

# The Pony Express

January 22, 2008

**Elizabeth Smith**  
ELEMENTARY



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## Award Assemblies

### January 24th

8:15 1<sup>st</sup> grade  
9:00 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

### January 25th

8:15 3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
9:00 4<sup>th</sup> grade

## Principal's News

Howdy Stallions! Elizabeth Smith Elementary is focused on student achievement. We want our students to meet very high expectations academically and socially. We want them to be good citizens, on grade level in all subjects, and our future leaders of Mansfield and America. The staff of ESE has taken the challenge to help our future prepare for their experiences to come.

Success on TAKS and grade level benchmarks are a part of the success we want our students to experience. We are now half way through the school year. Our students took benchmarks on January 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. If you are not aware of your child's scores, please schedule a conference to discuss the results. We expect that all students will perform to their

potential on state assessments. We offer intense tutoring sessions for our students. If your child is requested to attend tutoring, make sure they attend.

Daily attendance is vital in making students successful. Tardies have a negative impact on the student's day. Students feel the need to rush and hurry. This is the same feeling we get when we walk into a meeting late or arrive at an appointment late. We will send home more information regarding attendance and the importance of attendance soon.

I believe that all our students are capable of performing well on assessments. They must first believe they can. Share encouraging statements with your child each day and watch the progress.

## Vice Principal's News

Safe Schools Procedures Each campus is required to review with parents the procedures that will occur in the event of an emergency.

The following procedures will be implemented in the event of a natural disaster or a terrorist threat against our school. This plan was developed as a safety precaution and will be implemented only in the case of an emergency.

In the event of a crisis, the following procedures would apply:

-Parents would meet in front of the building with an office staff member.

-Teachers and administrators would have a master list of students and his/her location.

-Parents/guardians would identify themselves and a staff member would go get the student and bring him/her to the front of the building.

-If your student is injured, you would be notified of his/her location and assistance would be provided, if needed.

-It is very important to stay calm and cooperative so that all students and parents can be joined together as soon as possible.

### Attendance

Students are allowed to enter the classrooms as early as 7:30am and begin their morning work. Students are considered tardy if they are not in their classrooms when the 8:00am bell rings. Attendance is taken each day at 10 am. Students are considered absent if they are not here at 10am or leave school before the 10am bell. If you have any questions about attendance, please call the office.

## Kindergarten News

We have started off the New Year right in Kindergarten and are ready for the fourth six weeks. In our unit study we will begin with an author study on Jan Brett. Then we will move into nutrition, dental health, Valentine's Day, the State of Texas, and Cowboys. We also have a very important day coming up. The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school (2/5/08)! In math, we are going to begin working on recognizing ordinal numbers and positions, time and seasons, and adding with objects. We are going to be very busy.

## First Grade News

Wow! First grade is rocking! We are getting ready to begin our awesome ocean unit in February. During this unit we will explore all the amazing wonders of the ocean. To conclude our unit we will make a field trip to the Dallas World Aquarium to see these animals up close. As always, keep reading!

## Second Grade News

Who borrowed Mr. Bear? Second grade Super Sleuths investigated a crime scene by conducting experiments to solve the mystery. The experiments included fingerprinting, chromatography, working with pH strips to test for "sleeping potion", and observing threads, hairs, and powders.

We will begin a study of the biographies of five African Americans who helped shape the history of our country. Students will work in groups to create

## Third Grade News

In this six weeks we will cover Math concepts in fractions, multiplication, division, measurement, graphs, probability, and extending whole numbers all with problem solving. In science we will cover solar systems, and in social studies we will cover inventions, while also including reading in both subjects. We will begin a "how to" lesson in writing.

Third grade has been working hard preparing for the Reading TAKS test that will be given on March 4<sup>th</sup>. However, nothing can prepare the students better than a parent's support and encouragement. It is important that you, the parent, help the third grade

Please keep working on your sight words at home with your children. The new sight words for the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks are as follows: it, that, all, went, has, come, his, her, he, she, but, and get. We have so many wonderful activities planned that the 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks is going to fly by.

In addition to all of the exciting learning that is taking place in Kindergarten; we will be having our Valentine's Day party on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to continuing to work with all the children as they progress and move closer to First Grade!

Biography Bags on Sojourner Truth, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, George Washington Carver, and Rosa Parks. Their presentations will be videotaped and shown during Open House.

team by stressing to your child the importance of this test. Please remind them to use all their strategies. We understand that life can get very busy with all that there is going on, and we appreciate your involvement. Please make sure your child is well rested and has been given a nutritious breakfast the day of the TAKS test.

The PTA is requesting photos of parties and class events on CD or email them to [eseyearbook@yahoo.com](mailto:eseyearbook@yahoo.com).

The Third Grade Teams believes that everything will be great in 2008!!

## Fourth Grade News

So far Fourth grade has had a great year, although it has gone by so fast! Believe me, it is far easier to **do** division than it is learning **how to do** division!! Now we have moved on to geometry and are doing well with it. Some of the vocabulary words are line, line segment, point, acute angle, obtuse angle, parallel, intersecting, dimension, vertices, faces, plane, and right angle. We have been going over these, so if you ask your child about them it would help reinforce the lessons. Also, watch your child's folder for some

activities you might do with your child using geometry. In Science, we have been studying plants, and for Language Arts, we have been using adjectives everywhere. Social Studies has been a trip around the world with latitude and longitude. In the future? Watch for **ROBOT MANIA**, as well as, in the Spring, our Science Fair. As can be seen, we have got a LOT to look forward to in the coming months.

## Librarian's Lore

We have been busy in the library. Kindergarten and Pre-K can now check out books, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will be voting online for their favorite Bluebonnet nominee book in the next week or two.

Keep your eyes out for all the Reading programs we are now doing; the Pizza Hut Bookit program where students can earn free pizzas, and beginning the week of January 14<sup>th</sup> your child will get information on the Six Flags

"Read to Succeed" program. By participating in this program, your child can earn a free ticket to Six Flags!

We have lots of new books that we have added to our collection, and I look forward to even more books arriving over the next few months. Isn't it wonderful to see our bookshelves filling up!!!

## From the Nurse

Has your student seen the doctor lately for a routine physical exam? The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a well child check up at age 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, and each year after that until age 21. There are now many new vaccines available. While no new vaccines have become mandatory for school admission this year, the Texas legislature meets every year to make decisions on school entry requirements. If you have seen your doctor for a well child check up and have received new vaccinations, please bring a current copy of these immunizations to the school's clinic so that your school nurse can update the school files. This allows for easier transition into the intermediate, middle and high schools. Most students will need a tetanus (Td) booster in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade. This immunization is required for school admission.

Please be aware of the Mansfield ISD policy for administration of medication at school. Refer to the student handbook or district's

website for questions and clarifications. Medications are best given outside the school setting, either before or after school.

A fever for school purposes is 100.0 F (or 37.8 C) and above. A normal temperature in Celsius (C) is around 37 degrees, in Fahrenheit (F) it is 97.0 to 99.0 degrees. Students must be fever free (without a fever relieving medication such as, Tylenol, Motrin, and Ibuprofen) for 24 hours to return to school.

One of the best ways to keep your child healthy during the winter months is with a healthy diet, exercise, and lots of sleep. Elementary students should sleep between 9 and 12 hours every night. Eating a healthy breakfast before school helps the metabolism fortify the body for the brain work ahead in the school day. Please encourage some form of breakfast each day. Breakfast is also provided in the school's cafeteria each morning starting at 7:30 am.

## “Sporty” Stallion Stats

This six weeks in all grades we are getting geared up for our Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart event. In January, we will be participating in an online fundraiser to help raise money for the American Heart Association. Our JRFH and HFH Celebration Event will be during the students' PE class on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Parents are more than welcome to join us. More information will follow. Therefore, this six weeks all grades are working on basketball skills and jump rope skills. Also we will be conducting

mandatory fitness testing for all students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades during the month of March during their PE class. More information will follow regarding this as well.

Sincerely,

Kathy Cain  
Physical Education

## Musical Notes

**Congratulations** to the ESE choir for completing another successful year! I appreciate all of their hard work and dedication!

I also want to welcome Ms. Kayla Sparks to the ESE family! She will be taking my place as a long term substitute teacher while I am out on maternity leave at the end of this month. She will be a wonderful asset to our staff. Thanks, Ms. Sparks!

### Upcoming Events

May -ESE talent show

## From the Sketch Pad

Art Club forms went out Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> and will be open to the first 12 third grade students and the first 12 fourth grade students who turn in signed forms directly to Ms. Clarke. Art Club will meet every Monday from 3:30 to 4:15pm.

Debra Clarke  
Art Teacher

## From the PTA President

Welcome 2008!!!! PTA is off to a great start for the New Year. We are starting out with Yearbook sales. The book is \$25.00 and is in full color and hardback. It is thicker than last year and includes more events/activities. There is a limited supply, so order now! Order forms must be turned in by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our Christmas Shoppe was a great success!! The students loved it. The PTA profit was \$750. We kept the prices low so that everyone could afford something. Thanks to Jennifer Chapman for chairing that event.

We have already been able to hand out some PTA funds to the school this year, and everyone should be proud! The PTA gave the ESE library \$750.00 and the Literacy Library \$3000.00 for Content Leveled Readers. Mrs. James and Mrs. Thompson were very excited!

Congratulations to our PTA Volunteer of the month- Ylianova Silva!! Watch for details on Valgrams coming soon for Valentine's Day. Also, watch for details on something new we are trying—Popcorn/Pickle day. Details to follow!!

Thank you,

Lori Marquardt PTA President  
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