

# PVA PTO

## NEWSLETTER



Greetings:

HSPVA Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) welcomes new and returning families and staff to our school. For those of you who are unfamiliar with us, we are a volunteer organization made up of parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff who are all dedicated to the successful education of our children. The HSPVA PTO works hard to help make the school year both enjoyable and exciting for students, teachers, and parents.

The purpose of our organization is to aid the students and staff by providing support for the educational and recreational needs, to promote open communication between administration, teachers and parents, and to encourage HSPVA school spirit and pride. The PTO uses its resources, both manpower and monetary, to support all the efforts of the staff of our school. ***For Fall 2016, PTO has raised and approved \$59,642.65 to be awarded for Teacher Wish List items!!!***

We look forward to meeting families, parents, and grandparents that would like to get involved with our PTO. WE encourage you to not only join our organization, but to get involved as well! Everything we do is based on volunteers, and we are always looking for those of you to help make a difference in the lives of our children. Every positive imprint we make on our children can go a long, long way. If you

are able to give some time, day or evening, please join us! Many hands make the job easier.

You can participate and help us make 2016-17 a great school year. We will need as many volunteers as possible, and are flexible enough to work around your schedule. Our group meets approximately once a month to discuss events, plan fundraisers to enhance all programs, and share ideas. This is a wonderful way to find out what is happening at our school from the PTO's perspective.

We in the PTO believe that it is of ultimate importance that we do everything we can to enhance the learning environment of our children, as they truly are our future. It will take all of us working together to ensure that this happens.

We look forward to getting to know you!

Sincerely,

Your PTO PRESIDENT AND BOARD for 2016-17 -

Mignonne Anderson, President  
Sari Altman, 1st VP - Membership  
Henry Mosley, 2nd VP - Programs  
Nevin Henderson, 3rd VP - Directory  
Kari O'Connor, Secretary  
Diane Ragan, Treasurer  
Maria Gomez, Parliamentarian



## PTO TREATS FOR PVA TEACHERS

The PTO thanks our amazing faculty with monthly Teacher Appreciation goodies along with regular luncheons. Pictured left is our holiday luncheon in December

The PTO Teacher Appreciation Chairpersons are Cristina Freedman and Lisa Henderson

In December of 2015, the parents of HSPVA showed their appreciation for the teachers and staff at HSPVA with holiday cards stuffed with gift cards and with a dessert spread to add to the school holiday luncheon. HSPVA parents are always so generous with gifts and desserts that each teacher had multiple gift cards. The card "stuffing" event was a celebration and several parents dedicated their time, as well, to complete the project and help prepare the desserts. It was a memorable day for all and helped to kick off a wonderful holiday break. We look forward to celebrating our amazing faculty and staff again this month with your generous help.

# Dance Department

The HSPVA Dance Department hit the ground dancing this year by performing at the Houston Theatre District's Open House, WindSync's, "Something About a Rose" performance at Miller Outdoor Theatre, "Artists for Hope" performance at San Jacinto Community College, Arts School's Network National Conference in Dallas and Dance Houston's – Celebration of Dance at the Wortham Center honoring HSPVA's founding Dance Chair Mary Martha Lappe.

Please join us for The HSPVA Fall Dance Concert, November 17 & 18, 2016 at 7pm in the Denney Theatre. The HSPVA Concert Dancers will feature choreography by HSPVA Dance Faculty, Janie Carothers, Jeanne Doornbos, Courtney D. Jones and Denise Williams with Guest

Choreography by HSPVA Dance Graduates, Amy Ell, Allysen Hooks, Christian Warner, Texas Tech University Dance Professor, Genevieve Durham and David Parsons' work "The Envelope" sponsored by Society for Performing Arts and HSPVA Friends. Reserved Tickets- \$15Gen. Admission \$10. [www.hspvaboxoffice.com](http://www.hspvaboxoffice.com)

We are also hosting the HSPVA Dance Middle School Workshop on Saturday, November 12, 2016 from 8:30 – 1pm. Workshop fee is \$50 and dancers receive a Ballet, Modern Dance and Jazz Master Classes plus a tour of HSPVA. Information for Workshop can be found at [hspvadanceworkshop.eventbrite.com](http://hspvadanceworkshop.eventbrite.com)

Our Department has hosted the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, Texas Christian University

and George Mason University Dance Programs recruiting through master classes and auditions this fall and we look forward to having CALArts, Point Park University, The HARTT School and Sam Houston State University on campus later this semester.



Artist for Hope Dancers - Aimee Kilgore, Avery Moore, Adele Carlson, Paolina Gonzales, Madeleine Spence, Lexi Blake



# Art Department

The Art Department is thriving this year. Bill Arning, director of the *Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston* spoke to the students about his career experiences and the wide variety of enriching opportunities that the Houston culture provides. On November 1st, author and artist Sharon Loudon will spend a day with the department discussing ideas in her book "Living and Sustaining a Creative Life." We are thrilled to have this nationally acclaimed guest.

Ms. Fowler's Social Practices class of seniors took a trip to Blaffer Art Museum to work with the artist, Blake Rayne, who shared the day with us. The students photographed his exhibit and these images will be published in his catalog as a conceptual project.

Ms. Aguirre is leading the charge of the Freshman Exhibit which opens December 1st. Ms. Fowler's Performance/Installation class will debut their work on January 26th in the gallery. Join us for the excitement.

The new cartooning class for sophomores will be showing off their zines at Zinefest Houston 2016. On January 28th, the art department will have a film screening at the Aurora Picture Show. We are honored and thrilled to have a spot on their calendar to show off our moving images from the past year!

Mr. Glover is busy in the sculpture department and in his own studio. Recently, the sculpture class visited the Keen Foundry for an aluminum casting. He will be exhibiting his own work in "Voices of Trees" at Mother Dog Studios, the "Itchy Acres Studio Tour" and he has a solo exhibition at Houston Baptist University opening January 19th.

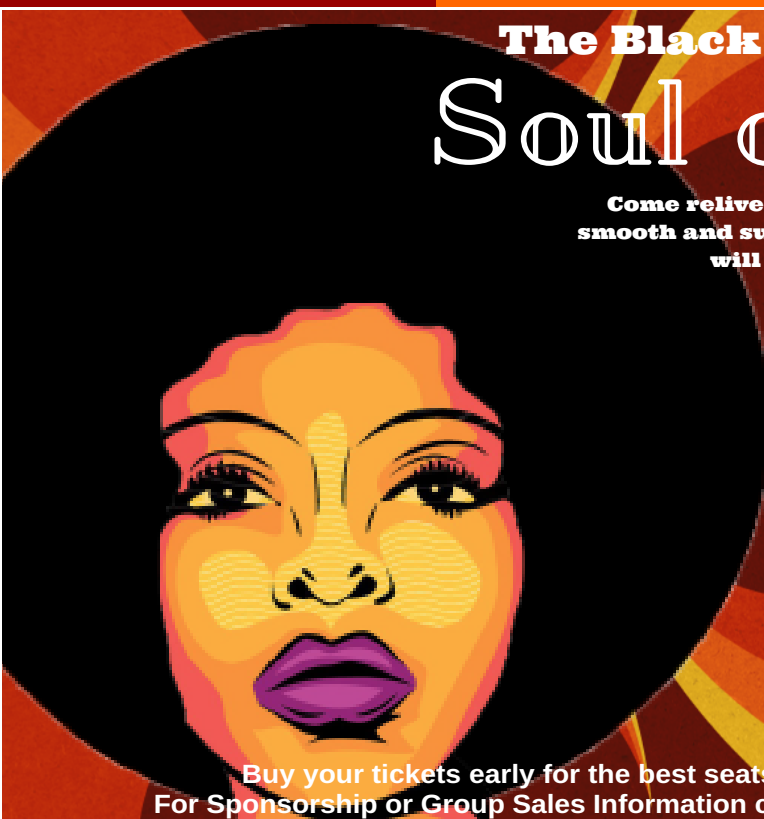
In November, Mr. Waddell is included in the exhibit celebrating ten years of the Lawndale Art Center's residency program.

# Theatre Department

The Theatre Department was proud to produce the all school musical, *Urinetown*, which was a sell-out success! Over 100 students participated in the annual production and then traveled to Dallas to present *Run, Freedom, Run* to the national Arts Schools Network. Up next the Theatre Department presented *Three Sisters* by Anton Chekov, retold by Tracy Letts, (November 9-12) followed by the Red Studio Series (November 30 – December 3) with productions of *King Lear*, and *Smokefall*. All shows were presented in the Black Box. The Greater Houston Area Auditions (GHAA), for 100 college-bound senior theatre majors from across the metropolitan area, will be held Sunday, November 20. Students will audition for over 40

colleges from across the country. Lastly, to round out the semester, the Theatre Department, holds its annual Middle School Workshop on Saturday, December 3.





**The Black History Production**

# Soul of the '70s

**Come relive all your favorite soul hits of the '70s from smooth and sultry to downright funky! This production will have it all: outlandish outfits, outrageous performances and incredible superstars!**

**Directed By:**  
Tony Glover ('87 Vocal)

**Choreographed By:**  
Courtney Jones ('99 Dance)

**Music Direction & Conducted By:**  
Stephanie Blue ('81 Instrumental)

**Show dates:**  
Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7 pm  
Friday, February 17, 2017 at 7 pm  
Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7 pm  
Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 2 pm

**Buy your tickets early for the best seats! [www.hspvaboxoffice.com](http://www.hspvaboxoffice.com)  
For Sponsorship or Group Sales Information contact [jklein1@houstonisd.org](mailto:jklein1@houstonisd.org)**

## PITCHING IN

All-School productions are a hallmark of life at HSPVA. They also require the help of Parents and Teachers from every department. So in addition to attending, consider how you may be able to contribute your time and talents to HSPVA's 2017 Black History Production. If you would like to help, email [jklein1@houstonisd.org](mailto:jklein1@houstonisd.org)

# Vocal Department

Five vocal music students have been selected from over 4400 entries for the National High School Honor choir which will perform at the conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Minneapolis, March 8-11, 2017.

The following vocal music students auditioned on Saturday, Oct. 22 for places in the TMEA Region 23

**REGION 23 HONOR CHOIR:** Erin Burton, Ava Kirchen, Elizabeth Ragan, Talia Witherel, Ulysses Chevez, Brook Gee, Coleman Harper, William Lopez, Connor Weinman

**MIXED CHOIR:** Solomon Alhakeem, Daniel Boyd, Wake Foster, Analyn Gonzalez, James Grabois, Brian Harris, Piper Hudson, Hannah Jones, Olivia Manning, Emma McKenzie, Sarah Navy, Owen Neumann, Caroline IO'Connor, Alejandra Pruneda, Eduardo Rahbini, Julissa Ramirez,

Mariana, Rodriguez, Matilda Smolij, Adam Tawakkol, Micah Zimmerman

**TREBLE CHOIR:** Hannah Bernosky, Alexa Duran Puente, Yasmeen Gaber, Vivian Mosley, Kanade Motomura, Alejandra Reyes

The 45th annual Spaghetti Supper was a great success. Thanks to all who participated and attended.

The Vocal Music Students performed with the Houston Symphony for the Family Holiday Concerts on Saturday, December 3.

There have been two masterclasses in the vocal department: Dr. Bernard MacDonald from Simpson College and Ana Maria Martinez, Internationally famous opera soprano, She is starring as Marguerite in the HGO production of "Faust".

# Creative Writing Department



Fareena Arefeen Named Houston's

First of all, the Creative Writing Department has just learned that Fareena Arefeen, Class of 2018, has been named the second Houston Youth Poet Laureate! We are so excited for Fareena and can't wait to see what kinds of programs she develops for the students around Houston.

The Creative Writing Department returned from its fifth annual trip to the Texas Book Festival inspired. This year, 65 students began the three-day field trip to Austin at the Harry Ransom Center where they read through the archives of writers including David Foster Wallace and T.S. Eliot. They then spent two days attending panels and learning about craft from writers such as T.C. Boyle, Lois Lowry, and Don DeLillo. Now that we're back, the focus is on our middle school workshop. Seniors and juniors are planning and rehearsing their lessons while the freshmen and sophomores will serve as group leaders on the day of the event. Lastly, our Fall/Off the Page was held on December 2 where our writers present work in a multitude of formats including spoken word, short films, and readings.

# Humanities Department

Last year HSPVA was fortunate enough to add Advanced Placement Psychology to our course offerings. Students have been asking for this class for some time, so it has been a popular elective class as we move in to the second year of AP Psych! Last year 88% of HSPVA Psychology students passed the national exam compared to the national average of 64%. We plan to improve on that in our second year to see more and more students earn college credit.

The PTO has been generous in its support of this offering by assisting students who are unable to afford the expensive text.

This fall students have explored the learning concept of operant conditioning (remember B.F. Skinner?) culminating

with a critical discussion of how fear and race become linked in our society through conditioning in the media and by other means. Violence and fear are naturally linked, but socialization changes the formula to violence + race = fear. Students shared stories from their own lives about how both blatant and subtle acts of racism have affected their own lives. The discussion then explored how these same processes apply to sexism, heterosexism, classism, ageism, and more. Finally, this thoughtful discussion ended with ideas about ways we can interrupt that divisive conditioning.

This is the power of teaching psychology at HSPVA; these future artists and leaders can gain the vocabulary and understanding to talk about, and do something about, issues of real importance in the world.



## PTO SCHOOL STORE

The HSPVA School Store has been up and running in its new location on the second floor since August 2015. The kids all know where it is as told by the over

**1700 bagels,  
1600 water bottles,  
1100 cream cheeses,  
600 pieces of fresh fruit and  
700 fruit punch Gatorades**

sold since the first day of school in August. But, did you know they also can get all the required books for art areas and academic classes and required school supplies there too? The school store has thought of almost everything – for example if you forgot to brush your teeth before you left home, then you can stop by the store and buy a toothbrush and toothpaste. Forgot your black socks, hair tie, bobby pins, deodorant, Carmex, HSPVA long bumper sticker, HSPVA sweatshirt or t-shirt? Yes, the School Store carries that too! The

School Store is open before school, during lunch and after school. Most importantly, the profits from the School Store go directly back to the students in the art areas and academic areas. Volunteering in the school store is a great way to get to know your child's friends and the teachers and staff too. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Carrie Hartman (Freshman and Junior Creative Writing students mom, Creative Writing Guild President and School Store Volunteer Coordinator). Have a question about books or school supplies contact Diane Ragan (Sophomore Vocal Student mom, mom of two HSPVA Vocal graduates, PTO Treasurer and School Store Books and School Supply Coordinator). Have a question about food, spirit wear/items, general questions contact Denise Savrick (Junior Dance student mom and HSPVA PTO School Store Chair) at [HSPVASchoolStore@gmail.com](mailto:HSPVASchoolStore@gmail.com)



Denise Savrick, School Store Chair,  
& Daisy Zambrano, Junior - Mariachi

### GET INVOLVED

**Donate Gift Cards to  
Teacher Appreciation Holiday  
Celebration**

**Attend General Meetings**

**Volunteer at the School Store**

**Volunteer at the Library –  
Wednesday Volunteers Needed**

**Volunteer for the Black History  
Production, Soul of the 70's**