

The Pony Express

February 26, 2009

Elizabeth Smith
ELEMENTARY



Contents

Principal's News	1
Asst. Principal's News	1
Kindergarten News	2
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
Fourth Grade News	3
Librarian's Lore	3
From the Attendance Office	3
From the PTA President	3
"Sporty" Stallion Stats	4
Stallion Sketchbook	4
Hoof Beats	4
Technology Newsletter	4

Spring Break March 16-20

Award Assemblies

March 5th

8:15 am 1st grade
9:00 am 2nd grade

March 6th

8:15 am 3rd grade
E picnic 11 am
9:00 am 4th grade
E picnic 12 noon

Rita Ashley, Principal
Damian Patton, Asst. Principal

Principal's News

*"Learning is a treasure that accompanies its owner everywhere." --
-Chinese Proverb*

As we strive to meet the needs of all students, we acknowledge and appreciate the continual support of all parents and the community.

Our parents will have the opportunity to share their opinions of our school through the MISD Parent Survey. The MISD Annual Parent Survey will be posted on the district's website during Public Schools Week, March 24-March 31. Your feedback is welcomed. Open House is also an annual event during Public Schools Week. Open House will be on March 30, 2009 from 5:30 pm to 7:30pm.

As we prepare our students for their upcoming assessments, we provide them access to tutoring as well as an

internet program. Students in 3rd and 4th grade have access at home to Study Island. Study Island is an internet program that allows students to reinforce skills taught at school. We want our students to use the program as often as possible at home. This is an excellent way for our students to become proficient without completing a worksheet.

Our Smith Fundraiser is complete. Our goal was to generate enough funds to purchase a poster maker. We will purchase the poster maker very soon. Our teachers will be able to make instructional posters to enhance instruction. Thanks for your support during our fundraiser.

Join me in saying thanks to our staff for making ESE one of the best schools in MISD!

Asst. Principal's News

Attendance:

It is very important that students attend school regularly and on time, if they are not ill. In order to provide a superior education, we need as much help as possible. Please be aware that a student may not be absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year or on 3 or more days or parts of days within a four-week period, without being in violation of the Texas Compulsory Attendance law. Our local district policy states that absences may not exceed 17 days, unless extenuating circumstances are presented to and accepted by the attendance committee. If your child is tardy or absent five times this year, he/she will receive an attendance letter stating the dates of each tardy and absence. Once your child has been tardy or absent ten times, we will have an Attendance Hearing. Further

absences and tardies will be referred to the MISD Truancy Office.

Traffic:

In the recent months, it has come to our attention that the back parking lot is a concern for some parents. During the last couple of weeks we have observed this area and come to the conclusion that the problem is mainly due to speeders coming through the parking lot area and trying to merge into traffic. To address the problem we placed a traffic person in this area. We are asking your help in controlling the speed. It is very important to reduce your speed while on campus. There are students present and the safety risk increases as cars speed through the pick up area. We ask that parents be cautious as well as courteous as students are waiting to be picked up.

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten will be busy learning about insects as we start our Eric Carle author study. Talk to your child and see what he or she can tell you about bees, ladybugs, butterflies and fireflies. We will also be learning about other Eric Carle characters as well. We hope you enjoy the displays at our Open House on March 30th.

In math we will be learning about Patterns, Geometry and Measurement. We will play many partner games to learn these new skills and we will continue practicing our addition and subtraction using our FASTT MATH program in the computer lab. Be sure to ask your child "What they learned in math today?" in order to check their understanding of these new math skills.

Kindergarten is also taking off in their writing! We are encouraging our students to write like "First Graders" as we approach the end of the year. We are encouraging your child to add more details to their stories in order to create stories with a beginning, middle and end.

Our guided reading groups continue to be a success as well. We are so PROUD of how well our students are reading in their guided reading groups each day. Please continue to read with your child every night and practice their new reader at home. Don't forget to send them back to school on Thursdays.

We look forward to our field trip on March 3rd to see *If you Give a Pig a Pancake* at Will Rogers Auditorium. Thank you to all our parent Volunteers who joined us!

First Grade News

Dive deep into learning! First grade has begun our underwater adventure. We have been learning about how water is three quarters of the earth's surface, and what that means to us. We are using our NEW MICROSCOPES to bring into focus the things that live in the water. First grade will be going to the Dallas World Aquarium

on Friday, March 6th for our field trip. We are going to see the all the amazing sea creatures that we are studying in the classroom. This connects learning to real life! We hope everyone is planning to come to Open House on Monday, March 30th from 5:30-7:00 pm. You are in for a real underwater adventure!

Second Grade News

Grasslands Study

Second grade will be out on safari, tracking and learning about the Savanna and Serengeti Grasslands. We will be reading Mary Pope Osborne's Lions at Lunchtime for background information about this region of the world. With Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, we will be examining the climate and the animals that live there. Reading Adventures of Riley: Safari in South Africa will allow us to see how humans can affect

the delicate balance of this environment. Each second grader will become an expert on a grassland animal. Each child will be preparing a research paper about his or her chosen animal, and with their parents' help will be making a scale model of the animal to be displayed in our hallway. During art class, the students are painting a mural background for our team exhibit. Be sure to stop by the second grade hall during Open House. It'll be wild!

Third Grade News

Spring is almost here and with that brings the TAKS test! The third graders are very busy getting ready for the Reading TAKS test that will be March 3rd. Please encourage your student to use all the strategies that they have been taught! Remember to get a good nights sleep and eat a good breakfast full of protein to keep our brains working extra hard! We will studying the Rainforest in Science and will be getting ready for Open House which will be

March 30th. More information will be coming home at a later time. We will be working on Nonfiction reading through our rain forest unit. We will finish up Measurement very soon and will be introducing time/temperature, and data and probability in the next few weeks. We will then review for the MATH TAKS test. We are so very proud of our 3rd graders and all the hard work they have put in to get ready for the TAKS test! THIRD GRADE ROCKS!

Fourth Grade News

Fourth Graders are busy, busy, busy!!!! Our main topics this month are measurement, water cycle, Texas Revolution, and POWER WRITING. In measurement we have learned how to figure out perimeter and area, so if your child has been measuring your house, that's why! We are also learning about volume and capacity. There are formulas for each one.

Perimeter = length + width + length + width or length X2 + width X2.

Area = length X width

Volume = Length X width X height

We're also learning about liquid capacity, so if you have cups, liters, quarts, gallons, pints, milliliters, and ounces that you could show the students, that would really bring it to real world situations.

Some vocabulary to use with your child is: centimeter, millimeter, inch, meter, yard, mile, kilometer, cup, pint,

quart, gallon, ounce, pound, ton, milliliter, liter, gram, kilogram, cubic, mass, capacity, and ton.

Wow, that's a lot to remember. For science, we have learned about the water cycle. If you're cooking, it would be great for the students to see how water that boils turns to **vapor** with the steam. Also it would be fun to have them do timed tests to see how fast ice freezes (**turns to solid**), or if you don't have ice tray, let them time how fast an ice cube melts (**turns to liquid**).

We have been power writing every week in preparation for the upcoming TAKS Writing test (March 3rd). The students have had writing assignments every week and if you haven't read these, please do, because we have **AWESOME** writers. Please remember, breakfast is a **BIG** help on TAKS day. (actually, every day!)

Librarian's Lore

We will be having our **Spring Book Fair** March 23rd to 30th. Stop by and shop during Open House March 30th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up and take down the fair, and we also need people to work in shifts to help run the fair while it's open. Contact Mrs. James if you can help 817-299-6980.

Our Reading Counts program continues in full swing, and I have been giving out lots of charms during our charm weeks. Keep reading Stallions!!!

Anne James Librarian
Elizabeth Smith Elementary

From the Attendance Office

Parents: By now you may have received one of our automatically generated emails from our Infinite Campus system. Infinite Campus is currently set up to send out emails when your student either has a failing grade or an unexcused absence. In order to receive these emails, be sure the school has your current email address on file. Also, if you have not checked out our Online Parent Portal, be sure to contact the school as soon as possible for your access code. The Parent Portal provides parents with a valuable tool to see current grades for all assignments, print off report cards and immunization records, as well as, see current attendance marks.

Please contact me if you have any attendance questions or concerns, or need assistance with logging into the Parent Portal.

Laura Sabourin, Attendance Clerk Ph: 817-299-6980 or email sabola@mansfieldisd.org

Kindergarten Round-up is coming up on **April 16th**. An information brochure will be sent home within the next few weeks with your child.

From the PTA President

Can you believe Spring Break is almost here? I think we are all ready!! Our PTA Volunteers for the month are the Copy Moms. They are Karla Martin, Elizabeth Asato, Lisa Almendariz, Ylianova Silva, Tammy Cooper, Donna Howerton, and Nancy Pratt. We had a lunch for these wonderful volunteers because they come every week and make the copies for our teachers!!! Thank them if you see them.

Also-thanks to Laura Miller, our Chairperson for Valgrams. It was a huge success again this year.

PTA events coming up in March are Cici's Pizza night-March 12th. Muffins with Mom is March 26th. We are also filling our PTA Board for next year. Look for election papers to fill out in your child's folder or contact the office. We need new ideas and new people-it's the only way to grow and learn. Please consider joining our PTA Board. There is something for everyone. We can even create a spot if you have a new idea!!!!

Thank you-Lori Marquardt PTA President
lorimarg@sbcglobal.net

!!!! Volunteers make our school stand out!!!!

“Sporty” Stallion Stats

In P.E., we completed our fitness testing for 3rd and 4th grade students. Fitnessgram reports will be going home with the 5th six weeks report cards. Also, please mark your calendars for these important dates:

Field Day will be May 8th.
4th Grade Field Day will be May 29th.

This six weeks we will be “Bowling for Bucks”, as well as working on frisbee skills and volleying skills. Don't forget... GYM stands for Get Yourself Moving!

***Note to Parents who use our Bins for recycling:**
The company no longer accepts cardboard. Thank you for your continued support in our recycling efforts.

Kathy Cain
Physical Education

Technology Newsletter

The campus has set its Technology goals for the 2008-2009 school year. Below is the list of them and how each is being met.

These goals have already been met:

- 1) Teachers will incorporate the use of technology in our classrooms daily.
- 2) School will provide equipment such as video and digital cameras for staff to use/check-out as a resource for their classrooms-still need memory cards
- 3) Computer lab will be organized.

These goals have not yet been met:

- 1) Classroom teachers will communicate a scope and sequence/lesson plans/examples and explanation of curriculum to enrichment teachers so that they may supplement in their classroom instruction.
- 2) Teachers will have a minimum of 2 working student computers in each classroom.

These are ongoing technology goals for this year:

- 1) Teachers will communicate lesson plans to other grade levels so that curriculum stays aligned.
- 2) Staff will teach students to correctly turn computers on/off in classrooms and lab.
- 3) Staff will teach students to save work in a student folder on the g-drive.
- 4) Staff will monitor and teach students to maintain and safely use computers and other technological equipment.
- 5) Teachers will create and include lesson plans for the allotted computer time.

Students also now have access to software programs, “Kid Pix” and “Kidspiration”. A binder has been created for teachers to use the software from in Computer Lab 2.

Mrs. Cowan
Technology

Stallion Sketchbook

We have lots of fun things coming up in Art for the spring. We will continue to explore the principles of art in class. In addition we will be able to begin working on computer generated art thanks to our grant from Mansfield's Education Foundation, “Connect with corefx”. Then last but certainly not least, we have the art show coming up on March 30th. The artwork will be on display at our open house and every student will have at least one piece displayed. We still could use some help getting all of the artwork displayed in the hall. So, if you are available to help, it would be greatly appreciated. I can be reached anytime via email at thomna@mansfieldisd.org. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 30th

Nanette Thompson
Art Instructor

Hoof Beats

Hello Stallions! This six weeks, our third and fourth graders are continuing to play recorders. We are doing a program called “Recorder Karate” in which the students take tests to receive certain colored “belts” for their recorders. We have already begun this program, and many students have already received their white belts. All grades have started and are continuing units to help with music literacy skills. Our instrument family focus for this six weeks is the string family, and our composer focus for this six weeks is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Ms. Ward
Music