



FAQS

PTA[®]

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What is the PTA?

National PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) is the oldest and largest volunteer association working exclusively on behalf of all children and youth. This PTA is a self-governed, non-profit organization that is here to serve you, your children and this school. Our local PTA at SHE works as an advocate for the children. The PTA's main focus is NOT fundraising. Members of SHE PTA determine what we will do with our funds, time and resources. During our monthly meetings, we evaluate what is most important and what can positively impact the students. Members of the PTA bring their ideas, voice their concerns and help make all decisions that affect PTA sponsored projects, events and money.

What is the difference between the PTA and a PTO?

The technical differences between a PTA and a PTO are fairly simple. The National PTA is a formal membership organization headquartered in Chicago with a 105-year history of working for children. Local chapters of the PTA pay dues to the state and national organizations and follow state and national rules. In return, they get member benefits, support, ideas, national programs and they support the needs of the children as a whole.

PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization), on the other hand, is a more generic term. It generally represents the thousands of groups that choose to remain independent of the PTA. The acronym PTO is the most popular name, but other common monikers include PCC, PTG, and HSA. These are most often single-school groups that operate under their own bylaws and by and large concern themselves with the goings-on at their building or in their town only.



Time to become a member and share your opinions!

What has the PTA done for SHE?

This past year the PTA hosted 4 assemblies, purchased Dance Dance Revolution and yoga mats and replaced thousands of dollars of equipment for our PE department. The PTA provided teacher grants, hosted the Giving Tree and treated teachers and staff throughout the year in support of all the hard work they put into every day. The PTA coordinates volunteers for Open House, Back to School Nights, Health Screenings and Picture Days. The PTA provided over \$2000 in support of the Garden of Knowledge, and built a \$20,000 progressive BankShot basketball court on the SHE playground. Additionally, the PTA sponsored community builders like dinners, game shows, Bingos, teas, clubs, Heritage Night, ice cream socials and ultimately Pandpalooza.



The "Giving Tree" this fall is filled with apples. It's near the school entrance. Teachers write their needs on an apple. Pick an apple and help your teacher!

How do I become a member?

To become a member, you simply have to pay the dues and fill out the application form. A Membership form is available in this PTA packet. Simply fill out the form, attach a check and return it to the school. An easier option would be to go on line to <http://www.signalhillpta.org>, click the "Forms and Publications" tab and fill out the online form. This last option also allows you the opportunity to pay for the dues online safely. Regardless of the method you choose, individual membership is \$7.00 while a 2-person membership is \$12.00. The ***classroom with the highest percentage of members by the end of October will win a prize!***

What would be expected of me?

Nothing is "expected." But naturally we would like you to attend the monthly (it's only ***monthly***) meeting and bring your voice. Ask questions, make demands and offer suggestions. This is a volunteer organization and ***making*** anyone do anything would not make sense!

Do you have to be a part of the PTA to volunteer at the school?

Of course not!! SHE needs volunteers regardless of PTA affiliation! As a PTA Member you will be the first to know the needs and shifts available, but PLEASE volunteer when you have time. Opportunities are endless.... Check the <http://www.signalhillpta.org> site for more information. Remember, this is specifically for SHE and your children, not the PTA!

Random donations to help the PTA are always welcome! If you are not interested in purchasing anything please feel free to make a donation!

September 2009

PTA PANDAS



Welcome to yet another amazing year at SHE (Signal Hill Elementary.) For those of you who have not yet enjoyed a year of fun in our hallowed halls, rest assured you will have a fantastic experience. And hardy "Welcome Back" goes out to our return families!



We have a great PTA year planned and we hope that you can be a part if that!



Thinking of Volunteering?

Research shows when parents are involved, students have

- higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- better school attendance
- increased motivation, better self-esteem
- lower rates of suspension
- decreased use of alcohol and other

Do you have any questions? Want to double check an activity date? Have something to say? Want to volunteer your time but not sure what you want to do? Need to contact someone? Check out the PTA web site to get those questions answered: www.signalhillpta.org

Panda Pride!

Buy a SHE car magnet, water bottle or reusable shopping bag. Watch for the Spirit Wear order form!



YANKEE CANDLE
a passion for fragrance™

We will be selling Yankee Candle for our fall (October) FUNd-raiser. And the catalogs are "Scratch and Sniff!" Think of all the great gifts you can buy!

Become a PTA Member this year!!!! Help your child's class win the membership contest!

This year we will institute a new secure online pay system to reduce the need to write checks! 

GOING GREEN!!!

Our newsletters will only be quarterly this year. Please tell your friends and neighbors that the BEST way to receive current and timely updates about school and PTA events is through the **Parent Express email service**. The school and PTA will be significantly scaling back paper and copier usage this year. A sign up for Parent Express and well as an opt-out initiative (if you have more than one child at SHE, you can now opt out of receiving PTA paperwork from all children except one) to reduce flier redundancy is in your information packets. Parents can sign up for Parent Express emails on www.signalhillpta.org. Less paper for you... less paper for us!

For all you great Room Moms, stay tuned for the **NEW ROOM MOM FORUM** coming this year!

IMPORTANT DATES:

Tues Sept 15 7:00-8:00 1st PTA meeting: library.
We set our budget and goals at this first meeting. HELP US!

Friday Sept 18 6:00-7:30pm Panda Picnic

Tues Oct 20 7:00 pm PTA Meeting in Library

Oct 30 TBD Fall Festival

Stay tuned for the upcoming National Fine Arts Reflections Contest coming this fall

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