Garden Ridge PTA
Welcome Packet
2017-2018

Email: GREPTA@gardenridgepta.org
Website: www.gardenridgepta.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/GardenRidgePTA/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/ptagardenridge?lang=en

Stay Connected through our Remind App
Remind.com/join/gregators
Rmd.at/gregators
Push Notifications: text: @gresgators to 81010
Garden Ridge Elementary School
School Information Sheet

Administrators:

- Kelly Roden
  Principal

- Lee Worden
  Assistant Principal

- Karen Chamness
  Secretary

- Cindy Hooker
  Attendance Clerk

- Emily Mennsfield
  Counselor

- Shelia Pecky
  Nurse

Office Hours: 7:15am – 3:30pm
Address: 2220 S. Garden Ridge Blvd
          Flower Mound, TX 75028
Phone: (469) 713-5956          Fax: (972) 350-9052
School Website: [http://gardenridge.lisd.net](http://gardenridge.lisd.net)
District Website: [www.lisd.net](http://www.lisd.net)

PTA Leaders:

- Jennifer Bassier
  President

- Lisa Rossi
  Vice President

- Rachel Cooney
  Treasurer

- Elizabeth Hogg
  Membership

- Stephanie Knibbs
  Communications

- Christina Raines
  Volunteers
Garden Ridge Elementary School
Meet our PTA Board

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership
Hospitality
Donations (Fundraising)
Programs (Red Ribbon Week)
Communications
Volunteers
Arts & Education
Environment
Parliamentarian
Council Delegate

President  Jennifer Bassier
Vice President  Lisa Rossi
Secretary  Jessica Petrie
Treasurer  Rachel Cooney
Membership  Liz Hogg
Hospitality  Megan Kelly
Donations (Fundraising)  Stephane Knibbs
Programs (Red Ribbon Week)  Michelle Latham
Communications  Stephanie Knibbs
Volunteers  Christina Raines
Arts & Education  Susan North
Environment  Marisa Sarle
Parliamentarian  OPEN
Council Delegate  Sheila Larson

Committee Leads

ESR Delegate  Richard Knibbs
5th Grade Memory Day  Lisa Rossi & Carrie Parker
Workroom Coordinator  Jody Rugg
Workroom Co-Chair  OPEN
Room Rep Coordinator  Rachel Cooney
Teacher Appreciation (Co chair)  Rachel Cooney
Teacher Appreciation (Co chair)  Amber Larson
Festivals & Fun (Co Chair)  Sarah Cummins
Festivals & Fun (Co Chair)  Stephanie Knibbs
Book Fair (Co Chair)  Jennifer Bassier
Book Fair (Co Chair)  Carrie Parker
Gator Wear  Katie Owens
Spirit Sticks  Stephanie Knibbs
Spirit Sticks Co-Chair  Katie Owens
School Supplies  Jennifer Dunham
Spirit Nights  Cathy (Cat) Knier
Directory  Marisa Sarle
Marquee  Kim Lee
Facebook Publisher  Sarah Cummins
Webmaster  Tommy & Michelle Allison
Pride & Beautification  (Bulletin Boards)
Silent Auction (Co Chair)  Courtney Haynie
Angel Tree  Stephanie Knibbs
Spirit Nights  Susan North & Amanda Travis
Note from our President

Greetings fellow GATORS!! This is my first welcome letter as the incoming PTA President and I am very excited about the 2017-2018 school year! First, I want to warmly welcome all new incoming families to Garden Ridge Elementary. I remember back to my family’s first year at Garden Ridge and I can’t believe my boys are now entering 2nd & 5th grade. Time really does fly by!

The Garden Ridge PTA is an integral part of the Garden Ridge Gator family. Not only do we host fun events during the school year, such as our fall festival, carnivals and ice cream socials, but we also provide funds and volunteers for our teachers and staff. We humbly ask you to join our membership to help us make all of this possible.

In addition, all of this takes the hard work and dedication of our community members. Each one of us has different skills, talents, and resources that are desperately needed to make GRE what it is. For some it is volunteering in our classrooms. For others, it is heading up or joining a committee that brings something special to our students. We all want the very best education and experience for our children, and that is why we must all individually do whatever we can to make it happen. Please get involved and meet your neighbors. You will not regret it!

Please join me, the PTA board, and our entire community as we embark on the quest to ensure Garden Ridge Elementary reaches its greatest potential. The old adage, “It takes a village”, comes to mind when I think about all the wonderful things that happen here at GRE.

See you at the first PTA meeting on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:00PM in the Cafeteria.

Jennifer Bassier

PTA Check Drive
August 28th – September 8th
This is our BIG fundraiser of the year! Please consider donating $25 per child or more.

Want to contribute to having a successful year supporting our kids, teachers and staff? Join PTA! All funds received are invested back into the school.

Join online at www.joinpta.org
PTA INFO Q&A

What is the PTA?
The PTA (Parents Teachers Association) is an organization of parents, teachers, students, guardians, family members and other citizens who have a special interest in the children, families and schools. It is the largest child-advocacy organization in the state with over 750,000 members.

PTA Vision Statement:
Every child’s potential is a reality.

What do we do?
Our PTA supports the teachers, administrators and our students by providing opportunities

How do we support our school?
We support our school in a variety of different ways. We provide teachers items from grant requests, grade level field trips, fall festival, spring carnival, school assemblies, teacher/staff appreciation and more!

How is money spent from membership dues and fundraising?
Last school year, the PTA raised $14,275.36. Sounds like a lot right? Well we spent $21,881.00 leaving us with a deficit of $7,605.64. The chart below shows how we gave back and supported GRE.

Why YOU should get involved:
For your children! Studies have shown that membership in PTA provides your child and other children around you with a greater chance of achieving in school. It is the strongest supporter of quality education in this country.

How can I get involved?
There are many opportunities to get involved! Even if time isn’t a luxury, you can still help! We have many different times you can volunteer from making copies for teachers, being a room rep, helping with events and even research!

What are the goals for the PTA for 2017-18 school year?
LEF Scholarship Fund – provide a $500 scholarship to a GRE alumni high school senior each year
Angel Fund – lunch fund that will help kids who forget their lunches and don’t have lunch money
More Versatile Playground – our goal is to provide a more versatile playground that all students can enjoy and can participate
Family Nights – plan more family gatherings such as movie nights, nerf fights and workshops

PTA Expenses

- Holiday Parties: 5%
- PTA Insurance and Fees: 4%
- Officer Training: 9%
- Field Day: 12%
- Assemblies and Programs: 16%
- Teacher Grants and Teacher Appreciation: 13%
- Field Trips: 15%
- Family Events: 19%
- Assemblies and Programs: 16%
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WRITE A CHECK CAMPAIGN
Our Write-A-Check Campaign is one of the easiest fundraisers we do. We simply ask that each family contributes $25 per child. If every family contributes, our fundraising is mostly done!

ONLINE SILENT AUCTION
This year we will have our silent auction online! In years’ past, we have been able to earn over $5,000 that goes right back into our school programs. Can you or your friends and family contribute to our Auction this Spring? Silent Auction is scheduled for week of March 19th.

SPIRIT NIGHTS
Bring the family, meet your friends and see your teachers and staff at our spirit night events. Spirit nights are fundraising events where different restaurants and venues in the community donate a portion of the proceeds back to GRE. Just mention you are with GRE!

BOOK FAIR
Book fairs provide students, teachers and the school new books.

FALL FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY BAZAAR & SPRING CARNIVAL
Family fun while raising money! All of the money we raised went right back into our campus for teacher grants, programs, events and more! Fall Festival is scheduled for October 20th. Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for December 7th. Spring Carnival is scheduled for May 11th.

SPIRIT STICKS
Kids love our spirit sticks! These fun sticks are exciting to collect and show your school pride! Collect them all!

SHOPPING PROGRAMS
Turn your shopping into fundraising! Just register/link your shopping to GRE! smile.amazon.com (#6103) KrogerCommunityRewards (81734) OfficeDepot (70096817) Mabel's Labels (Select GRE)

mabel's labels
Garden Ridge is an awesome school and we are proud to be a part of it – students, faculty, staff and parents alike. The PTA has decided to keep it simple by conducting an all-inclusive membership check drive! We need your help in raising funds for our school. We are asking each student’s family to please just WRITE A CHECK. This will be our BIG FUNDRAISER of the year!

Since this is our first year to roll out a check drive, we want to say Thank You for supporting our school!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1 – $10.00</th>
<th>Level 2 - $18.00</th>
<th>Level 3 – $25.00</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Parent Membership</td>
<td>2-Parent Membership</td>
<td>Membership PTA Spirit Stick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4 – $50.00</td>
<td>Level 5 – $75.00</td>
<td>Level 6 – $100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership PTA Spirit Stick LISD Magnetic Calendar</td>
<td>Membership GRE Draw-string bag Car Magnet PTA Spirit Stick</td>
<td>The products listed above + Car Magnets (2) Free Wristbands to Festival Raffle to win Kindle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 7 - $150.00</td>
<td>Level 8 - $250.00</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The products listed above + Free Gator Wear Shirt</td>
<td>The products listed above + PTA Sponsor Shirt</td>
<td>________________ (amount)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Your dollars will go directly to helping support the needs of GRE that are provided by your PTA.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Tax deductible receipts will be sent for packages that are $100 or more (per tax regulations)

Member Name(s) ____________________________________________

Address ______________________________________ City, Zip ____________________________

Phone Number ________________________ □ Cell □ Home □ Work

Email Address 1 __________________________ __________ Email Address 2 __________________________ __________

Student Name __________________________ Teacher __________________________ Grade _______

Student Name __________________________ Teacher __________________________ Grade _______

Student Name __________________________ Teacher __________________________ Grade _______

I am a LifeTime Member □ Yes □ No

Would you like to be added to the Gator Star (volunteer) database? □ YES □ NO

Volunteering is in 30 minute to 1 hour blocks throughout the year
**Garden Ridge PTA 2017-18 Event Calendar**

Dates and events subject to change & more fun to be added throughout the year!

### August 2017
- 24 – Kindergarten Orientation
- 28 – First Day of School
- 28 – Check Drive begins
- 29 – 2nd & 4th Grade Orientation
- 30 – 1st, 3rd & 5th Grade Orientation

### September 2017
- 4 – No School
- 6 – Kindergarten Meet the Teacher
- 6 – General PTA Meeting (Ice Cream Social)
- 8 – Check Drive ends
- 14 – PTA Board Meeting

### October 2017
- 9 – No School
- 10 – No School
- 11 – Book Fair Set-up
- 12 – Picture Day
- 12 – Book Fair begins
- 13 – Field Day
- 19 – 2nd Grade Hoedown
- 20 – Book Fair ends
- 20 – Fall Festival
- 20 – Reflections Deadline
- 23 – Red Ribbon Week begins
- 26 – School Assembly
- 27 – Early Release

### November 2017
- 10 – Veterans Day Ceremony
- 13 – Career Week
- 20 – No School
- 21 – No School
- 22 – No School

### December 2017
- 4 – Holiday Shop begins
- 7 – Holiday Bazaar
- 14 – General PTA Meeting
- 15 – Grinch Day
- 18 – Ugly Sweater Day
- 20 – Holiday Parties
- 21 – Early Release
- 22 – No School
- 25 – No School
- 26 – No School
- 27 – No School
- 28 – No School
- 29 – No School
- 30 – No School

### January 2018
- 1 – No School
- 2 – No School
- 3 – No School
- 4 – No School
- 5 – No School
- 15 – No School
- 19 – Early Release

### February 2018
- 8 – Book Fair begins
- 14 – Class Parties
- 16 – Book Fair ends
- 19 – No School
- 28 – Character Dress up

### March 2018
- 12 – Spring Break
- 13 – Spring Break
- 14 – Spring Break
- 15 – Spring Break
- 16 – Spring Break
- 19 – Silent Auction begins

### April 2018
- 3 – STAAR testing
- 4 – STAAR testing
- 9 – Slug Jug contest begins
- 13 – Slug Jug contest ends
- 17 – General PTA Meeting
- 17 – Slime Mrs. Roden

### May 2018
- 7 – Teacher Appreciation Week begins
- 10 – General PTA Meeting
- 11 – Spring Carnival
- 14 – STAAR testing
- 15 – STAAR testing
- 16 – STAAR testing
- 22 – BOGO Free Book Fair begins
- 24 – BOGO Free Book Fair ends
- 28 – No School

### June 2018
- 1 – Kindergarten Ceremony
- 5 – Kindergarten Splash Day
- 6 – Class Parties
- 7 – 5th Grade Memory Day
- 7 – Early Release
- 8 – Bad Weather Day

### Not yet scheduled
- Nerf Wars
- Family Game Night
- Spirit Nights
- Art Night
PTA Programs
2017-2018

Gator Wear
Show your school pride by ordering GRE Spirit Wear!
This year we have a website where you can order online and we have a variety of different styles, colors and sizes available!

Questions – Send e-mail to Katie Owens
gatorwear@gardenridgepta.org

Spirit Nights
Spirit Nights are where local businesses provide GRE PTA with a percentage of their profits that night. Each month we will have a few opportunities where you and the family can gather for dinner, dessert or even parents night out and still contribute to your PTA.

September Spirit Nights:
Bahama Bucks September 12th 5-8pm
Best Gymnastics September 15th 6-9pm
Marcos Pizza September 28th All day
Questions – Send e-mail to Cat Knier
Spiritnights@gardenridgepta.org

PTA Reflections Art Contest is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home.
Students of all grades and abilities may participate.
This year’s theme: Within Reach
Students may submit entries in one or all of the available arts categories:

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

All Students who participate will receive a prize.
Deadline to submit an entry is Friday, October 20th.
Questions – Send e-mail to Susan North
artsneducation@gardenridgepta.org

Teacher Appreciation
Mark your Calendars!
To show our support for our wonderful staff at Garden Ridge, we will be hosting a snack, meal or gift each month. We need your help! Each grade level will host a meal and will contribute to Teacher Appreciation Week.

- 8/30 Popcorn Snacks – PTA
- 9/22 Breakfast Bar – K/5 Donations
- 10/13 Trick or Treat Bar – PTA
- 11/13 Thankful for you Cards – PTA
- 12/18 Chili Bar – 1st Grade Donations
- 1/26 Soup Bar – 2nd Grade Donations
- 2/23 Salad Bar – 3rd Grade Donations
- 3/9 Rainbow Fruit Bar – 4th Grade Donations
- 4/23 S’more Packs – PTA
- 5/7-5/11 Teacher Appreciation Week

Questions – Send e-mail to Amber Larson
teacherappreciation@gardenridgepta.org

Exceptional Students
The Exceptional Students Representative (ESR) Delegate is a new role in our PTA. The ESR serves as a liaison between the district, the PTA and the parents & teachers of exceptional students to promote awareness, inclusion, support and parent education.
Stay tuned for more information!

Questions – Send e-mail to Richard Knibbs
esrdelegate@gardenridgepta.org