

DHS parent, teacher, student group steps into second year

BY KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - Now on the verge of its sophomore year, the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) is ready to bring fun and important opportunities to the Dallas Senior High School.

The PTSA is the first organized parents organization at the high school in the last 15 years and plans to stay around for a long time. Robyn Jones, guidance counselor came up with the idea last year.

"With PTSA, we want to link the home, school and community together in an interlocking triangle," said Jones, who believes it is important to get the parents back into the school. "It does a lot of positive and wonderful things for the students and community."

Laurie Popson, PTSA president, is enthusiastic about starting the year off strong by raising student spirit. "Last year morale was down. We want to do what we can to get their spirit back," Popson said. "The point (of the PTSA) is to enhance what is already going on at the school. We plan events."

The group's first sponsored event was Career Day, which took place last fall. "The response from Career Day was great. We got good results. Kids were changing their schedules because they found something that really in-

terested them," Popson said. Jones said the parents were essential to making Career Day such a success. "The guidance department never could have pulled that off without the help of the PTSA. They worked their tails off to get such quality speakers," said Jones.

The PTSA lines up community service projects to get students involved. Already the association's calendar of events includes a coat and food drive. "The students we put out are our future members of the community," said Jones.

In addition, the PTSA will have a Student-of-the-Month Award in four categories throughout the year. Area businesses are donating money to help buy bonds for students. Grange National Bank is donating its wall space by offering to display the picture of each winner in its Trucksville location.

"It's an incentive for kids to do well," said Popson, who has two daughters at the high school.

Popson said it makes her feel good to play a positive role in the students' lives. "It's so nice to get in there and do things that are good for the kids," she said.

Frank Galicki, principal, said the PTSA is important for both the parents and students. "It gives the parents an opportunity to get students involved in things they normally wouldn't," he said. "The PTSA is helping to build self-

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Laurie Popson
PTSA president

esteem by letting students know there are people who want them involved."

Galicki said students welcome the parents into the school environment. Jones agrees. "After elementary school parents aren't as involved because once the kids hit middle school they tend not to want their parents around as much and then we lose them forever," she said.

"I think maybe luck and a combination of the people who made the commitment to PTSA," replied Jones, when asked why the association is so strong in only its second year.

"(The parents) feel good about being back in the school. They are so dynamic and have real enthusiasm," said Jones of the parents. "They believe in the value of education for the children."

The PTSA will have a kick-off meeting on Wed. Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium. All interested parents and students are invited to attend.



POST PHOTO/IRON BARTIZEK

Members of the Dallas High School PTSA gathered to announce their participation in the Riverside Rumble wheelchair race that will take place in September. From left, kneeling; Mark Mittrick, Courtney Kryston, Lacey Popson, Erin Kavanaugh. Standing; Laurie Popson, PTSA president; Paul Reinert, ass't principal; Robyn Jones, guidance counselor; Tom Shalata, Allied Services; Kelly Reinhart, Allied Services; Jill Kryston; Jack Wolensky, guidance counselor. Seated in an experimental racing chair, Miguel Such, a world-class wheelchair racer. The group will hold a kickoff meeting for the 1997-98 school year Wed., Aug. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school.

Arts at Hayfield: crafts, music, fun this weekend

By JENNIFER JUDGE
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN - Arts at Hayfield will hold its 13th Annual Summer Festival at the Penn State Lehman Campus this weekend. Arts at Hayfield was started in 1985 "to foster arts in the Back Mountain," explains club president Joan Diana. The festival, the organization's main fundraiser, brings together crafts people, artists, musicians and the people of the Back Mountain.

Putting the festival on is no easy task. "It takes a lot of work putting it together and we think about it all year round," Diana said. "It's really just a handful of people doing the work. It's a really fun day."

One hundred and four crafts people are signed up for the festival. The crafts range from pottery to dried flowers to stained glass to dolls. "We seem to get more and more every year," club member Mary Ghilani explained. "We actually had to cut it off because we ran out of room."

This year's festival will be held Sunday, Aug. 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Storytellers Gerry Hart and Leanne Grace will perform at

2 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided by Just Us, RPM Old Star Band, the Anzalone Brothers and Pat Ward.

Hayfield House tours will be given every hour and the festival boasts a large number of craft exhibits. Local writers will give readings at the gazebo. Refreshments will also be available. Cost of admission is a \$1 donation for adults.

Although the festival is officially over at 5 p.m., the campus will host "An Evening With the Stars" at 9 p.m. in the Friedman Observatory. This stargazing presentation is open to the public.

Arts at Hayfield was first established to replace the Back Mountain Cultural Center which was in existence in the 1970's. Priscilla Allison, who recently retired from the staff at Penn State, was involved with the Back Mountain Cultural Center and was a founding member of Arts at Hayfield.

"When the Back Mountain Cultural Center was closing, I suggested to Jim Ryan, who was CEO of the Lehman campus at the time, we continue some of the things the Cultural Center did," Allison said. The Cultural Center



Pat Price of Dallas will be one of the juried crafters at the Arts at Hayfields Summer Festival this weekend.

had held summer festivals at College Misericordia. "Arts at Hayfield has expanded the summer festival," she explained.

Now Arts at Hayfield fulfills its mission by hosting and sponsoring many cultural events not only in the Back Mountain, but in the larger community of the Wyoming Valley as well. "We always try to emphasize the arts," Allison said. "We've brought in music, plays, anything that has to do with art, and not just for the adults."

The group awards two \$1,500 scholarships to Penn State students who illustrate academic merit and an interest in the arts. It subsidizes cultural events on campus and underwrites the printing costs of the campus newsletter, Forum.

This year Arts at Hayfield will begin funding the Celebrity Luncheon series. The organization also co-sponsors the children's theater at the Kirby Center and other cultural activities.

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