

PTA NEWS

3/1/2017

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Would you like to join the RCE PTA mailing list?

Join Our Mailing List!

Important Info and Upcoming Dates

Several parents from Rummel Creek attended the Texas PTA Rally Day in Austin on Monday with the SBISD Council of PTA's and Parents for Full and Fair Funding (PF3) groups. It was a productive day filled with appointments with our area legislators letting them know where we stand on legislation being presented this session that affects public education and sharing several of our legislative "asks" with them. There is still a lot of work to be done on the issue of school finance (amongst other issues such as STAAR testing and the A-F rating system), but the resounding message we received from our legislators and their staffers is how important it is for us as parents to engage and contact our legislators to let them know where we stand and how we hope they vote on certain bills. At his town hall meeting a few weeks ago, Representative Jim Murphy shared that few people call their representatives, so representatives do what they think is best. Rep. Murphy mentioned that on average his office hears from only 1% of the people in the district over the course of a legislative session. We need to up that percentage significantly! The future of SBISD relies heavily on parents getting informed and acting. Please, if you haven't already, take the time make a phone call or two, or write a letter, to our state representatives, senators, etc. and let them know what a critical time this is for SBISD and how crucial it is that there are changes made to school finance this session! We are facing a \$17 million deficit at the beginning of the 2017-18 school year if something doesn't change, and cannot remain competitive with other area districts, especially with respect to retaining our high quality staff. For more information, there is a parent session being held tomorrow evening, March 2nd from 5:30-6:30 at Spring Branch Presbyterian, where SBISD Board Member Carter Breed will explain more about Robin Hood and Recapture in detail (see flyer below). It's open to everyone.

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
3/3	Pre-K GoWestern Day	TBA
3/3	PTA General Meeting (kiva)	9:00 a.m.
3/4-5	PTA Plant Sale Fundraiser at The Ground Up, 8705 Katy Freeway	7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days
3/6	How Does Your Garden Grow Dress Rehearsals	TBA
3/7	How Does Your Garden Grow Performance	6:00 p.m.
3/9	RCE Choir "St. Patrick's" Performance	4:30 p.m.
3/9-10	5th Grade Growth & Development Talks	TBA

Date	Event	Time
3/13-17	SPRING BREAK	
3/21	Spirit Night - TBA	
3/24	Pre-K Art Car Parade	
3/24	PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon	
3/28	STAAR - 4th Writing & 5th Math	
3/29	STAAR - 5th Reading	
3/29	1st Grade to George Ranch	
3/30-31	STAAR Make-ups	
3/31	3rd Grade to Arboretum	9:30 - 1:00

Message from the Principal

RCE 2017 Teacher of the Year

We are pleased and proud to announce that the RCE Teacher of the year is Rebecca Ramey. Rebecca has been teaching at RCE for 3 years. She has taught 4th, 5th and 2nd grade. She also taught in Mobile, Alabama for 6 years. Rebecca has her Masters of Elementary Education (K-6) from the University of South Alabama, and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Christopher Newport University in Virginia. Here is what Rebecca says about teaching-

"Teachers are often asked why they decided to become a teacher. It is always important to take the time and answer the question truthfully. Seeing the sparkle in a student's eyes when they realize the opportunities the world has for them is amazing! Every day is a new and exciting day as a teacher.....the classroom is continually evolving as students continue to learn. Teaching gives a person the chance to make a positive impact on the future. There is nothing more fulfilling than helping a child navigate their educational journey."

Teacher Appreciation Go Texan Luncheon

Last week our Fourth Grade parents treated our entire staff to a lip smacking good lunch on Western Day. We dined on Red River Bar B Q, potato salad and an assortment of pies. Our entire staff left with a smile on their face and ready to join the little buckaroos for some square dancing in the gym. Thanks to our hostesses Heather Pratt, Kimberly Davis and Melaney Lloyd for this amazing luncheon. Michelle Rincon won the drawing for a 2 night stay at the Westin!

Odyssey of the Mind

I was very proud of all 6 teams that participated in this event last Saturday at Paul Revere. All of these students had to work together to prepare a presentation that addressed a specific problem. These teams could not receive any help or suggestions from other adults or students. They came up with their own ideas, costumes, backdrops, props and ways to get their message across to the audience. They planned, collaborated and worked together often before this event on Saturday. I am proud of our students. And I am especially thankful to the following parent coaches who gave much time, patience and encouragement to the students. A heartfelt thanks to Kraig Jankowski, Jason Shuck, Laura Chamorro, Sunit Nair, Nicole Hobson, and Stephanie Gillespie. Kudos also go to Helen He - our OM co-ordinator. Congrats go to Laura and our 3rd grade team as they earned 5th place in their event and will now go on to compete at the state level.

Nancy Harn
Principal @ Rummel Creek Elementary

Message from the Assistant Principal

Dear RCE Parent,

It is quickly approaching the time of school year where our students have the opportunity to demonstrate all that they have learned.

Here's a quick look at the full STAAR testing schedule:

- March 28th - 4th grade STAAR Writing
- March 28th - 5th grade STAAR Math
- March 29th - 5th grade STAAR Reading
- May 8th - 3rd and 4th STAAR Math
- May 9th - 3rd and 4th STAAR Reading
- May 10th - 5th grade STAAR Science

Everyone wants our students to do their best on these days. Teachers at RCE are helping prepare their students for the STAAR, but we know that parents are looking for ways they can help their students at home. Here are a few suggestions:

- It is important that children get plenty of rest on the days leading up to the test, particularly the night before.
- It is also a good idea to organize a family meal the night before, and plan a healthy breakfast on the morning of the tests to ensure children have the fuel which their brains and bodies will need to help them to function effectively on test day.
- Your student may not feel able to eat a large breakfast, but it is vital they eat something. Please try to encourage them to eat the foods they like. Proteins are best. They won't burn off as quickly as carbohydrates. Fluids are equally important, but sugary drinks should be avoided.
- The evening before the test, don't spend time drilling your student. Instead give them time to relax, play outside, or do something that doesn't add to any stress they may be feeling.
- On test day, remind your child to read the questions all the way. Provide encouragement and support your student and reassure them that they can only do their best.
- Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and the classroom climate to avoid discomfort during the test. Layers work best.
- Plan to get your child to school on time so that they don't feel rushed.
- Staying calm will help your child stay calm. If he/she gets nervous about the test or is likely to experience anxiety during the test, help him/her practice some relaxation techniques to use one the test begins.

The electronic device policy will continue this year. Before the testing administration begins, students that have brought an electronic device to school will be asked to turn them off, place them in a brown envelope, and leave it with the teacher. Once all students in the room have completed and turned in their test, devices will be returned to students.

On these testing days, much of the campus is testing in classrooms and other areas around campus. We are asking that parents and volunteers not come up to campus on March 28th, March 29th, May 8th, 9th, and

10th. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support. As always, we appreciate your continued commitment to excellence at RCE!

Sincerely,
Kim Reynolds

Robin Hood/Recapture Information Session

Spring Branch
Presbyterian Speaker
Series



relationships matter 
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

Robin Hood (Recapture) and What it Means for SBISD School Funding

SBISD Trustee Carter Breed

March 2nd 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Refreshments served afterwards

Your SBISD tax bill is rising, but not all that money is staying in Spring Branch. The so-called "Robin Hood" payments to the state are escalating – \$30 million last year; \$66 million this year; an estimated \$91 million next year. Learn more about the district's financial situation and what you can do to help.

1215 Campbell Road
713-464-7659
www.springbranchpres.org

First Annual RCE Plant Sale Fundraiser



TGU PRESENTS
1ST ANNUAL RCE PLANT SALE & FUNDRAISER

It's the new season!

When: March 4th-5th, 7:30 am - 3 pm
Where: TGU Memorial, 8705 Katy Frwy

15% OF ANY PURCHASE GOES BACK TO RUMMEL CREEK ELEMENTARY PTA

NOTE: THIS COUPON IS REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE DONATION. PRINT OUT THE COUPON AND BRING IT WITH YOU.

RCE
Rummel Creek Elementary PTA

THE Ground UP

- The Ground Up @ 8705 Katy Freeway will be open on Saturday March 4th & Sunday March 5th from 7am to 3pm.
- Parking: parents can park on Old Voss Rd. and across the street in the shoulder of Old Voss Rd. in the old Las Alamedas Restaurant Parking Lot.
- It's recommended parents do not park inside the nursery from 7am to 12pm as space is limited and during this time we have a lot of Wholesale (trade) customers.
- We appreciate if parents bring a wagon (radio flyer type) to shop. Because we are a wholesale nursery, we don't have carts readily available for customers.

PRODUCT SALES & WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Some products are only sold in 18ct or 20ct flats (trays). This includes seasonal color. This means most of the seasonal flowers available for sale can only be purchased in flats or bulk quantities. This applies to most seasonal color staged on the tables in front of the sales trailer.
- Soils/Mulches can be purchased in bulk (pick up or trailer required to haul product).
- Soil & Mulches can be purchased in individual bags.
- Soil & Compost bags are 1 cubic foot in size. 27 bags will make 1 cubic yard.
- Mulch bags are 2 cubic feet in size. 14 bags will make 1 cubic yard.

- Fertilizers are available in 40lb bags, 25lbs bags, 1 gallon and in liquid form.
- Soil activators and other amendments are also available.
- If you need to figure out how much product is needed for your beds prior to visiting with TGU, please follow this rule of thumb: You usually mulch with a 2" layer twice a year. Please visit www.thegroundup.com and scroll down to find the cubic yard calculator.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- Please bring the flyer the PTA sent home with the kids. In order for the transaction to qualify for the donation to RCE PTA, TGU will need to attach the print out to the transaction.

Spring Luncheon - Save the Date

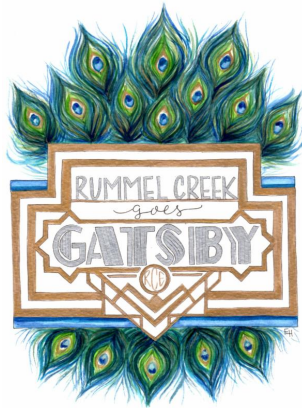


2017-2018 PTA Executive Board and Committee Chairs

It's that time of year again when we begin to plan for next year! Our nominating committee has been hard at work on our Executive Board slate for next year, which will be presented at the March General PTA meeting on March 3rd.

If you are interested in filling a committee chair position for next year, please contact 1st VP of Committees, Caroline Bennett (carolinehbennett@hotmail.com), as soon as possible, as she has already begun working to fill positions. A complete list of committees can be found in your directory or online at www.rcepta.com.

RCE Goes Gatsby - Auction Update



AFTER SALES

Dear RCE Families, Teachers and Staff,

Thank you for joining and supporting RCE at our RCE Goes Gatsby bi annual auction! We are still tallying our final numbers, but are looking forward to contributing a GREAT donation to our school!

We are so thankful so many items were sold on Saturday evening. We still have a few great items for sale, which is open to everyone. If you were not able to attend or were having too much fun to bid on everything, here's your chance to participate in this fun event! Everyone is welcome and encouraged to purchase silent auction items, adult, kid, teacher/staff parties and RCE Pride items, as these items won't last long.

All After Sales:

<https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/catalog/items.html?itemType=6>

"Raise the Paddle":

RCE is also still accepting donations for our "Raise the Paddle" item. This year, our "Raise the Paddle" is for Google Chrome Books and Carts. This is the technology that SBISD supports and our kids use on a daily basis. Currently, our children are waiting to use Google Chrome Books, as we do not have enough for everyone.

Our children worked so hard to create a compelling video, in hopes of encouraging our supporters to donate and "raise their paddle". We are so disappointed the video wouldn't work the night of auction. We raised \$13,500, but we haven't yet met our goal. Please consider directly supporting our children's technology access at RCE.

You may view the video here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-5209RVNpSubUtvb3BqbjFKMWM>

Donate to "Raise the Paddle":

<https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/catalog/item.html?id=1975&categoryId>

Post Purchase Details:

1. Item Pick-up: Chris Holmes has kindly agreed to handle pick up of physical items purchased (silent auction, kid art etc) contact Chris at csholmes1@yahoo.com or 832.419.0876 to

schedule pickup

1. 2. Party Purchase (adult, kid or teacher/staff): Don't miss out on these incredible parties- these are always one of the main features and sources of donations for our Auction, plus a great way to meet and visit with friends. When our main push is over in the next couple of weeks on Bidpal, please contact LeeAnn Kulka (Adult parties) or Han Wright (Kid Parties) for party sales.

Don't miss out on these exciting and fun-filled school wide events:

RCE's 1st EVER Schoolwide Dodgeball Tournament (Grades 1-5)! This party is held at Westside on March 26th at 12pm. Our host (dads) will form teams, so all you need to do is sign up and show up to enjoy this party. Winners will receive AMAZING prizes. Let's make this a fun tradition!

<https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/catalog/item.html?id=1008&categoryId>

The Great Gatsby Pajama Day! This is a school wide event. What a fun way to support your school! Date TBD before the end of school.

<https://portal11.bidpal.net/Portal/bpe301953/catalog/item.html?id=1585&categoryId>

1. 3. Roadrunner Pride- For those who purchase Roadrunner Pride items (i.e. Name the..., Teacher of the Day, Bedtime Stories, etc.), we will share your names with the contact that is coordinating the events or items. There are a few items remaining so check the Fixed Price items list to get your fabulous experience before someone else does!

Thank you for continuing to support Rummel Creek Elementary!

We had a dashing time with all of you!

Cheers!

Ashley Marshall: ashleyk.marshall@yahoo.com

Margo Kaplan: margomkaplan@gmail.com

Kelley Phillips: kellyhphillips@gmail.com

Joanna Graham: Joanna.graham@motivaent.com

Healthy Choices Contest

For the past several weeks, students have had a blast learning about nutrition, exercise, mental health, and hand hygiene through the Healthy Roadrunner Program! During the program, children were given a sticker to add to their

class poster if they were caught making a healthy choice. The class with the most stickers at the end of the 5 weeks gets to enjoy a cooking class in the Science lab from Figlia Kitchen - <https://www.figliakitchen.com/>

The Campus School Health Advisory Council (CSHAC) would like to thank Kimberly Davis and Leah Gibson for spearheading the Healthy Roadrunners Program. Without their help, the program never would have taken off! The CSHAC would also like to thank Awesome Bites - <http://awesomebitesco.com/> for donating "super muffins" for the students to try during the nutrition themed week!

Jennifer Buchert
Counselor, M.S.
Rummel Creek Elementary
713.251.6700 ext. 6702

Parents for Full and Fair Funding of Public Education

Parents, you may have been contacted recently by a new parent group formed to address the school funding issue. **Parents for Full and Fair Funding of Public Education (PF3)** is a group formed by SBISD parents to help shine a light on the desperate funding plight of our public schools. School funding is the **ONLY** issue that they address, unlike Spring Branch Speaks which addresses **ALL** issues that affect SBISD. PF3 is currently circulating a petition. If you are interested, please click [here](#) to see/sign the petition. However, please know that signing a petition is **NOT ENOUGH** to get legislators address the funding issue. We still need parents to call and write and call and write and meet with legislators to get funding addressed this session. Signing the petition is great, but additional action will be needed.

While it can be a little confusing to have multiple groups, rest assured that they are **ALL** working together closely to ensure a good outcome for all students in SBISD.

Get your WATCHDOG SPOT NOW!!!!



The end of the school year is coming quicker than you think. We still have about 40 spots open for you to sign up for, so click this link and sign up NOW> If you have already been a WatchDog please grab a friend that has not been one yet and the two of you pick a day to go together. There are several days where 2 spots are still available.

Grandads and Uncles can be a Watchdog as well, so grab your brother, or dad and sign up with them for what may be one of the most memorable days of your

kids school year.

Click this link to sign up now:

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

SBEF Golf Classic



SAVE THE DATE

2017 GOLF Classic

SPRING BRANCH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

SATURDAY APRIL 8

REGISTER ONLINE:
[HTTPS://SBEF.EJOINME.ORG/GOLF](https://sbef.ejoinme.org/golf)

RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB
3133 BRAZOS OAK LANE • SEALY, TEXAS 77474

For more information call 713.251.2381 or email sbef@springbranchisd.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
8 a.m. – Registration & Breakfast | 9 a.m. – Shotgun Starts, Tee-Off, 4-Player Team Scramble
Reception and Lunch to follow

RAFFLE • MULLIGANS • SPONSOR NAME DRIVE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
PUTTING • LONGEST DRIVE • CLOSEST TO THE HOLE

Event Chairs
MIKE BAKER & JAY SARTAIN

Golf Committee

Debra Aitken	Kamden Kanaly	Roy Montalbano	Ron Nunley	Warren Sloan
Doug Goodson	George Kurisky	Paul Moreton	Lisa Schwartz	Rob Stewart
Scouter Hicks	Warren Matthews	Ted Nowak	Debbie Slack	Cece Thompson

S SPRING
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F FOUNDATION

Houston Texans Kids Triathlon/Team Rummel Creek RCE

Join the Rummel Creek Elementary Triathlon Team - Houston Texans Kids Triathlon
May 20 and 21, 2017 at NRG

If your child came home asking you to sign them up for the triathlon, find all the
information you need at: www.houstontexans.com/kidstriathlon

The Junior Division (ages 6-10) will swim 100M, bike 3 miles and run 1/2 mile on
Saturday the 20th and the Senior Division ages (11-15) will double those distances at
their race on Sunday the 21st

Note: Race age is determined by the age your child will be on Dec 31 of 2017 so

any children born in 2006 or earlier will be in the Sr. Div even if they haven't turned 11 yet)

Click this link to register for the race:

<http://www.imathlete.com/events/EventOverview.aspx>

Don't forget to list Rummel Creek Elementary(RCE) as your team/group name! Siblings and former students can sign up for our team as well. We will receive \$10/participant (as long as we have a minimum of 10) in an educational grant back to our PTA.

NOTE: For kids ages 6-10 Make sure you email Chris Holmes at csholmes1@yahoo.com and

For kids ages 11-15 Make sure you email Kimberly Davis at kmdavis424@yahoo.com to tell them that you have signed your child up for the race as they will be sending out periodic updates about training and race weekend.