

**THE RAIDER REPORT
SOUTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL
PTA NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2009**



PTA News

The Southwest PTA is already in full swing for this school year as I know all of you and your children are! I would like to encourage all of you to join the PTA. Membership does not commit you to any meetings or involvement (although we welcome any help!). It shows that you support Southwest High School, the students, and the teachers and staff. Membership is \$6.00 per person. Of that, \$4.00 goes to the State and National PTAs for advocacy work, and \$2.00 stays local. SHS has over 1000 students. If even one parent for half of our student body joined PTA, that would be \$1000 for our budget.

So what does the PTA do? Our biggest "expense" is providing scholarships for qualifying seniors. Last year, the SHS PTA awarded 4 scholarships for a total of \$2500.00. Other projects supported/sponsored by the PTA include Mirage (drug-free, alcohol-free after prom party), College Fair (coming November 2, 2009), Teacher Appreciation goodies/meal (don't our teachers deserve it?), Newsletters (twice a year), Volunteer support (chaperones for dances, etc.), and Baccalaureate (inspirational ceremony for Seniors before graduation). None of these activities can happen without the support of YOU!!! So please consider joining PTA. A form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering or helping the PTA in anyway, please feel free to contact me. We would love to have your help!

Tracey Wolfskill
PTA President
817-294-8146

Southwest High School College Day - Nov. 2nd

Southwest High School and the SHS PTA are sponsoring a college day on Monday, November 2nd, 2009 from 9-11 AM in the Cafeteria. College admissions representatives from colleges throughout Texas as well as other locations will be available to answer questions from Juniors and Seniors who are looking at their college and vocational choices. Selected classes will be coming to the College Day, and it is planned for most Seniors and many Juniors to be able to attend. Colleges will have brochures available and students can talk to admissions recruiters about what their colleges are looking for in students and what their respective schools have to offer to prospective students.

Social Studies Department

The social studies department would like to welcome teacher Ben Westbrook, the newest member of our world history team. Mr. Westbrook, formerly a freshman English teacher at Southwest, is doing an outstanding job bringing the world to life in his classroom.

In other news, the department is gearing up for another year of high performance on the TAKS test. We administered our first nine week curriculum based assessment (CBA) on Thursday, October 22 in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classrooms. The next CBA will be given in December. The results of these tests will be used to plan strategies for increasing the level of success for all students.

Tutoring schedule for the first semester (room 509):

Mondays 3:45-4:30

Wednesdays 7:45-8:15

Trish Erwin

Social Studies Dept. Chair

Lead Content Teacher

Technology Integration Educator

trisha.erwin@fwisd.org

ACADEMIC HONORS!!



Southwest has great pride in announcing the 2009-2010 National Merit Scholars Awards. Ryan Edenfield is a National Merit Finalist. Jennifer Ball, Jonathon McBride, Abigail Ryan, and Jason Spotts are National Merit Commended. Eric Bennet has earned the National Achievement Award.

Jamie McNeill

Academic Coordinator

SIP Coordinator

BEST YEARBOOK PRICES EXPIRE SOON

November 20 is the deadline to take advantage of early bird pricing on this year's yearbook, *Old Southwest, New Frontiers*. Personalization can also be added until that date. This year's book promises more than 200 full-color pages of sports, clubs, academics and student life. For the second year, a supplemental section with spring sports, prom and graduation is included in the price of the yearbook. This year, however, the supplement will be mailed to students after it is printed in July. There is no additional charge for mailing.

The early bird price for the yearbook is \$55. Name embossing is \$4 for one line, \$7 for two lines. After November 20, the price increases to \$60, and in March the cost rises to \$65 until they are sold out. Yearbook order forms are available in the office and on the wall outside Room 601. Credit card orders can be made at www.PurchaseYourYearbook.com.

Direct questions to yearbook adviser Tina Clay at tina.clay@fwisd.org.

TEENS LOVE PDA

Do your children cringe at the idea of parental public displays of affection? They won't when they're in the yearbook – we promise! Previously reserved just for seniors, PDA is now used to celebrate your child's accomplishments in any school year. They also make great memories for siblings, buddies or sweethearts.

PDA order forms are available in the office and on the wall outside Room 601. Credit card payments can also be made at www.PurchaseYourYearbook.com. Deadline is December 31.

Direct questions to yearbook adviser Tina Clay at tina.clay@fwisd.org.

RAIDER'S DIGEST IS NOW ONLINE

Following the newspaper industry's trend, Southwest's student-written newspaper is now online. Publishing online gives student writers instant gratification, and also allows them to cover events in a more timely way than is possible with a print publication.

Recent postings have included a profile of new principal Yassmin Lee; answers to weather- and construction-related Homecoming questions; and how the H1N1 virus might affect SHS.

Raider's Digest Online can be seen at: www.my.hsj.org/schools/tx/fortworth/southwest

Career and Technology Education Department

The CTE (Career & Technical Education) Department has gotten off to a good start this year.

- We are in the process of registering our students in our TCC (Tarrant County College) Tech Prep program.
 - This program gives our students the opportunity to earn college credit based on CTE courses that they take and earn “80” or above during their high school career.

- All CTE classes are continuing to implementing Achieve Texas this year.
 - Achieve Texas is an initiative between Texas Education Agency and CTE. It is an online program designed to prepare students for a lifetime of success.
 - Students will be able to access their personal profile, take assessments, see assessment results, plan for the future, explore careers, choose a major for college, select a college, find financial aid and help on getting a job.
 - The goal is to start in the 8th grade, continue each year in high school and through college.
 - See any CTE teacher for more information.

- CTE teachers have just completed the process of helping our students fill out four-year plans. Hopefully, this will help give our students a direction, purpose, and goal in acquiring and taking courses that they need and are of interest to them.
 - We would like to encourage parents to support their child in taking our courses. Our courses teach students what they will need to be successful and viable adults in the real world.

- Do you want a job? Check with any CTE teacher for current job listings.

MIRAGE 2010

MIRAGE 2010 is the alcohol-free, drug-free, all-night event exclusively for SHS Seniors and their dates. While the event is scheduled to follow prom, guests are not required to attend prom to attend MIRAGE 2010. Tickets are required for MIRAGE 2010. MIRAGE 2010 check-in will be on Sunday, April 11, from 12:30am to 1:00am, when lock-out will occur. MIRAGE 2010 will be at AlleyCats (www.alleycatsbowl.com) which is located at 2004 West Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington. Guests will enjoy arcade games, bowling, laser tag, billiards, board games, and a climbing wall until 6:00am. A pizza buffet, casino games, and putt-putt will be offered for several hours. Door prizes, raffle prizes, and gift bags will be provided for SHS Seniors.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

mirage2010@sbcglobal.net and/or by joining the Facebook group "Mirage 2010".

Volunteers and **donations** are needed for MIRAGE 2010. If you are short on time, we can still use what time and/or talents you can offer us! If you, or someone you know, would like to support MIRAGE 2010, donations are tax deductible under the umbrella of SHS PTA, a tax exempt 501c3 organization, federal tax ID# 75-1833924. Money, checks, and merchandise are all gratefully accepted. To make arrangements for pick up or drop off of donations, please contact mirage2010@sbcglobal.net and/or Facebook group "Mirage 2010".

Poinsettia sales order forms will be provided to seniors to assist them in collecting orders and earning their MIRAGE 2010 ticket (sell only 12 poinsettias for one FREE SHS Senior ticket!). If you would like an order form to sell poinsettias or to order poinsettias, make your request or order through mirage2010@sbcglobal.net and/or Facebook group "Mirage 2010".

Quilt raffle tickets are available for two quilts to be offered this year through MIRAGE 2010. If you know of an outlet to display and/or sell raffle tickets, please let us know. Pictures of the first quilt, donated by Margaret Wascomb, can be found at <http://miragequilt.webs.com/apps/photos/>. The second quilt top is being donated by Chris Tomich and quilted by Charis Cranford.

Eat out and support MIRAGE 2010! The following restaurants will make a donation for each order using the specific flyer for that date and location. More dates and locations are coming. You may obtain a flyer through mirage2010@sbcglobal.net and/or Facebook group "Mirage 2010".

Tuesday, November 3, Chili's on Hulen
Thursday, November 12, Which Wich on Hulen
Wednesday, December 2, The Coffee Urn, on Trail Lake

Bridal Dreams will donate 10% of your purchases to Mirage 2010 when you mention Mirage 2010 and show your Southwest High School id. **Bridal Dreams**, 6240 Hulen Bend, texasbridaldreams.com, offers prom dresses, shoes, jewelry, tuxedo rentals, party dresses, and more!

Keep updated through e-mail and/or at Facebook group "Mirage 2010". Upcoming events include Breakfast with Santa, Taste of Southwest, additional restaurant days, and more!!!



What Is JROTC All About?

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is a nation wide citizenship program (created in 1916) with a mission to “Motivate Young People to Be Better Citizens.” JROTC does not have a military obligation, nor does it exist to prepare students to enter the military. If a student is interested in attending one of the Service Academies, joining college ROTC or entering the military, the instructors will provide some advice and then direct them to the appropriate expert in that area. All JROTC instructors (teachers) are retired military members that are employed by the FWISD. The JROTC uniform is loaned to the students while they are in the course. It does not have to be purchased by the parent.

Learning emphasis is placed on Citizenship, Leadership, Academies, Services Learning and Safety (First Aid, Health and Physical Fitness). School credit for JROTC is received for physical education or as an elective. While JROTC is set up as a four year course, students do not have to stay in the program beyond the semester that they are enrolled in.

The program is student led with the more motivated senior cadets (students) being in-charge of each class period and a cadet staff that has the overall responsibility for the conduct of the program.

After school programs, which are all co-ed, include:

Adventure Team- outdoor high adventure (also a member of the Boy Scout’s Venturing Program);

Color Guard- presents the American and Texas flags for school and community events;

Drill Teams- Armed (practice rifles) and Un-armed (no rifles) perform drill maneuvers at local competitions;

Rifle Team- competitive air rifle marksmanship conducted under the rules of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), and

Honor/Saber Guard- provides Honor Guard services and saber arches for special guests or events.

We are looking for more students to join our top rated “Honor Unit with Distinction” program, so give us a call at (817)-370-5810 to learn more how your child can become part of America’s premier citizenship program.

The instructor staff- Colonel Westervelt, Master Sergeant Mack and Sergeant First Class Enriquez..

Raider Battalion – “Can Do”

Southwest Academy of Petroleum Engineering & Technology (SAPET)

We are off to a great start with a talented group of 45 selected freshmen. These students take the normal required courses. The difference is that the teachers have received special training for incorporating engineering, global energy management, and technology into the curriculum. SAPET is sponsored by the IPAA (Independent Petroleum Association of America) and modeled after the three academies that IPAA has already opened in Houston. We have guest speakers every two weeks. These are professional people from the energy industry that speak about a variety of topics including the business side of the energy industry and the technical or engineering aspects of the industry. Our first field trip was on October 15 to a Natural Gas Drilling Rig north of Fort Worth. The goal of SAPET is to prepare our students for a career in different aspects of the energy industry, and lay the foundation they will need for college and beyond. This is a huge opportunity for Southwest and the students in the Academy.

Whiz Quiz

I would like to tell you about Whiz Quiz at Southwest HS. Our Whiz Quiz team challenges the other high schools in Fort Worth. The top 4 teams compete in a tournament in January or February. Well, Southwest's Whiz Quiz team has been undefeated for the past 2 years, but both years we lost the final tournament game to Paschal. Those are the only two games we have lost. The most memorable game was last year's regular season match against Paschal, which was tied (an unprecedented event.) After the tie breaker round Southwest defeated Paschal by 5 points which is one question!

If you are not familiar with Whiz Quiz it is like trivial pursuit or Jeopardy. On October 15 we will have a Teachers vs. Students match.

I would like to mention our returning 3 players this year: Team Captain, Nathan McGuff, and our 2 top point getters, Chris Sloan and Brian Wolfskill. In addition, we would like to welcome our new players this year: Matthew Zinke and Richard Ralston. Our two sponsors are Kevin Watterson, Latin and Social Studies teacher, and Laura Boyle, German teacher. We'd also like to thank our Librarian, Christine Smith, for making the library available to Whiz Quiz for practices after school on Wednesdays and matches on Thursdays.

This year we are 3 and 0, defeating Western Hills, Northside, and Eastern Hills for a total point spread of 1220 to 235.

Kevin Watterson
Southwest High School Latin Teacher
Southwest Academy of Petroleum Engineering and Technology
World Geography Teacher

Southwest High School Whiz Quiz 2009 – 2010 Schedule

Practice will be held each Wednesday after school, 3:45 - 5:00, in the Library during the Whiz Quiz Season that runs from September through January.

Matches will be on Thursdays and last from 4:15 - 5:30 depending upon travel time for visitor matches.

Matches are scheduled for the following Thursdays:

	<u>Home</u>	<u>Visitor</u>
1. September 17	Western Hills	SOUTHWEST
2. September 24	SOUTHWEST	North Side
3. October 1	Eastern Hills	SOUTHWEST
4. October 8	SOUTHWEST	Carter-Riverside
5. October 15	<i>BYE WEEK for SOUTHWEST</i>	
6. October 22	SOUTHWEST	Trimble Tech
7. October 29	Dunbar	SOUTHWEST
8. November 5	Polytechnic	SOUTHWEST
9. November 12	SOUTHWEST	Paschal
10. November 19	Arlington Heights	SOUTHWEST
11. December 3	South Hills	SOUTHWEST
12. December 10	SOUTHWEST	Diamond Hill
13. January 7	SOUTHWEST	O.D. Wyatt

The District Tournament Dates and Times will be announced later, but are typically at the end of January or early February.