

PTA NEWS

11/9/2016

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Would you like to join the RCE PTA mailing list?

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Important Info and Upcoming Dates

Fall Festival is behind us and the holidays are near! Then "RCE Goes Gatsby", our biennial auction, is just around the corner. Be looking for many communications coming down about how you can support this huge fundraiser for RCE that supports our PTA budget for TWO years, starting with the gift card drive that kicks off next week (details below). With everyone's help and support of this huge initiative, we will be able to continue our tradition of excellence at RCE!

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(s)	Event	Time
11/14-12/14	Auction Gift Card Drive (details below)	
11/15	GT Parent Ed Session: "The Very Long Road to OK" by Stacia Taylor (Administration Bldg. board room)	6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
11/18	PTA Staff Appreciation Luncheon	
11/19	SBEF Gala at the Omni	
11/22	PTA Staff Appreciation - Thanksgiving Pies for Staff	
11/23-25	NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holiday	
11/29	Nutcracker Dress Rehearsals	
11/30	Nutcracker	6:00 p.m.
12/2	PTA General Meeting (kiva)	9:00 a.m.
12/6	5th Grade to Symphony	
12/6	Auction Kick-Off Party at Elaine Turner City Centre	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
12/7	RCE Choir Performs at Zoo Lights	7:00 and 8:00 p.m.
12/9	4th Grade to Austin	5:45 a.m.
12/15	PTA Staff Appreciation Cookie Exchange for Staff	
12/16	Spirit Rally	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

Message from the Principal

Legislative Update

State wants input on how to improve public schools

The Texas Education Agency launched an online survey to gather feedback from parents, educators, business leaders and community members on how to evaluate public schools before the state sends its plan to the U.S. Department of Education for approval.

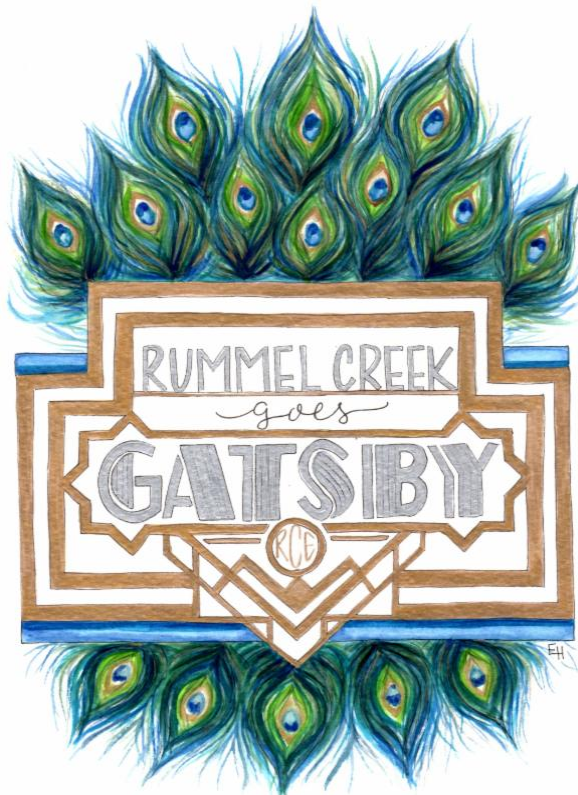
"The passage of ESSA has created a unique opportunity to inform Texas' education policy," state education Commissioner Mike Morath said in a statement. "However, we need input from all parts of our state to ensure that, under ESSA, all students in Texas can receive a high-quality education that prepares them for the future."

The online survey is open through Nov. 18 and takes only a few minutes to complete. The state education agency plans to release a draft of ideas regarding the Every Student Succeeds Act in January and to share its draft plan in April.

FALL FESTIVAL WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

It was obvious that everyone was excited to be back on the RCE campus for this year's Fall Festival. There was a record crowd that came to enjoy the games, the food, the cake walk, the raffle and the bouncy attractions. And on top of this, much money was raised to support Rummel Creek. None of this would have been possible without the hours of planning and hard work given by our chairmen. Special thanks goes to Jennifer Terveen, Jay Mischon, Mary Dominguez, and Kendell Barbles. Thanks to everyone that made numerous contributions to this event. As one of the younger students said, "This was the best time I ever had!"

RCE Goes Gatsby - February 11th



RCE Goes Gatsby Gift Card Drive

Monday, November 14th – Wednesday December 14th

Starting your holiday shopping? We need gift cards!

The RCE Auction Committee is requesting a variety of gift cards (*above and beyond what area businesses donate*) to package for our auction sales.

- ❖ This is a great way to get rid of extra unwanted or unused gift cards
- ❖ You are welcome to purchase a gift card or two when checking out at your favorite stores

Details:

- **Monday, November 14 - Wednesday, December 14th:** Bring in gift cards *in any dollar amount* to your homeroom teacher
- Gift cards should be labeled with their dollar amount
- Any and all gift cards are accepted, so be creative! **Think about gift cards you would like to win!!** Grocery stores, restaurants, toy stores, entertainment venues, fine dining, restaurants, clothing stores, etc.
- The class with the largest dollar amount of gift cards returned will win a "treat" from the auction committee! The teacher of the winning class will also win a prize!! Winner announced Friday, December 16th.
- All gift cards collected will be used in our RCE Goes Gatsby Auction on February 11th, to create silent auction packages and/or as prizes for auction games.
- Remember that all auction donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donation forms can be found on the PTA website or Auction Facebook page should you need a receipt for your records.

Questions? Contact Kelley Phillips at 713-504-6383 or kellyhphillips@gmail.com

You shop. Amazon gives to the PTA.

A promotional graphic for Amazon Smile. It features a white background with a red border. On the left, there are decorative elements: a red star, a teal snowflake, and a teal snowflake with a white outline. 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." At the bottom is the Amazon Smile logo, which consists of the word "amazon" in black and "smile" in orange with a yellow smile arrow under the "i".

Start with a Smile at smile.amazon.com this Holiday Season

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.

amazonsmile

#StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/74-6086262 for your holiday gifts and Amazon donates to 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.

Library News

Book Fair - Thank you for a most amazing Book Fair. We are able to purchase a binding machine to repair books in the library and for teachers. We also purchased books for the library. We have one author scheduled for November for intermediate grades. A second author is in the works for January. Additional MakerSpaces are in the works for the students to explore as well. Thank you for supporting the Library and its programs.

Author Visit on Wednesday, November 15th. We will be having Bruce Colville for grades 3, 4 & 5. Blue Willow is working with us to make this visit possible. Be watching for information about ordering an autographed book!

Student Council - Oh my, what a great food drive for our Sister School Sherwood. Fourth Grade did a great job of collecting and sorting. Thank you so much for supporting the Fourth Grade Student Council Food Drive.

Fifth Grade Student Council is planning their drive. Details will be coming home soon. It's wonderful to watch these students in action as they make a difference in the world!

Soctober - Jacob Baker's Soctober has also been a great success. Not only did Rummel Creek students bring socks, but also students from Stratford. Thank you for making a difference and supporting Jacob Baker!

Primary Reading Club Ice Cream Forms were due on October 31st. We will order books and plan the celebrations during November. The Celebrations for students will be the last week of school in December.

For the months of November and December the Library Learning Commons will be a MakerSpace - November will be for creativity and December for Coding. More information will be coming on times parents can join their children in

exploring these fun activities.

Thank you for supporting the RCE Library Learning Commons and its programs. Parent support makes opportunities happen.

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

GT Parent Session

GT Parent Ed Session:
"The Very Long Road to Okay"

Presented by C. Stacia Taylor
parent of Gifted and Twice-Exceptional Children

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
6-7 pm at Admin Building

Stacia is a parent of three gifted children who have taken different paths in life. She will share her struggles and triumphs in parenting these exceptional individuals.

To RSVP, click [here](#) and reply with **Long Road** in subject line.

Spring Branch Education Foundation Gala/Raffle Tickets for Sale

This year's **Spring Branch Education Foundation's (SBEF) Winter Wonderland Gala** will be held on **Saturday, November 19th**, at the Omni Riverway. Please get your tables together and plan to attend this fun evening filled with games, Big Board, Live Auction, dinner and dancing. All proceeds directly benefit Spring Branch ISD.

Whether or not you attend, you can support the gala and SBEF with the purchase of a raffle ticket. For **\$100/ticket**, you'll be

entered to have a chance to win a trip for two (2) of your choice from the following three (3) options:

1. **Jamaica All-Inclusive:** 5-night stay at Hyatt Ziva Rose Hall (family friendly) or Hyatt Rose Hall (adults-only)
2. **Canadian Fairmont Stay:** 4-night stay in a Junior Suite at Select Canadian Fairmonts located in Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, or Ontario
3. **U.S. Open Tennis Championship:** 3-night stay in New York with 2 tickets (Promenade level 300, upgrade optional) to the Men's and Women's Finals, as well as a \$150 American Express gift card.

Only 150 tickets will be sold, and you **do not** need to be present to win! Tickets are going fast and will likely sell out before the gala. Please contact Susan Marks, sgmarks@comcast.net or 713-248-1294, if you are interested in purchasing a ticket or would like more details about the gala or SBEF. I am pleased to serve as the SBEF Liaison for RCE and welcome your questions and feedback.

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 lets 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>

Bike Brigade



If your kids are not already riding their bikes to school and participating in the RCE Bike Brigade please consider this comment we recently received from one of our RCE Parents.

"My kids and a tremendous amount of other RCE students are found looking like this most school mornings.... riding their bikes with other friends and neighbors, starting and ending their school day in the fresh air, relying on each other, building independence and confidence... the benefits are innumerable, and I could go on."

Riding your bike to and from school is very easy in our community all we have to do is let them. Please make an effort to let your kids or try to encourage your kids to ride their bikes. Find neighbors or friends they can ride with, or ride with them or run along next to them for the exercise and keep them off Buses and out of the car rider line. The benefits of learning to ride and continuing to ride a bike will stick with your kids their whole lives.