

PVA PTO

NEWSLETTER



"From the President's Desk"

Greetings:

The HSPVA Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) welcomes new and returning families and staff! For anyone who may be unfamiliar with us, we are a volunteer organization that consists of parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff who are all dedicated to the successful education of our children. The HSPVA PTO works 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 educational and extra-curricular 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. *During Fall 2017, the PTO has raised over \$75,000 which will be used for Teacher Wish List items and important items that can be used on campus now and taken to the new campus next year!*

We encourage families, parents, and grandparents to get involved with our PTO! 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 evenings, please join us! Many hands make the job easier.

You can participate and help us make this a great

school year. We will need as many volunteers as possible, and are flexible enough to work around your schedules. Our group meets approximately once a month to discuss events, plan fundraisers, to enhance all programs, and share ideas. Attending a meeting 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 in the PTO believe that it is of the ultimate importance that we do everything we can to enhance the learning environment for our children as they truly are our future. It takes all of us to ensure that this happens!

We look forward to getting to know you!

Sincerely,

Your PTO President and Board/Executive Council for the 2017-18 school year

Mignon Anderson, President

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Maria Gomez, President Elect

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Sari Altman, Parliamentarian

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PTO Recognitions

| Membership Level | Recognition Information | | |
|--------------------|--|------|--------------------------------|
| | | Star | Family of Evan Turner |
| Executive Producer | Wattenbarger Family | Star | Tony Brown and Sigrid Vincent |
| Executive Producer | Family of Clara Neisel | Star | Helen Chong |
| Executive Producer | The Chorn Family | Star | April and Richard Coghill |
| Executive Producer | The Bezanis Family | Star | The Eastman Family |
| Executive Producer | Andrew Edison and Donna Lax-Edison | Star | Family of Madison Follis |
| Executive Producer | Family of Auden Chen | Star | Friedman Family |
| Producer | Michael and Monica Adeeko | Star | Kelley Fair and Judith Hiott |
| Producer | Family of Caroline Clark | Star | Family of Carson Howell |
| Producer | Cristina and Craig Freedman | Star | Kael Seyum Juan |
| Producer | Ann Guerra | Star | Family of Ally Hwu |
| Producer | The Linda family | Star | Family of Jordan E. Ray |
| Producer | Alisha and Richard Loftin | Star | Janis and Paul Jarosz |
| Producer | Jenifer and Rommel Quarterman | Star | Tammy Kidd |
| Producer | Felicia, Biruh & Isias Workeneh | Star | Family of Kelly Kinsella |
| Director | Obermeyer Family | Star | Mark and Elizabeth Klein |
| Director | Mignonne J. Anderson | Star | Jarrett and April Lidell |
| Director | Gardner and Jennie Biggs | Star | The Lozano Family |
| Director | Sara and Jerrad Bloome | Star | Family of Morgan Manning |
| Director | Family of Callum, Ewan and Graham Curtis | Star | Sergio and Sara Marcheli |
| Director | Marris and Rob Goldberg | Star | Jennifer and Jared Martin |
| Director | Goodman Sharp Family | Star | Jennifer & Michael McDonough |
| Director | Jocelyn and John Guite | Star | Olivia Miller Family |
| Director | Mr. and Mrs. Fares Hage | Star | Family of Jailyn Williams |
| Director | The Kalmans Family | Star | Susan Moreno and Warren Davis |
| Director | Caroline and Perryn Leech | Star | Henry Mosley |
| Director | Family of Madeline Strug | Star | The O'Connor Family |
| | | Star | Jennifer & Lyman Paden |
| | | Star | Flavio, Anna and Louie Palalon |
| | | Star | Melanie and Christopher Pearce |
| | | Star | Family of Ivan Josic |
| | | Star | James and Diane Ragan |
| | | Star | Rob and Donna Reid |
| | | Star | Craig and Annette Rock |
| | | Star | Lauren and Miguel Salomon |
| | | Star | Family of Chloe Shupe |
| | | Star | Lisa and John Skiffington |
| | | Star | The Margolin Family |
| | | Star | Hillier Family |
| | | Star | Mr. and Mrs. Sobash |
| | | Star | The Tagtmeier Family |
| | | Star | The Touchet Family |
| | | Star | The Vanlandingham Family |
| | | Star | Lainie & Jeff Vyner |
| | | Star | The Heximer Family |



PTO TREATS FOR PVA TEACHERS

The PTO loves the staff and teachers at HSPVA and we try to show our appreciation for all their hard work. This fall, the PTO surprised the staff and teachers with treats each month. In addition, a special holiday luncheon will be provided on December 21st. The PTO is currently planning a festive occasion by organizing gifts from the parents of PVA and by providing a delicious luncheon in a joyfully decorated recital hall. Gifts have been donated by Phoenicia Specialty Foods and Trader Joes and will be raffled off to add to the luncheon. The PTO will also recognize our beloved staff and teachers that are retiring with a gift. Thank you to all the parents that have donated their time and resources to put a smile on the teachers' faces. We are excited to continue to show our love for the PVA staff and teachers in the New Year. - Teacher Appreciation Committee

Dance Department

The HSPVA Concert Dancers performed in the HSPVA Fall Dance Concert, November 16 & 17, 2017. The concert featured contemporary ballet, jazz, and modern dance choreography by HSPVA dance faculty and featured guest choreographed works by Dante Brown, artistic director of Warehouse Dance, New York, James Robey, Associate Professor and Dance Chair at Webster University, St. Louis, Elijah Alhadji Gibson, Associate Professor at Sam Houston State University, Richard Bowman, Ballet Master Coach and Répétiteur and HSPVA Dance graduate, Sarah Stanley.

This fall we hosted Cornish College of the Arts, George Mason University, Texas Christian University, University of Texas, Sam Houston State University, Peabody University, University of South Florida, San Jacinto Community College, Southern Methodist University, and The HARTT School recruiting our dancers for their BFA Dance Programs as well as visiting the University of Houston's Dance Department on their campus hosted by HSPVA Graduate and U of H's Dance Chair, Karen Stokes.

Perry Mansfield Summer Dance Program auditioned Dance Majors for their Performing Arts Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO. We are excited to welcome Northwest Dance Project, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Ballet Austin, and Ballet Hispanico in the Spring recruiting for their Summer Dance Intensives.

HSPVA 2018 Dance Seniors, Hadiya Matthews, Briah Napier, Bethy Ruble and Savannah Sauer were featured in HISD Television's program - HISD Fine Arts Show with HSPVA and Richard Carranza. They each performed their own choreographed Senior Solos and Hadiya Matthews' group choreographed trio titled, *Timeless*.

Please join us for our Spring Dance Concert, March 8 & 9th, 2018. Guest Choreographers featured will be Ben Delony with Metropolitan Opera Ballet, Michael Foley, Associate Professor of Dance-University of South Florida, Denise Pons-Leone, Professor of Dance – Boston Conservatory, and HSPVA Dance Graduate Justin Prescott. Tickets can be purchased at www.hspvaboxoffice.com beginning Thursday February 15th at Noon.

Hope to see you in the audience supported HSPVA's talented Concert Dancers.

Art Department

The art department had a productive and compact Fall semester. We were highly impressed by the amount of high quality work created by our talented students in such a short amount of time! We had 100% of our seniors enter the Young Arts Competition. As a result, Hernan Cuevas received *Merit* recognition and Cathy Le received *Honorable Mention*. In addition, we debuted our Middle School Workshop this fall. Lots of eager students in our department ran this successful and fun event. We are currently crossing our fingers for results from Texas Commission on the Arts and Scholastics.

This spring, we will welcome many guests to our department. These include Trevor Martin (SAIC), Brad Epley (Menil Collection), Dennis Nance (Galveston Art Center) and Joo Young Choi. The juniors will experience a writing workshop during the first week back from break and they will receive special guest critiques mid-semester. The Junior Scholarship Show will be on view March 1-10. It is an exciting event to see the hard work of the Juniors that are competing for monetary rewards to attend Summer Programs.

A few members of our community have donated money towards a scholarship in memory of our dear student, Samantha Roquemore, who passed away earlier this year. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please contact the Friends organization. The student to receive this honor will display the characteristics that Samantha embodied. Sam was an expressive, creative, energetic and free-flowing artist. She was involved in many aspects of the art community.

The senior shows kick off February 1st! We are excited for our last round of senior shows at 4001 Stanford.

Theatre Department



HSPVA Theatre students rehearse into the night... for the HEB Thanksgiving Parade with Grand Marshall, Chandra Wilson, who currently stars on *Grey's Anatomy*... and is an HSPVA alum!

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Congratulations Josh Wyatt for being a Theatre Young Arts Finalist! Josh will be traveling to Miami in January to represent the HSPVA's Theatre Department.



HISD
Trustee District V
Congratulations
Sue Deigaard!

Science Department

HSPVA Science Olympiad

For the past six years HSPVA has been actively competing in Science Olympiad. The competition consists of 23 events that rotate from year to year and it is open to all grade levels.

This school year the HSPVA Science Olympiad team has competed in the CyFalls Invitational and Seven Lakes Invitational with two more meets coming up in the spring. While as a team we have scored in the middle of the pack (24th out of 46 and 12th out of 24), individually there were many placing in the top tiers. Below are students who have placed in the top five for their respective events thus far:

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Hovercraft: | 4 th place | Gabe Canepa, Margaret Fair and Phineas Davenport |
| Astronomy: | 5 th place | Gabe Canepa and Jonathan Jalbert |
| Disease Detectives: | 5 th place | Elena Margolin and John Euscher |

It is great to know that through hard work our students can be outstanding in all aspects of their PVA education - arts and academics!

If you would like more information about Science Olympiad, please visit our website: <http://hspvascioly.weebly.com>



Pictured above from left to right: Ewan Curtis, Freddi Linda, Margaret Fair, Paolina Gonzales, Mr. Landry, Phineas Davenport, Elena Margolin, Reuben Isaac, Gabe Canepa, Jonathan Jalbert, Alexa Halim, Amelia Heymach, Hallie Moseley

The Parents of Black History - Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) Committee

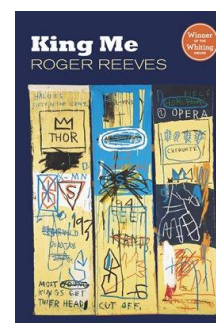
The Parents of Black History - Cultural Diversity & Inclusion (PBH-CD&I) Committee is ***a multi-cultural team of volunteers that exists to support HSPVA's world-class, young artists in residence.***

Goals for 2017-2018 include the support of the following events:

- the first HSPVA Hispanic Heritage Month Festival held on Thu Oct 12, which was an outstanding success!
- the HSPVA 11th Annual Koffee House which was held on Sat Nov 4, 2017. The event was sold out! - - - with standing room only... approximately 43 students across art areas participated by performing or being in the Crew, ensuring that a superb evening was had by all.
- the HSPVA All-School Black History Production ***At The Apollo*** will open on Thu Feb 22 and run through Sun Feb 25, 2018. Get your tickets at www.hspvaboxoffice.com

Creative Writing Department

The Creative Writing Department has had a busy Fall semester, hosting over 150 students for our Middle School Workshop and taking our annual trip to Austin for the Texas Book Festival. We anticipate that our Spring will be just as eventful. We are lucky to begin the semester with a guest writer. Roger Reeves is returning to the Creative Writing Department to work with our students during our first week back! Our senior shows come up next, February 13, 15, 27, and March 1 in the Black Box Theatre. These shows are often an eclectic mix of poetry, short films, staged readings, and fiction. We also have our Spring Off the Page reading on April 12 and our 2nd Annual Film Festival on April 20th. This festival is open to all HSPVA students- if your child is a budding filmmaker, please encourage them to submit their work! We end the semester with Fish-Fry, a Mandatory Freshman Reading (no actual fish, just a group of nervous freshmen thrown into the frying pan). All of these shows are free and open to the public. We would love to see you there!



Math Department

Math Tips for Success in High School and College

Students and parents often have questions about college readiness, especially in math. Though the paths to prepare for college vary, here are some tips about how to study math and how to approach problem solving.

- Be responsible for your own learning. Recognize what you know and what you are struggling with, and how your teacher can best help you.
- Go to class every day! Take complete notes. Teachers use examples from class as well as from your textbook to write tests.
- Actively participate in class! Think through the problem while your teacher is explaining it, try to anticipate the next step.
- Ask questions in class. You are likely not the only one who did not understand the topic, so ask!

- Go to tutorials! Teachers will be pleased to see you, and you will be helping yourself.
- Good study habits throughout the whole semester are essential for success.

Studying Math is Different

- Math is learned by **doing** problems. Do your homework. It is designed to help you master the formulas and techniques you need. Practice also builds your problem-solving confidence (and speed).
- A word of encouragement: Each class builds on the previous classes, all semester long. Review is always happening. Many of the ideas hang together. Identifying and learning the key concepts will reduce the amount of memorizing you have to do.

modified from St. Louis University's Math and Statistics Department

PTO



The Fall PTO Program on Monday, Nov 27th was moderated by Rachel Dickson, VP Engagement and Mignonne Anderson, President with esteemed panelists:

Houston Ballet - Lauren Anderson
Houston Grand Opera - Brian Speck

The Ensemble Theatre - Michelle Walton
Houston Symphony - Anthony Parce

School Supply Coordinator needed! Do you love school supplies? The PTO is looking for a select person(s) to drive the largest PTO fundraiser. Training provided, as is the method and tools. We need a motivated shopper with August free to take the fundraiser reins and steer the School Supply fundraiser into the next school year. All applicants contact Judith Hiott, PTO School Store, Judith.hiott@outlook.com and Diane Ragan, current School Supply coordinator, DiRaganD@gmail.com.

Membership

As of December 2017, HSPVA PTO membership has been very busy. A new membership program was initiated this year, offering online registration through Wufoo along with the traditional paper forms for membership and a reward program. Rewards included decals, recognition in PVA publications including the directory and PVA bill, PVA spirit wear, tickets to All School musical, and a wine and cheese with Dr. Allen to be held in February.

Fall membership drive was a huge success due to all who joined to support PTO and all of the PTO activities happening at HSPVA. A total of 155 families have joined PTO. Leading the classes with a total of 64 families was the sophomore class, followed by the junior class with 39 families, then the senior families with 29 families join and rounding out with the freshman class with 23 families joining. Music had the most families joining with a total of 57, Theatre, 37 families; Visual Arts, 28. Dance and Creative Writing each had 18 families join. Another most impressive number was the faculty, staff and administration with 59 joining to support the PTO. Rewards have been distributed. If you have not received your rewards, please contact Mr. Klein. \$19,955.00 was the total raised from the parents and staff.

2016 Wish List Update

How would you best spend \$60,000 as the Treasurer of the PTO at HSPVA last year? I am privileged to share with you how this amount was spent last year granting Wish List items as requested by the staff, presented jointly by the PTO President and Principal, and approved by to the PTO Board. Academic and Art areas submitted requests for a wide array of goods and services to be funded by the PTO. Among the items purchased are: tutus and bodices, a piano, online music instruction books, theatre lighting, a micron scale, debate materials, instrument racks, a new Visual Arts elective, and a new horn. Payments for consultants and trip deposits were also funded. Each vendor was contacted numerous times in order to establish accounts, methods of payment, shipping discounts, and educational discounts. As the treasurer, I begged for every discount I could capture. Our total expenditure was under budget.

I would like to thank each and every student customer of the school store, and every parent/student who purchased school supplies. Your purchases of "nuclear yellow Gatorade" for \$1 or a graphing calculator for \$109 helps us put the goods and services into the students' hands here at 4001 Stanford.