

The Pony Express

April 20, 2009

Elizabeth Smith
ELEMENTARY



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Field Day May 8th

Award Assemblies

April 23rd

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

April 24th

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

Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Stallions,

The 08-09 school year is quickly coming to a close. Although the year is ending our students are intensely preparing for the administration of TAKS in 3rd and 4th grade. We are providing intense instruction for all students who will be challenged to participate in the test. Our other grade levels are using every minute to make sure students are provided educational experiences that will prepare them for next year. We know that grades K-2 lay the foundation that will ensure success for students in grades 3 and 4 and want to acknowledge their efforts.

We are also looking forward to all the wonderful things that we do to end our school year. Field day, Awards Ceremonies, Field Trips, and Science Fair are some of the events that will take place. This is also the time of year that we evaluate our campus plan and

complete surveys to get feedback on our performance. I appreciate the input from all the parents that completed the surveys.

Our Book Fair, Open House, and Kinder Round Up were wonderful! Mrs. James and the parents that assisted her did a wonderful job in organizing and running the book fair. Open House was fantastic! Thanks to our staff for displaying student work and making the building attractive and welcoming for parents. Our Kinder Round Up gave our future students and their families an opportunity to tour our campus and see the wonderful displays. We appreciate the time and efforts of the volunteers that made these events wonderful experiences for our students.

As we count down the last days of school, we will cherish all the fun-filled memories of our experiences this year. Please take some time to enjoy each day that remains, learn from past experiences, and strive to make the future better for our students and campus.

Asst. Principal's News

Dear Stallion Family,
Thank you for another great year! When we began the year, we had a couple of items to implement such as the new math curriculum and the new gradebook. As we closeout this year, I am proud to report we have successfully accomplished our goals. I believe our students have reaped the benefits of strong programs and fabulous teachers. Your support and involvement have helped make it all possible.

With that being said, the TAKS will be over for our children April

28th/29th. Our students and teachers have worked all year to prepare for this test. We won't learn of our results until the end of May, so keep your fingers crossed that we may once again earn a rating of "Exemplary!" Thanks in advance for all that you have done so far this year in supporting your child's education, whether it was in completing a homework assignment, working on a special project, listening to your child read or just having them tell you about their day in school. *We do appreciate your efforts!*

Kindergarten News

Kindergarten is nearing an end, and summer is right around the corner! The remaining time we have in kindergarten will be a fun-filled learning adventure!

In language arts we will continue to work in our daily writing workshop on creating original stories and making them excellent by adding details. We will also focus on using the word wall to spell high frequency words correctly. We will continue to meet in small groups to practice reading with a goal of reading on a level D by the end of kindergarten. In

math we will continue to practice adding and subtracting with objects, money, time, and the seasons. Our unit studies the next six weeks will include plants, spring, Cinco de Mayo, zoo animals, and summer fun!

Please mark your calendar for our kindergarten award ceremony on the last day of school. More information will be coming home in May. Thank you for sharing your children with us and for such a great year!

First Grade News

What a fun time we have had in first grade! And although it is coming to a close, we will end our year with a great unit from our new science curriculum about the desert. First graders will explore the life cycle of desert animals and plants. Plants will be examined using our microscopes that were purchased with the funds from a grant first grade received. We will be

making a desert floor and learning how animals use camouflage to protect themselves from their predators.

Parents - thank you for your support and hard work this year. Working together and putting education first, made first grade a successful year.

Second Grade News

Second Grade will be "eggstraordinary" busy learning about the perfect package, the egg. Along with many other "eggsperiments", we will test the strength of the eggshell and will be "eggsited" to see just how many textbooks 4 eggs can hold.

After wiping up the yolk, Second grade Super Sleuths, will be solving the mystery of Who

Borrowed Mr. Bear? The sleuths will investigate a crime scene by conducting experiments. The experiments will include fingerprinting, chromatography, working with pH strips to test for "sleeping potion" and observing threads, hairs and powders.

Third Grade News

Wow! What a busy year it's been in third grade! It's slowly coming to an end, but we're still as busy as ever! We have our Math TAKS test coming up on April 28th. Our students have been working extremely hard on their strategies and problem solving boards. Once the test is over, we will begin studying 4th grade math curriculum so the students can get a jump start for next year! We are planning an exciting trip to the Dallas Museum of Art to see the King Tut exhibit on

May 14th, 2009. The third grade students will be doing a novel study over Charlotte's Web. The teachers have thrilling activities planned for our classrooms. Third grade will also be studying Greek Mythology and Tall Tales. Students love this time of year because of the wonderful and exciting activities that go along with these units. We are so very proud of all the accomplishments our students have made!

Fourth Grade News

Fourth Grade Rocks!!!! We have been so busy lately. We've been reviewing all the objectives in math and had some awesome robot projects this six weeks that were shown for Open House Night. Thanks to all the students and parents (and extra family members) for your help in making this a great robot year. The winners of the robot races were: Adam Shannon, Kylie Dixon, and Darrius Anderson. Congratulations!!!

We are beginning to have a novel study, so the students should be reading, reading, reading. When the students are doing their homework, please remind them to do PARTS procedures. Study Island reading is also an excellent way to practice reading skills.

In Science this six weeks, we learned about classifications in plants and animals, and our next topic in Social Studies is the rise and fall of the Lone Star State. We will have a

cattle drive this next six weeks, so be looking for information on that soon.

We hope everyone is working very hard on their Science Fair projects. Remember, your teacher should have the part of the packet that tells what your project is with the parent's signature. Parents, information about the field trip has gone home, so ask your child about it and get the permission slips back as soon as possible. We will also be having a field day at the Mansfield Stadium at a later date in May. More information will come for that as well.

So you see, it's busy, busy, busy!!! Thanks to the parents for all the help you've given the students and teachers. We appreciate it!!

Librarian's Lore

Our library has a lot of new books thanks to the success of our book fair!! Thank you to everyone who came out to support our library by purchasing items from our book fair. A huge thank you to Gail Herring for all her hard work and help before, during, and after the fair; as well as, the many volunteers who came out during the week to help. One more huge thank you to those of you who helped out during Open House. I could not have survived without you all!

We only have a few more weeks left in the school year, but I look forward to reading and teaching lessons that pertain to library skills and seeing all the wonderful books that everyone chooses to check out.

Anne James
ESE Librarian

From the Nurse

Warm weather is finally upon us. Please be mindful of the weather and PE classes when dressing your student for school. Apply necessary sunscreen as needed for your student's sun tolerance, and consider insect repellent if he/she is allergic to insect bites.

This is also the time of year to remember a change of clothes in the younger grades for all types of surprises. The students are still learning routines, social skills, and responding to bodily clues.

Also, there are new immunization guidelines for the 2009-2010 school year in Texas schools. If your student has had a recent check-up and received immunizations, please bring a copy to the school, so that the school health files can be updated. New guidelines affect entry into Kindergarten and 7th grade. Two doses of Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are now required, along with Hepatitis A (2 doses) for all ages.

Mrs. Chandlee, RN
ESE School Nurse

From the PTA President

Hello parents!!!

Can you believe another year is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful year and a truly successful PTA year. I am compiling a year end flyer with some final details as far as our funds spent and other details. Look for that at the end of May. We had a very successful Muffins with Mom!!! Thanks to all the Moms who brought their children, and the Dads who helped served us breakfast!!! It was a very well attended event. Our Spring dance will be May 22nd.

This will be the end of my 2 year term as President of the ESE PTA. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve the school and parents. Every year we grow and learn. Our President for next year will be Lauri Haley. She will be a wonderful asset to our ESE PTA team!!!

Thanks-Lori Marquardt-PTA President
lorimarq@sbcglobal.net

“Sporty” Stallion Stats

We have some important dates coming up during the last six weeks of the school year. Please mark your calendars for the following:

May 8th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:

“Country Livin’ Field Day

May 29th from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:

4th Grade Field Day @ MISD Stadium

More information will be coming home soon regarding field day shirts and field day volunteer opportunities. Fitness testing is complete for 3rd and 4th grade students. The Fitnessgram reports will be sent home with their 5th six weeks report card. In the upcoming six weeks, we are looking forward to hula hoop skills and kickball!

Kathy Cain
Physical Education

Technology Newsletter

Current Technology Lessons:

Kindergarten	Graphic Organizers and Venn Diagrams
First	Word Processing
Second	Word Processing/Class Stories
Third	Digital Storybooks
Fourth	Digital Storybooks

Shawntee' Cowan
Technology Applications Instructor
Elizabeth Smith Elementary

Box Tops for Education

Please send in your **Box Tops for Education**. Mrs. Hash is putting together the last collection for this year. Some labels are coming in with an expiration date of 06/09. These need to be sent in before the school year ends. And as always, thanks for your support.

Mrs. Hash
Receptionist

Stallion Sketchbook

This year has gone by incredibly fast. I have enjoyed working with your children so much. They are all such a joy and a blessing. Another joy is that on Thursday, May 7th we have our Art Club field trip! We will go to the Dallas Museum of Art for a private tour of their permanent collection. This will be a fun and educational time for us all. I know I can't wait! If your child is interested in Art Club for next year remember that it is for 3rd and 4th grade students. There are a limited amount of spots, so please watch for information coming home at the beginning of next year. We will have places for 12 third grade students and 12 fourth grade students. If you are interested in some summer art opportunities for your child the TCU is having an Art Adventure Summer Camp. Please go to: http://www.artandarthistory.tcu.edu/events_artcamp.asp for more information. You can also send me an email, and I would be more than happy to send you the link. As always thank you for your support and for sharing your children with me.

Nanette Thompson
Art Instructor

Hoof Beats

Hello Stallions! I can not believe it is already the last six weeks of the year! Our Third and Fourth graders are doing a fantastic job with “Recorder Karate.” Fourth grade will be performing a short recorder concert this six weeks; more information about this will follow at a later date. This six weeks Kindergarten, First grade, and Second grade will be learning musical games from various cultures. Second grade will also be learning some great American folk songs and dances. Third and Fourth grades will continue to play recorders, and will be learning folk songs and dances as well.

Also, I would like to invite everyone to the Stallion Singers Spring Musical, entitled, “Gotta Be Jazz!” The program will be Tuesday, May 19, at 6:00pm in the ESE Cafeteria. Please come and support the Stallion Singers and all of their hard work!

Ms. Ward
Music