

# OCELOT OBSERVER

Volume XVIII, Issue III, November 2009, a Monthly Publication of the Aldridge Elementary PTA

Aldridge Elementary School  
720 Pleasant Valley Lane, Richardson, TX 75080

Phone: 469.752.0000  
Fax: 469.752.0001

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## November Birthdays

Andrea Tompkins

Jose Cruz

Mandy Walker

Evelyn Wilson

## Fall Festival

Saturday, Nov. 7  
2-5 p.m.



## Aldridge PTA

Parents and Teachers  
Working Together for the  
Children of Aldridge



## A Word from our Principal ...

The first quarter of the school year is over, report cards (grades 3-5) have been sent home, and we have completed Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents should have a good idea of how children are performing and should understand class and grade-level expectations. If you were unable to attend your conference, please contact your child's teacher. We want parents aware of student progress and grade-level and school activities. Children gain the most from their education when home and school work together!

We encourage all Aldridge families to sign up for **myPISD.net Parent Portal**. If you are not already using the Parent Portal, please log on to <http://parent.mypisd.net> and click the "register here" link at the bottom of the page. Parent Portal provides access to Parent Viewer (grades for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>), access to library resources, graphs of student performance, and gives direct access to your child's myPISD.net classroom information. All myPISD.net Parent Portal subscribers are automatically subscribed to PISD and Aldridge eNews. You can link to the Parent Portal from the PISD site: <http://www.pisd.edu/>, and there is a link from the Aldridge website to myPISD.net: <http://k12.pisd.edu/schools/aldridge/index.htm>. We are growing in our capacity to use this technology to provide Aldridge families with current and valuable information. Certainly conferences, phone calls, notes and e-mails are valuable tools; our goal is to keep school and home connected.

Just a reminder: when the 7:45 a.m. (tardy bell) rings, students are expected to be seated in their classrooms. Students arriving at school right as the bell rings are rushed and do not have the best start to the day! As a convenience to parents, the front door is open starting at 7:00 daily. Breakfast is available at 7:15, and students are dismissed to classrooms at 7:30. Students arriving between 7:30 and 7:45 can be dropped off in the front or the west carpool lane. Staff members are on outside duty until 7:45. Students arriving after 7:45 are tardy and must go to the front office for a tardy slip before going to class. Please consider arriving to school prior to the 7:40 "rush". You will encounter less traffic and your child will have a smoother start to the day.

Thank you for your commitment to your child's education, and your involvement here at Aldridge!

*Mrs. Carruthers*

## From our PTA President

At the end of the 2008-09 school year, I asked all PTA board members to write a Plan of Work outlining their objectives for 2009-10. Once these plans were developed, the PTA executive board met and reviewed each committee's ideas—primarily to see the amount of money each committee would need to fund their activities. After this step, the treasurer and I analyzed the figures again and developed a budget that would help guide the PTA through the year and ensure all expenses are covered. The budget includes a lot of different things, including: class parties, daily planners that each child receives at the beginning of school, curriculum enhancements for the teachers, school directories and

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## 2009 – 10 PTA Board

President	Tammie DeVoe
1 <sup>st</sup> VP – Programs	Karrie Ronk
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP – Ways & Means	Sheila Gabel
3 <sup>rd</sup> VP – Hospitality	Alicia Rinaldi
4 <sup>th</sup> VP – Volunteers	Karen Fleming
Secretary	Amy Gokey
Treasurer	Dawn Hunck
Parliamentarian	Pam Hainlin
Historian	Carla Getz

### Committees

Arts in Education	Diane Valdez
Communications/ Newsletter	Kelli Peters
Council Delegate	Marjorie Campbell
Council Delegate	DeLisa Menton
Cultural Diversity/ ELMS	Beth Smith
Dad's Den	Tim Manders
Directory	Rebecca Ballard
Environmental	Kelly Barton
Legislative	Eve LaMendola
Membership	Kristina Rodriguez
Newcomers	Carol Doyle
Parent Education	Judith Reiter
SAGE	Angela Gibbons
School Supplies	Missy Peelman
Spiritwear	Catherine Jones
Yearbook	Brandy Diamond
Youth Safety	Shawnee Pittman

### PTA Representatives / Co-Chairs

Principal	Marilyn Carruthers
Staff Representative	Sue Melton
Marquee	Susan Lindholm
Hospitality Asst.	Ashlynn Bourque
Ways & Means Asst.	Becky Hodnett
Webmaster	Mark Smith

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

### Aldridge Ocelot Observer PTA Newsletter

Next Issue: Dec. 3, 2009  
Submission Deadline: Nov. 19, 2009  
To submit content, contact:  
Kelli Peters 972.814.9255  
[kelli.peters@hotmail.com](mailto:kelli.peters@hotmail.com)

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yearbooks, this newsletter and communications, supplies for Red Ribbon Week, and fun events like the Bike Rodeo, Science Night, Skate Night, Art Night, and our Fall Festival. Once this school year began, the committee chairs went to work providing all the extras mentioned above.

As you can see, our PTA pays for a lot of really great things for *every child* at Aldridge, whether your family decides to join PTA or not. The PTA board strives to make our fund-raising activities as easy as possible, and we believe that the check writing campaign meets this objective. Personally, I would rather simply write a check than spend countless hours trying to help my children sell expensive gift wrap or unhealthy candy. Our PTA activities are completely dependent on the generosity and devotion of our Aldridge parents. Please consider helping us reach our goal of \$18,000 – no donation is too small.

On behalf of our PTA, thanks to those of you who have already submitted your donation. At the time this newsletter went to print, we've raised \$3,100. Let's keep the momentum going! Our campaign will conclude on Saturday, **November 7**, and we will celebrate our success at the **Fall Festival Finale** from 2-5 p.m. at Aldridge. Take time to check out the Silent Action (supervised children, please) that will be in the school gym. There are fantastic items up for bid, such as awesome class baskets coordinated by homeroom moms, airline tickets, cool gift certificates donated by local merchants and parents, and much more. Please consider this note your family's invitation to this free, fun-filled event, and I hope to see you on Saturday!

Warmest regards,

*Tammie DeVoe*

### Volunteer of the Month

Congratulations **Diane Valdez** – our Volunteer of the Month! You've probably seen Diane at school the past couple of months. She has spent countless hours organizing our successful *Reflections* Program, volunteering in the office and helping with the PTA fundraiser.

Diane and her husband, Victor, are originally from San Antonio. They met in 1981, married and moved to Richardson in 1987. Diane started her career in retail, made a shift to the wholesale side of business, and eventually became a sales representative for Reebok and Brown Shoe Company. After 20 years of marriage, Diane and Victor were blessed with a son, Marty, an active 2<sup>nd</sup> grader.

When Marty began Kindergarten, Diane started substitute teaching. She enjoys the kids, the flexibility of her schedule and the privilege to work with outstanding teachers. Diane can't say enough about the quality of education that our teachers provide and the patience and understanding needed to be in the teaching profession.

**Diane, thanks for encouraging our students to enthusiastically embrace the arts!**





The Aldridge PTA's

# All Dressed Up And Ready To Go!

Check Writing Campaign wraps up at the...



Face Painting

## Fall Festival Finale

Saturday,  
November 7<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



Music Provided  
by the Dads'  
Den Band

**Free fun for the entire family!**

Ice Cream and  
Popcorn

Bounce  
Houses

Rock Climbing  
Wall

Games

Cakewalk

Don't miss the  
**Silent Auction**

To be held in the school gym!



Featuring class baskets, handmade items, and  
donated goods and services from our neighborhood  
stores and restaurants!

## Green Never Looked So Good

November 15 is Texas Recycles Day. Aldridge KSE will commemorate the event with our third **Annual Texas Recycles Day Sale on Friday, November 20**. We will be kicking off the sale with a *Mixed Bag Designs* fundraiser.

*Mixed Bag Designs* are very cool, reusable bags that come in 24 trendy, fun designs. Last year we offered the animal-print designs, and they sold out very quickly. So this year we decided to make all 24 eco-chic designs available. There are also four various sizes from which to choose. An order form with all of the details should have gone home with your child last week. If you have not seen one, there are more forms in the school office. Try to check out a few bag samples of bags in the school atrium, and be sure to return forms and your payment back to school by Friday, November 13 to ensure delivery of bags by December 18.

That's not all ... on November 20, we'll also be selling City of Richardson blue recycle bags, discounted, vintage spiritwear, and a couple of other fun environmentally friendly items. We hope you'll plan to join us on Friday, November 20, purchase an item or two and take one more step to being more environmentally conscious.

## Upcoming After-School Science Program

Bake cookies in a solar oven. Extract DNA from strawberries. Determine how many helium balloons it would take to lift you up in the air. Construct your own submarine. This is just a sampling of the Mind Stretching Fun® Sci-Tech Discovery Center will be bringing to Aldridge next semester. Plan now to enroll your future scientist or budding engineer in the After School Discovery Club. Also, mark **January 14** on your calendar for **Family Science Night** with Sci-Tech, and come enjoy some discovery experiences of your own. Look for more information to come regarding the Sci-Tech after school science program that will begin in January. Please keep in mind that volunteers will be needed to make this program a success.

### Important Upcoming Dates

Family Fall Festival	Nov. 7	2-5 p.m.
Veterans Day Ocelot Assembly	Nov. 11	8:30 a.m.
Early Release	Nov. 11	Noon
PTA Meeting & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Music Program	Nov. 12	6:30 p.m.
PTA Recycle Bag Orders Due (No Exceptions)	Nov. 13	
Student Picture Re-takes	Nov. 19	
Recycle Day Sale	Nov. 20	7:15-8 a.m. 11 am-12:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Break (No School)	Nov. 25-27	
ELMS Meeting	Dec. 2	1:30 p.m.

## PACE Referrals

PACE provides services for academically gifted and/or talented students in grades K-12 who have demonstrated the need for advanced, differentiated instruction.

The Plano I.S.D. conducts open, rolling referral, meaning that any student may be referred at any time during the school year; however, elementary students are assessed in the second semester. Students may be referred for the gifted program by teachers, parents, principals, counselors, or by the students themselves. Students are assessed at their home campus during the regular school day.

**Grades 1-5** (assessed in March / April)  
Referral deadline is **February 19, 2010**.

Contact **Nancy Harrison**, Aldridge's Gifted Specialist to obtain a referral packet. Completed referral packets should be returned to Ms. Harrison by the above deadlines.

## A Great Way to Start the Morning

Aldridge has added an exciting music project to the morning routine. From 7:30-7:45, students and staff will hear a selection of music in the hallways through the use of our intercom system. For one week, Monday – Friday, the music selection will remain the same. On the announcements each morning, the students will hear a few details about the music or the composer. This semester, students will hear music by: Grieg, Liszt, Joplin, Havvorsen, Beethoven, Kodaly, Strauss, Debussy, Purcell, Tchaikovsky, and Saint Saens. Beginning in January, a broader approach to the listening project will include more world music.

## Online Fund-Raising Opportunity

Try to use the Box Tops Marketplace for your holiday online shopping. It's easy to register, and our school gets a percentage back when you shop from select online retailers you shop. Just visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and go to "the marketplace".

***A special thanks to Crull Fitness for making our October Fall into Fitness night a fun-filled, informative event!***

## Aldridge Spirit Wear 2009-2010 Winter Order

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to Aldridge PTA)

**Get your hoodies for our cool Texas winters! Plenty of Ocelot Beanies and Key Chains still available! Parents show your school spirit too! Please return this form with your payment to your child's teacher by November 13. Orders will be delivered to classrooms in December.**

	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
<b>Ringer Tee</b>										
Youth	NA					NA	NA		\$10	
Adult	NA								\$10	
<b>Camo Tee</b>										
Youth						NA	NA		\$12	
Adult									\$12	
<b>Black Paw Print Crew Neck Tee</b>										
Youth	NA				NA	NA	NA		\$17	
Adult	NA						NA		\$18	
<b>Black Paw Print Scoop Neck T</b>										
Adult	NA						NA		\$18	
<b>Black Oval Print Scoop Neck T</b>										
Adult	NA						NA		\$18	
<b>Gray Ocelot Zip-Up Hoodie</b>										
Youth	NA					NA	NA		\$25	
Adult	NA								\$32	
<b>Red Rhinestone Zip-up Hoodie</b>										
Youth	NA					NA	NA		\$25	
Adult	NA						NA		\$32	
<b>Adult Visor</b>	Circle	Color	Black	or	White				\$9	
<b>Ocelot Beanie</b>									\$8	
<b>Ocelot Key Chain</b>									\$6	
<b>Car Decal</b>									\$1	
									<b>Grand Total</b>	



If you have any questions, please contact Catherine Jones at (214)215-7746 and [catherinejones2@tx.rr.com](mailto:catherinejones2@tx.rr.com) or Donna Frohock at (214)629-8520 and [donnafrohock@yahoo.com](mailto:donnafrohock@yahoo.com)