

The Pony Express

October 9, 2007

Elizabeth Smith
ELEMENTARY



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Upcoming Events

Book Fair	10/8-10/12
Red Ribbon Week	10/22-10/26
Fall Festival	10/27
3 rd - Field Trip	11/1
KN - Field Trip	11/9

Award Assemblies

October 11th
8:15 1st grade
9:00 2nd grade

October 12th
8:15 3rd grade
9:00 4th grade

Rita Ashley, Principal
Tara Sublette, Vice Principal

Principal's News

Stallions,

Welcome to the 07-08 school year. We face many changes this year. One of those changes is the raised level of security for our campus. We now require all visitors to enter the building through the front office where a badge is received to wear inside the building from 7:30 to 3:30. This process will also change the way we conduct Awards Ceremonies. The following procedures will be in place during the first Awards Ceremonies October 11th and 12th:

- All visitors will enter and exit through the doors located near the playground (near the Art room).
- Visitors will not have access to any other part of the building.
- Staff members will monitor the cafeteria exit and the hallway.
- Visitors will sign in and get an apple sticker.

- Visitors will utilize the rear parking area.

This process will allow parents quick and easy access to the Awards Ceremonies. Visitors that come through the office will experience a delay in entering. After the Awards Ceremonies our Book Fair will be available for parents to visit. Students will return to their classrooms with their teachers while their parents attend the Book Fair. The Book Fair will be in the Library. To get to the Book Fair, visitors can follow the sidewalk from the playground to the Library. I know change can be difficult. Our goal is to make sure our children are safe and secure, and therefore, adjustments to the process are possible.

Thank you. We really do appreciate your support in our endeavors.

Vice Principal's News

School begins at 8:00am and ends at 3:15pm. Please do not drop your child off before 7:30am. Teachers are not on duty until that time.

It is very important that students attend school and be on time, if they are not ill. E. Smith receives funds based on the student attendance rate. In order to provide superior education, we need as much help as possible.

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 Truancy.

Students are allowed to enter the building/classroom at 7:30 am each morning. This gives them time to prepare for the day and complete morning work assignments.

Thank you for your continued support regarding attendance issues.

Kindergarten News

We are having a wonderful time in Kindergarten this year! We are going to be exploring and learning so many new things during the second six weeks. We will be doing several new and interesting units of study including, apples, spiders, Fall, Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, and Native Americans. In literacy we are practicing our sight words, letters and sounds, and rhyming. Also, we are

becoming fantastic writers by visiting our writing workshop daily. In math we are working on patterns, sorting, counting to 100, and recognizing numbers 11-20. As you can see, we are very busy.

In addition to all the wonderful things we will be learning in our classroom, we will be going on a field trip on November 9th to see Stephen Fite. Thank you to all of the parents and students for all the hard work!!!

First Grade News

The First Annual Elizabeth Smith Math Night was a huge success! We had a blast! The children loved teaching their parents how to play our educational games. We hope you will continue to play math games throughout the year. Remember, these games teach valuable math skills in addition to being fun to play. Math really can be fun!

First grade is off to an awesome start. The students have already shown progress in their reading. They are doing a great job reading their story from the take-home readers. Remember to have your child read 20 minutes every night and return the take-home reader in the envelope on Thursdays. Your child should be able to read the story as well as you do by the time they return the reader. Please be diligent about reading!

We will be learning about spiders and bats in October. Help your child start noticing the spiders around your house and watch them build webs. After we finish the spider and bats unit, the students will be able to tell you how spiders and bats are helpful to us. Your child will also be able to teach you some impressive new words. Our pumpkin unit teaches math skills and science concepts. We will see if pumpkins sink or float. Students will predict how many seeds are in our pie pumpkins and then scoop them out and count them. We get practice counting by 10's in a (messy) hands-on activity! They love it! The First Grade Team would like to thank all the parents for their hard work. Together, we can help the children succeed!

Second Grade News

There is much to learn in second grade and the students are busy. On Friday, September 28th, students rotated through seven areas focusing on different functions of the brain. Student participated in different activities that involved hearing, speaking, seeing, touching, and tasting, as well as, large and

small motor skills. During the last week of October, we will be traveling the world! Equipped with passports, the students will rotate through the classrooms gaining information on all seven continents and the four oceans. At the end of their travels, these "worldly" students will be able to take a taste of the delicious fare from each continent.

Third Grade News

Hello there! What a great time we are having in 3rd grade! We have settled into a routine and are learning so much each day. Our learning stations are working great, and the students are enjoying working in small groups. We will be learning about developing a setting, fact and opinion, and predictions of our stories in Reading. We will also be learning about characters, and how they feel in the story. In Writing we are learning how to write a Narrative story by using The Writing Academy format. Social Studies will be interesting as we study Citizenship and participation in local government. We will work on being good citizens and being responsible for our community. Our Science units

will consist of conservation, inherited traits of plants and animals, and heat/cold and the boiling and freezing points. We will be working on many new concepts in Math. We will review place value, adding and subtracting with estimation. We will introduce coins and bills, as well as, patterning with problem solving. Geometry will be a lot of fun, as will measurement and number lines. Each of these will be taught along with problem solving. We are using our strategies that are taught through our "Count on It" and/or "Measuring Up" books. We will be going to see Dr. Hermann on November 1st. Look for more information to come home.

Fourth Grade News

Fourth grade is off to an amazing start!! We've been "cooking" up all sorts of knowledge-working with money, fractions, learning about the regions of Texas, and subjects and predicates in sentences. Next six weeks, we will be learning about decimals, area, perimeter, and arrays in Math. For Science we will be classifying different things, so if you see objects in your household being sorted and classified-just be patient. It will be over soon!! We are also having fun with our mystery stories. Mysterious Lane is beginning, and it looks like the plot will be a good

one. Please make sure your child is studying the multiplication facts, because soon we will start division. Many of the 4th grade clubs are beginning, so be aware that your child will be bringing home many permission slips for them. We are having a lot of fun and learning so many new things. We can't wait to tell you about more next month. Until then...we'll keep "cooking" here.

Counselor's Corner

I am really enjoying getting to know your children. We are off to a wonderful start! The second six weeks is a busy time in my office. I will be visiting each classroom to discuss topics ranging from safety with strangers to harassment prevention. October is drug prevention month. We will be celebrating by taking part in a nation wide program called **Red Ribbon Week**. It will take place the last full week in October. We will have a drug free slogan and theme each day. Monday, the 22th will be "Crazy hair day". Tuesday, the 23rd, "Dress like your friend" day. Wednesday, the 24th, wear a jersey or team shirt. Thursday, the 25th, "*Success comes in Cans, not in CANNOTS!*" Bring in canned foods for our food drive. On Friday, the 26th, it is wear RED day.

It's All About Reading

Sharp Ideas! Read to Your Child

- Read the book to your child.
- Ask your child to predict what the story might be about based on the title and/or the book.
- Talk about the story as you read to your child.
- Share your favorite parts.

Enjoy reading!

Mrs. Thompson
Reading Specialist

From the Nurse

It's that time of year again when colds, allergies, and other illnesses make it difficult for parents to know when to keep their student home from school. Students with a fever of **100.0 F** or higher, a suspicious rash, vomiting, or diarrhea will be sent home from school. The students need to be kept home until they are **free of symptoms** for 24 hours without medication. This is also true for illnesses that start at home. This is for your child's protection as well as the protection of others at school. Please send a note to school when the child returns to excuse that absence. It does not have to be a doctor's note-unless the illness is extensive or requires a note to return to school. It is also not required to call the school on the day of the absence.

Medications at School

Please provide handwritten permission along with the medication in a correctly labeled container for administration at school. There are forms in the clinic, as well as, online on the Health Services link at www.mansfieldisd.org. Prescriptive medications must also have a physician's signature. There is a nebulizer in the clinic. Individual equipment must be provided.

Change of Clothes

Please provide a change of clothes for your student in a plastic bag (kept in the backpack) for emergencies. There are many and varied reasons for students to need a change of clothes at school.

"Sporty" Stallion Stats

We have had a wonderful start to the school year! This six weeks in Kindergarten and 1st grade, we will be working on a variety of motor skills such as hopping, jumping, leaping, throwing, and catching. In 2nd through 4th grades, we will be working on our dodging and fleeing skills, soccer skills, and playing some cooperative games. Also, the group order sales for Sport Stacking equipment will be the week of 10/8 to 10/12. I will send information home soon. Remember, all sales benefit our school.

Please note the P.E. schedule below. Please make sure your student wears tennis shoes to P.E. Thanks!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:15-9:15 Aan/Boruff
10:15-11:15 Flores/Glover
11:15-12:15 Beasley/Benton
1:00-2:00 Mills/C. Young
2:00-3:00 Jones/Mennenga

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

8:15-9:15 Gardner/Hale/D. Young
10:15-11:15 Nava/Nelson/Rhodes
11:15-12:15 Haefner/Varga/Zimmerman
1:00-2:00 Newton/Patton/Reirdon
2:00-3:00 Pittman/Poe/Smith

Sincerely,
Kathy Cain
Physical Education

Musical Notes

Congratulations to the 2007-2008 choir members! This year we had many wonderful students audition to be in the choir. Thirty Four (34) 3rd and 4th graders were chosen to perform this year. Thank you to all students who took the time to come and audition. We look forward to a great musical start!

I also want to say "thank you" to all 4th graders who volunteered to sing at the "PTA Welcome Back" Dinner. The performance was a great success!

Important Dates

Thursday, October 11th - First grade will perform following the awards' ceremony.

Monday, November 19th, Kindergarten will perform a "Square Dance" in the gym @6pm.

Friday, November 30th - 3rd grade will perform following the awards' ceremony.

Choir meets on Mondays from 3:15 -4:15pm.

Shawntee' Cowan
Music Teacher

From the Sketch Pad

For the second six weeks in Art class, all students will begin Autumn theme projects, such as pumpkins and scarecrows. We will scrutinize pattern and texture and analyze color with oil pastel and paint. Kindergarten students will also explore patterns and facial expressions with clowns, while 1st graders try crayon resist. Vincent Van Gogh and Paul Cezanne will be discussed as third and fourth grade artists create Still Life artworks.

Debra Clarke
Art Teacher

News From the PTA

Dear PTA family,

Our school year is off to a great start. Membership is growing thanks to our chairperson-Greg Holland. Hopefully, everyone has ordered their Spiritwear shirts! Those should be in soon. A BIG thanks to Deborah Holland for chairing Spiritwear! Our first Family Event, the Welcome Back dinner, was a HUGE success! Thank you to Kristin Johnson for organizing that event. In addition, I would like to send out another BIG "Thank You" to Tiffany Scherer for preparing all the games for Math night.

We have lots planned for October, so watch your child's folder. Book Fair is October 8-12. Health/Safety week is October 22-26. The 4th Annual Fall Festival is October 27th from 4-7 pm. We need everyone to participate to make this a successful event.

Let's continue to make this the best year ever!!!

Lori Marquardt
PTA President

Recycling Kicks off at Elizabeth Smith...

Starting October 1st, our school is participating in the "Schools on Goal" program offered by our recycling company, Abitibi. Last year we recycled almost 10.5 tons of paper... This year our goal is 12 tons! Help us meet this goal by helping the environment and our school. Our recycle bins are ready for your newspapers, magazines, unused phone books and junk mail!

Questions...contact Kim Pratt, PTA Recycling Chair @ thepratthouse@charter.net

Saturday, October 27th 4-7pm
Stallion Stampede Come One and All !!!