

PLEASANT HILL PTA MAKES FUNDRAISING HISTORY

Norma Frances
Historian, Pleasant Hill Elementary PTA, Leander, Texas

Traditionally, Pleasant Hill Elementary PTA looked to outside organizations to help raise money for the needs of the school. Sales of household items, gift items and food items were sold in past years with profits usually being divided in half between the school and the organization used. Though these kinds of fundraising events proved successful, the PTA wanted to approach the fundraising process differently in the 2008/09 school year. PTA wanted to explore an avenue where almost all of the money raised would stay in the school, not just half. It was also a desire to do more than just raise money, but to promote an event that would help each Husky achieve a goal and take ownership for the success of Pleasant Hill. The PTA approached the Fine Arts Department, which includes PE, Music, Art and Theater Arts teachers to help plan the event. From their great help and support came the Healthy Husky Campaign, a walk-a-thon to raise money for our school. Huskies were asked to obtain sponsorship for laps that would be walked. A flat donation was also an option for walking in the event. Huskies were asked to set goals of

how many laps they thought they could walk in 30 minutes time. The course would take five laps to make a mile. Husky Spirit Wear items were awarded according to amount raised. Prizes started at earnings of \$25 and went up to earnings of \$300 or more. Prize options included a Husky paw wristband, Husky water bottle, Husky Paw car magnet, Pleasant Hill backpack and pin, Pleasant Hill duffle bag, and/or a Pleasant Hill Husky hoodie. The students were

very excited to know they could earn cool spirit wear items. Also, fun challenges were given for extra prizes to be awarded to the student and the class that walked the most laps from each grade level, and to the student

and the class from each grade level who raised the most sponsorship.

The day of the Healthy Husky Walk-a-thon was a huge success. The Fine Arts teachers laid out a curvy course for the Huskies to follow. A balloon arch marked the start/finish line and music played as they walked along. Parents, teachers, and staff walked the track with the Huskies. Volunteers helped put dots on hands to mark laps completed. Each grade





level walked 30 minutes during the time allotted for Specials. Many exciting moments came throughout the day. The H-E-B Buddy, Chick-Fil-A Cow and the Leander High School Cheerleaders came to show their support and cheer the students on. When time was just about finished, Huskies gathered for an ice pop and tallied up the dots on their hands. Before it was time to go, students knew which class had walked the most. All were excited to hear the totals walked.

The excitement of that day continued on as the donations and sponsorships came in. Much support was shown through generous giving. By the end, the total amount exceeded \$17,000, proving again the success of the Walk-a-Thon.

Adding together the miles walked from each grade level, PHE Huskies walked 1,111 miles! That would be equal to walking from the school to Disney World in Orlando, Florida! PHE Husky pride can be seen throughout the campus as proud students wear their PHE Hoodies and carry their PHE backpacks. Driving around town, cars are seen with PHE Paw magnets proudly displayed. Paw water bottles are used by students continually. All of this shows how much PHE Huskies have done and are doing to support their school.

In Pleasant Hill's fifth year of operation, the PTA broke with tradition and made history by successfully having a fundraiser that did much more than just raise money. It brought teachers, staff, families and students together for an event that showed great support and pride for the future and success of the school. PHE PTA is very thankful for the success of the fundraiser and the accomplishments of the students, individually and as a student body. PTA looks forward to the next Healthy Husky Campaign. PHE Huskies just might walk to Alaska!

