

# Jackson JOURNAL August 2009

Jackson Elementary School

## From the PTA President Julie Bradley

Hello Jackson Families!

My name is Julie Bradley and I am excited to be your Jackson PTA President for the 2009-2010 school year. The PTA Executive Board has been hard at work this summer laying the foundation for activities and programs that will allow Jackson to continue to be a great place for your child(ren) to learn and grow.

Parent involvement is critical to the success of our school and children. Please consider becoming a member of the Jackson PTA team! Once a member, the PTA provides many opportunities for you to get involved and make an impact in your child's life. These opportunities include, but are not limited to: assisting students in the library, baking for teacher hospitality, planning and participating in special events, taking pictures for the yearbook, working in the grade level workrooms, assisting with the book fair, fall picnic, multicultural event, field day and many more programs. You can volunteer for a one time project or ongoing activities. What matters most is that everyone be involved to some extent.

This newsletter contains important information about our upcoming school year including details about the PTA Spirit Day Sale on August 21. Forms, including a combined consent and membership form, are included in this newsletter. Please complete all the enclosed forms and bring them with you to the Spirit Day Sale on Friday, August 21 from 2-5 pm.

I look forward to seeing you all in a few weeks and making this a year to remember.

Sincerely,  
Julie Bradley  
Jackson PTA President

## From Principal Kris Benson

I hope as you read this letter you have made lots of memories of another summer of fun in your family's life and are starting to think of getting ready for next school year. We are so excited for this coming year, my fourth year as Jackson's Principal, boy how time flies when you are having fun.

My first year was full of excitement because I didn't know what I didn't know. Second year was scary because I was supposed to know something. I finally felt last year, my third year that I knew what the job entailed and I could handle it without worrying all the time. I have come full circle now, because I am back to the "excited feeling" starting my fourth year. I have met with the leadership team and PTA board and we have great events planned that are sure to get everyone excited to be a Jaguar.

The end of this year will bring the start of construction for our remodeling. It is scheduled to take two summers and one year, finishing the fall of 2011. The architects are busy developing plans to work around our kindergarten and second grade wings as well as the gym and cafeteria. The rest will all be demolished and remodeled. We will have a BEAUTIFUL school when all the dust settles.

We will no longer be posting class lists on the front windows. They will be posted at Meet the Teacher on August 21<sup>st</sup> outside each grade level. We look forward to reconnecting with all of you and celebrating the start of a new year!

The PTA has planned many events throughout the upcoming year. If you have any time, energy or love to give to the PTA please do. There are many parents who have been working hard to make Jackson the best school for your children and they could use your talents! Do it for the children.

## **Jackson Elementary School's**

### **Annual Event**

**Friday, August 21st**

(presented by Jackson PTA)

#### **Spirit Day (2-5 pm):**

- **Purchase School Supplies – Priced and packaged per grade and sold tax free.**
- **Purchase Spirit Wear – Jackson logo clothes.**
- **Join PTA – Sign up as a member of Jackson's PTA.**
- **Sign Up to Volunteer - Help in an area of interest that meets your time requirements.**

#### **Meet Your Teacher:**

Students are invited to their new classroom to meet their 2009-2010 teacher:

- Kindergarten – Grade 2 3:00—4:00 pm  
Grade 3-5 3:30—4:30 pm
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Class Lists & Teacher Assignments will be posted in each individual grade level area.

Class lists will NOT be posted on the front windows of the building.

### **Cheers & Tears**

All Jackson parents are invited to the PTA's annual **Cheers and Tears Coffee on the first day of school, Monday, August 24 at 7:30 am.**

*Enjoy coffee or juice as you shed a tear as your "baby" begins school or cheer as your student returns for the new year. After you walk your student to his or her classroom, please join us in the school cafeteria!*

### **Important School Documents**

Included in this newsletter are three (3) VERY important documents. Please complete these documents and turn in at Spirit Day. Volunteers will be available to assist and answer questions.

- Directory Release & PTA Membership Form
- Donation Campaign Fundraiser
- Volunteer Form

### ● **Fall Picnic & Multicultural Night**

Combined into One Event this year! It's called the "Taste of Jackson" with food, fun, and friendship.

If you are interested in hosting a table or booth, complete the form included in the packet. First-timers, along with those who have participated before, are all welcome. Let's see if we can top the number of countries and continents from last year. If you have any questions, contact [CulturalDiversity@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:CulturalDiversity@MyJacksonPTA.org)

**Mark your Calendars Now — Friday, September 25 at 6:00 pm**

## What Should I Expect My First Days of School?

### **TRAFFIC CONGESTION:**

Expect the streets around school to be congested with **traffic. Most parents (some in two cars) bring their children the first day. Allow extra time to navigate the crowds while driving safely.**

### **FIRST DAY JITTERS**

Expect your student to be nervous (most are.)

### **EXCELLENT TEACHERS**

Expect all teachers to make the first days of school comfortable.

### **PAPERWORK!**

Expect your student to come home with lots of papers to be filled out. Please complete and return as soon as possible.

### **SAFETY FIRST**

School zone speed limit is 20 mph–Do Not Speed!!

Watch for bikers and walkers – be alert and drive slowly.

Cross at Designated Walks with guards ONLY.

Follow Directions given by Safety Patrol and Staff.

Only drop-off your child in the car pool line!

Do not use your cell phone while you are in the car pool line!

Do not park on Jomar Drive during drop-off and pick-up.

Have your child ready to get out of your car when the Safety Patrol opens your door.

Be Prepared – traffic significantly increases on rainy days. Safety Patrol and staff do not work the morning car pool line in severe weather (lightning or extreme temperatures) – arrive extra early.

Lead by Example through exercising patience, observing traffic laws and driving the speed posted for the protection of our children.

Jackson's Traffic Plan can be found at [www.MyJacksonPTA.org](http://www.MyJacksonPTA.org)

### **Visitor Registration**

PISD requires all school visitors to register a photo ID and wear a Photo ID Badge when at school—even to walk a student to their classroom! The school office will be crowded the first days of school so a line with wait time is to be expected.

If you are able, please consider stopping by school before the first day to register.

### **Communication**

Want to keep up-to-date on school information? Use this website as your first source. You also can sign up for the weekly eNews here, and link to the Jackson Elementary School and PISD websites.

### **Join Jackson PTA**

**Jackson PTA is an essential part of Jackson Elementary. Our PTA supports student, teacher, parent, and family programs at Jackson. Every parent and teacher at Jackson Elementary is invited to participate and join our PTA. PTA meetings are not mandatory but all PTA members are invited to attend these informative meetings to find out what is happening at your child's school.**

PTA positively affects the education of students throughout our community and the United States. PTA is an advocate for children in state and national legislatures.

By becoming a PTA member, you add your support and voice to others making a difference for the children at Jackson.

In addition to regular meetings, PTA fosters communication by publishing an information packed newsletter, weekly eNews and weekly YO (youngest only) information packets. Our PTA organizes and funds school-wide events including our annual Spirit Day Sale, Book Fair, Dad's Club (Watch Dogs), Cultural Diversity Events, Yearbook and much more. Our PTA provides continuing education for parents and teachers.

As a member of the PTA you are more likely to be an informed and involved parent.

Membership is \$15.00 for the first membership and \$6.00 for each additional membership – **Jackson encourages each adult member of the family to support our PTA with a membership. Each paid membership receives a FREE school directory. To begin your involvement with the Jackson PTA sign up at Jackson's annual Spirit Day event by completing and returning the attached application with payment. If you have any questions, contact Jossette Storey, VP Membership at [Membership@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:Membership@MyJacksonPTA.org)**

**Other benefits PTA members receive are:**

**Discounts on Jackson Spirit Wear, pre-packaged school supplies at Jackson Spirit Day Sale, and our Jackson Yearbook.**

As a Texas PTA member you will also enjoy special discounts at the following businesses: Schlitterbahn, Sea World, Southwest Vacations, La Quinta, AFLAC, Office Depot, Barnes & Noble, Nationwide, and Enterprise. Full details available at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org).

**On behalf of the Jackson PTA Board, we hope you will join our organization**

**[Volunteer Opportunities!](#)**

**Yearbook: Help with the business details of our annual yearbook. If you have good organizational skills and want to work on a fabulous committee, contact [Communications@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:Communications@MyJacksonPTA.org)**

**Bulletin Board Creator: Are you creative? Create a school bulletin board several times a year. Contact [Communications@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:Communications@MyJacksonPTA.org)**

**Grounds Beautification Program: If you would like to add seasonal color with plantings at the school entry, contact [Programs@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:Programs@MyJacksonPTA.org)**

**Spring Fling Chair: This is an outdoor event held at the school in April/May. This year's theme is Cinco de Mayo. If you are interested in coordinating the Spring Fling, contact [WaysandMeans@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:WaysandMeans@MyJacksonPTA.org)**

**After School Enrichment Programs: Jackson PTA would love to bring after school enrichment programs to our school. To do so we must have a parent "host". Programs are the Young Rembrandts Art Program, Chess Club, Science Adventures, and Spanish School House.**

Each class is presented by a professional organization for per semester per student (parent paid) tuition. The parent "host" just needs to be in the building while the program is in session (one hour, once a week). If you are interested in hosting one of these After School Enrichment Programs, contact [President@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:President@MyJacksonPTA.org).

### **Budget Meeting**

Plan to attend Jackson PTA's 1st Preliminary **Budget Meeting**. **We value your interest and participation in the budgeting process.**

**Tuesday, August 18, 10:00 am Jackson Elementary**

Please RSVP to: [President@MyJacksonPTA.org](mailto:President@MyJacksonPTA.org)

### **Jackson Journal and Jaguar Connection**

The PTA Communications Team is excited to announce the schedule for "news to use" coming to you in the Youngest/Only (YO) packet.

Every nine weeks (October/ January/ March), you will receive a more detailed newsletter called the Jackson Journal.

For the other six months (Sept./ Nov./ Dec./ Feb./ April/ May), you will receive a brief calendar with events information called the Jaguar Connection.

### **Jackson eNews**

Get weekly information about Jackson Elementary news delivered to your email box!

PTA prepares and sends school information weekly throughout the school year. To sign up,

- Visit <http://www.MyJacksonPTA.org>
  - Click on "News" button.
  - Enter your email address in the box "Join our Email List".
- 4. Select the "Jackson PTA eNews".

If you would like to *also receive PISD news*, visit:  
<http://elist.pisd.edu/login.php>.

Both services are free and a great way to be informed

### **Helpful Websites**

#### **Jackson PTA**

[www.MyJacksonPTA.org](http://www.MyJacksonPTA.org)

**(Check out the new layout & language translation.)**

#### **Plano School District**

[www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)

- **Annual Volunteer Application**

- <https://oea.pisd.edu/volunteer>
- **Lunch and other payments:**
- <https://paypams.com/HomePage.aspx>

- **Jackson Elementary**

<http://k-12.pisd.edu/schools/jackson/frontmur.htm>

More useful sites can be found at [www.MyJacksonPTA.org](http://www.MyJacksonPTA.org)

## PROGRAMS

**Cub Scouts— Recruiting Night for Pack 1225 will be held on Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the Jackson cafeteria. Cub Scouts is open to all boys from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. All parents and boys are invited to attend. The meeting should last approximately 1 hour. For more information, please contact Joe Stallard at [jstallard@sewell.com](mailto:jstallard@sewell.com).

**Girl Scouts— Recruiting Night is Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** from 7-8 pm in the Jackson cafeteria. Girls interested in joining should bring a parent – and pass the word on to any others you know that might be interested! Leaders from the current Jackson troops will be there to talk to parents. Current 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts will have some fun activities for all girls who come! Please contact Deanna Blackwell at 972- 758-0561/ [gogoshasta@verizon.net](mailto:gogoshasta@verizon.net) , or Teresa Fox 972-818-2605/ [tfox2@jcpenny.com](mailto:tfox2@jcpenny.com) with any questions or concerns.

### Need Information about the Banking Program?

Visit [http://myjacksonpta.org/html/banking\\_day.html](http://myjacksonpta.org/html/banking_day.html) This program is free to students at Jackson.

**Other events this fall: PTA Reflections Program, Fire Prevention Week, History Fair, Geography Awareness Week, and more. Information about these programs will be distributed at the beginning of the school year.**

**Start Saving Box Tops Now!**

Clip the pink Box Top Logo from Betty Crocker products and send to school with your student. Jackson earns ten cents (!) for every coupon turned in. Register at <http://www.boxtops4education.com> for coupons and bonus.

**2009-2010 School & PTA Calendar**

**AUGUST**

- 18: PTA Budget Meeting 10 am
- 21: Spirit Day /Meet Your Teacher
- 24: First Day of Class and Cheers & Tears Coffee
- 26: Cub Scout Recruitment Meeting: 7-8 pm

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1: PTA Meeting 8:30 am
- 2: Girl Scout Recruitment Meeting: 7-8 pm
- 3: Parent Meetings: **Kinder-6-6:45p** and **5th-6:45-7:30p**
- 7: Labor Day Holiday – No School
- 15: Parent Meetings: **3rd-6-6:45p** and 4th-6:45-7:30p
- 17: Parent Meetings: **1st-6-6:45p** and **5th-6:45-7:30p**

23: Early Release – Noon

25: Fall Picnic & Multicultural Night 6-8p

## **OCTOBER**

15: Early Release – Noon

16: Student Holiday: Parent Teacher Conferences

19: Red Ribbon Week

29: Skate Night

## **NOVEMBER**

1: Standard Time resumes

16: Book Fair Week

17: PTA Meeting: 7 pm

19: Turkey Show: 7 pm

25 Thanksgiving Holiday thru 11/29

## **DECEMBER**

2: Fifth Grade Camp through 12/4

8: PTA Holiday breakfast

16: Fifth Grade Choir

17: Winter Parties

18: Early Release noon

21: Winter Break through Jan 4

## **JANUARY**

- 5: Class Resumes
- 14: Third Grade Program
- 18: MLK Student Teacher Holiday

## **FEBRUARY**

- 8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 12: Pastries for parents 7 am and PTA Meeting 8 am  
Class Parties (time per grade)
- 15: Student Holiday
- 18: Fourth Grade Fitness Night
- 24: Early Release Noon

## **MARCH**

- 11: Open House & Wax Museum
- 12: Early Release Noon
- 15-19: Spring Break Week

## **APRIL**

- 1: PTA meeting 10 am and Volunteer Luncheon 11 am
- 2: Student Teacher holiday
- 16: Spring Fling Event 6-8 pm (TBD)

20: Second Grade Fitness Night

## **MAY**

4: PTA Meeting 8:30 am

7: Field Day (TBD)

12: Early Release Noon

14: Field Day Rain Date

20: Kindergarten Program

28: Yearbook Signing

31: Memorial Day Holiday

## **JUNE**

1: Fifth Grade Graduation

2: End of Year Parties

3: Clap Out – 11:30 am and Early Release Noon

**Come to Jackson Elementary's Annual  
SPIRIT DAY Event & MEET YOUR TEACHER**

**August 21, 2009  
2—5 pm**

**Meet Your Teacher**

Grades K – 2

3 — 4 pm

Grades 3 — 5

3:30—4:30 pm

**Class Lists will be posted  
in individual grade level areas**

*(not before SPIRIT DAY as done previously)*