



Raven About Rice

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

SUMMER 2009

Rice Middle School • 8500 Gifford Drive • Plano, Texas 75025 • 469-752-6000

CALENDAR POINTS OF INTEREST

August 13 –
6th & 7th grade schedule pick up

August 14 –
8th grade schedule pick up

August 24 –
First Day of School 8:30am

August 24 –
PTA General Membership
Meeting and Back to
School Coffee

September 7 –
Labor Day/Student Holiday

September 10 –
Rice Open House

September 25 –
Fall Student Social

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome
Be Prepared
Join PTA
Volunteer Application
Schedule Pick-Up
Rice Web Store

Principal: Gail Stelter
Asst. Principal: Chris Glasscock
PTA President: Laura Frawley
PTA Website: www.ricepta.org

PTA President's Letter By Laura Frawley



Summer is upon us and I hope you are all enjoying every minute of it! The packet you received in the mail should have all the needed information to get a handle on the new school year as well as schedule pick up.

For those of you new to Rice Middle School, let me extend a warm welcome. The transition to middle school for many new sixth graders can be interesting, to say the least. The staff at Rice is well prepared to help and assist your child as they enter a new phase of school and life. Schedule pick up is right around the corner and is a great opportunity for you and your child to become comfortable with new surroundings, lockers and a changing schedule.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the middle school level. Please take some time to look over the volunteer packet that came in the mailer and see which areas best fit your interests and schedule. The forms can be turned in at schedule pick up or any time during the first days of school.

Our PTA will work throughout the year to keep you up to date and informed of what is going on at Rice. If you have not

already signed up for the PISD eNews, you will want to do that now. eNews is a key communicator for the staff, school and PTA. Additional information on how to sign up is included in this newsletter. In addition to eNews, we will also be using our own Rice website as a form of communication. Please use our website frequently: www.ricepta.org. You can find archived copies of our newsletters here as well.

We hope you will support Rice and your child by joining the PTA. With your support we are able to provide the students, staff and parents many activities and services including grade level field trips, art supplies, weekly readers, educational programs, teacher workshops, teacher appreciation, etc. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. For the past several years Rice has not had any sort of traditional fundraiser. This means NO passbook sales, gift-wrap or cookie dough. Instead we are asking every family to consider making a tax-deductible donation to our PTA. With our changing economic times, we realize things may not be what they once were. However, please know that no donation is too small and we appreciate whatever you are able to give. There is a place on the form for you choose an amount that is right for you and your family.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you at schedule pick up!

BE PREPARED!

By Gail Stelter, Rice Principal

Rice Middle School is an accepting, nurturing, safe community where students are given the freedom to learn and grow as responsible individuals.

– Rice Mission Statement

**“If you are
prepared,
you will
be confident,
and will do
the job.”**

– Tom Landry



I am interrupting your summer with an important message...August 24, the first day of school, is closer than you think! I want parents and students to thoroughly enjoy your time away from school, but I have a few thoughts to keep in mind on how to prepare for the school year. I've put together a Top Ten List for getting ready:

#10 Enjoy your summer and give yourself time to relax, reflect and refocus!

#9 Make sure the clothes you buy over the summer meet the school dress code.

#8 Don't be afraid to ask for help from your teachers, administrators, counselors or friends. The faculty at Rice wants to help with the functional things at school like opening your locker and finding your lunch number, so you can focus on learning!

#7 Set up a carpool or group to walk/ride bikes with to school. Traveling in a group makes it more fun, gives Mom and Dad some help and is safer! Don't forget a bike helmet when riding your bike!

#6 If you are being picked up from school, decide on a pick up location, especially for the first day of school. It can get very confusing!

#5 Make sure you will be involved in a small group in middle school such as:

*Student Council
Spelling Bee
Theatre*

*Speech
Yearbook
Book Club
Geography Club
Music: Band, Choir, Orchestra
National Junior Honor Society
Cheerleading
Athletics – Football, Volleyball, Basketball,
Tennis, Track, Cross Country,
Helping Other Peers Excel (HOPE)
Whiz Quiz
Math Counts
Mock Trial
Destination Imagination
And more.....*

#4 Remember, “Don't sweat the small stuff” – take things in stride, don't worry – we're all a little lost the first day of school

#3 Be kind and supportive of your fellow students – we're all in this together and you may need their help one day.

#2 Be respectful and appreciative of your teachers. They put their hearts into teaching – they are here to help you be successful.

And the **#1** piece of advice:
This is a new year, a new start – you can make it anything you want it to be! Rest, Relax and Refocus over the summer and come back August 24th ready to make it the best school year ever!

I will let you get back to your summer break - Be safe and enjoy your family time!

RICE PTA CANDY SALES

Every Friday at the
6th and 7th grade pods
at 3:30 pm.

Kids love the candy!

Profits will go directly
to the school, students,
and all kinds of
Rice activities that
might need support.

In addition, parents get
to socialize with other
parents and meet new
students at Rice MS.

Volunteer it is fun!



Join the RICE PTA!

By Melanie Pellegrino, 1st VP Membership

Join the Rice PTA and make a difference!
When you become a member of the Rice PTA you...

- Become part of the largest children's advocacy group in the world
- Join over 6 million members of the National PTA
- Join over 36,000 PTA members in the city of Plano
- Provide support for your children's teachers
- Fund wonderful field trips for your child
- Support Arts in Education and the National PTA Reflections arts contest
- Provide new learning tools for the classroom
- Support the Rice PTA Fine Arts Night for our community

To become a member of the Rice PTA, complete the membership form included in the summer packet and drop it off at the membership table during schedule pick-up or return it to the Rice school office.

Dollars, Donations and You: Your PTA funds at Work

By Monica Mizell, Treasurer

As the school year begins, I think of all the powerful things Rice PTA has accomplished with the help of funding from caring parents and friends like you. You see, unlike other schools, we at Rice PTA do not have a traditional fundraiser such as food or catalog sales. Instead we rely on donations made by families at the beginning of the school year. These donations allow Rice PTA to fund activities, programs and to purchase items for the Rice students. We are extremely appreciative of the help we receive. Please know that the Executive Board considers it a great honor to represent the PTA and that we handle the PTA funds with care and consideration to assure that they are spent wisely for the best benefit of the students and the school. I know that the economy weighs heavily on all our minds and can make a decision about supporting an organization extremely difficult. I want to assure you that your decision to help the Rice PTA has a tremendous impact on the lives of many children. Just look at what your PTA donations accomplished this past school year:

- Bus transportation for all students to the King Tut exhibit at the DMA
- Red Ribbon Week
- 8th Grade celebration
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Fine Arts Night
- Multi-Cultural celebration
- Parent education programs
- Microphones
- Art supplies
- Pencil sharpeners and calculators

REFLECTIONS 2009-2010

Reflections Theme
for 2009/2010
is

“Beauty is...”

All entries are due
October 23, 2009.



SAGE is ready to ROCK RICE!

By Teri Kachurt, SAGE Chairperson

What is **SAGE**? It's the **Special And Gifted Education** Committee formed with the PISD PTA Council to help address the needs of students in the special education programs and those in the gifted programs who are exceptional and diverse learners.

What does that mean for the students at RICE? It means that we are going to do some FUN things to help ALL the students, teachers and parents

- Celebrate,
- Communicate,
- Educate, and
- Support their friends in these programs!

Come and see us at Schedule Pickup Day in August and sign up to help us plan these events at RICE!

- A SAGE Family Welcome Meeting – for all families to learn more about how SAGE can help your student.
- A Fall HOPE Social – for all the HOPE students and their friends in the SAGE programs at RICE.
- National Inclusive Schools Week – an opportunity to join forces with schools throughout PISD -- and nationwide -- as we celebrate the dignity and diversity of all the students at RICE.
- The Annual End-of-Year HOPE Celebration -- to recognize those students who have helped our SAGE students throughout a successful school year!

If you would like more information about these programs at RICE Middle School or about the **SAGE** Committee or the **HOPE** program, please contact **Teri Kachur at tkachur1@tx.rr.com or 214-460-2295.**

PISD eNews



eNews is Plano ISD's free email newsletter service for parents, community members and students. Subscribers may sign up to receive e-newsletters from the district and individual schools, including Rice Middle School.

PISD Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Doug Otto, sends a weekly e-newsletter to district subscribers. He and his administrative team also send occasional special notices rare emergency notices to district subscribers.

Sign up for eNews by going to www.pisd.edu and clicking on the eNews icon to set-up your login. Be sure to go to "middle school" and select "Rice." If you already subscribe to eNews, **be sure to login and update your subscription to include Rice Middle School eNews.**

Please take a look at the volunteer opportunities on the bright green form included in the summer mailing.

The completed form can be returned at schedule pick-up on August 13 or 14, or can be returned to Rice the first week of school.

Remember – all volunteers must have a current background check on file each school year.

Questions:

Contact
Chris Andres,
VP of Volunteers,
at
chrisandres@
sbcglobal.net
or
972-377-7585.

Plano ISD Online Volunteer Application

All Plano ISD volunteers must have a background check.

To do this, volunteers are asked to complete an application that is found online www.pisd.edu/volunteer. Volunteers may complete the application on their home computers, may visit the local libraries to use their computer resources, and may use computers available at the PISD Administration Building in the Human Resources Dept. at 2700 W. 15th St.

Please make note: If you are not a United States citizen, and/or you do not have a U.S. Social Security Number, you must register with the Plano ISD Safety and Security office at 2700 W. 15th St., Plano 75075. For information call 469-752-8057.

Instructions

1. Go to Plano ISD website at www.pisd.edu/volunteer
2. Scroll down and click on "Returning Volunteer" if you volunteered for 2007-08 school year. You will be asked for your User ID and Password that you created when you first completed the online volunteer application. If you cannot remember your User ID, then click on the third option "Registered Volunteer" with no User ID" and follow the instructions. Be sure to click on "Update" to go to the screens to update your application.
3. If this is your first time to volunteer in Plano ISD or you have never completed the online volunteer application, please click on the second option "New Volunteer" and follow the instructions.
4. Any box with an asterisk (*) is mandatory and must be entered.
5. Use your legal name, not a nickname (it must match your Social Security Number).
6. Type in Social Security Number without hyphens (example: ###00xxxx).
7. You will have to create your own User ID and Password. Note: Use either upper case letters or lower case letter. (any number of letters or digits) Please remember your User ID and Password.
8. You will have to create your own hint question (this can be as simple as a one-word prompt, (example: hint question – color; and hint answer – red).
9. Follow all prompts with an asterisk (*). The box for entering your email address is not mandatory, but is helpful.
10. When the online portion of your application is complete, YOU NO LONGER NEED TO print the Volunteer Notary Form.

If you have difficulty, contact the Plano ISD Resource Center at 469-752-2180 or teamshelp@pisd.edu.

NOTE: You may check on the status of your application to see when your background check is complete by visiting the website at www.pisd.edu/volunteer and clicking on the first option "Returning Volunteer." You will be prompted to provide your User ID and Password. You may also update this data at any time.

RICE SCHEDULE PICK-UP

August 13th
9am – 12pm
for 6th grade

1pm – 4pm
for 7th grade

August 14th
9am – 12pm
for 8th grade

Pick-Up Your Supplies!

YARD SIGNS AND DECALS

Yard Signs and Decals for Rice will be available to be ordered at Rice scheduled pick-up on Aug 13 and Aug 14. There will also be applications in the front office once school starts for a couple of months. Be sure and order one to show your school spirit. See you in August at scheduled pickup.

RICE SCHOOL STORE

The Rice School Store will be open during scheduled pick-up. It will be carrying many items that will not be included in the supply packets such as: Asel Art Kits, scientific calculators, locker shelves, binders, pencil bags, organizers, pens, pencils, erasers, crayola markers, colored pencils, rulers, protractors.

Once school starts the store will be open from 7:50AM-8:30AM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Cash and checks accepted throughout the year.

RICE SPIRIT WEAR

Be sure and be ready to pick out your t-shirts and sweat shirts at scheduled pickup. There are new colors and styles.

Once school starts you will be able to get your Spirit Wear at the school store any Monday, Wednesday, or Friday.

RICE PE UNIFORMS

PE uniforms that were ordered at the end of the 2008-2009 school year will be available for pickup at scheduled pickup Aug 2009.

If you need to order a PE uniform they can also be ordered at scheduled pickup. Those ordered at scheduled pickup Aug 2009 should be available for you end of Oct-first of Nov 2009.

SAVE the DATE

Denim and Diamonds

This is the theme for the 2009 Rice Fall Social on Friday, Sept 25...*the kick-off for the brand new 2009-2010 school year.*

Times:

6th graders - 6:00pm – 7:30pm

7th & 8th graders - 8:00pm – 9:30pm

School Supply Order Form

Dear Mom and Dad,

I found a way to make your life easier! Our Fabulous PTA is once again ordering pre-packaged school supplies for sale at schedule pick-up only.

We have first quality school supplies and you will get exactly what I need. The prices are great also!

The best part is you do not have to do anything. **The packets will only be sold August 13th and August 14th at schedule pick-up** on a first-come, first-served basis. So all you really have to do is send me with the form below - a check for Rice PTA. You can even use a credit card! Prices for the packages be as follows:

6th grade – \$45 • 7th grade – \$75 • 8th Grade – \$48

The complete list of supplies included in each kit for each class is listed on the Rice Middle School website on the Student Info tab. This is the list of supplies as approved by each of the grade coordinators.

– Your favorite middle-schooler!

Save even more time – complete this form and bring it with you to schedule pick-up!

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent's name: _____

Phone: _____

Total cost of school supplies: _____

Payment method: Cash Check # _____

Credit card orders will be processed by EPI-School Supplies

Card # _____ Discover Master card Visa

Exp date: _____ 3 digit verification on back of card # _____

Card Holders Name & Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: TX Zip: _____

Phone # _____



RICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

2009-2010 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CABINET ROSTER

President	Laura Frawley	972-335-6515	laurakfrawley@gmail.com
1st VP Membership School Directory	Melanie Pellegrino Laura Fitzgibbon	972-377-6519 972-335-4102	melanie.pellegrino@sbcglobal.net lpfitz@sbcglobal.net
2nd VP Programs Arts in Edu./Reflections Environmental Fine Arts Night Chairman Health/Youth Protection Hospitality Chairman Multi-Cultural Newcomers Coordinator Newcomers Coordinator Parent Education	Lisa Oldani Alice Weaver Nancy Casillas Cathy Avery Lisa Oldani Tessa Harley Sona Kasargod Kim Butler Christie Varner Deirdre Wilson	972-731-6244 972-987-8930 972-396-9349 972-396-9161 972-731-6244 469-667-3196 214-387-4198 972-377-4965 972-335-5248 972-712-4939	daveandlisaplus4@yahoo.com padweaver@att.net nancy.casillas@tx.rr.com kcavery@tx.rr.com daveandlisaplus4@yahoo.com dlharley1@tx.rr.com sonadileep@yahoo.com.uk kkbutler@airmail.net christie@varners.us deirdrenet@aol.com
3rd VP Ways & Means BoxTop Coordinator Candy Sales Chairman Fall Social Chairman Grocery Partnerships PE Uniforms School Store Chairman School Supplies Spring Social Chairman Spring Social Chairman Sprit Wear Coordinator Yard Signs & Decals	Steve Register Rena Balistreri Monica Marchand Laura Schussler Rena Balistreri Sandy Franklin Julie McMakin Gene Braden Audrey Schaper Lisa Oldani Audrey Schaper Shauna Hartman	972-398-6480 214-495-9255 972-731-0315 972-712-6820 214-495-9255 214-547-9712 972-731-8559 972-335-7066 214-547-1920 972-731-6244 214-547-1920 972-335-2189	sr9756@prodigy.net renae.balistreri@pisd.edu monicamarchand@sbcglobal.net lschussler1@tx.rr.com renae.balistreri@pisd.edu sandyfranklin@sbcglobal.net planojewels@yahoo.com genebraden@tx.rr.com aschaper@airmail.net daveandlisaplus4@yahoo.com aschaper@airmail.net shauna08@sbcglobal.net
4th VP Volunteers 6th Grade Chairman 7th Grade Chairman 8th Grade Chairman Bulletin Board Coordinator Copy Coordinator Marquee Chairman Science Fair Coordinator Volunteer Hours 8th Grade Celebration Band Coordinator Band Coordinator	Chris Andres Debra Retoff Jackie Garcia Renee Comen Stacey Nichols Bhuvu Manohar Paula Thomas Michaud Praful Madhani Amy Wilson Patti Puchala Cathy Avery Kathleen Pothier	213-676-6567 972-335-5718 972-712-7643 972-712-4280 972-712-5975 972-335-4009 214-315-6371 214-499-2508 972-377-3620 972-747-9220 972-396-9161 972-377-2787	chris.andres@microsoft.com bretoff@sbcglobal.net vigarci@sbcglobal.net renee.comen@gmail.com staceynichols@sbcglobal.net emailbhuvu@yahoo.com pmichaud65@gmail.com praful@ti.com amypwilson@tx.rr.com pattipuchala@hotmail.com kcavery@tx.rr.com krp95@sbcglobal.net
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Positions in red type indicate Executive Board members.