



Building for SuccessSM
2010-2011

THE BARKSDALE ROUND-UP

A publication of the Barksdale PTA

Volume 15 Issue 6 December 2010

Dear Barksdale Parents,

The holiday season is once again upon us. While we celebrate in many diverse ways, we can use the holidays to create a strong bond with our children. I encourage you to continue the traditions your family currently recognizes and add at least one new family activity. Taking time to read a favorite story with the entire family, seeing one of the newly released winter movies, or visiting a museum or theater can start a new tradition in your family. These events are the reasons children remain children, even as adults. Their recollection of activities repeated during their childhood becomes the beginning of the traditions they follow with their own children. While we cannot keep our children "little," we can keep them close, even as they grow away from us.

A Gift That Is Not Forgotten

Many parents spend only a few minutes a day in actual conversation with their children, and little of this time may be spent in true communication. One gift you can give this holiday season, and all year long, is your time. It does not cost and can be given every day. Time spent with children is far more valuable than words or presents. Consider the following ways to give this gift of time:

- When children bring papers home from school, take time to look at them. Talk positively about their efforts. Remember, these papers represent an investment of hard work.
- Take time to read to children. This can be a time of sharing and relaxing together.
- Play with children. This will let them know that their world is important to you.
- When children begin to read, have them read to you. They will enjoy sitting at the table reading aloud while you fix dinner.
- Discuss good and bad things that happened to each of you that day. Begin to understand each other's feelings.
- Start a project or activity that you can do together. Begin a collection, which can be shared over the years.

While our time seems so precious and short on a daily basis, let us use it to its fullest while our children are young and still can and want to spend time with us.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones.

Happy Holidays!



Pamela Murray
Principal

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From the President...

Seasons Greetings!

I wish all of you a wonderful, relaxing holiday break—one that is spent making memories with your family and with friends. I will spend a few days with my parents and 5 of my 6 siblings and their families next week. Twenty-six of us will gather at my parent's house to share a meal, open presents, play cards, watch a little football (Go Chiefs!), and fight over who gets to sit in Grandpa's Laz-Y-Boy. Ah, the memories.

Many of us will find some time in the next two weeks to help our students create their fantastic science experiment displays. The PTA provided every student in 4th and 5th grade with a new display board, and display boards were also given to the younger students who said they would like to create a science fair project. I invite all parents to come to the school the evening of January 25th for Math & Science Night—where all of our student's Science Fair projects that they have worked so hard on will be on display.

Both the PTA sponsored Spanish and Chess Programs will be offered again in the coming semester, and if your child is interested, information about each can be found in an article in this newsletter. These programs are both excellent opportunities for enrichment for your child. If you have questions about either program, please feel free to contact me, or Sara Beitter (Spanish@barksdalepta.org)

or Sandy McGuire (chess@barksdalepta.org).

On the 18th and 19th of January, the PTA will host Ms. Hilary Ralles to our library. Ms. Ralles has taught a creative writing workshop to our 4th and 5th grade students for the past 7 years. It is always highly praised by the Barksdale staff and parents. Ms. Ralles, an author of several science fiction books, is a favorite with the students—especially when it comes to making a “creativity box.” I sat in on one of Ms. Ralles' presentations in our library a couple of years ago—and was so inspired I wanted to write my own book. Make sure to ask your 4th or 5th grader what they learn in Ms. Ralles' workshop.



Please don't forget to come to either our Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A on the 11th, or to Spirit Day at Yogurtville (Park/Midway) on the 31st. A percentage of the receipts will benefit the Barksdale PTA. This is an easy (and delicious) way to help earn money to pay for some of the events that are mentioned above. Thank you in advance for your support.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season,

Susan Valesano
PTA President
972-473-8095



Barksdale's PTA Volunteer of the Month "VOM"

Congratulations to Kelly Boyd! Kelly is our December volunteer of the month. Kelly has held the Study Buddy chair for the past two years. She is also our 4th grade Homeroom Coordinator. She has been a part of our PTA for over 6 years. Kelly has a 4th grader, Tatum, in Mrs. Howard's class. Enjoy your parking spot for the month of January. We appreciate your time and all of your hard work.



JANUARY OUTREACH

JEANS FOR TEENS AND PRE-TEENS

Donate your new or used jeans to be donated to homeless pre-teens and teens through the dosomething.org campaign. (1 out of every 3 homeless persons is under the age of 18)

THANK YOU BARKSDALE HEROES!

The 2011-2012 PTA Nominating Committee needs you!

Each year a PTA Nominating Committee is formed in order to recommend the slate of PTA officers for the next school year. Volunteers are needed to serve on the 2011–2012 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is comprised of 5 members and 2 alternates. All that is required is to be a PTA general member. The process kicks off in mid-January and only includes 2–3 brief meetings. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Sherri Arvin at parliamentarian@barksdalepta.org, or 972-662-3654.



Programs

Hola
Gracias

Got Spanish?

De Nada
Adiós

**EXPAND YOUR CHILD'S MIND WITH
ANOTHER LANGUAGE!**

"Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions." Oliver Wendell Holmes



**T-Shirt
and music
CD included!**



Music, games, contests and more engage the brain and enable your child to learn Spanish the natural way - through immersion and play!

Program
sponsored by
the Barksdale
PTA

Spanish Schoolhouse

Classes held at your child's elementary school! Check our website for your school's dates and times.



www.spanishschoolhouse.com
afterschool@spanishschoolhouse.com
972-345-4210

Classes begin on January 11th and continue each Tuesday after school until 4:00 p.m. through April 5th. Students from K through 5th grade are welcome to join regardless of experience.



Programs

Cultural Diversity Week is coming to Barksdale!

Monday, March 21–Friday, March 25, 2011
Presented by your Barksdale PTA



Our students will be traveling the world during this educational, fun filled week!

We will kick off Cultural Diversity Week on Monday, March 21, with our annual Parade of Nations. This is an indoor parade, which follows the tradition of the Olympics, and provides children with the opportunity to share their heritage with the school. A flag and sign will be provided for each country that is represented at Barksdale. Students may choose to dress in clothes native to their country of origin as well. *For your child to participate in this colorful parade, you must complete the attached sign up sheet no later than March 4, 2011.*

We will have a whole week filled with Cultural Diversity themed activities, ending off on Friday with a performance by an international dance group during our assembly.



Come and be a part of our wonderful activities by volunteering at one of these events. If you are interested in volunteering or to have your child participate in the Parade of Nations, please complete the form below and send it in to your teacher. For more information, please contact Sharmeela Saulsberry at diversity@barksdalepta.org. To volunteer you must have completed the background check located on the PISD website. Please allow 10 days for your application to process.

Cultural Diversity Sign-Up Sheet

Please fill out and return to your child's teacher by March 4, 2011

Student's name: _____

Grade: _____ Teacher _____

Parent's name: _____

Phone: _____ Best time to contact: _____

Email: _____

My child will join the *Parade of Nations*: _____ Country: _____

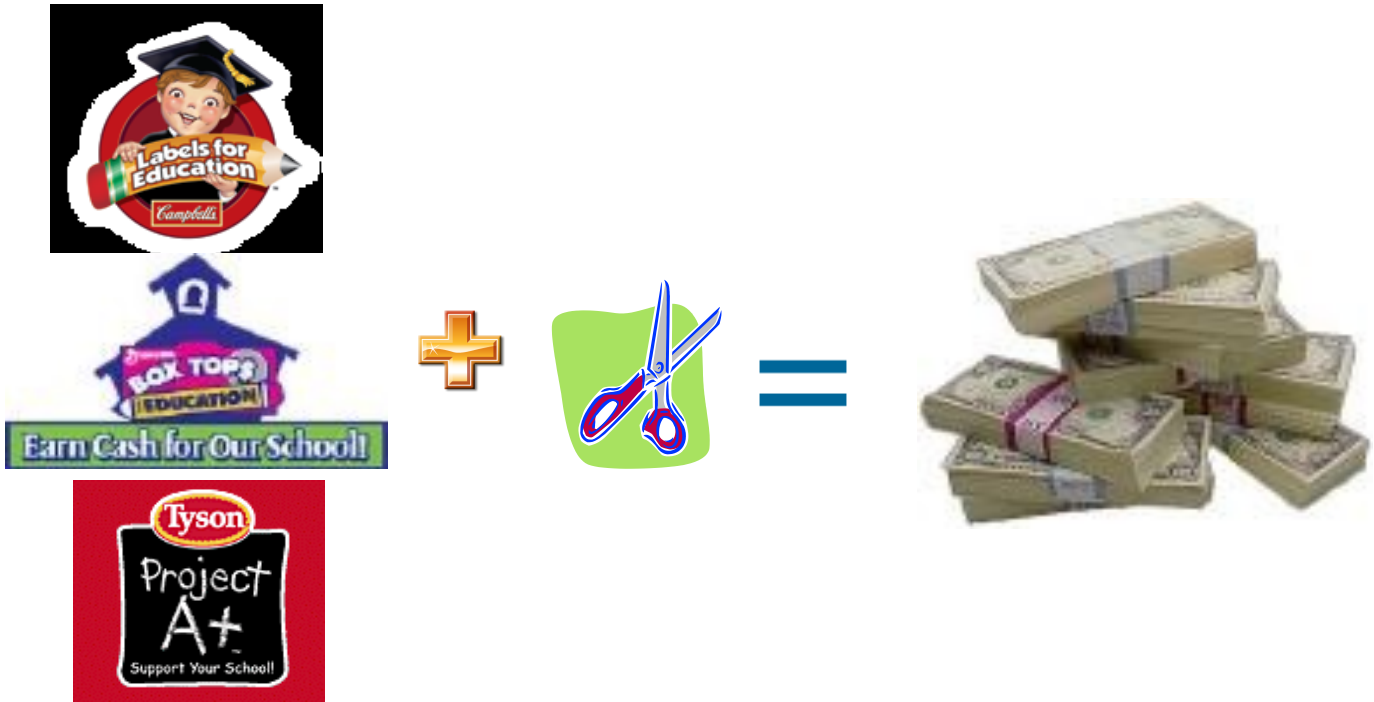
I can help at the Parade of Nations on Monday morning, March 21, _____

I can help out with activities during the week of March 21–25 _____



Programs

Your Box Tops and Labels Can Help the School!



Visit these websites to find lists of all the products that help raise money for our PTA. The best part is that it doesn't cost you anything extra. Just cut the labels from items you've already purchased, send them in with your child, and twice a year our PTA gets a check—it's that simple. You will also find great money-saving coupons and recipes on these sites.

The deadline for the last submission of the year is February 26th so get cutting!

<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com>

<http://www.tyson.com>





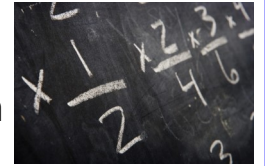
Programs



Mark your calendars for Barksdale's Annual Math & Science Night

Tuesday,
January 25 from 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

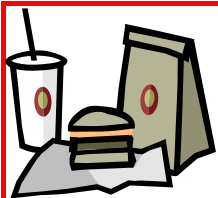
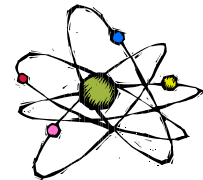
Science fair projects from our Barksdale scientists will be on display in the library and cafeteria for your viewing pleasure. Winners will also be announced that evening.



In the gym, we will be having fun and exciting activities as each grade level will have a table set up with math games for students and parents to play.

Come ready to learn and have fun!

Contact Chris Pennington at science@barksdalepta.org for questions.



PTA Spirit Nights

Help the school while you have
a fun evening out with family
and friends!

@ Chick-Fil-A on January 11

@ Yogurtville on
January 31st



No School

January 17th



Programs



Honorary Texas Lifetime PTA Membership Awards Announced



Please congratulate Barksdale's 3 recipients of the Texas Lifetime PTA Membership Award: Alice Brumback, Kala Gregor and Susan Schwartz.

Alice is this year's PTA 1st VP of Programs, but in the last 5 years has contributed in many positions including Hospitality Chair, Homeroom Parent, Study Buddy and Work Room Coordinator. She brings a positive energy to our community with her creativity, fellowship and devotion to our school.

Kala, from the Barksdale Staff, has made a lasting impression by being at the top in her field. She is known to many as the "lunch lady" but she manages our cafeteria to excellence. Not only does she manage to achieve a 100% in all areas of review for the cafeteria, but is friendly and helpful to the children, parents and staff.

Susan has already managed multiple activities this year. While serving as this year's PTA Treasurer, she also managed the beginning of the year School Supplies and Spirit Wear. During her 5-year PTA tenure she has served as Parliamentarian, VP of Volunteers, Field Day Chair, and Homeroom Coordinator. Susan is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence for our community, and inspires others with her willingness to tackle any project.

Alice, Kala and Susan, thank you for your contributions! You exemplify the spirit of Barksdale! These ladies will be honored at a district awards banquet in February.



The Barksdale PTA presents the Spring Semester Chess Program



WHO: All students interested in chess and in learning new strategies with fun, terrific instructors!

WHEN: January 7, 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25; March 4, 25; April 1, 8, 29; & May 6, 13

WHERE: Meet in the Barksdale library.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS? USA Chess (www.usachess.com) provides chess programs to schools and school districts throughout the nation utilizing a staff of qualified instructors.

COST: \$145 for 14 weeks (\$10 per class plus a \$5 registration fee) payable to Active Learning.

REGISTRATION: You may register online at www.usachess.com. Click on the School Registration button and select TX, Plano, and Barksdale Elementary. If you prefer to pay by check, fill out the form below and return it, along with payment, to a PTA lock-box.

Please note: Barksdale is an active place of ongoing learning even after school. Participants in after-school programs are expected to abide by the same code of conduct that is applicable to regular school hours. The PTA sponsor may contact the parent to address the situation when a student violates such standards. Your child's registration will be considered consent for such contact.

Name _____ Grade & Teacher _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone/Emergency contact _____

Email address _____

After the chess program, my student will be released to:

PASAR _____ Carpool _____

Parent helpers are needed each week as class monitors. It is an easy job and you will learn more than you can imagine! No chess knowledge is required, but the adult must have background clearance from PISD.

If you are interested, please contact Sandy McGuire at chess@barksdalepta.org or 972-403-1564



PISD News

The second Key Communicator meeting of the year was held on November 30, 2010.

The PISD leaders in attendance were:

Sharon Goldblatt, Chairman

Danny Modisette, District Superintendent

Richard Matkin, Assoc. Superintendent for Business Services

Kathy Kuddes, Director of Performing Arts and Special Programs

Joseph Parks, Director of Safety and Security Team

Emmett Smith and "Khaki", Narcotics Detection

Charlette Bagriel and "Chara", Explosives Detection

Monica Shortino, Executive Director of the Plano ISD Education Foundation

Joan Smith, Publicity Chairman for Ski Plano

Dr. Paul Dabbs, Assistant Director of Assessment and Accountability

Topics of Discussion:

- The Academy Visioning Committee was created by the Plano ISD Board of Trustees to study and advise the feasibility of creating a grades 9-12 option for students that offer choices for programs not currently available in the comprehensive high schools and senior high schools. The committee recently hosted an education summit to share its findings with Plano ISD parents and patrons and to solicit public input on this important initiative. The next committee meeting will be held on January 26. The work of the committee may be followed online on the PISD web site <http://www.pisd.edu/academy/academy>
- As Plano ISD heads into the 2011-2013 biennium budget process, the district has to consider implications at the state level. The state budget shortfall facing Texas Legislature in 2011 is estimated to be as high as \$26 billion. The State's Rainy Day Fund is expected to be \$9 billion at the start of the 2011 Legislative Session. Plano ISD's biennium budget reduction goal is to decrease the general fund budget by \$10 to \$14 million with the least amount of impact on classroom instruction.
- The arts are serving the needs of a vast number of students in Plano ISD. While every elementary child has art and music with a specialist, this school year nearly 5,000 students are taking band, 3,650 students are studying strings and almost 3,700 students are singing in choir. Approximately 2,150 students are taking theatre classes, 2,040 students are enrolled in speech courses and more than 7,200 students have elected to study art at the secondary level. This total of 23,600 secondary students enrolled in some elective arts course represents 82.5% of the total secondary population in the district.
- The district is committed to providing students, staff and visitors with a safe and secure environment. The safety and security program includes the PISD security staff, PISD canine unit and use of uniformed officers. Program components also include access control systems for admitting visitors, an electronic visitor management system, CCTV systems to help administrators monitor the buildings, radio systems for campus and district wide communication, panic and robbery alarms, campus security plans and emergency procedures and criminal history searches. The highlight of the evening was a live demonstration by Khaki and Chara, showing off their detection skills.

The Plano ISD Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization with the mission to help all students in Plano public schools achieve their full potential by providing financial support to educators and academic programs. The Foundation provides grants to educators, science and math improvement efforts, literacy programs, programs that support academic enrichment, emergency assistance for teachers and staff members in crisis and programs to recruit and retain quality teachers. The Ski Plano Fundraiser is one of the Foundation's largest sources of revenue. This year's event will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 29, at Southfork Ranch. Ticket information is available by calling 972-248-8252 or by visiting the Plano ISD web site at <http://www.pisd.edu/skiplano>. The Department of Assessment and Accountability focuses on providing relevant and useful information necessary for data-driven decision-making targeted at closing any existing achievement gaps.

You may follow the Key Communicators by visiting <http://www.pisd.edu/about.us/key.communicators/index.shtml>

The next meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on February 8 at the Sockwell Center.





January 2011





Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4 School Resumes	5	6 Student Council Meeting 2.45 p.m.-3.45 p.m. 1st Grade Fine Arts Field Trip	7 Spirit Day Chess Program
10	11 Spanish Program PTA Spirit Night @ Chick-Fil-A	12	13	14 Spirit Day
COLLEGE WEEK				
17 MLK Holiday No School	18 Spanish Program	19 H.J. Ralles Visit (4th and 5th Grades) 4th Grade (1/2) Field Trip	20 H.J. Ralles Visit (4th and 5th Grades) 4th Grade (1/2) Field Trip K-2 Book Club	21 Spirit Day Chess Program
24 PTA Board Meeting 9.30 a.m. @ Parr Library	25 Spanish Program Math & Science Night 5.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m.	26	27 3-5 Book Club	28 Spirit Day Chess Program
31 PTA Spirit Night @ Yogurtville				

This newsletter is published on a monthly basis by the Barksdale PTA. All correspondence, submissions and suggestions should be directed to the Editor at communications@barksdalepta.org. All Barksdale families are eligible to receive copies of the newsletter. The electronic editions for the 2010-2011 school year are available online at www.barksdalepta.org.