

# The Cougar Express

A Newsletter brought to you by the Juan Seguin PTSA

E-mail: [seguinhighpts@aol.com](mailto:seguinhighpts@aol.com)  
Issue #2

Website: [juanseguinpts.com](http://juanseguinpts.com)  
10/2008

## Introducing your 2008-2009 PTSA

### President:

David Berg  
[davidberg1@aol.com](mailto:davidberg1@aol.com)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Community Service:

Wendy Wilson  
[wgw000@yahoo.com](mailto:wgw000@yahoo.com)

### 4<sup>th</sup> VP Budget and Finance:

Edwina Thompson  
[ethomps@aisd.com](mailto:ethomps@aisd.com)

### 5<sup>th</sup> VP Public Relations

Steve Messina  
[mstm68@yahoo.com](mailto:mstm68@yahoo.com)

### 6<sup>th</sup> VP Hospitality

Suzi Grant  
[srg123@tx.rr.com](mailto:srg123@tx.rr.com)

### 7<sup>th</sup> VP Volunteers

Gerri St. John  
[stjohnsforce@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnsforce@yahoo.com)

### After Prom Chair

Michele Freeman  
[michele@sbumc.com](mailto:michele@sbumc.com)

### Treasurer

Cheryl White  
[87whiteaggie87@att.net](mailto:87whiteaggie87@att.net)



*Juan Seguin Cougars*

## Secretary

Lavonna Hill  
[lhil2@aisd.com](mailto:lhil2@aisd.com)

We still have openings on the PTSA Board. Call David Berg at 817-991-5448. Thank you to all who have already said "yes."

## UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS

**COUGARS at Granbury 10/3/2008 Kick-off at 7:30.**

**Mansfield Timberview at COUGARS 10/10/2008 Kick-off at 7:30.**

**NO SCHOOL (Columbus Day) 10/13/2008**

**Crowley at COUGARS 10/17/2008 Kick-off at 7:30. **HOME COMING!!****

**COUGARS at Mansfield Legacy 10/24/2008 Kick-off at 7:30.**

**ACT Test 10/25/2008**

**Stephenville at COUGARS 10/31/2008 Kick-off at 7:30.**

**SAT Test 11/1/2008**

## A Message From The PTSA President

Dear Students, Parents and Staff of Juan Seguin High School,

The first month of school is nearly over and I have been hearing reports that our kids are off to a great start. I hope everyone has had a smooth transition back into school. I would also like to take this opportunity to officially welcome all of the new teachers, administrators and students that have joined the Juan Seguin family.

I was pleased to see so many of our Cougar families at our first PTSA meeting that was combined with Open House on September 8. Many of you took that opportunity to join the Seguin High PTSA. The PTSA is a vital component of Juan Seguin High School because its members take an active role in supporting our students, our parents and our school. We provide an opportunity for parents to work directly with the administrators, teachers and students. We help promote on going communication between the school and home by providing an open forum of important topics ranging from curriculum, safety, physical and mental awareness, and administrative issues. The PTSA offers one of the best avenues for you to become involved in the school's endeavor to provide a rewarding education for your child.

As our School District faces a tight budget and shrinking educational funds, now more than ever it is important that we work together. Your support helps to protect the many on-going programs that might otherwise lack funding. This is your opportunity to make a change as we forge ahead through this new school year!

When you join PTSA, you become a member of the District, State, and National PTA that numbers over 7 million volunteers. At all levels, the PTA is dedicated to the education and well being for all children. Our mission is to represent our members and to empower, support and teach skills in advocacy, leadership and communication that positively impact our students. **We invite you and your student to become a member of the PTSA and more importantly we urge you to become involved in this school.**

Finally, please join me in taking a moment to remember the many families affected by Hurricane Gustov and Hurricane Ike. Many of those families evacuated to the Arlington area, and many of the children have enrolled in AISD schools. We are very fortunate in not going through what these families are going through. Because of that good fortune, take a moment to look around your home, or to your local grocery store, for items that you could donate to Mission Arlington. Those items would then be

distributed through the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. Canned goods and daily essentials are always needed. But, cash is needed the most. Please go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org) to donate to the disaster relief funds. On behalf of these organizations, and especially the families, thank you so much for having a wonderful heart.

Those of you that are new to Juan Seguin High School, and as you become more acquainted with the school, we hope you will also become familiar with our PTSA. Please visit our website often. It is one of the many programs and tools created and maintained by caring PTSA parent volunteers. We look forward to seeing you, and welcome to the Cougar family.

Sincerely,  
David Berg  
President  
Juan Seguin High School PTSA  
[www.juanseguinpta.com](http://www.juanseguinpta.com)



## Seniors: Mark Your Calendars!

Senior yearbook pictures will be taken on November 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a picture make-up day. If you will be absent or was absent on these days, you must contact Prestige Portraits at 817-514-1469 to schedule a shoot at their office in Fort Worth. Sorry, but you cannot use pictures from another company in the yearbook.



Led by the City of Arlington's Office of Emergency Management, Mission Arlington joins several other churches and non-profit agencies to support people pushed out of their homes in anticipation of Hurricane Ike.

Families from the gulf coast area are coming into Mission Arlington's front room needing help.

Mission Arlington is partnering with its sister congregations, such as the North Davis Church of Christ, Grace Community, St. Barnabas United Methodist, and so many more who have graciously opened their doors to shelter evacuees.

Mission Arlington has two facilities prepared to house special populations of people when called upon.

On Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, more than 1400 guests arrived in Tarrant County as a result of Hurricane Ike.

Because of the demand, Mission Arlington's supply of clothing is being taxed. It is difficult to know how long people will be here in town, as reports surface that coastal cities are not yet ready for residents to return home.

Many of you have called asking how you can provide support. At this time, Jeans (all sizes) and diapers (all sizes) would really help. You can also donate canned goods and daily essentials. There are other ways you can help.

Tom Thumb has partnered with Mission Arlington to help people in need. Simply take your reward card to the customer service desk and ask them to link it Mission Arlington. **The Mission Arlington Tom Thumb number is 653.** Scan your card at every purchase and help a family in need.



Thank you so much for your support and helping our neighbors through this trying time.

---

## A Message From The Juan Seguin High School Principal

What a great school year start! I commend our students and teachers for your efforts in maximizing class time with the implementation of our new tardy policy and 15/15 policy. I have also been impressed with the energy and school spirit in the halls and at our pep rallies. If you are not presently involved in a Seguin organization, I strongly encourage you to join one and be apart of the Seguin Team.

Ingredients for success: get to class on time, in dress code, with IDs on and cell phones off (and out of sight). Then be an active participant in your education. Take your studies seriously, both in school and at home.

**You are molding the key for your future now! I hope it is a key that will open doors of success in your future! Remember this, we can help, but only you can do it!**

In closing, we have a lot of great things going on at Seguin and the Cougars need you behind them! Teachers, we need you in our PTSA and Seguin Spirit. It would be great if we had a 100% faculty membership in each of these organizations. Parents, we need you in our PTSA and booster clubs, please join and get involved in your child's school experience! Your help is also needed in getting your neighbors out to support the Cougars. Together we can make a big difference in the lives of our youth! I am looking forward to working with each of you as we have a fantastic year in Cougarland!

"It is great to be alive and to be a COUGAR!" - Ed Farmer

---

Ed Farmer  
Principal, Seguin High School  
[efarmer@aisd.net](mailto:efarmer@aisd.net)  
682.867.6704

There are two new additions to Juan Seguin High School. Please stop by the Counseling Center and give a warm, "Hello!" to Jennifer Novoselsky. Jennifer is the new 9th grade counselor. Her office is the first door on the left as you enter the Counseling Center.



Welcome also to Mr. Arvis Vonner, the new Assistant Principal. Mr. Vonner will manage the 9th-11th grades discipline for the S-Z alphabet. His office is next door to Mr. Humes, across from the cafeteria. Drop by and say, "Hi!"

---

## October is Fire Prevention Month



October is National Fire Prevention Month, a time when we should all be aware of ways to help learn fire safety and prevention. Most Americans underestimate their risk for fire, and many either lack emergency response plans – or fail to practice them with fire drills.

One out of three home fires start in the kitchen, and leaving cooking unattended and other unsafe kitchen practices are recipes for disaster. Annual observances like National Fire Prevention Week and National Fire Prevention Month are excellent opportunities to focus on fire hazards – but we should all practice fire safety every day—at home, at work and at play. The NFPA offers a wealth of safety information, fire prevention tips and resources on their comprehensive website: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). And I encourage everyone to contact your local fire department to learn more about making your home safer from fire, or how you can best participate in fire prevention activities. But why is the national prevention month in October?

The history goes back to the great Chicago fire, which occurred on October 8, 1871. This fire killed more than 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. The cause of the fire has both unknown, however, fact and fiction have both become blurred over the years. One popular legend has it that Mrs. O'Leary was milking her cow when the animal kicked over a lamp, setting the O'Leary barn on fire and starting the spectacular blaze. However it began, the massive fire swiftly burned more than 2000 acres in 27 hours. When President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week, October 4 – 10, 1925, he noted that in the previous year some 15,000 lives were lost to fire in the United States. Calling the loss "startling", President Coolidge's proclamation stated, "This waste results from the conditions which justify a sense of shame and horror; for the greater part of it could and ought to be prevented... It is highly desirable that every effort be made to reform the conditions which have made possible so vast a destruction of the national wealth".

NFPA continues today to make National Fire Prevention Week a priority and counts on the participation and efforts of tens of thousands of fire and safety professionals, emergency volunteers, and other individuals working to reduce the risk of fire and the toll it takes on our society.

---

## Find a Harry Potter for Math Class

**Deborah Norwood    Pre-AP and Regulars  
PreCalculus Teacher**

*(Note: This article reflects the opinion of the author and not of the Juan Seguin PTSA)*

Many parents would be too embarrassed to admit being illiterate and it is doubtful they would use such as an excuse for their child's failure to do well in school. On more than one occasion, however, I have had parents say to me, "I never could do math, so my child's difficulty in algebra just comes naturally." This statement is usually accompanied by a smile and a chuckle, as if to imply, genetics is funny that way. The very person, who would never admit to being illiterate, has no qualms about admitting to being innumerate.

In an effort to combat illiteracy, "Reading is Fundamental" and other literacy programs have been around for more than a generation. Researchers have found effective methods for teaching people of all ages the ability of going from a single letter to words and sentences. Even though we don't have a "math is fundamental" program, I suspect that it is going to take more than the efforts of classroom teachers to get the general population to recognize the importance of mathematics.

Mathematics needs to be viewed as a "second language" that uses symbols in place of words to convey meaningful expressions. It needs to be a language that transitions as effortlessly to the science classroom as does the written word from the English classroom to social studies. Like any second language, the earlier one is exposed to the components of the new language, the easier it is to learn and to become fluent.

As parents and grandparents many of us make bedtime reading a ritual. We give books as gifts for special occasions and discuss with our children the books they have read. We want children to find the written word enjoyable and to develop a desire for more reading experiences.

It is true that often pre-school and elementary age children are given books that teach counting and basic number operations. Perhaps we need to continue giving books that stress numbers as our children get older. Reading with small children fosters a love for the written word, could setting aside time to solve number puzzles make learning mathematics more enjoyable? Puzzle books with Suduko, Kakuro, or Numbrix are available with varying degrees of difficulty, but have you ever given one as a gift?

Critical thinking skills are acquired by the process of arriving at an answer, the methods necessary to search and conquer the problem, not by the answer itself. Children stood in line for the latest installments of the Harry Potter series and I would venture a guess that nary a one ever uttered the question asked in algebra classes everywhere, "When are we ever going to use this?" If only we could instill that kind of love for the manipulation of numbers! Frustrated math teachers joking say to students, who insist they can't learn algebra or geometry, "we aren't teaching rocket science." When in fact the teachers know that without a firm foundation in algebra and geometry there would be no rocket science.

There have been numerous articles discussing both the shortage of engineers in our country and the need to encourage more high school students to take advanced classes in math and science. There have been recent articles about the benefits of IB and AP programs that prepare students for the careers of the future. But, shouldn't we be fostering a love of numbers long before high school. Innumeracy, like illiteracy, is not a laughing matter. Great strides have been made in fostering a culture that reads. Perhaps it is time to consider cultivating a deeper understanding of the mathematical process. It is going to take more than the efforts of classroom teachers to eliminate the need for TAKS tests, or for "No Child Left Behind" standards, in order to make a difference in the way children view mathematics.

---

## **Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT/NMSQT) Information:**

The 2008 PSAT /NMSQT will be given to AISD students enrolled at Arlington HS, Bowie HS, Lamar HS, Martin HS, Juan Seguin HS, and Sam Houston HS on their home campuses.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Cost: Free

Test Location: High school home campus

Registration dates: Sept. 15 – Sept. 30, 2008

Registration location: High school home campus

Students need a photo ID to show the proctor on test day.

If students or parents have questions, please contact the student's counselor.

The PSAT / NMSQT will be given to *Arlington home-school students and AISD students enrolled in Venture HS on*

Saturday, October 18, 2008

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Test Location: Venture High School, 4900 W. Arkansas Ln., Arlington, TX 76016

Registration dates: Sept. 15 – Sept. 30, 2008

Registration location: Venture High School, Main Office

Contact persons: Annemarie Swinton, Guidance Tech

Pam Durall, School Counselor

682-867-6400

Home-school students / parents should call before going to Venture HS to register.

Arlington home-school students must provide a photo ID and proof of residence at the time of registration.

Students need a photo ID to show the proctor on test day.

## Juan Seguin PTSA Newsletter

Starting with the September issue the newsletter will be distributed on-line. You can read all future (and past) issues from the Juan Seguin PTSA Website <[www.juanseguinpta.com](http://www.juanseguinpta.com)>. And you can receive an email notification each time a new issue is posted by registering. Just send us an e-mail at [seguinhighpta@aol.com](mailto:seguinhighpta@aol.com). From the website, click on the "PTSA newsletter" tab and follow it to the newsletter links.

Having the newsletter on-line offers many great advantages:

- **Environmentally Friendly!!** Did you know that printing the newsletter each year uses over 220,000 sheets of paper – that's over 25 TREE's we will save EVERY YEAR!
- **Timely News!** On-line is the FASTEST way to get the PTSA News to you! As we finish each edition, you will be able to read it immediately, instead of 2 weeks later after printing and mailing!
- **Saves Money!!** By eliminating printing and mailing costs, an on-line newsletter will save the PTSA **THOUSANDS of DOLLARS** – yet another way to save our **GREEN!**
- **Read the News ANYWHERE & ANY TIME!** Your boss thinks you are looking up sales figures during an important meeting – but really you can be reading our newsletter on your iPhone, Blackberry, laptop etc. All you need is an internet connection!

## Submission Guidelines for Articles and Ads

Articles should be submitted via e-mail ([seguinhighpta@aol.com](mailto:seguinhighpta@aol.com)) to Steve Messina. Articles should include author's name, phone number and date of the newsletter in which the article should appear. Advertising, half or quarter-page ads, will be accepted depending on space. Contact Steve Messina via e-mail regarding rates.

### Newsletter Deadlines:

November issue – 10/25      Dec-Jan issue – 11/25  
February issue – 1/25      March issue - 2/25  
April issue - 3/25  
May issue - 4/25      June issue - 5/25

We encourage you to give it a try!

## Juan Seguin High School Staff

**Principal:** Ed Farmer  
**Academic Assist. Principal:** Cathy Britton  
**Assist. Principal (A-E):** Kari Pride  
**Assist. Principal (F-L):** Rick Humes  
**Assist. Principal (M-R):** Glennie Simmons  
**Assist. Principal (S-Z):** Arvis Vonner  
**Assist. Principal (All Seniors):** Dr. Rick Evans  
**Counselor (A-Dd):** Carolyn Hammonds  
**Counselor (De-H):** Greg Matlock  
**Counselor (I-Nf):** Alicia Curry  
**Counselor (Ng-Sm):** Melissa Crawford  
**Counselor (Sn-Z):** Nell Fielding  
**Counselor (All Freshmen):** Jennifer Novoselsky





**Juan Seguin High School  
2008 Homecoming**

**OCTOBER 18, 2008**

**7 - 11 P.M.**

**TICKETS**

**\$5.00**

**(\$7.00 AT THE DOOR)**

**Tickets go on sale Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>,  
before school, during  
lunch, and at home football  
games.**

**[www.leaguelineup.com/juanseguinfootball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/juanseguinfootball)**

**or**

**[www.juanseguinpta.com](http://www.juanseguinpta.com)**

**for more information.**