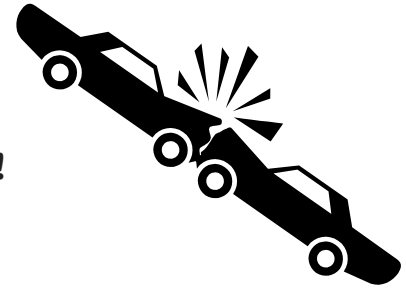




PTSA General Meeting and Parent Program

"ROAD RULES" What Every Parent Should Know!

Monday, February 13th, 10:00 am
Shepton Library



Shepton parents are invited to attend the next PTSA General Meeting followed by a "Road Rules" presentation at 10:30 am. Karen Slay from the Texas PTA will give a comprehensive discussion on the process of obtaining teenage driver's permits, licenses, and the point system. Learn what parents can do to help new drivers be more aware of the risks of the road. 9th grade parents won't want to miss this one!

SHEPTON HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

The Wizard of OZ

February 23 & 24 at 7:30 p.m.

February 25 at 2:30 p.m.

Adults \$10 Students \$8

Muny Version

By L. Frank Baum

Adapted by Frank Gabrielson

With Music and Lyrics of the

Screen Version by

Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg

Produced in cooperation with Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc.

PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! KELLY WATERMAN PTSA PRESIDENT



We all know that PISD is known for its rigorous curriculum – that's why we are here. The district places a big emphasis on getting our kids "college ready" academically. So, we have to ask the question: while our kids may be academically ready for college and the real world, are they ready socially and professionally? This is a serious question we parents need to ask ourselves. Are we really truly doing our job getting our kids ready for the real world of work and career?

I had a very interesting, eye-opening experience some time ago at a ladies' fundraising luncheon. The speaker spoke of her career and her challenges with today's youth in their lack of interviewing and social skills on the job. From that a woman in the audience asked to add her two cents and what she had to say stilled the audience – you could have heard a pin drop. She introduced herself as the owner of a company and shared the many challenges she has with college graduates who really are

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PARENTS PLEASE TAKE NOTE! (CON'T)

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unprepared and clueless about working in our world today. She asked that as parents we all do the following which I took to heart and hope you do, too.

- 1) **TEACH YOUR KIDS HOW TO DO WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE.** She was amazed at how little her new hires and interns knew about written correspondence. They didn't know how to effectively and professionally write a thank you note! Their spelling was horrible and the flow of thought was not there. Maybe too much texting? Do you make your kids write personal thank you notes to family, friends, and professionals? If not, you should.
- 2) **TEACH YOUR KIDS HOW TO CONVERSE OVER A TELEPHONE TO SOMEONE PROFESSIONAL OR SOMEONE THEY DON'T KNOW.** Again, she was floored by the lack of telephone speaking skills these young hires had. She gave an example of giving an assignment to one young lady asking her to call a few agencies, asking for a specific department or title, and researching some info for a project. The young woman would call asking for that specific department and if they didn't have that department name or person with that title, she hung up. Not bothering to investigate that maybe they go by different titles or names. The owner found they had to write out detailed phone scripts because these kids weren't used to calling and conversing on the phone.
- 3) **FOLLOW UP ETIQUITE WHEN INTERVIEWING.** Graduates would send emails versus calling and writing and give the interviewer dates THEY were available for an interview, not asking when the employer was available. This was shocking.
- 4) **MAKE YOUR KIDS WORK SO THEY KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO "BE AN EMPLOYEE."** She said for those of us who live in a privileged society, she found those students had less work experience but very high entitlement. When they graduated from college, many had never worked so they didn't know "how to be an employee." Working a full 8-hour day absolutely exhausted them and they couldn't handle it. (This was really sad to me and shameful.) While your kids may not need the money as they are provided for while in school, they still need to understand what it's like to work, report to a boss, be responsible for a position, put in hours, etc.

I shared this with my husband and he concurred with all these points. He is an employer and his greatest challenge is the youth coming out of college today. They do not know how to function in an office environment nor speak on the phone appropriately and their professional manners are sadly lacking.

So, my message to all of you as parents is to stop and ask yourself are you doing all you can to prepare your student for a professional career. Take notice of your child's phone skills, written correspondence, and ability to follow up on an issue. How do they present themselves to other adults? Eye contact? Appropriate conversation? I know you can't learn all that playing video games. Please take this serious as it's our job as parents to prepare our kids for survival before we push them out of the nest. Just know other parents are, and their kids will get that job over yours if you don't.

Kelly Waterman, Shepton PTSA President