

PTA NEWS

12/14/2016

In this Flash:

[Quick Look](#)

[RCE Goes Gatsby](#)

[SBEF Grant Awarded to RCE](#)

[Science Fair](#)

[Call to Action on the School Finance Crisis](#)

[School Bell Award Nominations Needed!](#)

[You Shop. Amazon Gives.](#)

[Yearbook Dedication Ads](#)

[Watch DOGS](#)

Links:

[RCE PTA Website](#)

[Lunch Menu: Dec](#)

Would you like to join the RCE PTA mailing list?

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Important Info and Upcoming Dates

Can you believe that 2016 is coming to a close? These next couple of days are filled with lots of excitement and anticipation, both for the students and the staff. This is the perfect time of year to show our gratitude and appreciation for all they do for our children on a daily basis!

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday and a joyous New Year! This will be our last Flash for 2016! See you on January 4th, 2017!!

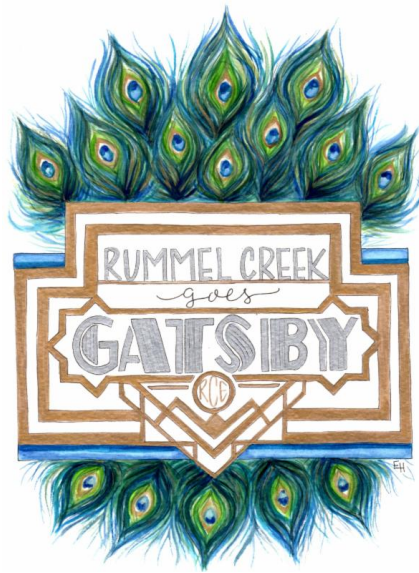
Please visit www.rcepta.com and be sure to like the "Rummel Creek Elementary", "RCE Auction", and "RCE Life Events Team" Facebook pages.

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
12/15	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) - RCE's School Bell nominee will be announced	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	

RCE Goes Gatsby - February 11th



Auction Tickets are now on SALE!

- [Click Here to Buy Tickets](#) or visit <https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/tickets/preview.html>

NEW! 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

Learning Express Basket: Now- Friday, January 11th

- At Learning Express buying a gift? Please consider donating to the Rummel Creek! Ask for the "Rummel Creek" basket and a sales associate will be happy to help you!

Calling All Party People!: Now- Wednesday, January 11th

- Interested in hosting a kid or adult party? Contact Joanna.graham@motivaent.com
- We are in need of KID PARTIES! Ex: Roller Skate Parties, Spa Party, Dodgeball, etc.

Wine Pull:

- While at Spec's ask for the Rummel Creek registry to donate a bottle

of wine for our wine pull OR contact Scarlet McGeorge 713-526-8787/ smcgeorge@specsonline.com to donate directly

- Have a bottle of wine you'd like to donate? Contact Laurie Davis: lyjacksonm@yahoo.com

NEW ! Whiskey, Scotch and Bourbon Raffle:

- This auction, we will be raffling a whiskey, scotch and bourbon basket. If you'd like to donate to this great raffle, please contact Laurie Davis lyjacksonm@yahoo.com or Ashley Marshall ashleyk.marshall@yahoo.com

Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!

- Acquisitions:
 - Ask which businesses you can contact about donating
 - Volunteer to help package and bundle auction items
- Décor/ Logistics:
 - Volunteer to help setup/ teardown the event, work the event the night of auction (registration, etc.) We can't run this event without a TON OF HELP!
 - Have writing or formatting skills? Volunteer to help prepare and edit the auction catalog/lookbook
 - Creative? Help write descriptions for auction items

Have an item you'd like to donate to auction or know of a business that would like to donate? Contact Kelley Phillips kellyhphillips@gmail.com or submit a donation at www.bidpal.net/rcegoesgatsby and click "donate today".

Thank you! We are looking forward to celebrating this exciting event with you while raising money for RCE!

Ashley Marshall: ashleyk.marshall@yahoo.com

Margo Kaplan: margomkaplan@gmail.com

Kelley Phillips: kellyhphillips@gmail.com

Joanna Graham: Joanna.graham@motivaent.com

SBEF Awards Grant to RCE

Spring Branch Education Foundation Awards Grant to Rummel Creek Elementary

At its December Board meeting, Spring Branch Education Foundation approved \$49,746 in grants that will be used for diverse education-enhancing projects throughout SBISD.

Rummel Creek Elementary School received a grant to use an innovative Urban Harvest curriculum to teach students about the ecological cycle of plants in the school's Outdoor Learning Center Garden.

Twice each year, the Foundation calls for grant applications, up to \$5,000 each, from any of its 46 school campuses and district departments. "We encourage PTAs, principals, and teachers to apply for spring grants by March 2, 2017," said Cece Thompson, SBEF executive director. "Recipients will be announced in May."

Parents and volunteers who wish to support a specific program at a designated campus can make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation and earmark it for that school. Call 713.251.2381 or visit www.springbrancheducationfoundation.com for more information.

About Spring Branch Education Foundation:

Spring Branch Education Foundation is committed to supporting SBISD students and educators. It partners with the district and community to fund programs that enhance education and prepare students for the future. In 2015, dewey & associates ranked SBEF 17th in the nation among K-12 education foundations and number one in its division of foundations with \$1 million to \$1,999,999 in revenues. Since 1993, the Foundation has donated more than \$10 million to the district. SBEF is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax deductible.

RCE Science Fair January 26th, 2017



Dear Students and Parents,

RCE Science Fair will be held on January 26, 2017. Now is the time to start asking science questions and planning a project. The Holiday break is a great time to start working on the Science Fair Project.

All students are encouraged to participate. Students may work individually or with 1 or 2 partners.

Good luck with your science adventure!

[Click here for registration form.](#)

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

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.

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?



#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.

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>