



Building for Success
2010-2011

The Barksdale Round-Up

A Publication of the Barksdale PTA
Volume 15 issue 1 Summer, 2010

Dear Barksdale Parents and Students:

I hope the past few weeks have given you and your families the opportunity to spend quality time together. With the hustle and bustle of the school year behind you, summer affords you the time to spend quality time with one another and experience family vacations, visits to grandparents, and leisure time at the pool.

The front office staff returned on July 26, 2010. Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Hempstead, and I will be preparing for the return of the teachers on August 16 and for the students' return on August 23. We spent the last three weeks of June completing 2009-2010 school tasks and hiring teachers to replace those who have decided to remain at home or move on to new opportunities.

There will be several new faces when you return in August. The Kindergarten Team will remain unchanged. Erica Goodlin will join the first grade team. In second grade, Christina Rydbeck and Susan Rosser will join the team. Christy Smith will replace Cathy Ledsome as team leader. In third grade, Cathy Ledsome will assume team leader responsibilities and Joanna Kriss will move from fourth to third grade. Fourth grade will decrease to the five remaining teachers. In fifth grade, Debbie Bird and Chrystal Litman will join the team. Cynthia Woodward will be our special education team leader, and Stacy DeSilva will also join the team. I am also especially pleased to announce that Patricia Hempstead will be our part-time assistant principal. Please take the time to introduce yourself, and welcome these new teachers to our staff and our Barksdale family.

As you move into the last weeks of the summer holiday, please remind your children to read each day and use this time to apply their previous learning in real-life situations. If you haven't had time to visit the library, do it today! It will pay off when school resumes.

I look forward to seeing you on the 20th of August at our Meet the Teacher events.

Happy Trails!

Pamela Murray
Principal

Important Back-to-School Dates

- August 12, 13: New Student
Registration 9-11, 1-3*
- August 18: Packet Pick-up
3:00-7:00pm*
- August 20: Meet the Teacher
Gr. 1-5: 7:30-8:30am
KN: 8:00-9:30am*
- August 23: First Day of
School, 7:45am*
- August 23: Welcome Back
Coffee & PTA General
Meeting, 7:45 am in the
cafeteria*
- August 24: Parent
Information Night for
K, 1st & 2nd grades,
6:00-7:15pm*
- August 26: Parent
Information Night for
3rd, 4th & 5th grades,
6:00-7:15pm*

From the President....

Dear Barksdale Families,

Hello - my name is Susan Valesano and while this is my first year as Barksdale PTA President, it is my 10th year as a Barksdale parent. I would like to welcome back all returning families, and express a very warm welcome to all new families to Barksdale.

The Texas PTA theme this year is “Building for Success”. In order to build, you must have tools. I am asking each of you to become part of our toolkit. I invite you to join us to make a difference in your child’s education. Over 500 independent studies on parental involvement show that when parents get involved in their children’s education, grades go up, test scores improve, they have fewer discipline problems and they’re less likely to use drugs and alcohol. The beauty of volunteering at an elementary school is that there is an opportunity for everyone – moms, dads, grandparents, even special friends. The time commitment is what you make of it. Whether you can donate one hour of your time once a semester at a Family Picnic, twice a month shelving and checking out books in the library, or 30 minutes each week volunteering as a “Study Buddy” to a student who needs a little extra one-on-one attention in a subject area, there is truly something for everyone. I’d like to ask that each parent carve out at least 3 hours in the course of the school year to volunteer at your child’s school. All 3 of my children enjoy seeing me volunteer at school. The people I have met and the friends I have made keep me volunteering year after year.



Our primary objective as a PTA is to provide our schools with funding, programs, resources and services that will enrich the education of every child. To meet these objectives, we must fundraise. Though it is not our favorite responsibility, it is a necessary one. This year our three major fundraisers are: Our Bronco Buddy Write-A-Check campaign, Book Fairs, School Supplies sales. We use the funds we raise to pay for Field Trips, Class Parties, Field Day, Author Visits, Creative Writing Workshops, Student Directory, Red Ribbon Rally, Staff Appreciation events, Programs for Parents, Science Boards for Science Projects, and Student Agendas. Based on our current projections, we will spend \$75 per student. I hope you will take these benefits into consideration when fundraising opportunities present themselves, and support the programs we sponsor.

The school year begins on August 18th when we host **Packet Pickup** from **3:00 – 7:00pm**. Please bring your PISD Emergency Contact Forms and your Truancy Form. You will find out the name of your child’s teacher, and have the opportunity to buy school supplies, spirit wear, yearbooks, and join the PTA.

On behalf of the Barksdale PTA I once again extend a warm welcome and best wishes for a successful school year! Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to seeing you on the 18th at Packet Pickup.

Susan

president@barksdalepta.org
972-473-8095

Important Dates for September

- 13th- PTA Board Retreat
- 14th- Newcomer’s Luncheon/Volunteer Orientation
- 24th– Fall Family Picnic

Hey Broncos!

It's time to Meet Your Teacher for the 2010-2011 School Year!

KINDERGARTEN

Friday, August 20, 8:00-9:30 am

This is a reminder that Kindergarten has a different schedule than the rest of the school. After you visit with your child's teacher, there will be a meeting for the parents. While your kindergartner is making new friends (supervised by some of the kindergarten teachers), you attend an informal meeting that provides you with the information you need to know for the first day of school and beyond.

This IS NOT a come and go event. Questions will be fielded at the end. Childcare will NOT be provided for younger siblings, so please plan accordingly.

Also, on the first day of school, please remember to **send a standard size bath towel** with your child for rest time and note that the **kindergarten lockers will not accommodate rolling backpacks.**

1st-5th GRADES

Friday, August 20

7:30-8:30 am

You guys already know the ropes, but please come and meet your new teacher, see your desk and find out who's in your class!

The Barksdale PTA cordially invites
you to our

**Welcome Back Coffee
and PTA General meeting
Monday, August 23, 2010
7:45 AM
in the Barksdale cafeteria**

Please join us in welcoming new and returning families to Barksdale. You've walked your children to their classes, so walk on down to the cafeteria and join us for a cup of coffee, a little PTA news and the drawing of raffle prize winners from the BRONCO BUDDY Write-A-Check Campaign table at Packet Pick-up.

PARENTS!

Mark your calendars for
the Parent Information
Nights!!!

Tuesday, August 24th
KG, 1st and 2nd Grades
6-7:15 PM
in the cafeteria

Thursday, August 26th
3rd, 4th and 5th Grades
6-7:15 PM
in the cafeteria

Packet Pick-up

**Help Barksdale PTA build for a successful
2010-2011 school year!**

How: Attend Packet Pick-Up

When: Wednesday, August 18th

Time: 3:00-7:00 pm

Where: The Barksdale Cafeteria/Gym

Make plans to come and receive your child's packet and take care of many back-to-school basics. As a bonus, once you turn in the required forms, you will learn the name of your child's homeroom teacher. Which required forms? For this year, you **MUST** have both the **Emergency Card and Truancy Form at Packet Pickup**. Plano ISD will mail the emergency card to your home. Barksdale Elementary will mail the truancy warning form to your home. Both the card and form will arrive in early August. Unfortunately, if you don't bring **both** of these items, the PTA volunteers **CANNOT** issue you your child's packet. You will be asked to head to the front office and get in line. If you make any address changes to the emergency form, you will need to also bring your original August electric/gas bill or apartment lease with you.

Remember, Packet Pick-Up Day is a **TAX FREE DAY!** So come prepared to purchase sprit wear and school supplies. You will also have the opportunity to join the Barksdale PTA, donate to Bronco Buddy, buy a yearbook and passbook, update your directory information and receive more information about Barksdale activities, volunteer opportunities, bus routes and cafeteria plans. Cash, credit cards and checks will be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact the Barksdale front office or Denise Stavely at 214-336-9177 or volunteers@barksdalepta.org.

VERY IMPORTANT

Don't Be Left Out of the Directory!

Stop by our table at Packet Pick-up to update your family information.

To ensure you are listed in the Student Directory, you must stop by the Directory information table on August 18th during Packet Pick-up to update your family information form. The Directory is published by the PTA and includes valuable information such as Barksdale staff contact information, a complete school calendar and family information as provided by you! If you do not attend Packet Pick-Up, you can obtain a Family Information Form from the office or the Barksdale PTA website (www.barksdalepta.org). Complete the form and return it to the school office the first week of school. Please be sure to sign it! All families who join the PTA will receive a directory in the fall and our information is not shared with third parties, only Barksdale PTA members.

Shop 'til you drop? Not at Barksdale!

The PTA offers parents the opportunity to purchase the school supplies their child needs at Packet Pick-Up. There's no need to:

- Go to 5 different stores
- Sort through lists of what your child needs
- Carry the supplies to school



On August 18th, you can purchase the supplies from the PTA ~ TAX FREE!

We purchase all of the supplies for the entire school which allows us to negotiate very competitive prices. The supplies are pre-packaged, and they are EXACTLY what teachers requested. We even deliver them to your child's classroom so they will be on their desk the first day of school!

Prices are down for the 2nd year in a row!!!

Pre-Packaged supply costs are:

Kindergarten	\$35.00
First Grade	\$40.00
Second Grade	\$40.00
Third Grade	\$35.00
Fourth Grade	\$40.00
Fifth Grade	\$40.00

If you enjoy shopping the "Back to School" deals offered by various vendors, you can find the official BARKSDALE list of school supplies needed by each grade level online at www.barksdalepta.org. Please be aware this list differs, sometimes significantly, from the official PISD list displayed at the retail stores. You may want to take the BARKSDALE list with you when you go shopping.

Questions? Please contact Susan Schwartz at supplies@barksdalepta.org.

PTA COMMUNICATIONS

- **Our Website**, www.barksdalepta.org, always has the information you need. Find the past and current copies of The Round-Up newsletter, PTA contact information, fliers about upcoming events, order forms and more.
- **The Round-Up** newsletter is delivered electronically, usually the last Thursday of the month, with news from Mrs. Murray and Susan Valesano, our PTA President, as well as information about volunteer needs, special events, grade level activities and even a monthly calendar you can print to keep you up to date!
- **YO Packets** come home each Thursday and contain both information from the office and fliers or order forms for specific PTA programs and activities.
- **Weekly E-mail Blasts** are sent out each Sunday to all Barksdale families who provide their e-mail address and check the box that authorizes us to use it for PTA communications on their Family Information Sheet. These short e-mails highlight the events going on at school that week. Just a quick reminder in case you can't find that monthly calendar.

Bronco Buddy Write-A-Check Campaign



Bronco Buddy is our
BIGGEST
fundraiser of the year and
we need **YOUR** help....

DONATE ANY AMOUNT YOU WANT—\$30, \$300 OR \$3000!

All of your money goes directly to the PTA to help offset the costs of the programs we provide and your children enjoy - field trips, classroom parties, author visits, study buddies and lots, lots more!

What do YOU get in return? Well, besides all the great PTA programs, you'll get one raffle ticket for every \$10 you donate. We have great prizes that have been donated from area businesses. The more you donate, the better your chances of winning! Winners will be announced at the Welcome Back Coffee on August 23rd...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

It truly makes a difference in each student's experience at Barksdale.

PTA offers you everything you need for Barksdale SPIRIT!

Start your Back-to-school shopping at the Spirit Wear table at Packet Pick-up! Samples of the '10-'11 Spirit Wear will be on display in various sizes to help you make your selections. Place your order on August 18th and it's TAX-FREE!!! Samples will remain on display in the school lobby and Spirit Wear orders will be taken through September 7th. Additional inventory will NOT be carried, so don't miss this opportunity to order your Bronco Wear. Contact Heather Brown at shirts@barksdalepta.org with questions.

*****NEW this year will be the "bling" shirts for girls and women and the "Dry Tech" shirts for boys*****

PTA Membership...
Why should I join the PTA?



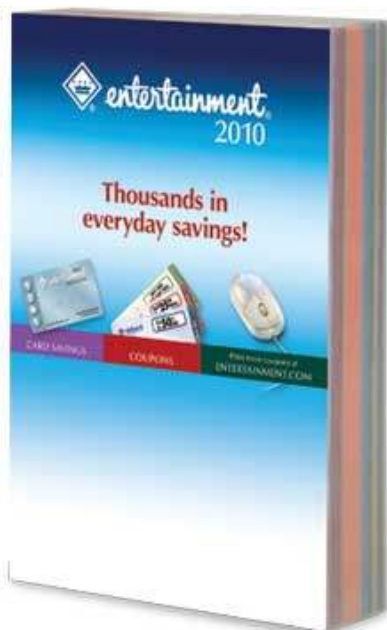
Because we can do MORE with **YOU!!!**

Welcome back to all our returning families and a HUGE welcome to our new ones. 2010-2011 is going to be a very exciting year! Our award-winning PTA provides many wonderful opportunities for parents like you to be involved with Barksdale. The Barksdale PTA supports many activities for all students including: field trips, class parties, 5th grade Graduation, Family Art Night, Science & Math Night, Reading Ambassadors, Book Fairs, multiple assemblies and a variety of other programs. We invite ALL parents to join the Barksdale PTA this year. Your continued support enables the PTA to help our students "build for success".

Your first and best opportunity to join the Barksdale PTA will be at Packet Pick-Up on Wednesday, August 18th from 3-7 PM. The cost is only \$8 for a single-parent family and \$16 for a two-parent family. Each family will also receive a copy of our terrific Barksdale Student Directory and a membership card for joining.

ATTENTION ALL BRONCO PARENTS!!!

The Passbooks you love will ONLY be available for purchase at Packet Pick-Up this year!



We're all looking for ways to save money. The 2011 Passbook provides you with tons of opportunities to save up to 50% going to the places you love and the using the services you like best...

**And for the low price of \$25...
Use the Passbook just a few times and it more than pays for itself!**

We have tons of new and exciting vendors in this year's book...Don't pass up the opportunity to frequent your favorite spots AND save money while you are doing so! Look for the Passbook/Entertainment book table at Packet Pick-Up and start saving immediately! Plus, as you enjoy the savings benefits, you'll also be helping the PTA provide programs for students, parents and teachers...

Now that's spending (and saving) wisely!!!

Volunteer Opportunities

How to be a Volunteer at Barksdale

We need **YOU** to help build success at Barksdale. Here are some simple steps to get the job done:

1. **BE CLEARED TO VOLUNTEER.** Go to www.pisd.edu/volunteer and fill out your volunteer application. Be sure to select Barksdale Elementary when applying so we will be notified of your status. Please note: **you must re-apply each school year to volunteer at Barksdale. Clearance does not carry over from year to year.** You can go online now and complete your application.
2. E-mail volunteers@barksdalepta.org and let Denise Stavelly know that you have completed step 1.
3. You must **receive a clearance confirmation e-mail** from Denise Stavelly before you can volunteer.
4. **Sign-up to volunteer.** The manila folder you receive at Packet Pick-up will contain a set of yellow sheets that outlines all of our volunteer opportunities. Return the Volunteer Interest Form to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you and appreciate your help!

If you have any questions or would like to sign-up to volunteer in a certain area, please contact Denise Stavelly at volunteers@barksdalepta.org.



PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to help take pictures at events during the school year. You are going to come to the event anyway, so why not take a few photos while you are there and have them published in the yearbook! Only sign up for what you are interested in, no need to feel like you have to sign up for everything! Some opportunities include:

Red Ribbon Rally
First Day of School
Colonial Day-5th grade
Pioneer Day-1st grade
Fall Picnic

Howdy Week
Pumpkin Math-1st grade
Kindergarten Celebration
Class Parties and Field Trips
5th grade camp

Do you love the montage photos in the yearbook? We need you to make them happen! We are also looking for people who would like to put their creativity to use and help assemble the grade level montage photos for the yearbook.

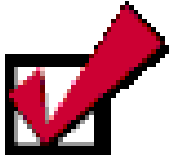
If either or both of these jobs sound like something you would enjoy, please send an email to yearbook@barksdalepta.org OR check "yearbook" on your Volunteer Finder form.

STUDY BUDDY Be a Hero ~Mentor a Child

Do you have just 30 minutes a week to make a difference in a child's life? Please consider being a part of our **Study Buddy/Mentoring** program this year. A little bit of you goes a LONG way in helping a young mind and spirit blossom!!!

Contact Kelly Boyd at studybuddies@barksdalepta.org if you can make this weekly investment in one of our Bronco students.

*****Calling all of last year's Buddies- please, please come back and mentor again...We know the children would LOVE to see your smiling face again this year *****



CHECK IT OUT!

Would you like to:

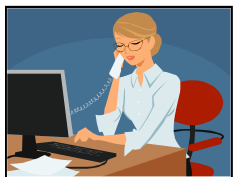
- Plan classroom parties?
- Help teachers prepare materials for the classroom?
- Volunteer to assist with grade level events and parties?

Check out one of these positions:

- **Grade level Coordinator:** One per grade level. Plans and coordinates three classroom parties during the year with the help of other grade level coordinators, homeroom parents, and teacher input.
- **Homeroom Parent:** Coordinates volunteers and leads three classroom parties during the year.
- **Workroom Coordinator:** One per grade level. Works with teachers to determine materials required each week. Schedules volunteers.
- **Workroom Volunteer:** Prepares materials for the classroom as needed.

**Interested? Contact Patty Cline at
roomreps@barksdalepta.org.**

Ever consider transforming an ordinary day into something fun and meaningful? Well, we have just the thing for you!!!



Become a Volunteer Office Greeter (VOG)!

VOG's welcome visitors and parents while performing various jobs in the school office. This great opportunity comes with the flexibility of choosing the time that best fits into your schedule as there are opportunities to volunteer in the office throughout the school day! And sure, bring the morning "cup of java" along! It's fun and rewarding...

Contact Sandie Wong at office@barksdalepta.org to volunteer.

Our Library Needs Your Help to Build Success

Our librarian needs your help checking out books, shelving, and updating the bulletin board during the school day. It's a fantastic way to help our kids navigate the world of books.



Choose a time that fits your schedule and contribute to the success of our library.

**Contact Poornima Poondi at
library@barksdalepta.org
to volunteer your time.**

CALLING YO VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wonder how the PTA fliers wind up so effortlessly in your child's backpack every Thursday? YO Mamas, that's how. Here are some fun YO facts:

- YO stands for "youngest or only". In an effort to save paper, we determine which child is the youngest or only in a family, and that child receives the school bulletin each week.
- The YO team has a BLAST each Thursday morning collating, stapling and distributing the YO packets. (We talk a lot, too.)
- Volunteers can help out every week or once a month. You decide when you want to volunteer. It's up to YOU-we're very flexible.

This is a super way to start volunteering at Barksdale! Not only will you have fun and meet nice moms, but every minute you spend with the YO team makes a HUGE contribution to Barksdale!

**Join the fun - sign up at Packet Pick-up or contact Leah Schwartz at
communictaions@barksdalepta.org.**

Programs

Reflections Art Contest

TOGETHER  CAN

It's not too early to start thinking about your child's Reflections project! Summer is a perfect time to get out of the heat and do some creative thinking indoors! 2010-2011 School year's theme is "Together We Can". For more details go to <http://www.pta.org/2034.htm> for rules, guidelines and ideas!

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: Barksdale Newcomers Luncheon and Volunteer Orientation

WHEN: Tuesday, September 14th

TIME: 11:30 – 1:00 pm

WHERE: Barksdale Library

Our principal, Pamela Murray, and the Barksdale PTA would like to personally welcome each of our new Barksdale families to our school. This is a wonderful time to learn more about Barksdale, make new acquaintances and get all the details on volunteer opportunities and procedures.

If you have any questions or if you would like to R.S.V.P., please contact Brenna Vivier at newcomers@barksdalepta.org or 214-384-4273.

August Outreach "Let's Pack a Bag!"

Broncos, let's help families in Collin County that are in need of food by packing a bag of non-perishable items. Let's help these families start off the new school year with food!



Bring a bag of non-perishable items (or even a can) to any of the following:

- Packet Pick-Up (8/18)
- Meet the Teacher (8/20)
- Welcome Back Coffee/PTA meeting (8/23)
- Parent Information Nights (8/24 and 8/26)
- Collection drop-box by the office

We will also be providing students with a bag to take home and pack and a link if you wish to donate online.

Questions?

Contact Ashley McClain at outreach@barksdalepta.org.

After-School Spanish Program

Do you ever wish you knew how to speak Spanish? You can give that opportunity to your child! Again this year, we are offering an after-school Spanish program. Your child will learn Spanish vocabulary, songs, games and culture.

- Classes are offered to all students, K-5th
- Classes meet on Tuesdays from 2:45-4:00
- Classes run September to December AND January to April

You may register online at spanishschoolhouse.com. If you are interested, contact Sara Beitter at Spanish@barksdalepta.org.

Support our PTA

Barksdale Spirit Nights are THE place to be!

Each month Barksdale holds a Spirit Night at a local restaurant. It's a great excuse to give Mom & Dad a night off from kitchen duty, hang out with your Bronco friends & even make some new ones! Plus, a portion of the evening's sales are given back to the PTA so we can do more for the kids!!!

Spirit Nights will begin in September so keep your eyes out for more details the first week of school.

Our participants are:

- **Chick-Fil-A**
- **Yogurtville**
- **Moo-Yah**

Barksdale Student Directory

The Barksdale PTA is soliciting ads for the Student Directory to help offset printing costs and raise money for programs.

Please consider supporting us this year by purchasing an ad for your business in the 2010-2011 Directory. This directory is published once in the fall and delivered to over 500 families and staff at Barksdale.

Ad Pricing is as follows:

\$275-full page B/W ad

\$175-1/2 page B/W ad

\$100-1/4 page B/W ad

new this year is a FULL page tabbed divider for \$350

If you are interested in purchasing space, please contact Heather Brown at 469-688-1603 or ways@barksdalepta.org.



You've Already Raised \$1000's for Barksdale Right in Your Own Pantry...How you ask?

From the labels on the groceries and other items you buy each time you shop! And it's not the "special" items you buy every once in a while-it's the labels or box tops on those items you purchase on a regular basis. Each Box Top or label is worth **10 cents** or a certain number of redeemable points for Barksdale!!! And, it adds up fast! So...Keep grocery shopping as you normally do, and when something is "used up" at your house, check to see if the package/can has a **Box Top** symbol, **Tyson's** label or **Campbell's** brand label on it. When you see one, **CLIP IT** and drop your stack in one of the PTA lockboxes at Barksdale. You'll be amazed to see how much money we can raise without any EXTRA work on anybody's part!

To see a complete list of eligible Box Tops, Tyson and Campbell's products, go to www.barksdalepta.org and click on the Box Tops tab.

August 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9	10	11	12 New student Registration	13 New student registration
16	17	18 Packet Pick-up 3-7 PM *bring truancy and emergency forms*	19 New 6th graders open house at Renner 6:30-8 PM	20 MEET THE TEACHER Gr. 1-5 7:30-8:30 AM Kindergarten 8-9:30 AM
23 First Day of School PTA General Meeting/ Welcome Back Coffee 7:45 AM-cafeteria	24 Parent Info Night KG, 1st and 2nd 6-7:15 PM	25	26 Parent Info Night 3rd, 4th, & 5th 6-7:15 PM	27
30	31			

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.



Barksdale Elementary PTA

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First Day of School is August 23rd! See y'all soon...