

September 4, 2009



ROAN FOREST TRAILBLAZER

PTA Newsletter

Message from the Principal

Dear Trailblazers,

What a wonderful beginning to a new school year! We have approximately 1170 children. We will be calling other youngsters back to Roan Forest from Bulverde Creek this week.

I have started "eblasting" (NEISD electronic parent group email). If you are not receiving these emails please let us know by calling the office and speaking to Mrs. Collier or Mrs. Mendoza (481-4045). Most of our communication will be via this system. The September calendar was sent out Monday and our second "Tidbits" for the year was sent out Tuesday of this week. We will be sending home this week's Tidbits via a hard copy, this week only. It will include our traffic pattern and our "Inclement Weather Dismissal" routine.

On Monday, August 30, we received some great news! Roan Forest was one of two schools (the other was Hardy Oak) which were recognized by the Texas Business and Education Coalition, TBEC. The TBEC Honor Roll is the



most prestigious award for sustained academic excellence in Texas. It recognizes schools that have demonstrated three years of consistent, high performance in all subjects compared to other schools serving similar student populations. TBEC Honor Roll schools have the highest percentage of students performing at the state's most rigorous standard—"commended" in every subject. Out of 8,000 Texas schools less than 4% will be honored. We are in that top 4% of schools in Texas. Congratulations go to our teachers, children and families who make our school exemplary!

Finally, we look forward to another exciting year of outstanding performance and creativity. Thank you for your support and care!

Sincerely,
Ruth Wayne

Message from the PTA President

Hello Trailblazer Families!

As I reflect over the past five years that I have been involved at Roan Forest (I have a sixth grader now!!!), I am reminded why supporting our PTA is so important. Grandparent's Day, Red Ribbon Week, Walkathon, Reflections and Bike Rodeo are such wonderful memories and are programs that support our children and help build a special environment at Roan Forest. I am looking so forward to enjoying these programs and many more with my first grader, Carson and with my fourth grader, Chase.

Roan Forest is a school with many traditions, one being a very active and involved parent group – in other words, a high level of volunteerism. An important way in which Roan Forest parents stay connected is through the Roan Forest PTA. If you haven't joined our PTA, I encourage you to do so. I also encourage you to check out our website at www.roanforestpta.org. On our website you will have access to our PTA calendar and emails for all of our committee chairs. This website will help you in keeping up with what is going on in the "Forest."

My personal goal this year is to get as many parent's involved in our PTA as possible. I want EVERYONE to feel welcome and to feel a part of our PTA. Whether you can donate a lot of time or just a little bit, I want you to get involved! Our PTA has some major goals for this year: to reach 100% membership, encourage family involvement at our school and to provide quality enrichment programs. We can only achieve these goals with your participation!

Research shows that student achievement is directly linked to parent involvement. So, I'm asking you to use your talents and resources to make a difference! There are opportunities for everyone no matter your area of interest, time constraints, or background. We want you to be involved!

I wish you a wonderful 2009-2010 school year and I welcome you to contact me with any questions, ideas or concerns. You can reach me at aeccc@sbcglobal.net. On behalf of the Roan Forest PTA, we look forward to having your involvement!

Warm regards,

Amber White

President, Roan Forest PTA



PTA \$\$\$ Impact



During the months of July and August, here are some of the ways our PTA funds were used to benefit our children and our school:

- \$1,197 Leadership Education
- \$319 Welcome Packets
- \$150 NEISD PTA Council Dues & Donation
- \$135 Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- \$100 Virgil T. Blossom Scholarship Fund
- \$58 Website Development

If you have any questions about the PTA finances, feel free to contact Jennifer Easley, PTA Treasurer, at 830-714-4117 or treasurer@roanforestpta.org.

Calling All Volunteers!

If you are interested in volunteering at Roan Forest throughout the school year be sure to attend the upcoming Volunteer Orientation on September 9th at 8:30 am at Roan Forest. We will review important information and have volunteer sign up sheets available. Remember all volunteers must be a current member of our PTA. **Get Involved!**



Box Tops for Education

Did you know by simply clipping and turning in Box Tops coupons from hundreds of your favorite products, you earn cash for Roan Forest?

Plus, prizes are awarded to the classroom that earns the most in each grade level. Start collecting and send in your bag of box tops to your teacher each month! Don't forget to remind grandparents and aunts/uncles to save their Box Tops to support our school.

Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Downloads/Global/ParticipatingProductsFlyer2008.pdf> for a complete listing of Box Tops products or find the link on our website, www.roanforestpta.org. If you have any questions, please email BoxTops@roanforestpta.org.

We love our teachers!!!

At Roan Forest, our Staff Appreciation Committee members are always looking for more parents to help recognize our wonderful teachers and staff!

If you would like to help please contact:

Leilani Wilson leilani260@yahoo.com

Julie Teplitz cteplitz@aol.com

Terri Sevening sevening@sbcglobal.net

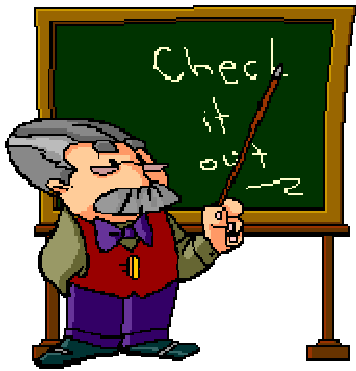
The Back to School lunch was a great success!

Thank you to all the parents who helped make it so special.



Lost and Found

We want to remind all Trailblazers that Lost and Found items are kept in two large black cabinets in the cafeteria. Those closets seem to stay full all year long with lost jackets, lunch boxes, etc. So, if you've lost something, blaze a trail to the cafeteria to see if someone has found it! We make every effort to return items so please be sure your jackets and lunch kits have last names in them.



Please check out the
new Roan Forest PTA website at
www.roanforestpta.org!!!

On our Website You Can:

- Stay Up-to-Date with our Events Calendar
- Discover what Programs your PTA support helps fund
- Find out what Volunteer Opportunities are available
- Get contact information for the PTA Executive Board
- Review the minutes for our general PTA meetings

Click the link for download under the Communications section

You will need the username and password found on the back of your PTA membership card.

- Download SPIRIT ITEM Order Form

We still have Tie-Dye Shirts, Water Bottles, Decals, and Seat Sacs available. Visit the Fundraising Section of our Website to download your order form.

- Links to Texas & National PTA websites and Texas Legislature

REFLECTIONS

Attention all artist, authors, photographers, dancers, producers and musicians, PTA Reflections is just around the corner!

This year's theme is "**BEAUTY IS**"! Start creating your masterpiece! For entry forms and more detailed information, please go to the following website, <http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections/> or contact Roan Forest Art in Education chair, Becky Fralix at bfralixphotography@satx.rr.com.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE
There's Still Time to Join PTA!!

You will find a membership form in the Welcome Packet you received the first week of school.

- When you join PTA you will receive one Homework Pass for your student.
- Classrooms will be competing to see who can get the highest percentage of parents to join. The winning classroom will receive extra supplies.

If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chair, Leticia Morton, membership@roanforestpta.org



We are Green in the Forest!



This year, we are continuing our recycling of paper. Please drive around to the rear of the school to recycle your old newspapers, magazines and junk mail. The collection bin is for PAPER ONLY, so please do not place plastic bottles or cans in the bin. We have collected a little more each year! You are making a difference!

We also have paper recycling bins in every classroom and in our offices and workrooms, and we are thankful for the PTA Environmental Committee members who help weekly to get the paper into the large bin out back!



We also continue to collect used printer ink cartridges and old cell phones. Please look for the collection box in the cafeteria.



ROAN FOREST STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

In October, 5th graders will be invited to participate in the 2009-2010 **Student Council Officers Election**. We need excellent student leaders to serve in the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Sergeant-at-Arms (5th grade candidates only). Letters will go home with all interested 5th graders on September 21st and Mrs. Lasher and Mrs. Allen, our Student Council sponsors, will meet with students who choose to be candidates. **Campaign Week** will be held October 5th through October 8th. The Election Assembly and **Voting Day** will be **Thursday, October 8th**. The week of October 12th, each 3rd, 4th and 5th grade class will elect two representatives (one boy and one girl) to participate in Student Council this year, and after-school meetings will be held the last Thursday of each month.



Library News

Welcome back Trailblazers! We are looking forward to seeing you in the Library. There are some great books for you to check out and read.

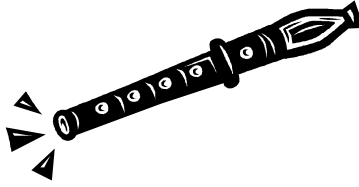
Parents, you might find it useful to put a large gallon sized zip-loc baggie in your child's backpack for library books. Water bottles or juice bottles may leak and get library books wet, which unfortunately results in damaged books. We talk about book care during Library Time and will continue to encourage students to take extra care with their books.

Also, a new feature on the Parent Portal is the Library Portal. By signing into the parent or student portal account and clicking on the library portal link for the applicable student, students can access the educational library databases from home without passwords or usernames. This allows students to easily access an entire electronic, reference library at anytime from their home. With the addition of these new features, teacher-parent communication is further enhanced, and users have accessibility to educational resources at all times.

Mrs. Ryan and I are looking forward to a great year with your students!

Mrs. Allen





Music Notes

The beginning of the school year is always a busy time and that is especially true for the music department. There are several things which take place at the beginning of the year that we want to make sure parents are aware of.

If your child is in the **3rd, 4th, or 5th grade**, they should have brought home two forms after the first week of school. One form has to do with the students in those grades needing a recorder for our music class. For most of our students, the note is just a reminder to bring their recorders to school so that they are ready for our recorder unit. But for some, it is information on how best to get a recorder and what type is needed. This form is also available electronically on our teacher web pages.

Also, your child should have brought home information about our choir and instrument clubs. These programs are an extra chance for students get involved musically at Roan Forest. The choir is open to all **3rd, 4th, and 5th grade** students while instrument club is open only to **4th and 5th graders**. This form is also available online under our teacher web pages.

We would like to take a moment to let the **1st grade** parents know that in the next week, they should be seeing a parent permission form for their student to participate in our first PTA program. The **1st grade** class will present "Peter and The Wolf" at the October 7th PTA meeting.

As always, we thank you for your support of music in our public schools and if there is anything we can help you with, please let us know. You can email us at mdunla1@neisd.net or scolde@neisd.net

Mr. Dunlap and Ms. Coldewey

twisted ankles , stubbed toes , & blisters

...are just a few things that can happen when students do not wear tennis shoes to P.E. Please make sure your students dress properly EVERYDAY!

For more physical education information log on to Coach Rizzo or Coach Criswell's web page:

<http://tw.neisd.net/webpages/jrizzo/>

or

<http://tw.neisd.net/webpages/fcrisw/>



Cool Dads Run with their Kids

This year the goal for Father's for Fitness is simple - every dad joins his kids, at least once, for Running Club.

Running Club is held every Friday (during your kid's PE period). Coach Rizzo has thrown down the gauntlet and issued an "open challenge" for all dads to join their kids as they get in shape.

Every dad who participates will be given the official PTA designation: "Cool Dad".

There are only three requirements to being named a "Cool Dad":

1. Dad joins the PTA

a) Email membership@roanforestpta.org

2. Dad becomes DPS certified

a) Go to www.neisd.com, click on Volunteers/Mentors, click on Online Criminal History Check, fill out and submit form

3. Dad comes down to school at least one Friday and runs with his kids at Running Club

Do you have what it takes to become a "Cool Dad"?

Call me if you have any questions.

Scott Trost
Chairman of Fathers for Fitness
210-410-4465

August Volunteer Spotlight

This month we are highlighting two extremely helpful volunteers, Mary Beth Connolly and Rhonda Peterson. If you know of any volunteers who have gone above and beyond, please e-mail volunteers@roanforestpta.org and let us know.



I had the pleasure of working with Mary Beth Connolly last year. She was the room mother for my kindergarten class. However, she was much more than "the room mom". In fact, she was super mom. Mary Beth coordinated all classroom celebrations, she helped me in the computer lab, she helped put together homework every week, and she helped with various activities in the classroom. I can't tell you how much I appreciated her help and support. When you look up volunteer in the dictionary, Mary Beth's picture should be there! - *Roan Forest Teacher*

Mary Beth's smiling face and positive attitude are what make her a GREAT and much appreciated volunteer. Whether it's a PTA event or a project in the classroom, she is always ready to lend a helping hand. She is an advocate for every child - not just her own. By serving as the PTA Lunchroom Chairperson, she and her group of fabulous volunteers ensure that our children feel at ease during their lunchtime. The PTA is lucky to have her give her time and talents to our organization. Thank you for all you do! - *Fellow PTA Volunteer*

Rhonda ran our PTA membership drive last year and enrolled the most PTA members ever at Roan Forest. Rhonda enthusiastically distributed homeworks passes and membership cards to hundreds of PTA members and their students. She truly wanted every student to be represented in our PTA. Rhonda attends most school events and is ready to pitch in wherever needed. Thank you Rhonda! - *Fellow PTA Member*



Career Day Alert!

February 2010, Roan Forrest will host it's annual Career Day Educational Opportunity. We are asking you to consider the amazing impact this learning experience has on our children. We are considering a central theme for this years event and will work to ensure a high quality learning experience that exemplifies the attributes of the American spirit of education, determination, service, and sacrifice. More information will be forthcoming, but we ask you to consider any contacts you may have that would epitomize the American spirit and should be considered as guest speakers. As additional security measures are being implemented this year for speakers, we will need to validate speakers earlier than usual. If you would like to help with this event or have any information you want to share, please contact me. Thanks for all your support.

Sandy Apostolos,
Chair830-980-1784
sapostolos@satx.rr.com

Two New Laws Helping to Make Our Children Safer

- Beginning September 1, 2009, a new Texas child passenger safety laws require children requires children under age 8 to ride in a booster seat, unless they are 4'9" tall.
- A new law went into effect September 1st that makes it illegal for drivers to use cell phones without hands-free devices in school zones. The law includes any use of a cell phone, including texting.