From the President

When the alarm went off for the first day of school, I am sure your emotions were as mixed as mine! The lazy days of summer were over, along with the ability to get up late! But, a new school year awaited! New teachers, new shoes, new friends, new school supplies; it is a time where everything seems hopeful and promising. And what a wonderful start to the new school year we have had at Doss! All around campus you can see the smiling faces of students, parents and teachers. Many are familiar faces, and some are new faces to Doss. If you are new to the Doss community, welcome! Doss is a great place and you are sure to love it.

Doss is very lucky to have a wonderful staff, led by Principal Sherrie Raven. This year we are joined by new Assistant Principal, Jane Kronke. Take the time to read Ms. Kronke’s message on the Doss website (http://www.dosspta.org/). We are lucky to have her at Doss. We are truly grateful to the Doss Teachers and Staff who worked so hard to have the school ready for all the children.

With the wilting heat and still summer temperatures, we also are thankful for the new blacktop cover! And, if you haven’t seen the now spacious lunchroom, go by and see it soon. The new gym should also be open soon and it will be awesome!

Many thanks also go out to the multitude of parents who worked to prepare for Meet the Teacher day, to get the new Online Store up and running, and to beautify the Doss grounds. These Doss parents have given many hours of time to make everything run as smoothly as possible for parents, and to make the interior and exterior as beautiful as possible for Doss children and parents.

Please take the time to look through the PTA Volunteer Packet. We would love to have each family volunteer at Doss. There is a volunteer opportunity for everyone. Even a small amount of time allows you to get to know other Doss families and show your children that you value them and their place of learning. Also, your volunteer hours ensure all the wonderful programs that have been created at Doss over the years continue.

This is going to be a great year at Doss. I have the help of many incredible people who are always happy to help. Thank you for everything! I look forward to a wonderful year at Doss with spectacular children and parents! Please join the PTA if you haven’t already!

Happy Back to School!
Dandre Whitehead
We had such a successful Earth Day last year: almost seventy percent of our students walked, scooted, biked, carpoolled, or rode the bus to school that day! We want to build on that success this year.

October is International Walk to School Month. Every Wednesday in October, encourage your kids to walk, scoot, or bike to or from school. Continue the habit by walking on the first Wednesday of each month! You might want to organize a walk-pool with neighborhood parents.

Interested in helping us with this or other Earth-friendly activities throughout the year? Join the Green Team chairs for an organizational meeting!

**When:** Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30 PM

**Where:** 7213 Lostridge Drive.

Please let Kelly Rizk (kelly.rizk@gmail.com) know if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there!
September 9\textsuperscript{th} – October 2\textsuperscript{nd}

No Hassle? No Problem!

Gone are the days of door-to-door selling!

All you have to do is write a check!

It’s easy!

Stay tuned...
Welcome back to all returning Doss students! And to all new Doss students and parents: we welcome you to Doss! The Sunshine Committee is one of the committees that make Doss a unique and wonderful community. This volunteer group offers help, support, and encouragement to Doss families, teachers, and staff members during times of illness or crisis. This help comes in the form of meals, transportation, some child care, and help with light household chores or errands. Additionally, the Sunshine Committee will provide recognition to Doss families, teachers, or staff during times of celebration.

If you know of someone that could benefit from the assistance of The Sunshine Committee, please contact one of us to coordinate what is needed:

Kay Wicall: kay@bradz.com (947-9642)
Allison Weaver: alli6190@yahoo.com (468-3868)

Partners in Education (PIE) began in 1983 as a partnership between the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Austin Independent School District. Our goal is to help AISD students gain academic skills and the self-confidence necessary to become successful learners and reach their fullest potential through donations from businesses across the country.

At Doss, we have benefitted greatly from strong financial support from our business community. The PIE committee is responsible for ensuring each donor is appropriately recognized. If you are doing any fundraising from corporations on behalf of Doss, or if you know of anyone who might want to be a donor, please contact Megan Helmbrecht, the PIE Chair.

If you receive a donation or pledge, you may complete the “Donor Information Sheet” on the PIE page of the Doss PTA website, or contact Megan at meganhelmbrecht@yahoo.com or at 795-0171.

Thank you for your support of Doss Elementary!
BOXTOPS ARE BACK!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Remember to turn your box tops into the BIG PINK BOX BY THE OFFICE so you and your child can win fabulous prizes!!! The first collection deadline is Sept 30th! Prizes will be awarded during the first full week of October. Please put the Box Tops in a Ziploc bag with your child's full name and teacher on it; or use the Box Top sheets that you can print off from www.boxtops4education.com!!!

What is the Box Tops program, you ask???

IT IS A WAY TO EARN FREE MONEY FOR DOSS!! LET’S BEAT LAST YEARS TOTAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!

BOX TOPS ARE LITTLE COUPONS FOUND ON MILLIONS OF PRODUCTS. FOR A COMPLETE LIST GO TO THE ABOVE WEBSITE !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Each coupon is worth 10 cents, but it adds up fast! Last year we raised over $1,700.00 in “free money” for the Doss PTA. That is a lot of 10 cent coupons!!!

Also check out www.thebigclip.com to register to win either $25,000.00 or $50,000 worth of Box Tops – being a winning school would make our PTA President sooooo very happy.

Feel free to contact me, the Box Lady, Francine Breckenridge, at francine.breckenridge@strasburger.com if you have any questions.

So get to clipping and make free $$$$$$ for Doss!!!

Check out the Doss PTA website for everything you see in this newsletter, and much, MUCH more:
http://www.dosspta.org/
Newcomers’ Network for New and Old

Tri-Chairs: Jill Moore, Sheri Terrell, and Barbara Yznaga

A new school can feel overwhelming, leaving families feeling lost. The Doss Newcomers’ Network was created to help new parents ease their transition and feel more a part of the Doss community. We have a “buddy” program where we match a new family with an “old” family, preferably with a child in the same grade. The buddy is there to help answer questions and address any concerns.

If you would like to be matched with a Doss buddy, or if you would like to volunteer to be a Doss buddy, please complete the following information and turn it in to your child’s teacher or to the front office.

_____ I am new to Doss this year.

_____ I want to be a Doss Buddy.

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Child(s) Name: ____________________________
Grade(s): ____________________________ Teacher(s): ____________________________
Language(s) spoken: ____________________________

Questions? Contact Newcomers’ Network Chairs:
Barbara Yznaga, (barbarayznaga@gmail.com) 826-7146
Jill Moore, (jmoore@cappslawfirm.com) 965-3023
Sheri Terrell, (sbterrell@yahoo.com) 795-9244

Newcomers’ Get Together

Come to our special Newcomers’ Get Together for new and old parents on Friday, September 4th at 9:00am in the cafeteria (just after the Parent Principal Coffee).

We’d love to have some of our “old” parents join us to buddy up with new parents to help answer questions and provide information. We’ll try to match new and old parents based on the grade level of the children. All are welcome to attend.

Save the Date

H’OWL 2009
Oct. 31
12-3
BE A ROOM PARENT IN YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM

You are invited to be a part of great group at Doss! If you missed the room parent sign-up sheets on Meet the Teacher day, you can still use the Volunteer Packet to show us your interest in this fabulous job.

The Grade Coordinators and Lead Room Parents will meet in the library on Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at noon. Bring a lunch and we will provide a treat. Room parents are encouraged to attend as well; however, if you’ve done this job before, we’ll update you via email; so you are not required to attend. If this will be your first time as a Room Parent, please join us for more information and to ask any questions you might have. You’ll learn about how other committees use room parents and how to best support our wonderful teachers. This is one of the best ways to stay connected to your kids and support the Doss community.

Direct questions to Libba Skarnulis at carskar40@yahoo.com. No need to reply if you’re coming.

Thank you!

A Big Thank You to Drs. Robert and Karin Foster, and Texas Orthopedics, Sports & Rehabilitation Associates

For sponsoring our 4th and 5th grade planners for the 2009 -2010 school year!

ESL Conversation Club
Starts September 10th
Barbara Yznaga, Chair

The ESL Conversation Club is an informal group that provides non-English speaking Doss families (and other members of the community) the opportunity to meet on a weekly basis to practice their English and socialize in small groups with native English speakers. The ESL Club, or “Talk Time,” is open to everyone. There is no cost to attend and children are welcome.

ESL Conversation Club meets every Thursday
10:30-12:00 noon
Old Quarry Branch Library
7501 Village Center Dr. (next to HEB)

(*No meetings on holidays or when the library has trainings)

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact: Barbara Yznaga: barbarayznaga@gmail.com or 826-7146.
Randall’s “10% Goes Back to Schools” Program

**FREE MONEY FOR DOSS!**

It’s as easy as ABC….

A – Look for the special “10% Goes Back to Schools” price tags (with yellow school buses) throughout the store from August 12 – September 15th.

B – Use your Remarkable Club Card to buy participating items.

C – SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS and put them in the box outside the front office.

That’s it. The Retail Rebate Committee will submit the receipts and 10% of your purchases will come back to Doss. As always, be sure you have registered in Randall’s Good Neighbor Program. By designating Doss as one of your charities and using your Remarkable Card, Randall’s will send money to Doss.

Questions: contact Megan Helmbrecht at 795-0171 or meganhelmbrecht@yahoo.com

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**Girl Scouting for Doss Girls**

There will be a recruitment rally on **Sept. 10 from 6-7 PM** at the outdoor amphitheater (near the library and 5th grade wing).

Come find out more about Girl Scouting at Doss for girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We will have information about the levels (Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors) as well as information about registering, forming, or joining existing troops and training.

For more information, contact Tracy Urban: tracyu@austin.rr.com (email is preferred method of communication) or 795-1276.

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**Volunteers Still Needed!**

We still have PTA committees in need of leaders! Take a look at this year’s Volunteer Packet (there’s also an on-line version on our website) for a wide range of opportunities that will accommodate every personality type and every time or schedule constraint.

Contact Dandre Whitehead if you’re interested in chairing one of these committees: dandrewwhitehead@austin.rr.com or 342-8652

- Read Across Doss Day
- Safety (can be several people)
- School Office Assistant (can be several people, the office will take any time you have that you can work)
- Science Fair (needs a co-chair)
- Sports A Rama (needs a co-chair)
- Communications/PR
- Grants
- HOOT distribution
- Technology

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**Cub Scouts for Boys**

There will be a recruitment rally on **Sept. 2 from 6-7 PM** at the blacktop (under the big blue canopy) for boys interested in joining Cub Scouts Pack 2. Come find out about Cub Scouting for boys in 1st through 5th grade. The scouts can have some fun, earn a belt loop award, and get registered for the coming year. There will be a parent meeting on **Sept. 8 from 6:30-7:30 PM** at NW Hills United Methodist in the gym.

For more information, contact Mike Huebner: mikethehammer@gmail.com or 517-3063.
A big thank you goes to the following people:

- Sheri Terrell for chairing and organizing one of the best Meet the Teacher days we have had - Ever!

- Jerry Caps, Jill Moore, Barbara Yznaga, Lauren Rosprim, Valerie Tyler, Mary Wallace, Melissa Perry, Karen Nabers, Blythe Wilson, Tracy Sheridan, Susan Doyle, Laura Yeager, and Shelley Solka for all their help at Meet the Teacher day!

- Lauren Shepard and David Wolfson for the cool t-shirt design and working t-shirt sales at Meet the Teacher day and the first week of school!

- Becky Cunningham and Michele Brocato for unloading and loading (several times!) all the school supplies and getting them to the classrooms with all the people who turned out to help them!

- Britt Terrell and his army of Doss Parents who turned out for the Doss Landscaping Day and made the school look wonderful!

- Mark Penniman for working many, many hours to get the PTA Online Store up and running!

- Tina Sutton for all of her work with the Birthday Book Club!

- Blythe Wilson and Dana Young for providing a beautiful and delicious breakfast for the Teachers on their first day back!

- Jerry Caps for building new hooks for the kindergarten teachers!

- All of those who worked to put on the first ever VERY successful Kinder Coffee!

Birthday Book Club and Other Library Book Donations

Doss students love to read! Celebrate your child’s birthday (Birthday Book Club) or honor or memorialize a special person with a donation to the Doss library. Your donation buys a brand new book for the library. Your child will choose the book from a large selection of titles provided by the librarians. A bookplate with your child's name will be placed in the book and your child will be the first to check the book out of the library.

For Birthday Book Club, your child's name will be published in the Hoot and will be announced during morning announcements during his/her birthday month. Summer birthdays will be published/announced as follows: June in March, July in April, and August in May. For books donated in honor of or in memory of a special person, your contribution will be acknowledged in the Hoot during the month you donate the book.

**Donations to-date this school year: 233 books ($3,495)!!**

Thanks to everyone who has already donated!
Use the form on the following page to make your book donation today.

This form will also be available online at the online store [www.dosspta.org](http://www.dosspta.org).
You can pay by credit card using the online store!

Note: This donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
DOSS LIBRARY BOOK DONATION FORM

Return this form with a $15 check payable to Doss PTA.

This book is presented to the
The Doss Elementary Library

Honoree’s Name
(student or person being honored/memorialized)

Check one:

☐ Birthday Book Club Birth Date: ___________________________

☐ In honor of (specify special event): __________________________

Examples: “for graduating 5th grade,” “to share your love of Junie B. Jones books”

☐ In memory of (your special sentiment): __________________________

Examples: “John Smith’s grandmother,” “You are in our hearts forever”

NOTE: Writing a special event/sentiment is optional.

Donated by: __________________________

Email: __________________________ Phone: ________________

Grade: __________ Teacher: ________________

(For Office Use only)

Author: __________________________

Call Number: __________________

Check #: __________________ Amount: $ ________________

Bookplate done: _____/_____/______ Hoot Notice: _____/_____/______

Thanks/Tax receipt: _____/_____/______
Doss Retail Rebate Program

Doss is fortunate to benefit from several retail rebate programs across the country. These corporations send Doss **FREE MONEY** throughout the year if you support their product sales. Please look below to see all of the opportunities to raise money for Doss and **PLEASE** use their services to benefit our school!

**Craig O’s Pizza and Pastaria**

Carry out or eat in every third Thursday of the month and Doss receives a % of the profits. This month it’s September 17th. Tell them you’re from Doss!

**Target VISA card or Target credit card**

When you check out, tell the cashier you are a Doss family and they will send a % of the proceeds to Doss.

**Randall’s 10% Goes Back to Schools**

Look for “Back to Schools” labels and use your Remarkable card. If you spend $50 on these items, save your receipt and put it in the box at the front of the school and Doss will receive 10% of the proceeds.

**Randall’s Club Card**

Sign up for a Remarkable card and you will save on many products in the store. Be sure to fill out the form for charitable gifts at the bottom and list Doss as one of your three favorite charities. Doss will then receive a % of all your purchases. If you already have a Remarkable card but haven’t designated Doss as your favorite charity, please contact Megan Helmbrecht at meganhelmbrecht@yahoo.com for a form.

**Subway School Rewards**

Sign up for a Subway card in the store, and designate Doss as your favorite charity. Each time you use your card to buy at Subway, Doss will receive a % of the proceeds.

**Austin Soup Peddler**

Go to [http://www.dosspta.org/?page_id=11](http://www.dosspta.org/?page_id=11) or dosspta.org and look under “Useful Links.” 5% of your **fabulous** order for healthy, delicious, free-delivery dinners will come back to Doss.

**Westbank Dry Cleaning’s Project School Bell**

Designate Doss as your school on your invoice and Westbank will send Doss a % of the proceeds.

**Office DEPOT.**

When you check out, tell the cashier you are a Doss family and they will send a % of the proceeds to Doss.

If you know of other companies who would be willing to give rebates back to Doss, please contact Megan Helmbrecht at Meganhelmbrecht@yahoo.com or 795-0171. Thank you!
### September 1 – October 3, 2009

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Helpful hint: Put this calendar on your refrigerator door to help remember upcoming events and activities.