



BACK TO SCHOOL —GET ‘SMART’ (WITH A TECHNOLOGY TWIST!)

The Vickery Place August general meeting is literally going ‘back to school!’ Join us Thursday, August 20, 6:30pm–8pm in the auditorium of Robert E. Lee Elementary, at 2911 Delmar Avenue.

Ms. Barnwell, the new IB (International Baccalaureate) Coordinator at REL, will relay the wonderful things planned for this school year, such as the newly implemented IB program, the dual language program and the outdoor garden learning center to name a few. We will also witness a ‘Smart Classroom’ portable digital unit, which takes reading, writing and arithmetic to a whole new level!

Last year the Belmont Addition Conservation District neighborhood (which also feeds into Robert E. Lee) funded a “Smart Classroom” at REL and they have challenged the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association to do the same. With an approval vote of the general membership at the July General Meeting, we have accepted their challenge and approved a matching fundraiser—for every dollar contributed in our Smart Classroom Fundraiser, Vickery Place Neighborhood Association will make a matching donation, up to \$3050. (For more info on our Smart Classroom Fundraiser, see page___.)



What is a “Smart Classroom”? The Smart Classroom is a technology-enhanced classroom that contains a Smart Board, a large interactive whiteboard. A laptop with a projector, a document camera, and a remote control are all integrated with the Smart Board. The Smart Board accepts touch input through specially designed markers. The projector connected to the laptop enables the desktop image to be displayed on the board and the students use the markers to work on the screen.

Many forms of media can be projected onto the Smart Board using the document camera—videos, photographs, graphs, maps, illustrations and games. The older Smart Boards are mounted in one location, but the new ones can be moved any-

Next VPNA General Meeting
Thursday, August 20th, 6:30pm
Robert E Lee Elementary
2911 Delmar Avenue

Bulk Trash
Week of the 2nd Monday
Don't Set Out Trash Before:
Thursday, August 6th
Pick Up Week August 10th -14th
Weekly Trash & Recycling Pick-up
Every Monday



where in the classroom, or to another classroom, if necessary. The cost is \$6100. Ms. Ransom's goal is to equip all the classrooms eventually; she has 10 more to go. Come to the meeting to see a Smart Classroom in action!

The PTA will also be on hand to let you know how you can get involved at REL and we will collect school supplies, which can be dropped off at the meeting. Please join us and 'get smart'!



VPNA RESIDENTS SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

SHHHH! Don't look now, but it's time for the new school year! All of Vickery Place feeds in to a single elementary school: R E Lee. Let's show our support by donating school supplies at the next meeting.

Community involvement in our public schools is widely acknowledged as an important factor in the success of individual schools; to that end, let's show our support for Robert E. Lee Elementary School. There are many ways be involved and show support; one way is to donate supplies to the schools.

The Lee webpage has a list of items, by grade, that each student needs throughout the year. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.dallasisd.org/Page/2356>

To make it really easy to support Robert E Lee, here's a supply list for students, including pre-school programs for children with disabilities* (**benefits all students*). Bring the supplies you'd like to donate to the next VPNA General Meeting.
~Pam Thompson

SUPPLY LIST...FOR STUDENTS

- 1-inch Binders*
- Folders with prongs*
- Plastic pocket folders
- Composition notebooks (wide-ruled)
- Spiral notebooks
- Pencils / colored pencils
- Gel pens
- Construction paper
- Pink erasers
- Glue bottles
- glue sticks*
- Markers*
- Black Sharpies*
- Crayons*
- Dry Erase Markers*

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- Color Card Stock*
- Color Construction Paper*
- Manila Paper*
- Boxes of tissues*
- Baby wipes*
- Hand sanitizer*
- Clorox Wipes*
- Cans of Lysol*
- Cotton Balls*
- Ziploc Bags*
- Paper plates*
- Brown Paper Bags*
- Diapers

...AND, SUPPLIES FOR TEACHERS!

Did you know Teachers, on average, spend over \$500 per year of their own money to furnish and supply their classrooms every school year?

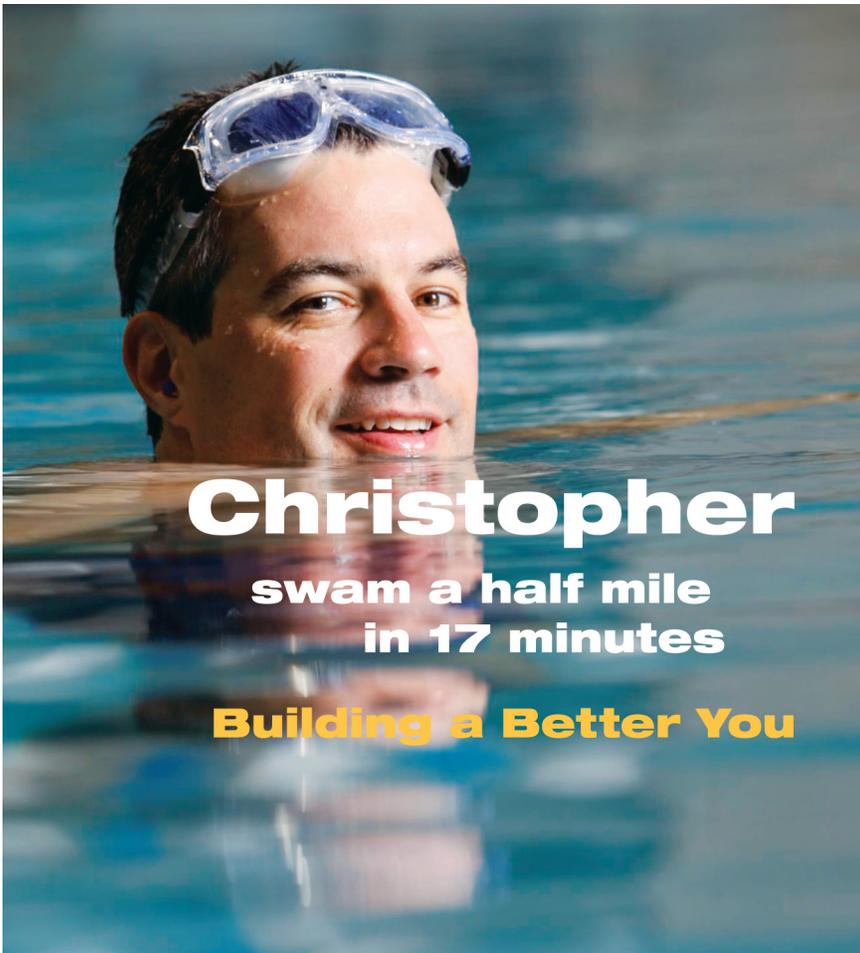
Ms. Barnwell, our new IB coordinator, passed along a great idea the PTA does at Long each year—a Back to School Supply Bag for each teacher! The

supply bag is filled with things such as:

- copier paper
- pencils / pens
- Expo dry erase markers
- Mr. Sketch markers
- highlighters
- hole puncher
- big scissors
- heavy-duty stapler
- file folders
- plastic pocket folders.

The Lee PTA would like to make a GREAT bag of goodies for each teacher for about \$10-12 each. VPNA is coordinating with the Lee PTA to centralize the donations for the teacher bags to be assembled all together. If you would like to make a tax-exempt donation to support the Teachers' School Supplies Bags look for the the "donate" button on vickerplace.com, or bring supplies to the August meeting at Lee.

Ms. Barnwell said this gesture from the PTA to the teachers was so appreciated at Long and always got the year off to a great start. Helping our kids' teachers helps our kids!



Christopher
swam a half mile
in 17 minutes
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Christopher York was not a swimmer two years ago. The best he could do was tread water. Now he swims circles around competitors in triathlons.

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FOLLOW US ON:
Username: LandryFitness



PRE-LEE

Do you have pre-school-age children? Are you interested in learning more about Lee Elementary and meeting others parents of pre-schoolers in Vickery Place? There's a Vickery Place group for that!

The next Pre-Lee event is August 18 at Buzzbrews Lakewood from 7:30pm-10:00pm. Come and connect and learn more about the exciting things going at at Lee with the International Baccalaureate candidacy year about to begin.

Our Pre-Lee group is a gathering of families with pre-school age kids from the neighborhoods that feed into Lee. Our efforts are geared toward building community and connecting with one another in these years before our kids enter kindergarten.

Connect. Community. Consider.

For more info email PreLee@vickeryplace.com. ~from contributing editor, Jenn Dawkins



MORE GREAT WAYS TO SHOW TEACHER APPRECIATION

Donated Gift Cards are appreciated year-round as rewards/incentives for teachers, especially this year, as Lee embarks on this most important IB candidacy year. Gift Cards to local restaurants and grocery stores are nice thank yous for our hard-working teachers at Lee.

If you would like to donate gift cards, please see any VPNA board member at the general meeting. We'll be happy to collect gift cards for teachers from you in person, or you can mail them to VPNA at:

Vickery Place Neighborhood Association
PO BOX 720192
Dallas, Texas 75372

Second, a box of copier paper costs somewhere in the range of \$25-\$35 (In fact, I just found a case with free shipping via Amazon Prime for \$28.17... that's an attempted segue to the Amazon Smiles article later in this newsletter.)

We are looking for individuals and business to partner with VPNA and the Lee PTA to sponsor a case of copier paper per month, to be donated to the teachers of Lee Elementary.

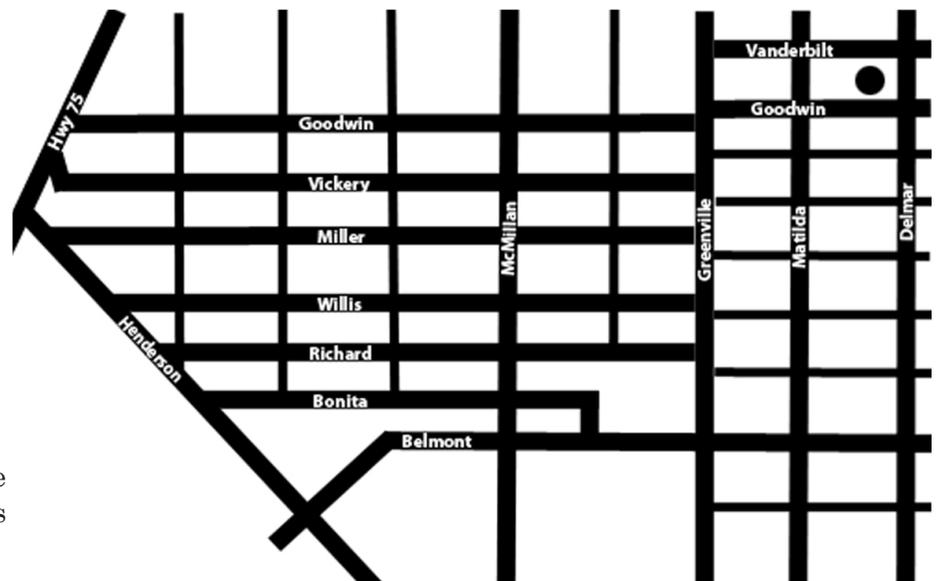
Can you help? If you are interested in sponsoring a case, or even a case per month, please email education@vickeryplace.com.

Thanks again for supporting Lee and being a voice for our teachers and kiddos!



WHERE IS LEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

I'm so glad you asked! Lee is just one (big) block east of Vickery Place, going towards Tietze Park (see dot on map below). The streets surrounding Lee are Vanderbilt on the north, Delmar on the east, Goodwin on the south and Matilda on the west. Matilda and Delmar run parallel to Greenville.



SMART CLASSROOM FUNDRAISER

Earlier this year, Belmont Conservation District, another Lower Greenville area neighborhood with a feeder pattern that includes Lee, sponsored a Smart Classroom at Robert E. Lee Elementary. Belmont CD then challenged the other neighborhood associations feeding into Lee, including Vickery Place, to do the same.

Lee is the only DISD elementary school in our feeder pattern, so the board felt a focused effort of support from the neighborhood would be in order.

At the VPNA July General Meeting the membership voted in favor of having a fundraiser to sponsor a Smart Classroom at R.E. Lee Elementary School and agreed to match funds raised from Vickery Place residents, up to \$3050.

This fundraiser will only last through October, so please go to Vickeryplace.com and click on the link to "Donate for a Smart Classroom at Lee". To simplify the process, we've set up donation levels through Paypal.

We would like to thank each person who donates, so please fill out your email address on the PayPal form so we can contact you:

\$25 - VP Car Stickers

\$50 - VPNA tumbler or mug

\$100 - a VPNA tshirt

\$250 - two VPNA tshirts and a tumbler or mug

If you would like to donate more than \$250, please contact info@vickeryplace.com to arrange, or donate multiple times through the links on our site. All donations through this site are earmarked directly for the Smart Classroom at Lee Elementary.

Thank you for helping us meet this challenge from Belmont Conservation District!



BACK TO SCHOOL

- Karate Lessons
- Self-Defense
- Fitness Kickboxing
- Birthday Parties
- Little Rhinos Program

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THE YARD LOOKS GREAT, BUT... THIS COULD COST YOU \$2000

Did you know section 19-118.2(f)(5) of the Dallas City Code prohibits the discharge of garbage, rubbish and yard waste into the storm drain?

Individuals, companies and/or property owners that directly or indirectly cause yard waste to end up in the storm drain can be subject to fines up to \$2000!

Leaf blowers can be effective for landscape maintenance. However, when used to blow grass clippings and leaves into the street or storm drain, it is a violation of City Code.

Yard waste can plug storm drains and inlets, causing flooding. Each year, the City spends over \$920,000 cleaning grass, leaves, sediment and debris out of the storm drain inlets.

Using leaf blowers to direct yard waste into the street or storm drain may result in a citation fine of up to \$2,000.

Please do your part to help our City! Report Stormwater Polluting Call 3-1-1, or use the new 311 app. Stormwater pollution from yard waste is preventable!

Easy Pollution Prevention Tips:

- Never use leaf blowers to direct yard waste into the street or storm drains.
- Sweep or blow grass clippings from your sidewalk, driveway or street and place back on the yard.
- Use grass clippings as natural mulch or compost.
- Collect, bag and place your yard waste at the curb during bulk waste collection week.

Please Note: Homeowners and businesses may be held responsible for violations made by commercial landscapers they employ.

For more information on City of Dallas Stormwater Management, please visit us at www.wheredoesitgo.com or call 214-948-4022.



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AMAZON SMILE & KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

There are two new ways to support Vickery Place Neighborhood Association. VPNA is now a registered charity with Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Rewards.

A few simple steps with each of these organizations will help raise funds to support more neighborhood activities, such as our proposed sponsorship of the Smart Classroom at Lee.

For Amazon Smile:

1. Log on to your account on amazon.com
2. Go to 'My Account'
3. Scroll down and select 'Change Your Charity'
4. In the 'Or pick your own charitable organization' search for 'Vickery Place'
5. Select 'Vickery Place Neighborhood Association'
6. Save your selection.

IMPORTANT: when you return to shop at amazon,

use the URL: smile.amazon.com to direct a portion of the proceeds of eligible purchases to VPNA

For Kroger Community Rewards:

1. Sign into your Kroger Rewards digital account.
2. Select "My Account".
3. Scroll down to the 'Community Rewards' section of your account page.
4. Select 'Enroll Now' or 'Edit'.
5. Enter the name of the organization you wish to support.
6. Select 'Vickery Place Neighborhood Association' and click on 'Save'.

Any transactions moving forward using the card number associated with your Kroger digital account will be applied to the Community Rewards program.

It takes about 10 days for the Community Rewards totals to begin displaying on your receipt.



Show Katy Some Love

Friends of the Katy Trail is tasked with raising over \$700,000 each year to keep the Katy Trail in peak condition for everyone to enjoy. Visit KatyTrailDallas.org or call 214.303.1180 to find out more about memberships, fundraisers and volunteering. Without community support – the Katy Trail would go nowhere.



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VPNA YARD OF THE MONTH—AUGUST

Melissa Swindle rescues. In 2000, she rescued the house at 5400 Richard Avenue and restored it. This month, it is VPNA's Yard of the Month.

In 2004, four years later, she rescued her Lab, Skye and is still involved in Labrador Rescues. Her home greets you with a Saucer Magnolia, Crepe Myrtles, Knock-Out roses and Indian Hawthorn. The front porch is warm and welcoming, even outfitted with a clever sliding gate that allows Skye to visit outside too. Pots of fragrant herbs sit on the porch waiting to go into one of the dishes Melissa enjoys preparing.



She grew up in Wise County and gravitated to Dallas after law school. Vickery Place is just the neighborhood she craved with easy access to her downtown office, proximity to good restaurants and—fifteen years ago—affordability.

Corner lots require extra care. In the case of this Richard Avenue house, the challenge is Glencoe which skirts the side of the property and has no sidewalks. Pedestrians stroll, cars park and even gravel cannot always abate the damage. Melissa has future plans that include wrapping the flower beds all the way around the house to the side, using more drought tolerant plants and more abatement efforts

Congratulations to another Yard of the Month. As with each winner, a sign will be posted in the yard announcing the winner and a \$50 gift certificate from our friends at North Haven Gardens will be presented.

PHOENEOPLERUS RUBER PLASTICUS was the name sculptor Don Featherstone gave to the pink flamingoes he invented for Union Plastics in 1957.

Mr. Featherstone passed away on June 22 with his most famous work being the knickknack yard ornament. Since one of the wading birds adorns this month's Yard of the Month, we felt it only right to mention its originator.

~ submitted by Beautification Committee members
Debbie Simurda & Mary Kay Henley

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