



# THE STALLION

Don't Forget!  
 'Gameplan for  
 College' Program  
 Wed, Oct 26  
 7:00 pm  
 Shepton Library

## everychild.one voice.®

KELLY WATERMAN  
 PTSA PRESIDENT



"EVERY CHILD ONE VOICE". That is PTA's motto but what does it really mean? Are we advocating for every child? I would say "yes," we are now, but we haven't always in the past. That is where SAGE comes in. It's the PTA position created by our own Plano ISD Council of PTAs and a select group of dedicated PTA volunteers.

SAGE stands for Special and Gifted Education. This position represents the 25% of our student body that learns differently and often requires different curriculum to meet their academic needs. That is a lot of students!!! SAGE represents the extreme ends of the spectrum from special education to the highly gifted. In honor of October's NATIONAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH, I wanted to highlight the special education part of this PTA position and share what it's about.

Unless you have a child with a learning disability, you are probably clueless about the daily challenges of school: from learning how to read, write, and process information to communicating and socializing. How does PTA's SAGE help in this area? SAGE provides communications to teachers and parents about speakers, trainings, and conferences in the community on the latest in research-based practices, therapies, etc. through their email database. No other PTA position does this service for their

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## FROM OUR PRINCIPAL BURT SMITH



Dear Shepton Stallions Staff, Students and Parents,

The start of school has gone very smoothly thanks to all the efforts of our dedicated staff, students,

and parent volunteers. We are well into the second six weeks and are excited about all of the activities that we have taken place during the first semester.

In the month of October our students have participated in marching band, band UIL marching contest, choir all region auditions, sectionals, and fall concert,

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# EVERY CHILD. ONE VOICE (CON'T)

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students, families and teachers.

SAGE has also brought awareness to campuses about making better efforts to include students with disabilities in campus-wide activities. For example, one elementary school was hosting their annual field day with all activities out on the grass until the SAGE rep mentioned that the school's two students in wheelchairs couldn't go out on the grass. So they moved appropriate games/stations to the black top. Those students thoroughly enjoyed the field day like all the other students! And they should!

Shepton's SAGE will be working with the student

congress on the Valentine's Dance to see if we can turn the music down just a bit, bring the lights up a schmidge brighter and remove the disco ball. Why? Only one of our special needs students was able to attend the dance last year because for many of the others, the music was too loud, it was too dark and the disco ball can promote seizures. I was so sad to learn that our special needs students wanted to attend but couldn't. EVERY child should have those high school dance opportunities and memories.

How else do the PTA SAGE reps advocate for the special needs child? By just having this PTA campus position, SAGE has heard from many

special ed parents who joined the PTA to be a SAGE rep saying they now have an opportunity to fit in and be involved. As we all know, having parents involved in the overall school experiences is a win!

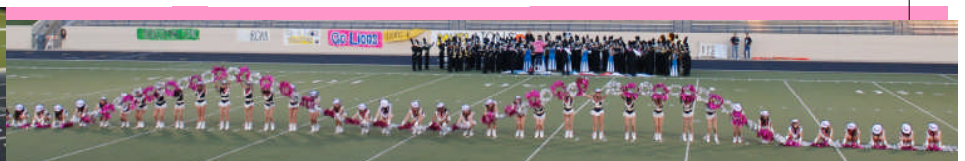
How can you as a PTA member or parent help? Talk to your kids about the students at school that have learning disabilities. Remind them that while they have challenges and learning differences, they are more alike than different. They want to have friendships; want to be liked, belong...just like everyone else. Tell them to get to know their fellow students and make a new friendship. They are ALL Shepton Stallions. While the special educa-

tion student will benefit from a new friendship, a high five in the hall way or that treasured text or phone call that so rarely happens, I betcha your student will be enriched just as much or more.

Kelly Waterman  
Shepton PTSA President



See pages 7 & 12 of this newsletter to learn more about current SAGE activities.



Fun was had by all at Shepton's annual **PINK OUT DAY** held Oct 5 in support of breast cancer awareness month & the Susan B. Komen for the Cure foundation!

