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Ashley knows that it's all about the bottom line when it comes to selling your home successfully. She has a proven track record of selling homes above the listing price in less than half the time it takes other agents- and we offer FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONS!

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ASHLEY STUCKI

REALTOR



ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM 512-217-6103 ASHLEY STUCKI, REALTOR ASHLEY@ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM f/ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES #@ASHLEYATXHOMES

Daisy Girl Scouts Spread Big Love for ATX Kids this Valentine's Day

Daisy Girl Scout troop #1244, comprised of first graders from Baldwin Elementary, are participating in a homemade Valentine card drive this month benefiting local kids in area hospitals and shelters.

This is the second year the girls have come together to make Valentine greetings for this cause. They used construction paper, markers, crayons, stickers, heart shaped cut-outs and other inexpensive Valentine themed art supplies to make their own unique creations, with a special Girl Scout greeting and personally signed by each Daisy. "We are proud to support the drive's goal that every child in an ATX hospital and shelter receives a Valentine card this year," said troop leader, Jacquelyn Waldrop.

Troop #1244 invites you to participate, too. Get your family, friends, co-workers, book club, church group, classrooms and

playgroups together for card making parties and create some big love for ATX area kids. Join the Daisies and have fun and feel good that you are putting smiles on kids' faces for Valentine's day this year!

Cards will be distributed to kids residing at Dell Children's Medical Center, Safe Place, Austin's Children's Shelter, Center For Child Protection & Ronald McDonald House Charities of ATX & Central Texas.

The Daisies will make it even easier to participate. Drop off your group's cards right here in Meridian at 7200 Mitra Drive in the Valentine Collection Box located on the front porch, no later than 7pm on Sunday, February 8th. Be sure to include your group's name and a contact person with an email address and a phone number.





CARD DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

7200 Mitra Dr., right here in Meridian, no later than Sunday, February 8th at 7pm

Austin Real Estate Partners in Circle C 9600 Escarpment Blvd. Suite H930 Drop off Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm, on or before Feb 6th

Mix 94.7 Valentine's Day Cards for Kids. 4301 Westbank Dr., Building B, 3rd Floor, Westlake, Texas 78746 Across from Westlake High School. Drop off Monday-Friday from 8:30am -5pm, on or before February, 9th

Onion Creek Volkswagen 10812 S Interstate 35 Austin, TX 78748 Drop offs Monday- Saturday 9:00am -8:00PM, on or before February, 9th









WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www. PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u>. The advertising deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

NEWSLETTER INFO

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc......www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181 Advertising......advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

SWING Networking Group

Promote your business with local independent business owners. SWING (South west Austin Inclusive Networking Group) has been meeting every Thursday morning from 8AM to 9:30AM at the Waterloo Ice House on Escarpment for 8 years.

We have no dues, no initiation fees, we don't take attendance. Just pay for your own breakfast. The more often you show up the better we get to know you. We are an inclusive group, we will enjoy competition. So, bring your business cards and a good attitude and let's get to know you.

If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or lizleej@gmail.com or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or peterberardino@gmail.com.

SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to *meridian@peelinc.com*. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at *www.PEELinc.com*.





Girl Scout Cookies





Are Here!

girlscoutcookies.org

Girl Scouts of Central Texas Cookie Sale will run Jan. 21 - Feb. 27

Submitted by Jacquelyn Waldrop, courtesy of the Girl Scouts of Central Texas website: www.gsctx.com

Look for your friendly neighborhood Girl Scout troop cookie booths right here in Meridian, at area grocery stores, restaurants and other retail locations nearby. And, visit our Meridian Girl Scouts at the Randall's and Walgreen's off William Cannon, west of Mopac.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

When you buy Girl Scout Cookies, you make adventures possible with every box. Will your Girl Scout Cookie Professional help the local animal shelter across town? Cross the country to see the Washington Monument or cross the ocean to fly through the rainforest on a zip line? It's up to her and her troop.

When girls participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, they get more than new adventures. They develop important life skills—goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—that will set them up for success beyond anything they can imagine.

That's why we ask you to buy the delicious cookies you crave all year from your local Girl Scout Cookie Professional—not from her parents. You will enjoy your favorite cookie even more knowing you helped her do all the amazing things she's got planned for this year.

Meet The Cookies

Your favorites are back, including:

- Thin Mints®
- Samoas®
- Tagalongs®
- Do-si-dos®
- Trefoils®
- Savannah Smiles®

And, try our new varieties:

- Toffee-tastic*, a rich, buttery cookie packed with golden toffee bits bursting with flavor (and, gluten-free!)
- Rah-Rah Raisins®, a whole grain oatmeal cookie with plump raisins and Greek yogurt chips



Call for Service Organizations

We are looking to feature our neighborhood student service organizations. We want to know about all the great work you are doing in our community. Tell us about your good deeds and send 1-3 high resolution photos of your group in action to meridian@peelinc.com.



DID YOU KNOW BALDWIN ELEMENTARY OFFERS A PRE-K PROGRAM?

The application process for tuition-based pre-kindergarten for school year 2015-2016 has begun. The new application and program brochure are in the office at Baldwin. The forms are due by February 20, 2015. Students who are 4 years old by September 1, 2015 are eligible for the Baldwin Pre-K Program this fall.

The following items are needed in order to complete the enrollment packet for the tuition-based pre-kindergarten program for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Original Birth Certificate for student
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Residency (electric bill)
- Parent Driver's License

All necessary paperwork will be available in the Baldwin front office and completed packets should be returned to the Baldwin office. Only complete packets will be entered in the lottery process.

Payment option forms will be sent to parents by the Early Childhood office if their child is accepted into the tuition-based program. For more information on this program offering, visit: http://www.austinisd.org/academics/early-childhood-education/prekindergarten. Or, call the Baldwin office: 512-841-8900.

Baldwin's Love Your School "No Hassle" Fundraiser

February 11th-20th

Instead of selling merchandise to raise funds, Baldwin PTA is asking you to "Love your school," and support our PTA programs by donating funds, of any amount directly to our PTA. Checks can be made payable to "Baldwin Elementary PTA" and can be dropped off at the school office.

The money goes directly to support programs for our neighborhood kids. This year, in return for your generosity, PTA will be giving away one free Baldwin 2014-2015 t-shirt in the size of your choice with each \$50+ donation.

SAVE THE DATE

"Scoot Your Boots to the Baldwin Bash"

PTA Event and Silent Auction Fundraiser Friday, April 24th @ the Meridian Pavilion from 6:30-10pm Tickets are \$25 each and go on sale March 30th.

Enjoy fun, food and friends at this adult-only event. The festivities include a fantastic silent auction filled with something for everyone: event tickets, birthday party packages, restaurant gift certificates, hotel accommodations, spa treatments and much, much more.

We are still accepting silent auction items. If you would like to see your business featured or to make a donation, contact us: fundraising@baldwinpta.org.



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REACHING **NEIGHBORS** and many oth

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- Highland Park West Balcones Steiner Ranch
- Hometown Kyle
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Legend Oaks II
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- · Lost Creek
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- Meridian
- · Pemberton Heights
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- · Prairie on the Creek
- · Ranch at Brushy Creek
- · River Place
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- Stone Canyon
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- · West Lake Hills
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Courtesy of "I live here. I give here." https://amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/

Join "I Live Here. I Give Here." for Amplify Austin's 24 hours of giving beginning March 5, 6pm- through March 6, 6pm. "I Live Here, I Give Here" invites ATX residents to share the love with our homegrown nonprofits in the same way that we embrace our unique environment, local businesses and celebratory culture.

"I Live Here, I Give Here" believes in amplifying the power of your generosity! Debuted in 2013, Amplify Austin Day is 24-hours of community-wide giving that provides an easy and fun way for our entire community to give together and help hundreds of non-profits that are meeting critical community needs.

Last year, 498 non-profits participated in Amplify Austin. We expect more than 500 non-profits to participate in 2015, all of which play an important role in making Central Texas a better place to live.

Connect with one or more of our non-profit partners to find your passion for giving back to Central Texas. In the past two years, we have raised \$8.5 million on Amplify Austin Day. We are carrying that enthusiasm through 2015! We will be amplifying your love for Austin from 6pm March 5 to 6pm, March 6th.

To learn more or to schedule your donations visit: https:// amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT THIS YEAR:

- Schedule your donation for any time during the 24 hour campaign, which will be amplified by incentive dollars during the day.
- Create a donor account and track your giving, print receipts and create fundraising pages.
- Expect more than 500 non-profits participating this year.



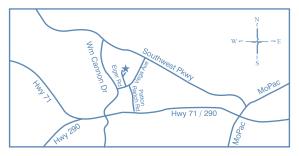
CALL FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

We are looking to feature our neighborhood student athletes. If you'd like to see your athlete or team featured here, tell us about your accomplishments and send 1-3 high resolution photos of your team or individual athlete to meridian@peelinc.com.





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CIRCLE C CATERING NOW DELIVERS TO OUR MERIDIAN NEIGHBORS

The average person has about 10,000 taste buds in their mouth, and 43 muscles in their face. Visit with Jaime Arevalo for 15 minutes, and you will come to appreciate each taste bud and every muscle. It would be easy to stop at taste buds when talking about Jaime. After all, he is the Executive Chef and owner of the Circle C Café & Catering with two locations: Café or more commonly known as "The Grill" at Circle C Swim Center & the "Wildflower Café" at The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. His career in food preparation started in 1983. He served as the Executive Chef at the Barton Creek Country Club - Lakeside in Austin and world-renowned Palmilla in Los Cabos, Mexico. However, life wasn't always easy for Jaime. He grew up in El Salvador, the smallest country in Central America, in lush fields full of animals, fruits and vegetables. He was one of nine children. He started preparing and working with food at the age of eight. He would rise at 4 a.m. daily to milk the family cows by hand. He

made his own variety of cheeses. He ate only what the seasons offered. He walked 45 minutes to elementary school. His grandmother taught him to explore his taste buds, and together they came to realize that Jaime had a gift of identifying the sweet, the savory, the sour and the richness in the food and tea she prepared, a gift of the palette. In 1977, Jaime's life would change. A severe drought weakened the crops, livestock and economy of the country. In 1978, the drought lingered. In 1979 everything would change, as a series of violent events between the government and farmerled guerrilla groups erupted into a 12-year Civil War, which resulted in more than 75,000 deaths and countless civilian atrocities.

Jaime's family and farm got caught in the crossfire. One of the more disturbing events during the Civil War was the recruitment of child soldiers. After the third attempt by the "Communistas" to recruit



Jaime and his sister, his father made the decision to leave his land, his animals, his cropseverything the family had ever worked for-behind. Jaime's family would make some heroic sacrifices, (a secret mission in the early morning hours to "steal" 4 of their own cows from their land) to pay for Jaime's passport to Mexico City, and then eventually to Texas. He arrived in Houston during the winter. Growing up in Salvador, he didn't know what a jacket was. After spending some time in Louisiana, he found himself back in Texas in Dallas, and in the kitchen of the Hyatt DFW as a dishwasher. From there, he would work his way around and up in the kitchen to be named Executive Chef at the Bristol Suites Hotel.

At the Bristol Suites, he would meet his wife and business partner, Julie. Together, they have three beautiful girls, Caidyn (4), Canella, (10) attends Clayton, and Chloe (16), a Junior at Bowie High School; and they feel so blessed

to be a part of such a wonderful

community. Now, for the 43 facial muscles. It seems as if Jaime has a master command of each one of his facial muscles and uses all of them to display his one-of-a-kind smile. Because no matter how hard life was or is, he's smiling. Even with the long hours in the kitchen, Jaime is always smiling. That's the reason he feels he hasn't worked a day in his life.

Stop by the Café and say 'Hello' and get a smile from him, and you'll understand. If you don't believe it, ask former resident of Circle C and employee of Jaime's at the Circle C Café, Corey Callahan. Jaime employed Corey at the Café for three summers while she attended high school. "His heart is so huge, and he's just the sweetest guy," said Corey. "I'm so thankful for everything he did for me." Jaime's personal journey is amazing. He rose from almost nothing to world-class chef, and he's your neighbor.



February 2015

Café # 288-6058

Hours: Monday – Friday 3:30-7:30pm, Saturday/Sunday Closed

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Specials Are \$10.00 Ready at 5pm	Chicken 2 Marsala Fettuccine Cesar Salad	Sliced BBQ 3 Brisket, Sausage, Beans, Potato Salad, Corn Beans	New York 4 Strip, Wild Mushroom Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes	Blackened Mahi 5 Mahi, Crème Sauce, Sage Polenta, Vegetables	Rosemary Chipotle 6 Pork, Cabernet Cherry, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables	7 Closed
8 Closed	Sage Marinated 9 Chicken, Pomegranate Sauce Cranberry Rice, Vegetables	Pesto Salmon 10 Basil Crème Sauce, Orzo Pasta, Cesar Salad	Braised Short 11 Ribs Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables	Chicken Fried 12 Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Creamy Gravy, Fried Okra	Chicken Stuffed 13 With Crabmeat Saffron Rissotto Champagne Crème Sauce, Cesar Salad	14 Closed Happy Valentine's Day!
Closed 15	Pork tenderloin 16 Roasted Pear & Cranberry Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes, Caesar Salad	Lemon Lime 17 Pan Seared Shrimp Cilantro Sauce Comino Rice Vegetables	Apple & Thyme 18 Roasted Chicken Thighs, Butternut Squash Sauce, Rice, Cesar Salad	Almond crusted 19 Tilapia, garlic spinach sautéed, Cheesy potatoes	Chicken 20 Parmesan & Pepperoni Tomato Basil Sauce, Fettuccine, Caesar Salad	Closed 21
Closed 22	Jumbo Shrimp 23 Wrapped in Bacon Angel Hair Pasta White Wine Sauce Caesar Salad	Grilled 24 Rib eye, Baked Potato, Shallot Sauce, Green Beans	Chicken Picatta 25 Lemon Caper Sauce Caesar Salad	Skillet Ham, 26 Cabbage, Potatoes	Achiote Pork 27 Tenderloin Tomatillo Sauce Rice, Cesar Salad	Closed 28

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THE MONITOR





Austin Independent School District

2014-2015 School Calendar Six & Nine-Week Reporting Periods



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16 17

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August	2014
	15 New Teacher Orientation
19-	20 Staff Development
21-	22 Planning & Prep
25	First Day of Classes
Septem	ber 2014
1	Student & Staff Holiday - Labor Day
Octobe	r 2014
13	Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference; Secondary Staff Development
Novem	ber 2014
11	Student Holiday - Staff Development
26-	28 Thanksgiving Holiday
Decem	ber 2014
19	Student Holiday - Staff Development
20	Winter Break Begins
January	7 2015
5	Classes Resume
19	Student & Staff Holiday
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Februar	
16	Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference; Secondary Staff Development
	1st Bad Weather Makeup Day
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March 16-	
10	20 Opinig Break
April 20	015
3	Student & Staff Holiday
14 20	as.
May 20 22	Student Holiday - Staff Development
22	2nd Bad Weather Makeup Day
25	Student & Staff Holiday - Memorial Day
June 20	115
4	Last Day of Classes
5	Planning & Prep

	Legend	1	
	Student/Staff Holiday	\bigcirc	Planning & Prep/ Student Holiday
	Staff Development/ Student Holiday		First / Last Day of Classes
	Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference Secondary Staff Development	+	Bad Weather Make-up Day
	New Teacher Orientation District Closed	}	9-Weeks 6-Weeks

Austin Independent School District 1111 W. Sixth St., Austin, TX 78703 512-414-1700 www.austinisd.org

Approved by the AISD Board of Trustees 05/19/14

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For more information about important District dates and events, and religious holidays which may affect student attendance, please check our website www.austinisd.org

THE MONITOR

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BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or meridian@peelinc.com.









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TaraWest Info

- #1 Good news! Meridian continues to appreciate as a community ahead of national inflation numbers which means our homes are proving to be a solid investment
- #2 As a community, the average home price jumped 11% over 2013 - from \$134 SF to \$148 SFI
- #3 Largest positive one year jump was established in 4,000+ SF homes... from \$143 SF to an amazing \$174 SF (21%)
- #4 Best 5 Year Annual Appreciation Rate was posted by the same range of homes (+4000 SF) - an amozing 8% per year.
- #5 As a community our 5 Year Annual Appreciation Rate was a solid 5.2%1

The Meridian Annual Appreciation Report

Meridian			1	Average So	ld l	Price Per S	qua	re Foot			Yr/Yr Price	5-Yr Annual	
By Square Foot Range	2010		2011			2012		2013		2014	Change % since 2013	Appreciation Rate %	
<2500	5	129	\$	129	\$	137	\$	139	\$	156	13%	4.9%	
2500-2999	\$	113	\$	118	\$	121	\$	135	\$	139	3%	5.4%	
3000-3499	\$	116	\$	119	\$	121	\$	126	\$	139	10%	4.7%	
3500-4000	\$	127	\$	112	\$	122	\$	131	5	144	10%	3.2%	
>4000	\$	128	\$	122	5	141	\$	143	\$	174	21%	8.0%	
Meridian Total	\$	121	\$	119	\$	128	\$	134	\$	148	11%	5.2%	
Change Year over Year		6%		-2%		7%		4%		11%			

Data compiled from Austin MLS on January 4, 2015. Data deemed accurate but not guaranteed**. Broker License #515586. (**) In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented.

> Tara West Located in Escarpment Village 9600 Escarpment Blvd., Suite 930

(512) 632-3110 ~ Tara@AustinReps.com