces a financial cliff that may lead to drastic budget cuts. If the legislature does not act THIS session, SBISD will face a \$17M budget shortfall next fall (the 2017-18 fiscal year) as our recapture payment increases from \$66M to over \$93M. To put this in perspective, \$17M is approximately the total SBISD has budgeted for Student Transportation (\$7.4M), Health Services (\$3.6M), and Co-Curricular / Extracurricular Activities (\$6.1M).

Please call the legislators and leaders listed below, and let them know that the children of Texas deserve better. Specifically:

1) Contact Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's office and ask him to identify school finance as a priority for the upcoming legislative session. He does NOT

currently have it as a top twenty issue.

2) Ask legislators to:

- Eliminate recapture (Robin Hood) for SBISD and all other school districts serving majority poverty student populations. 56% of SBISD students are economically disadvantaged.

- Eliminate the homestead exemption penalty from the recapture formula. SBISD is one of a few districts that offers a homestead exemption but it must pay recapture on money it does not collect. That is unfair and must change now.

- Fairly count full day pre-K students as full day students. Pre-K currently counts as half day, which hurts districts offering full day pre-K programs, such as SBISD.

Our children, our educators and our community need you to act now. Please call today. For more information on recapture and the SBISD financial crisis including a helpful video explanation, click "School Finance" on the SBISD web site or

visit: <https://shapingspringbranch.blogspot.com/p/home.html>

As always, we will keep you updated on specific legislation as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued support.

LEGISLATORS TO CALL:

Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, (512) 463-0001, (512) 463-5342, LTGConstituent.Affairs@ltgov.state.tx.us

Senate Education Committee Chair Senator Larry Taylor, (512) 463-0111, (281) 485-9800

House Education Committee Chair Representative Jimmie Don Aycock, (512) 463-0684, (254) 690-1752

Legislators with districts in SBISD:

Senator Paul Bettencourt, (512) 463-0107, (713) 464-0282

Senator Joan Huffman, (512) 463-0117, (281) 980-3500

Senator John Whitmire, (512) 463-0115, (713) 864-8701

Representative Dwayne Bohac, (512) 463-0727, (713) 460-2800

Representative Jim Murphy, (512) 463-0514, (713) 465-8800

Representative Sarah Davis, (512) 463-0389, (713) 521-4474

Representative Jessica Farrar, (512) 463-0620, (713) 691-6912

-Spring Branch Speaks

Parent-organized community outreach with SBISD in mind.

Spring Branch ISD educates a diverse community of 35,000 students on 46 campuses, including 57% economically disadvantaged students and 33% limited-English-proficient (ESL) students

Ms. Blanca is Retiring!

Blanca Ochoa, our fabulous custodian, is retiring!

Please join us as we say good-bye!

**Thursday, December 8
3:30pm**

Rummel Creek Elementary Cafeteria

School Bell Award Nominations

It's time to nominate one of our special RCE staff members for the
PTA School Bell Award!

The School Bell Award recognizes outstanding SBISD staff members who
**promote the purposes of the PTA and
are advocates for all children.** Nominees are recognized at the
Founder's Day Banquet in February (being held this year at our beautiful
new RCE!) The SBISD School Bell winner will be selected from the
nominees and will be announced at the Founder's Day Banquet.

All adults and students are welcome to nominate.

Please complete your nominations by

January 3rd, 2017.

Our RCE nominee will be announced at the January general PTA
meeting.

Please click [here](#) for the student nomination form.

Please click [here](#) for the adult nomination form.

Nomination forms can also be found at www.rcepta.com.

Save the Date for Science Fair

RCE SCIENCE FAIR 2017
JANUARY 26TH

Hello parents and kids! Did you ever wonder how things work? Start
thinking about experiments you might want to try. Science Fair is fast
approaching on January 26, 2017. More details to come...

You shop. Amazon gives to the PTA.

'Tis the season for gift giving, and did you know that when you shop
at Amazon RCE can benefit, too?

A promotional graphic for Amazon Smile. It features a white background with a red star on the left and a snowflake on the right. The text reads: "Start with a Smile at smile.amazon.com this Holiday Season". Below this, it says "Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more." and "You shop. Amazon gives." The Amazon Smile logo is at the bottom.

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You shop. Amazon gives.

amazonsmile

#StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6086262 for your
holiday gifts and Amazon will donate to us. Make sure you've
designated PTA Texas Congress 5216 Rummel Creek
Elementary.

Sherwood Elementary Coat and Winter Clothing Drive

Please donate any gently used coats or winter clothing you may have for the students of our sister school, Sherwood Elementary. We will be collecting the donated items in a box in the front lobby until **December 1st**. Below is a little information about our sister school:

Sherwood Elementary is located in northwest Spring Branch. Led by Principal Stefanie Spencer, SWE is a place for students with diverse backgrounds and cultures to learn, build leadership and enhance future options while excelling in a small school family. 67% of the student population at SWE is economically disadvantaged so SWE is considered a Title I school like many north-side campuses in SBISD. Our families have choices of academic offerings including One-Way and Two-Way dual language programs as well as Mainstream. We believe in nurturing the whole child. We work to provide students with tools to manage themselves, gain confidence, and treasure kindness. Some of our programs and partners are Rummel Creek Elementary (our sister school), Spring Branch Mentor Program, Kloz Engineering, Pines Presbyterian Church, Christ Community Church, and Family Point Services. SWE annually takes part in the No Place for Hate Campaign and the SBISD Share A Smile Campaign.

Purchase Your 2017 Yearbook and Dedication Ads

It is not too late to order your 2017 RCE Yearbook! Orders can be placed online by going to Balfour.com, type in your school name and place your order using a debit or credit card. The Deadline to order a Yearbook is **3/31/17**.

Purchase your Dedication Ads today! It is quick and easy. A 1/8 Ad is \$20.00. Deadline to order your Ad is **1/15/2017**. You can order your Ad by following a few simple steps:

1. Visit balfour.com and Search for Rummel Creek.
2. Create an account (name, e-mail and password)
3. Enter student's first and last name, then click Create New Ad
4. Choose an ad design
5. Upload photos and design ad
6. Click Add to Cart and Checkout.

Questions? Email: rceyearbook@yahoo.com

Watch DOGS



WATCHDOGS!!!! We are off to a great start this year with almost 80 Watchdogs on campus already. We have a total of over 200 Watchdogs volunteer days already signed up for and only have about 90 slots open after the first of the year.

Our 1st year program has been a huge success, and we can only do better. If you have been a WatchDog already please share your experience with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to get signed up ASAP.

Please send this link to those dads that have not signed up yet and let's get everyone involved.

Thank You to all that have volunteered. I know our kids, teachers, and our entire community is feeling the impact. Keep up the great work.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409044dadaf23a31-welcome>