

# The Pony Express

April 21, 2008

Rita Ashley, Principal  
Tara Sublette, Vice Principal

**Elizabeth Smith**  
ELEMENTARY



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## Award Assemblies

April 24<sup>th</sup>

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

April 25<sup>th</sup>

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

## Principal's News

Howdy Stallions!

We are in the final days of the school year. The year has passed quickly, and we are so sad to see it end. As we prepare for a month filled with activities and celebrations we reflect over our experiences. We have wonderful memories to take with us. It is now time to say our final goodbyes and enjoy our summer vacation.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the students, staff members, parents, and community members. Your hard work and

dedication is what sets us apart from other campuses.

This time is filled with mixed emotions for everyone. Many of our students and staff members will move on to one of the new campuses. We will miss them greatly.

Thank you and have a great summer!

Rita Ashley  
Principal

## Vice Principal's News

It is hard to believe that we have completed the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks! This place is buzzing with knowledge, and it is exciting to see the children engaged in learning! The students will be recognized for their hard work at the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks awards assemblies on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to look for invitations that will go home on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

We have a safety concern for the students who live in Holland Meadows. Those students who walk to school must walk to South Holland Road and walk to the adult crossing guard. Neither students nor adults are allowed to cross through the

fence. There have been many situations where students crossing the traffic lane were almost hit by cars. Teachers are not on duty until 7:30am. These procedures also apply to after school dismissal. We want to prevent any dangerous situations from occurring. The fence is school property. The police department will be monitoring the parking lot before and after school. Citations for *criminal mischief-destruction of property* will be issued to anyone who purposely takes down the fence. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Kindergarten News

We are leaping into the last six weeks and preparing for first grade! As we head towards the end of the 2007-2008 school year, we will be discovering many new things about our world. We will be studying insects, plants, spring, and summer. In writing and reading, we will be reviewing all of the skills that we have learned in the past year. In math we will continue to learn and practice how to add and subtract with objects. We will also be reviewing all math skills taught this year. Please continue to

work with your child at home this last six weeks and throughout the summer.

As the year comes to an end, we have planned many fun events to look forward to participating in together. Our field trip to River Legacy Park is April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Hale/Gardner), and April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Aan/Boruff/Young). Also, Field Day is on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, our Kindergarten Awards: Walk Towards the Future and the last day of school are on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Keep up the hard work!

## First Grade News

We are having fun in first grade! The last six weeks will be filled with many exciting adventures as we prepare for second grade. We will learn about several living organisms, including reptiles and bats. We will also do some wonderful science activities during our space and

rock units. We will finish up the year with a fabulous unit on fairy tales. All of the first graders have worked so hard this year, and they will all do an excellent job in second grade! As always, keep reading!!

## Second Grade News

Vroom! Vroom! Vroom! The second graders are getting revved up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Elizabeth Smith Matchbox Derby. After a week of learning about the forces of wind, gravity, water, and magnetism, we will end our unit with a derby race. The students will be placed in Pit Groups. Each Pit Group will race their car on different surfaces, such as: brick, grass, carpet, linoleum, and concrete. There will be a first, second, and third place winner for each surface. So help your

little Dale Earnhardt, Jr. pick out a fast car and head to Victory Lane!

In May, we will be showing our mothers how special they are by celebrating with them at our annual Mother's Day Tea and Poetry Reading. Each student will read the poem he or she has written for his or her mother and then serve refreshments.

## Third Grade News

Third graders will be working very hard solving problems the next few weeks with our new math strategy R2CUBES. Students will be using this strategy daily to prepare for the Math TAKS test scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to ask your student about R2CUBES!

This sixth weeks, the units of study will include Economics, Charlotte's Web, and Weather. Students will become familiar with the economic terms: consumer, producer, barter, trade, supply,

demand, and scarcity. In addition, we will do many activities to explore the classic novel, Charlotte's Web. Lastly, the "ever changing" Texas weather will be discussed daily in our weather unit.

## Fourth Grade News

Fourth Grade has been and is now VERY busy! We have made robots (Congratulations to all the students who won the robot races), studied the body systems, colonized Texas, fought the Alamo, and started science fair experiments.

There will be field trip letters coming out very soon, and we're looking forward to field day here at E. Smith, and the extra Field Day at the Mansfield Stadium on May 30<sup>th</sup> with Spencer and Daulton. Please remember that your student's completed Science Fair projects are due May 5<sup>th</sup> and judging will May 7<sup>th</sup>. The student's picture and/or name should

not be visible on the front of the display board. Don't forget that the real TAKS test is April 29<sup>th</sup> for Math and April 30<sup>th</sup> for Reading. The students will need lots of sleep and a good breakfast on those days!! Parents, be watching in your child's take-home folder for information about next year at Mary Lillard. As it comes to us, we will send it home to you.

This year has flown by, and it has been great, but there is not time to slow down yet. This is a very exciting time, and sometimes discipline can get out of hand. Please talk to your child about good behavior and good choices.

Thanks for all you do!

## Librarian's Lore

Good news. The new/updated list of Reading Counts quizzes is now available on our school website. The students have been taking a lot of quizzes, and I have been handing out lots of charms this six weeks.

Our Book Fair was a huge success! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered. I truly appreciate all your help. I would also like to thank those of you who waited in the long line during Open House to purchase items. It was a bit hectic, but we made most of our profit from that evening. I was able to purchase lots of new books for the library. Whenever the library gets new books, I always tell the students a little bit about them before they are put into circulation. Hopefully, they will all find a new one that they cannot wait to read. It has really been a great year.

Mrs. James  
Librarian

## From the PTA President

As the year comes to a close I wanted to share the PTA's success, and with that comes many Thank Yous to everyone at ESE who helped in even the smallest of ways to make this year our most successful year ever!! Thank you for all your support. The following is a list of PTA dollars spent in the 07-08 school year. Please contact me for a full budget report.

FASTT Math Computer Program	\$4,500
Library Donation	\$1,500
Leveled Content Readers	\$3,500
Field Trips	\$5,500
Education Programs	\$1,200
Popcorn Machine	\$ 450
Annual Insurance Premiums	\$ 700

## From the PTA President, cont.

Teacher Appreciation Events	\$1,200
Workroom Supplies	\$ 500

I want to thank Mrs. Ashley and Ms. Sublette for allowing us to do so many things and being so supportive this year. I also want to thank the PTA Board for all their dedication.

Greg Holland -1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Julie Jovais -3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
Stephanie Turner -4<sup>th</sup> VP  
Traci Smith -5<sup>th</sup> VP  
Carla Anderson -Secretary  
Jennifer Sanders-Treasurer  
Cherie Haefner - Parliamentarian

Sharon Austin -Volunteer Coordinator  
Virginia Chandlee - Newsletter  
Jennifer Chapman -December Holiday Store  
Jill Hanson -School Supplies  
Cammy Herrera -Corp Inc  
Gail Herring -Book Fair  
Deborah Holland -Spirit Wear  
Lisa Jaksik -Parent Breakfast  
Kristin Johnson -Family Events  
Rainy Miller -Clothes Closet/Delegate  
Damain Patton -Faculty Rep  
Kim Pratt -Field Day/Recycling  
Jamie Salerno -Council Delegate  
Kecia Thomas -Health/Safety  
Christina Tirone -Valgrams  
Anne Vasquez - Fall Festival/Yearbook

These people have worked VERY hard. If you see them -tell them THANKS!!! What a great team ESE had this year!!! I look forward to being your President next year. Thank you!!!

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 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:15 am: Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart Assembly
- May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm: “Under the Big Top” Field Day
- May 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day @ MISD stadium

## Music Notes

Hello Stallions! It feels great to be back! Here are a few music events that are soon approaching:

Talent Show Auditions were April 9, 10, and 11<sup>th</sup>.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Awards Performance:  
Thursday, May 26 @ 9:00 am

Talent Show:  
Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm and Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> - all day during Enrichment

Let music move you!  
Mrs. Cowan  
Music Teacher

## From the Nurse

This school year is almost over! Just a few reminders from the clinic for the end of the year:

- 1). If you have equipment in the clinic, please pick it up on the last week of school.
- 2). All medications need to be picked up by a parent/guardian by the last day of school.
- 3). Medications left after the last day will have to be disposed of properly by the clinic staff.
- 4). Copies of immunization records can be obtained for summer camps/day care facilities at any time.

Please contact the clinic if there is anything I can do to promote your student’s well-being at school!

Virginia Chandlee, RN ESE School Nurse

More information will be coming home soon regarding field day shirts and field day volunteer opportunities. Fitness Testing is complete for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Fitnessgram reports will be sent home with their 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks report card. In the upcoming six weeks, we are looking forward to a new activity called “Speed Bowling” to work on our bowling skills, as well as, our cardiovascular endurance!

Sincerely,  
Coach Kathy Cain, along with Coach Lesa Gowins and Coach Yolanda Grant  
Physical Education

## From the Sketch Pad

Congratulations to all of the students who had art entered in our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual District Art Show! Also, I would like to thank all the parents who have ordered from Kid’s Art to Remember. For each purchase, Elizabeth Smith Elementary will receive 20% to support our art program. For the Final six weeks in art, we will be exploring more 3-dimensional art with clay, yarn, beads, and other fun materials. We will also study the art of weaving. The last Art Club will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May.

Correction from last newsletter: “Square One Art” was changed to “Kid’s Art Forever”.

Sincerely,  
Debra Clarke  
Art Teacher

## When A Child Reads...

The six **READING** Keys to remember:

- 1). Make reading together enjoyable.
- 2). Consider the reader’s interest, experiences, and reading level.
- 3). Introduce the book in a relaxed conversation.
- 4). Encourage the reader with specific praise.
- 5). Help the reader maintain the meaning of the story.
- 6). Read together on a consistent basis.

**READ, READ, READ, AND READ SOME MORE!**

Cordelia Thompson  
Reading Specialist