

PTO

HSPVA

Kinder High School for the
Performing and Visual Arts

President's Message

Welcome to spring!

Spring is universally a time of awakening, renewal, and birth. It is the result of the hope that winter promises. As Bohemian-Austrian poet/novelist Rainer Maria Rilke said, "Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems." Emerging fresh and spirits anew, we awaken to possibilities. This energy of spring excites me!

Spring at HSPVA is no different. As we complete our first full year in our new building, we are now so very "at home". Comfortable and cozy, a sense of ownership is blossoming within the hearts and minds of the students and staff; some who never knew the Stanford building as "home," and others who hold a special place in their hearts for the old building, but are embracing all the delights 790 Austin offers. We continue to be pleasantly surprised here at the unexpected offerings.

Of course, there was no hibernating at HSPVA in the winter. As you know, the schedule is non-stop. Performances, in and away from campus, as well as academic competitions and accomplishments, and end of semester finals, have kept everyone pushing forward. Our seniors this winter were buried in college applications, auditions, and interviews. Our lower classmen continued to do their best to balance their academic requirements and their artistic responsibilities. But with winter comes a little break to rest, breathe, and rest some more. And, we did.

As we emerge into spring we are refreshed and ready. Bright-eyed, looking ahead, hopeful, and with a renewed zest we can see the finish line. Our students have begun their senior shows and recitals; our spring all school musical celebrating Black History, *The Color Purple*, was an enormous effort and success; and, our art areas continue to produce the most incredible art in all mediums with spring shows and performances. As HSPVA families, our version of "stopping to smell the roses" is attending these shows. Our garden is chock full this time of year and we sincerely hope you will take a gander and join us in celebrating all that our students have worked so hard for all year. Our students, staff, and volunteers are showing up with trowels, gloves, and shovels full speed ahead. Join us, if you haven't already. We are working together, getting our hands dirty, and sowing the seeds that are vital to keep the soil rich and fresh at HSPVA. In the words of Margaret Atwood, "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

Let's get dirty!

Georgia Lister
President, Kinder HSPVA PTO

The Kinder HSPVA Newsletter is published three times a year by the PTO and emailed to parents and faculty and/or posted at the website. A request for articles for the Spring 2020 issue can be submitted via email to Principal Allen at RALLEN4@houstonisd.org, or the PTO President Georgia Lister at KinderHSPVAPTO.President@gmail.com or newsletter co-editors, Irmi Willcockson and Barbara Haverkamp at KinderHSPVAPTO.newsletter@gmail.com. Kinder HSPVA is located at 790 Austin St., Houston, TX 77002.

Volunteer Spotlight

Chanté Goodwin Romero is a rock-star PTO volunteer! She is our School Supplies Chair, loves serving in the store, and, most of all, loves meeting HSPVA families at the Pop-up shop events. When she isn't volunteering at the school, she enjoys being a mom to HSPVA sophomore Skylar, and Longfellow bound incoming kindergartener Arianna. Chanté is also currently working on launching her own business.

Delighted to assist her clients with some of the largest shifts they will choose for themselves, Chanté works with her clients to examine, disrupt, reframe, and transform any limitations in their lives into success stories using Rapid Transformational Therapy. This is a very specific form of hypnosis therapy which is able to identify the root cause of an issue, erase that old belief, and install a new beneficial one in its place. In her own words, "There are two things in my life that bring me complete happiness and satisfaction: my children and seeing a client choose to live their best life."



When asked what makes her tick, Chanté says "People. People always come first. When that happens everything else falls into place. My passion has always been helping people see another way of thinking. Once that happens, you can start to Let Go and understand, and can then choose to live your best life." The Chronicle had a Peanuts cartoon, she saw years ago, that represented this perfectly, with the caption "Why does everyone say you only live once? You live everyday, you only die once."

Chanté's motto is: "Today, tomorrow, and always are yours. Take back your thoughts, actions, and desires to live your best life."

We celebrate Chanté for the wonderful person she is and her very generous spirit, as well as the countless hours she gives to the HSPVA PTO and school. If you see her, please take the time to say thanks!

Theatre

The Theatre Department has had an exciting year so far, being instrumental in the production of our all school musical, ***The Color Purple***. See pg 11 for photos. Many of our Senior students recently traveled to Chicago for Unified College auditions. Our design students also recently presented a workshop on creating a dynamic design portfolio, for Theatre Education Majors at U of H. Theatre Design students also submitted their design work for the UIL Theatre Design Competition.

Soon, we will be found busy at work in our costume shop, scene shop, Black Box and Studio Theatre building sets and rehearsing for our Gray Studio Series and our production of ***Into The Woods***. Level 1 and Level 2 showcases will be in May. Please come support our programs by purchasing tickets here:

www.HspvaBoxOffice.com

Principal's Message

Kinder HSPVA Families,

Can you believe that we are already in the third month of 2020? I hope it is off to a great start for you and your family.

In traditional HSPVA fashion, things are fast, furious, and magical on campus and with our students. We just closed our spring all school musical and Tommy Tune entry, *The Color Purple*. This production celebrated 31 years of Black History productions at PVA. Things are in full gear and Creative Writing, Visual Arts, Dance, Music, and Theatre Arts all have many upcoming events and activities. Be sure to check the school website for dates, times, and locations. (www.hspva.org)

I arrived at HSPVA on February 2, 2009. The past eleven years have been a whirlwind journey. Our students and teachers continue to amaze me every day with their passion, knowledge, and talents in both the arts and academics. Kinder HSPVA holds a special place in our country's fine arts magnet school history. As one of the first schools of its kind, HSPVA paved the way for many other arts schools across the nation. We continue to be celebrated in many arts education circles across the United States, and for this we should be proud. We have accumulated numerous honors, accomplishments, and recognitions in our forty-eight years of existence, but it is important that we continue to grow and improve in order to stay relevant in the world of arts and academics. To do this, we must consistently examine where we have been, where we are, and where we will go from this time forward. I continue to be proud to lead the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and love seeing the bar of excellence being raised because of the outstanding downtown facility!

Take time to glance at the Weekly Events you receive by e-mail every other Monday and make plans to attend a senior recital, performance, or activity at Kinder HSPVA in the coming weeks and months. It will be June before we know it!

Thanks again for the role YOU play in making HSPVA a premiere fine arts high school. Have an outstanding spring break!

Sincerely, R. Scott Allen

Staff Appreciation

We are so fortunate at Kinder HSPVA to have such a thoughtful, creative, and inspired Staff Appreciation chair! Tracy Painter creates a themed treat each month for every one of our faculty, staff, and employees at our school. Some of our favorite themes this year have been Chinese New Year, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and Fat Tuesday "Let the Good Times ROLL"! Take a look at the adorable, yummy items she creates. Even though we give these goodies once a month, it is always a surprise to the staff when exactly she will show up. The delight they all express makes it clear how important being thought of and remembered is to each of them. Enjoying life really is about the little things and living in the moment. We would be remiss if we failed to mention that none of this would be possible without the generous contributions to the PTO made by our donors. Thank you for helping the PTO (and Tracy) show our appreciation to our administrators, faculty, and staff. It is not only rewarding for the PTO, but a sure-fire smile inducer for the recipients!



Dance



Photo by Amitava Sarkar

The Kinder HSPVA Concert Dancers will present our Spring Dance Concert, March 12 & 13th in the Denney Theatre. The concert, will feature contemporary ballet, jazz and modern dance choreography by the HSPVA Dance faculty and featured guest choreographed works by Yoshito Sakaraba - Artistic Director of ABARUKAS Contemporary Dance Company in NYC, Elijah Gibson - Founder and Artistic Director of Social Movement Contemporary Dance, Jamie Williams, Dance Program Coordinator and Professor of Dance at San Jacinto College, Attila Csiki – Dance Faculty at Peridance Capezio Center, Rebecca Stenn – Artistic Director of the Rebecca Stenn Company and on Dance Faculty at The New School and PVA Dance Alum Parker Esse, Musical Choreographer and on the Dance Faculty at the Broadway Dance Center in NYC. Tickets can be purchased at www.HspvaBoxOffice.com beginning Friday February 28, 2020 at 9 am.

This Spring we will host Oklahoma City University, University of Oklahoma, Boston Conservatory, Texas Tech University, University of Houston and Ohio State University recruiting our dancers for their BFA, BA Dance programs and Ballet Hispanico, North West Dance Project, Peridance, Perry Mansfield, Ballet Austin, Mark Morris Dance Company and MODAS Summer Dance Intensives recruiting for their Summer Dance Intensives.

We are going on tour! The Concert Dancers will be traveling to perform *Family & Crazy Heart* from our Fall Dance Concert in adjudicated concerts at the National High School Dance Festival in Pittsburgh, PA, February 27 – March 1st on the Point Park University Campus. The dancers will participate in performances, workshops, lectures and audition for college , university and summer dance programs.

We hope to see you in the audience supporting the talented Concert Dancers at the new Downtown Campus in the Denney Theatre in March and throughout the Spring.

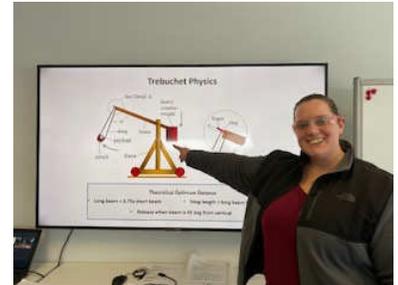
The Ion Innovation Challenge

Congratulations to our students who participated in the Innovation Challenge sponsored by The Ion! Our students have accomplished great feats during the past month. They met for this event on Feb. 6th, 18th and the 27th.

They have:

- learned about High Performance Skills (collaboration, communication, self-confidence & self-efficacy), and practiced those skills during the last two weeks
- engaged in rigorous problem solving, data analysis, design thinking, creativity, and innovation, as they apply their STEAM knowledge in Tour de Iodine and Trebuchet Physics activities
- displayed graceful failure and celebrated success together as teams, as they thrive to complete their tasks.

The Kinder HSPVA team competed against other area high schools and STEM teams and WON this challenge! Congrats to all who participated!



COMING UP NEXT is a very exciting task that our students will be engaged in - **building prototypes/products** that will help SOLVE some REAL PROBLEMS in the world! The project development sessions will be happening after school in The Ion Prototyping Lab, which will culminate in a Capstone Project Showcase on May 22nd.

Visual Art

Leah Clemons (Class of 2020) received Merit recognition in the YoungArts competition for Visual Arts. Ariya Selvakumar (Class of 2020) received Merit recognition in the YoungArts competition for Photography. The YoungArts is the National Competition that leads to the Presidential Scholarship to the Arts.

These students have been awarded in the Scholastics Competition.

Gold Key include Dana Combate (Class of 2022) and Ylliana Larsen (Class of 2021). Silver Key winners are Dana Combate, Ylliana Larsen, Tania Vega (Class of 2021) and Sophia Guzman (Class of 2020). Honorable Mention goes to Dana Combate, Ylliana Larsen, Tania Vega and Sophia Guzman.

This Spring, we welcome our newest consultant Trey Ferguson. We also welcome guest artists and speakers: Alton Dulaney, Li Harris, Ryan Hawk, Sharon Dennard, Lovie Olivia, Britt Thomas, Thedra Cullar-Ledford and Glasstire editor Brandon Zech.

We are pleased to be included this Spring in the Fotofest Biennial. The Creative Writing, Visual Arts and Dance Department will have photography on display in the Art Gallery hallway. In addition, Creative Writing and Visual Arts freshman are teaming up for a collaborative project.

Our Annual Print Show is on April 18th. Please join us for our biggest fundraiser. See pg 8 for details.

Diversity Series

The Kinder HSPVA Diversity Series is a school-wide initiative open to students of all art areas to support and highlight the many and diverse groups that, woven together, make up the Kinder HSPVA Community. Koffee House being the first and inspiration for the rest, perfectly fits the bill. Koffee House is a well-known tradition at Kinder High School for the Performing Visual Arts, beginning thirteen years ago on Stanford Street. Annually, this Diversity Series event unites students from different backgrounds to celebrate African-diaspora culture. This year's 13th annual showcase did not disappoint. With performances from various artistic genres presented by every art area here at HSPVA, the audience members were rocked off their feet.

Hosted by Ambar Caldwell, Tori Hicks, and Alana Bright, the lovely trio set the scene between every piece, showing the depth that previous Black creators found in their art. Opening with an ode to Koffee House, Jahz Rodgers—senior vocalist—sang *Black Koffee*. Adora Goodluck, Kiana Ardoin, Solomon Marlin, and Rashad McMiller performed *Lord is Coming*, a song-spoken word-rap hybrid that set a precedent and bar for every act following. Performing a crafted rendition of *Unthinkable* on the cello, Amayah Gabriel stunned the crowd. Dancers—Rodrick Barnes, Sasha Chapman, Joshua Francis, and Joelle Rosales—left us in a vulnerable position with their performance to Nina Simone's *Strange Fruit* as creative writer Chaise Jones shed light on historical lynchings that we should remember. The Koffee House Band can, of course, not be forgotten—with original pieces by band leaders Ian Dessauer, Matthew Fu, and Marwan Ghonima—as they kept the audience on their feet through intermission and long after the showcase was over with their “coming to church” improvisations. The entire show went off without a hitch with the help of stage manager Nicolas Wesley—senior instrumentalist—who orchestrated the smooth product that many of us luckily got to experience.

This year, Koffee House's proceeds were donated to Kinder HSPVA's Black Student Union (BSU). BSU is a cultural organization on the campus that meets twice per month to discuss issues relevant to the black experience and community. Their mission is to engage and strengthen the black community of PVA, promoting black excellence and embracing controversial but necessary topics to the table. With the help of the generous local companies, First Choice Coffee Services and New Age Security, who sponsored coffee for the event, the audience was able to dive into the setting of a swanky, hole-in-the-wall jazz club from the '40s. In turn, Koffee House is an immersive experience, and, ultimately, a love letter to black culture that PVA students will continue to write for years to come.

Chaise Jones, Sr, Creative Writing



Instrumental

Congratulations to the following students:

10th grade pianist **Mei Dickinson** received third prize at the HMTA Piano Competition 15 year old division, as well as Best Romantic Performance.

10th grade pianist **Saranna Zhang** received First Prize at the HMTA Piano Competition 16 year old division.

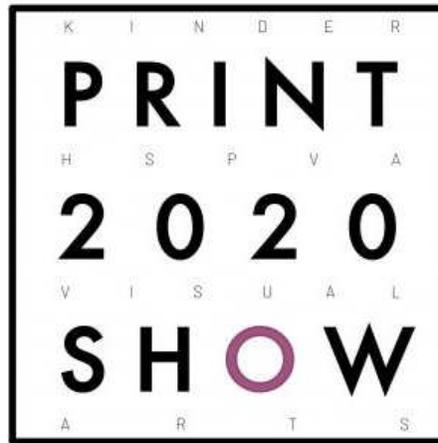
11th grade pianist **Alice Tian** received First Prize at the HMTA Piano Competition 17 year old division.

GUEST ARTIST MASTERCLASSES AND RECITALS:

- Jan. 16: Master class with **Wu Han**, currently the Co-Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Music Today in Korea, and Music@Menlo in California and Co-Founder of ArtistLed. Student performers: Alpin Gunduz (student of Mei Rui), Zosia Villarreal (student of Richard Marshall), and Alyssa Liao (student of John Weems). Brought to HSPVA in collaboration with the Houston Society for the Performing Arts.
- Jan. 24: Master class and recital with **Dr. Brian Hsu**, piano faculty from Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. Student performers: Hayden Miller (student of Piper Ward), William Newman (student of Richard Marshall), and Saranna Zhang (student of Sohyoung Park).
- Feb. 7: **Dr. Richard Kogan's** presentation "Music, Mood Swings & Madness". Dr. Kogan is a Juilliard-trained concert pianist and Harvard-educated psychiatrist, presented a program that explores the connection between the troubled mind and the creative output of the great German composer Robert Schumann. He also presented this program for the Houston Symphony Feb 8 pre-concert talk at Jones Hall. Dr. Kogan's presentation was made possible in collaboration with the Methodist Hospital's Center for Performing Arts Medicine.
- Young pianist **Darrius Simmons** performed and talked with our students for a very informative and inspirational session on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Darrius was one of the keynote speakers at the Houston ReelAbilities Arts and Film Festival taking place from Feb. 11 to Feb. 20. Darrius is 19 years old, and learned to play the piano extraordinarily well despite being born with only one finger on the left hand and three fingers on his right hand.
- Feb. 28: Master class with **Andrew Tyson**, First Prize at the Géza Anda Competition in Zürich, as well as the Mozart and Audience Prizes. Student performers TBA. This presentation is being made in collaboration with the Society for the Performing Arts.
- Spring Piano Recital: All students will perform on Friday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall. Free admission.

FIELD TRIPS:

- Jan. 29: Open rehearsal with pianist Kiril Gerstein (Liszt Piano Concertos) and the Houston Symphony at Jones Hall.
- March 25: Visit the Menil Collection, exhibit "Photography and the Surrealist Imagination".



Saturday, April 18, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.

The 2020 Print Show will be held in the lobby of the Fulbright Tower @
1301 McKinney Street.

The annual Print Show **celebrates and supports the Visual Arts Department** of the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. The program includes wine and hors d'oeuvres, live music, and a **fabulous silent auction of student artwork**. All proceeds benefit the Visual Arts Department by providing consulting faculty, instructional materials and supplies, masterclasses, equipment, scholarships, and more!

Complimentary parking will be available, but **bidding for both the print auction and the silent auction will take place online**, and you don't need to be present to bid or win. Bidding for the Print Auction will close at about 7:30 pm on April 18.

Information about purchasing tickets, making donations to the auction, and submitting a print is online at <https://hspvafriends.org/special-events/printshow/>

The Print Show is presented by the Art Guild, a part of HSPVA Friends.

Technology

The new PowerUp laptops have a convertible feature that allows them to function like a laptop or a tablet. Thank you to PTO for generously purchasing styluses for use with the touch screen. Teachers in several subject areas will be trying them out in coming weeks to explore new possibilities for digitalizing various tasks.

All students, who had PowerUp computers issued fall semester, turned them in before Winter Break. The new PowerUp computers were given to them at the start of the 2nd semester. Approximately 10% of our students opt out of PowerUp in favor of using their own devices. Those students can check out a PowerUp computer at any time by submitting a signed Laptop Loan Agreement (available in the Tech Office – room 406), along with the \$25 fee.

Dolphin Ocean Bowl



Kinder HSPVA STEM students organized the 2020 Dolphin Ocean Bowl Team for the Regional (Arkansas and Texas) Ocean Bowl Competition sponsored by NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization). Sea Grant, and Texas A&M Galveston. The event took place February 1, 2020 in Galveston, TX.

The Dolphin Bowl began with lectures from Sea Grant Master Naturalists at Galveston Bay State Park about the complexities and challenges in sustaining the intricate ecosystem in Galveston Bay. Students participated in a scavenger hunt/challenge and learned about the various biological markers affecting the cycles of the ecosystem. Our student, Kira Gianetti won a special prize for finding microplastic and identifying remnants in the bay.

The team won third place after defeating veteran teams from Texas and Arkansas. The group won the Ralph Rayburn Sportsmanship Trophy for character and grit throughout the event.

Per an email from Julie Massey, Galveston County Extension Agent-Coastal & Marine Resources, “Your students made a big impression on the Texas Master Naturalist volunteers, especially on the field trip! The Master Naturalists loved how engaged your students were!”

Nine students from Visual Arts, Vocal, Theater and Instrumental Departments participated in the competition. Students organized the club and met every Friday to prepare for the competition. Anshita Lal, Maryfer Rodriguez, Katherine Wilcockson and Noah Friedman were the group organizers. The group is now recruiting freshmen and sophomore students to prepare for next year’s Ocean Bowl competition.

Added teacher Marlo Diosomito, “It was indeed a fun-filled learning experience for HSPVA students.”

Science Bowl

The Science Bowl Team participated in the Regional Science Bowl at Texas A&M University on Saturday, Feb 1st, 2020. The students answered questions covering all areas of science and had to buzz in much like Jeopardy. They had a great time!

Team members were: Alice Tian, Eva Trakhtman, Everett Adkins, Saranna Zhang, Hayden Miller, Lina Wu, Elizabeth Johns-Krull, Ricky Kirk, and Sam Dill.

If your child is interested in participating in the future, have them stop by any of the science rooms and ask!

Mr. Eastman Landry



Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Department has had a busy semester already! We started with a visit from American poet Roger Reeves who worked with the students on world-building and revision techniques. Dr. Reeves has worked with our students on multiple occasions and is always an inspiration. We then geared up for our new fundraiser – XOXO Poetry Studio. The juniors and seniors just finished a week of on-demand poetry, or poetry busking, in celebration of Valentine’s Day. HSPVA Friends worked with the property management companies at various buildings and our students provided complimentary poems to their tenants. Over the five days, our students wrote over 300 poems. We’ve received great feedback, and already the buildings are asking that we return next year. We really could not have done this without Joan Murrin and Alene Coggin from HSPVA Friends, our tireless guild president Donna Lax-Edison, and countless parent volunteers.

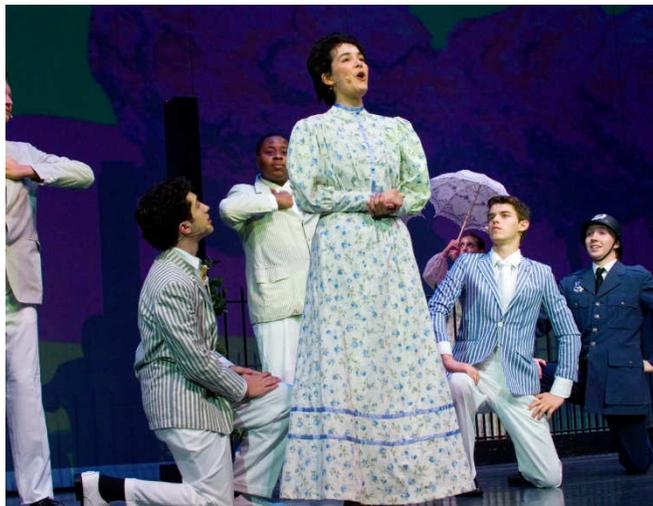


Our Creative Writing senior shows, performances showcasing a culmination of incredible storytelling and art, were performed February 19 through March 5.

On March 6, our students will be attending the Houston Grand Opera’s premiere of “Marian’s Song”, composed by Damien Sneed to a libretto by Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton, Houston’s poet laureate emeritus and HSPVA’s CW faculty member. The opera is based on the life of Marian Anderson, one of the celebrated singers of the 20th century, who broke racial barriers throughout her storied career. The work is a fusion of opera, spoken word, and multimedia projections.

All School Musicals

Two All School Musicals give students from all art areas a chance to collaborate. For the 2019-2020 school year, *Mary Poppins* was presented in the Fall, and *The Color Purple* in the Spring.



Photos by Lyle Ross

Alumni Spotlight



Jay Alexander, Class of 1986 - Media Department

So much of my career as a magician/mentalists can be attributed to my experience at HSPVA.

I was a kid who from a young age was passionate about art, music, and magic. And, I suffered from terrible dyslexia. I auditioned for the HSPVA Media Department, but didn't get in, probably due to bad grades due to my reading difficulties.

It was my first day of my junior year at my zoned high school. As I walked into homeroom, one of the football players said, "The faggot is back!" I looked at the homeroom teacher/coach who had a big smile on his face. I said, "Are you going to let him talk that way?" He says, "What, are you gay?" I wasn't, and it shouldn't have mattered. I walked out of class to the school office, and called my grandmother. I told her I was at the wrong school, that I got into

PVA and needed a ride there. It wasn't true, but I was desperate. Once at PVA I asked to talk to the principal. I told her my story and explained that I needed to be admitted or I was going to quit school. After much discussion on and off all day, we agreed that PVA was created for kids exactly like me. She let me enroll.

What I learned over the next 2 years at HSPVA set the stage for the rest of my life. Being around people who were willing to make art, even if it wasn't an assignment, inspired me. Performing in the happenings along with the skills that I developed during Interim classes have proven to be more valuable in my career today than any academic classes that I took.

I graduated in 1986, moved to San Francisco and enrolled in the San Francisco Art Institute. I tackled every job I could, worked as a magician/juggler at Fisherman's Wharf, designed concert posters, performed magic for kids' birthdays, and worked as an usher. I said yes to everything.

At 25, Bill Graham hired me to perform magic for a party he was throwing for the Rolling Stones. This surreal experience evolved into a regular gig performing backstage for the Stones on three U.S. tours. This was a huge turning point in my life. During this time Silicon Valley was exploding, companies were having parties, and I became the go-to Entertainment Choice for people like Steve Wozniak, founder of Apple Computer, and other still-small-at-the-time companies like Oracle, Yahoo, HP, and Intel. My corporate clients loved that I worked for the Rolling Stones and Robin Williams, and the celebrities were impressed that I knew the high tech giants. For me, it was still about finding the next gig.

I now own the Marrakech Magic Theater in San Francisco, where my show has become the highest rated attraction on YELP and TripAdvisor. I perform over 350 shows a year, with occasional corporate engagements, too.

I feel so lucky to have been surrounded by so many great artists and thinkers who contributed to making me the success I am today. All because someone (Norma Lowder, principal) heard me, really SAW me, and said "yes, you belong here."

Immense gratitude to all the donors who have generously contributed funds to the PTO this year. As promised, a special thanks (in print!) to our ENTHUSIAST level and higher donors.

Thank you to the families of the following students, as well as the individual donors listed below:

ENTHUSIASTS

Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Pat Bonner
 Mason Brown
 Damon Diaz
 Snorky Eastman
 Emma Evans
 Grace & Bella Falconer
 Matthieu Girardet
 Olivia Gonzales
 Alpin Gunduz
 Juliana Hall
 India Heltzer
 Katherine Henry
 Lauren Hodges
 Evelyn Hood
 Adelaide Horvath
 Jaden Madgett
 Megan Matthieu
 Carlyn Mayberry
 Hayden Miller
 Caroline Paden
 Katherine Raguso
 David Reyes
 Chloe Rounce
 Olivia Scott
 Ariya Selvakumar
 Chloe Shupe
 Madeline Strug
 Marnie Tallon
 Gabi Wager

COLLABORATORS

Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Anonymous
 Mariah Adeeko
 Thomas Boyce
 Catherine Butler

Vera Caldwell
 Ella Craig
 Isaiah Davis
 Ikeobasi Ezike
 Jessie Fergusson
 Matthew Fu
 Kerrigan Gaither
 Matthew Garza
 Sam Goldfarb
 Jackson Guite
 Sydnie Harris
 Megan Hasou
 Alexander Herskovic
 Hannah Hervat
 Alexander Hysinger
 Meghana John
 Max Kalba
 Melissa Kalmans
 Hemanth Kamana
 Sarah Klein
 Ian Knight
 Rebecca Lembcke
 Emma Lozano
 Caraline Mott
 Kaitlyn Nebgen
 Payton Passante
 Michael Pelton
 Bryn Peters
 Rafael Pina
 Grace Quarterman
 Luzia Quigley
 Alexine Salmons
 Layla Salomon
 Lakshmi Sunder
 Charlize Tabrizi
 Claire Waller

ADVOCATES

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 Charles Ables
 Abby Baden

Jones Bowman
 Ava Brown
 Hayden Brown
 Joshua Dennison
 Ian Dessauer
 Mia El-Yafi
 Natalie Hampton
 Athena Haq
 Samuel Heaton
 Sel Islam
 Josiah Jones
 Zachary Lloyd
 Colin Mee
 Grace Pan
 Elias Shehadeh
 Asha Thekdi
 Tamara & Evelyn
 Wattenbarger
 Zoe Yang

AMBASSADORS

Benjamin Azencott
 Clarq Bishop
 Auden Chen
 Allison Craft
 Shelby Edison
 Adelaide Fairbanks
 Shannon Hoffman
 Luca Jarosz
 Jenna Kid
 Logan Knupp
 Sophia Marshall
 Will Newman
 Samantha Pape
 Harper Lee Zook

Social Studies

Social Studies is busy starting to plan AP and STAAR reviews. We have a record number of students signed up for AP World History, AP US History, AP European History, AP US Government, AP Macro Economics, and AP Psychology. In addition, all juniors will take the US History STAAR in May, which is, of course, a requirement for graduation. PTO has been very helpful in obtaining needed materials for these classes, which are not always supported at the district level.

In addition, Social Studies oriented clubs are hard at work as well. Rho Kappa, our honor society, as they prepare a presentation for Houston ISD's Together with Tech conference on identifying "fake news". Junior State of America is prepping for the Spring State Convention in April, of which PTO will be helping with some scholarships so ALL interested students can attend. JSA is a student run, national civics organization and Kinder HSPVA definitely brings a very different outlook to these conferences than many of the students from around Texas. After four years, we are well respected and very involved in state level JSA activities.

Finally, we just received word that PTO has finally found a way to provide the social studies faculty with access to subscriptions to *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *The Economist*. This is such an amazing gift to the faculty (and therefore the students) as we can explore real world applications and outcomes of events and theory studied in class. Purchasing these subscriptions through HISD is nearly impossible and we are extremely grateful!

Photos attached are of our JSA Fall State Conference in Austin. Three students won Best Speaker Awards, from left to right, Layla Salomon, Theatre 2020, Christine Rong, Vocal 2021, and Jordan Ray, Visual 2021.



Math

The Math Department would like to thank you, the parents of our students, for helping and encouraging our students to be the best they can be!

If you are the parent of a junior, we wanted to let you know that the SAT will be given in school on Tuesday, April 28. The math department will be offering an SAT Math Prep Saturday on April 4 for any interested students to help with math topics and testing tips for the SAT. We usually have a large proportion of our juniors who attend.

Here are some highlights from our teachers about what is currently going on in their classes:

Ms. Suarez: In Pre-AP Pre-Calculus, we are learning about mathematical induction. Given a math statement how can you prove that it will work for all infinite numbers?

In AP Calculus we are learning volume of revolution using disks and washers. Soon it will be cross sections. How else are tunnels built? 😊

Ms. Coffey: In Geometry, we have been measuring the heights of things using similar triangles or trigonometry! Enjoy the pictures that are included.

Mr. McCommis: In Academic Pre-Calculus, we are reviewing finding the roots of polynomial functions, and in Academic Algebra 2 we are solving square root functions. In both classes, we are spending some review time working on SAT review.

In AP Statistics, we are learning different types of confidence intervals and hypothesis testing. We should be completing the content of the course by the end of March, making time in April and May to review for the AP Exam.

Ms. Nguyen and Mr. Landry: In Algebra 1, we are learning about applications of quadratic equations by analyzing and drawing projectile motions with given equations. The Algebra 1 STAAR exam is on Wednesday, May 6. This is the final Math STAAR exam. We are right on track to cover all necessary material, but if you would like your student to gain additional help, please stop by on Wellness Wednesdays!

In Ms. Nguyen's Pre-AP Algebra 2, we are working with polynomials and utilizing the rational root theorem to find the zeros.



Big THANKS to our School Store and Pop-Up Shop Volunteers!

We would like to take a moment to thank our wonderful School Store and Pop-Up Shop volunteers! We have so many parents, grandparents, alumni parents, and alumni who volunteer their time to help us do so many things here at HSPVA. Aside from our VP School Store, Rachel Price, who keeps our systems current and brings order to chaos on a regular basis, we have many, many people who show up before school, during lunch, and after school to work in our store. This is one of the most fun "jobs" the PTO offers! It is a great opportunity to see the kids, offer a smile or hug, and be in the middle of the buzz that is constant on the 5th floor. And the amazing Christine Peters keeps all of these volunteers organized and flowing! We can't forget to mention the people who prefer to be behind the scenes, too, who do all the ordering, pick-up, arranging to meet deliveries, etc.... Huge shout out to Lora Wildenthal for being the ring-leader on ordering. She certainly doesn't work alone, there are so many to thank! Our Pop-Up Shop volunteers work evenings and weekends to help set-up, run the pop-ups, and tear down. It is no small feat to keep this piece going, and it is a very important piece in our fundraising. HUGE thanks to our Pop-Up chair, Roberta Hethcox, who keeps our inventory fresh and exciting! And to each of you who have helped her set up early and come to work on the day of events, we thank you!

Each of the people listed below contribute to the success of our School Store and Pop-Up Shops in some way that requires them to physically be present and give of their time. (If we have missed anyone, it is simply due to our lack of a secure system to keep all of this organized, and we apologize.)

Jennifer Aiyer	Panarat ("Jeep" Jeep) Duke	Jennifer Kirk	Tony Passante	Florene Snively
Hubi Amrein	Anna Eastman	Paige Knight	Jesica Pehlert	Rayna Spencer
Ashley Anthony	Eman El Shareif	Jennifer Knupp	Rhonda Pelton	Tom Stallings
Elizabeth Ayers	Alexander Enano	Tonushree Kundu	Marivel Perez	Leslie Strug
Stacey Barber	Kelly Evans	Donna Lax-Edison	Roxanne Perez	Maria Syfert
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Barrett	Ms. Kyle Fake Seydler	LaQuita Lee	Teresa Perez	Marlo Thomas-Miller
Judy Bell	Kim Falconer	Megan Lembcke	Jennifer Perry	John Tobin
Leah Bell	Sarah Fischer	April Lidell	Christine Peters	Jeanette Towster
Holly Bennett	Lara Frazier	Dena & David Linda	Johnny Peters	Joseph Trevino
Sonya Bishop	Wanda Frazier	Svetlana Linde	Lara Powers	Stacey Trevino
Christine Block	Jennifer Friedman	Georgia Lister	Rachel Price	Mynette Vanacor
Sara Bloome	Carolyn Gaither	Amy Lloyd	Maddie Pringle	Suzanne Vanlandingham
Diaw Bola	Donya Gardner	April Lloyd	Christina Rappazzo	Patricia Vargas
Annette Botas-Rock	Kim Garza	Mary Lowery	Lyra Reid	Jill Vaughan
Cathy Brown	Rysse Goldfarb	Heidi Lozano	Jayne Ritterbush	Michael Vigo
Terri Brown	Maciel Gonzalez	Mary Lucci	Genna Riu	Ana Wakefield
April Bunch	Susybelle Gosslee	Alice Lynn	Emilia Rodriguez	Azaelia Whedbee
Suzanne Burris	Eron Grant	Jacquetta Madgett	Chante Romero	Justin Whedbee
Stephanie Bush	Gia Guidry	Kahla Malinsky	Chloe Rounce	Shironda White
Manett Butler	Jocelyn Guite	Christina Marcano	Marie Rounce	Teresa White-Heximer
Yu Cao	Monica Hampton	Heather Mee	Dick Rozic	Lora Wildenthal
Tami Champion	Susan Harmeyer	Sharon Mellon	Kendra Rozic	Ann Williamson
Tammy Christian	Rebecca Harrison	Laura Mercado	Maria Russo	Ariel Workeneh
April Coghill	Elena Heaton	Bobbi Jo Miller	Suzanne Salazar	Caleb Workeneh
Ryan Connell	Roberta Hethcox	Laurie Mills	Lauren Salomon	Felicia Workeneh
Shauntel Cooley	Thad Hethcox	Tiffany Momberger	Mimi Sauerzopf	Isias Workeneh
Luci Correa	Frankie Hickman	Andrea Mosley	Cassandra Saulsberry	Jenny Zeng
Denise Cortes	Sandra Higdon	La Fonda Moss	Laura Schaefer	Bo Zhou
Johanna Craft	Tiffany Hines	Julie Mott	Christi Schaeffer	
Benee Curtis	Judith Hiott	Kaori Nebgen	Elizabeth Shaw	
April DeConick	Traci Hlavaty	Diana Negrete	Linda Sheldon	
Heath DeGuzman	Autumn Hoffman	Ludmila Nelson	Katherine Shupe	
Jennifer Dennison	Ruth & Joe Lach Hoffman-Lac	Katharine Newman	Cynthia Singleton	
Carmen Dessauer	Amy Horton	Case Noles	Raquel Sitcheran	
Ian Dessauer	Jenny Johnson	Evelin OHara	Lisa Skiffington	
Julie Doyle-Madrid	Ivan Josic	Robbie Pape		
Pleshette Drummond	Melissa Kalmans			