

**The Signal Hill Elementary PTA conducted an end-of-the-year survey to solicit opinions and ideas from parents & teachers. This survey was announced through the Parent Express email system and was available on line at the PTA website through June 30, 2009.**

The results of the survey are outlined below. Only the highest ranked responses are included. A full report can be requested through [info@signalhillpta.org](mailto:info@signalhillpta.org). Board responses to suggestions and comments will be posted on the PTA website prior to the first day of school. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey.

**Which PTA sponsored events did you attend/participate in?**

*Only events ranking 30% or more are listed. Survey takers could choose more than one answer, so the percentages may total more than 100%.*

Pandapalooza	79%
Spirit Night (s)	60%
New to you book swap	56%
Panda Picnic	56%
Barnes and Noble Holiday Night	44%
Fall Festival	35%
PTA Ice Cream Social	34%
Pasta Night/Basket Auction	33%
Heritage Night	32%
Movie Night (s)	31%

**What is the primary reason you cannot volunteer?**

*Survey takers could choose more than one answer, so the percentages may total more than 100%.*

Schedule conflicts	82%
No babysitter for young children	24%

**What is the best way for the PTA to raise funds?**

One time donation – write a check and be done	30%
Attend a fundraising event with the family	28%
All of the above	28%

**How would you rank the following initiatives priorities for PTA spending? 1 being Not at all important to 4 being Extremely important.**

<i>Instructional Support</i>		<i>Technology</i>	
<i>(Assemblies, Grants)</i>		<i>(Computers &amp; software, Smartboards, media)</i>	
3	34%	3	28%
4	51%	4	71%

<i>Family Events</i>		<i>Parent Services</i>	
<i>(Heritage Night, FunFair)</i>		<i>(School Supplies, Phone Book, Spirit Wear)</i>	
2	33%	2	31%
3	43%	3	43%
4	20%	4	23%

*School Services*

*(Graduation, Teacher/Staff Appreciation)*

3 54%  
4 36%

**Which form(s) of communication do you find are the most useful and timely for getting information on school activities and events?**

*Survey takers could choose more than one answer, so the percentages may total more than 100%.*

Parent Express emails 92%  
Edulink phone announcements 51%  
Paper fliers in backpacks 44%  
PTA website 38%  
Monthly PawPrint 34%  
School Sign 20%

**If the PTA went paperless would you feel informed?**

Yes 90%

**Did you join the PTA?**

Yes 87%

**Did you attend PTA meetings?**

No 86%

**If No, why?**

*Survey takers could choose more than one answer, so the percentages may total more than 100%.*

Time conflict 59%  
Day of the week conflict 35%  
Did not want to attend 20%

**Did you attend Pandapalooza?**

Yes 81%

**Did you volunteer at Pandapalooza?**

Yes 72%

**Would you do it again?**

Yes 88%

**What was the best incentive to volunteer?**

I would have volunteered without any incentive 38%  
Parking pass 17%  
Free punch card for every hour 25%

**Did you have adequate instructions?**

Yes 76%

**Like the food choices?**

Yes 92%

**Food prices at Pandapalooza were...?**

Just right 66%  
Too high 10%  
Not sure 24%

**Did you like the punch card option?**

Yes 96%

**How much did you spend on activities and food per person?**

0-\$10 31%  
\$11-\$20 39%  
\$21-\$30 20%  
\$31-40 10%

**Would you pay \$25 for an all access wristband for all non-consumable activities knowing this is a fundraiser and a costly event to run? Note: lower cost band would be offered for younger children.**

Yes 59%  
No 31%

**Please mark all of the Pandapalooza activities you enjoyed and suggest KEEPING for next year.**

*Only activities ranking 30% or more are listed. Survey takers could choose more than one answer, so the percentages may total more than 100%.*

Cake Walk	38	84%
Fair Food	37	82%
Twister Tornado Slide	36	80%
Cupcake Walk	35	78%
Dunk Tank	35	78%
Spider Web Climb	35	78%
Lollipop Tree	34	76%
Sandy Candy	29	64%
Panda Bounce	28	62%
Temporary Tatto	28	62%
Balloon Art	27	60%
Safari Obstacle Course	27	60%
International Bistro	26	58%
Wheel of Fortune	26	58%
Spin Art	25	57%
Bowling	25	56%
Duck Pond	25	56%
Henna Tattoo	23	51%
Muscle Striker	22	49%
Craft O Rama	20	44%
World of Sports Challenge	20	44%
Toilet Roll Toss	18	40%
The Big Cheese	15	33%

**Did you participate in raffle?**

Yes 35 71%

**Will you attend next year?**

Yes 95%

**How would respond to the following statements ... 1 being Strongly Disagree to 4 being Strongly Agree:**

*Only responses chosen 20% or more of the time are listed*

**I Feel like a valued volunteer.**

3	20	35%
4	32	56%

**Volunteering is easy and fun.**

3	28	47%
4	24	40%

**The PTA offers a variety of things to get involved with.**

3	17	27%
4	41	66%

**The PTA is spending to benefit SHE.**

3	21	33%
4	36	57%

**Being a PTA member is important.**

3	18	29%
4	39	63%

**The following comments were provided to either “Suggestions for next year” or “General Comments” on the survey:**

“I don't know how much money the spirit nights make, but they seem like fun & fairly easy fundraisers. We're not great at participating in the catalogue fundraisers- would prefer to just donate some money.”

“You guys did a great job! Thanks for your dedication.”

“My kids had fun at all the events we attended.”

“I loved the Panda Pandapalooz, and do hope it continues to replace the traditional fundraisers. I would probably do even more hours in future years if I know there are no other fundraisers. Family events are good, and also plan to to more in the future. I do like the Spirit Nights (especially loved Barnes & Noble at Christmas), but attendance did taper off for us towards the end (they are pretty crowded and chaotic).”

“I noticed it said phone book under the parent services in question. Was there ever a phone book? Although I'd rate the other things listed there pretty low, a phone book would be at the top of my list in importance.”

“Please use the automated phone calls or e-mails more often. Oftentimes, I do not receive the Pawprint until weeks after events are over. If I would have received a phone call or an e-mail a week or so in

advance of an event and the night before an event, it would have been easier to work an event into my schedule.”

“You guys really do a nice job. Keep up the good work and have a great summer!”

“childcare avail. for PTA mtgs. or other volunteer work; maybe high school teens could earn credit??? Pandapalooza could be cut down to 3 hrs and maybe a little later in the evening, 5-8pm or 6-9; weather may cool down some!”

“Can the PTA help find a way for paper announcements not to come home once for each child in school at SHES? I will have four children at SHES next year and throw a tremendous amount of paper away each day.”

“Possibly start raising funds to expand our parking lot and/or to help in providing field trip/buses for grade levels. Also more parent volunteers for our first week of school would be great (morning bus helpers, lunch helpers, etc...especially our new kindergarteners and 1st graders. It gets them off to a great start. Loved PandaPalooza...will do it again.”

“Question #3 would only let me choose one, but I would also give a one time donation too. I think the family events are important though.  
Good luck.”

“Great job to everyone. I feel this is an excellent school and my daughter really enjoys going there. My son starts kindergarten this coming year and is very excited. Keep up the good work can't wait until 2009/2010!!!”

“Get Miss Wrenn to encourage the staff more. PTA was hardly mentioned at staff meetings. It might be a good idea for a PTA rep to attend staff meetings to spread the word about upcoming events or important PTA issues.”

“I think the SHES PTA is a crucial part of the school. Thank you for all that you do.”

“THANK YOU FOR A VERY WONDERFUL YEAR. The website, the energy, the strong volunteerism were the best I have seen in 8 years.”

“I really wish to express true appreciation for the time, forward thinking and energy the PTA board puts forth. THANK YOU, THANK YOU”

“Have a report (on your website) that states exactly how much was raised at each event, and where SPECIFICALLY the money has gone to benefit the school. Also, one or two fundraisers per month would be helpful. I have another child in a different school and it is hard to keep up with all of the fundraising.”

“PTA does an incredible amount of work for the school. Some of the events however, are much more work than they are worth in income to the PTA. I recognize that some events are done for their entertainment value to the school, but we may want to suggest that people make a one time contribution of \$50 or 100 and then eliminate some of the events”

“I don't like participating in fundraisers where only a small percentage of my money goes to the school. My family is busy, and I value the time that we get to spend together. While I like to get my kids books

or let them have fun at Pandapalooza (and have part of my money go toward the school), I know that the school only gets a small portion of what I pay. I can't afford to give that way. I would rather give \$20 and have 100% go to the school, than spend \$100-\$200 at several different activities to give the school the same amount.”

“Make sure school calendar and PTA events are communicated on a weekly basis via email. Great job!! The PTA board is amazing!! Thank you for all your efforts.”

“If you have a Pandapalooza next year and do offer International Food I think there should be more choices for vegetarians.”

“With the opening of Yorkshire I think there will be more parking and that will make volunteering easier.”

“I still wish the county would extend the sidewalk that currently ends at Signal View and Linden Wood to the school so more people could walk to volunteer--we parents could use the exercise and the kids always have energy to burn off. (I know that funding for the county isn't the best right now, but I do think it would be beneficial to the community and the school).”

“I'm a teacher here.... and as we add the SmartBoards, it would be wonderful to add the \$800 Smart Cameras which allow teachers to project anything for their students to see, from science experiments to papers for editing. It's too expensive for the school to buy for each room, but I think down the road this would be a fantastic addition to every classroom that has a SmartBoard. Once you've tried one you find you can't live without them!”

“I love our PTA. This year I decided to really try to attend meetings and participant as one of the school's teachers. I felt welcome and part of the group and am hoping to draw a few more colleagues into the group. This PTA works incredibly hard for its school and is creative and generous. I'm all THUMBS UP about PTA!”

“deposit checks more often. Sometimes months went by before they cleared and I have 2 that have been lost by the PTA.”

“Ahhhhhhh - more demands.....Question 4 should have had AT LEAST 5 dots”

“We need at least two people for BALLOON art. Last time, it took too much waiting and not able to enjoy other games.”

“There are certainly many fun things planned for the kids and their families to participate in throughout the year, so that if we miss a few, we still feel involved.”

“With what I've seen & experienced, the board has done a great job & has worked very hard. Thank you!!”

“Start earlier for Pandapalooza, and have a couple days before volunteer orientation. Day before volunteer desk and last minute orientation, and a volunteer desk to answer last minute who, what, when, where, why and how. I like the entry fee w/ wrist band and a punch card/ cash/ tickets for food. need a road map of where the activities were inside and outside of the building. Be prepared to refrigerate the cakes for the cakewalk. Have misters outside.”

“I like getting the Phone messages and reminders in the backpacks. to reduce the paper it could be as simple as putting a reminder Panda icon or other to have parents go to the PTA website for the event information. The reminder can then be placed back in the child's backpack for next time.”

“#24: I'm not sure how the PTA spends the money it raises. How is this communicated to the parents?”

“I would prefer that the students not be informed as much about fund raisers. my daughter would come home with the info for selling ??? and be excited about it because of the rewards and the outcome usually is the parents doing all the work. and alot of times we don't have the time to do this sort of thing. not to mention the rewards are usually some sort of cheesy toy that is played with for a short period if at all.”

“I wish you all the best next year!”

“Change the date for Pandapalooza...it was too late in the school year.”

“To use less paper for communication...send flyers home with the older sibling. I have two children at the school and they both got the information pamphlets. Could you send the flyers with the oldest sibling to save on paper?”

“Being a volunteer has been a wonderful experience. Not only do we help our children, but it gives us the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people.  
Keep up the great work.”

“Parents have clothes that the kids have outgrown why not sponser a clothes swap or yard sale. Most parents attend yard sales throughout the year and this would be an oppertunity for parents to buy clothes for the kids during times of depression.”

“I think the graduation is a bit much and not so important but teacher appreciation is super important! Our teachers are undervalued generally and the PTA can make a difference here!”

“More inside games at Pandapaloza (it was super hot). More inside games for when it is raining at recess.”