

# Dino Tracks

October  
2007



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

## What's Inside This Edition

- Meet our new AP
- Letter from our president
- Important dates
- Info from specials
- Fundraisers and Harvest Hoedown info
- Grade level updates

The complete newsletter can be accessed on the web:  
[www.deepwoodpta.org](http://www.deepwoodpta.org)

## And Introducing.... Our New AP!

Deep Wood Elementary is blessed with not one new administrator this school year, but two! Our new assistant principal, Heath Frazer, comes to us from Benold Middle School in Georgetown, where he was a math teacher and then an AP. He also has experience as a high school business teacher and basketball coach.

A special event was held on August 30<sup>th</sup> after school in the library allowing Deep Wood parents and students the opportunity to get to know Mr. Frazer better. During that event he shared that having elementary school aged children of his own inspired him to shift his career to an elementary focus. And what have his children taught him about being an educator? "I've learned that each child has different needs. While my wife and I work hard to be fair and equitable with our children, we have learned that fair does not always mean treating both the same," he said.

Mr. Frazer cited student enthusiasm and parent support as the two biggest differences between the elementary and secondary work experiences. He said, "It is so nice to see all of our students coming to school with smiles on their faces and wonderful attitudes. They are excited to be here and are a joy to work with."

Mr. Frazer comes from a long line of educators. When he was a child, both of his parents worked at the school he attended – Mom was a teacher there, and Dad was his principal. Mr. Frazer had no secrets about his school day! In addition to his parents, Mr. Frazer has aunts, uncles, and even grandparents who were in education. His grandmother taught in a one-room schoolhouse in rural Oklahoma. And the trend continues: his wife is a school psychologist.

We are so lucky to have Mr. Frazer on the Deep Wood team. And the feeling is apparently mutual. Mr. Frazer said, "I can't think of a more rewarding thing to do than helping children to gain a love of learning. I am very lucky to be here."

Marie Gonzales  
Newsletter Chair

## Newsletter Submissions

Want to publish information in an upcoming newsletter? Please email your submission to [newsletter@deepwoodpta.org](mailto:newsletter@deepwoodpta.org). Submissions are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month and may be edited for length or clarity.

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Oct 2007



## From your PTA president...

Wow! Can you believe we're already a month into the new school year? We've already done so much ... approved the budget, held a board and general PTA meeting, and even had our first skate night. Thanks again to everyone who has become involved so far.

We have such a great group of parents and volunteers and we couldn't do it without you! We are so excited about the things we have planned for the year. All your old favorites are back: Hoedown, skate nights, McDonalds, Chili Supper, kids' art projects, and more. And we're working on new projects as well. We're getting the "Go Green" initiative underway, building an inclusiveness group, and planning a celebration in honor of Deep Wood's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. These events, plus many others, will give you opportunities to get involved and volunteer. Wouldn't you like to be part of all the excitement? Then be sure to join PTA! There are so many things that being a member provides you, from great resources and parenting tips, ideas for helping your child succeed, newsletters, e-learning courses, and even discounts for hotels, rent cars, insurance and theme parks. All it costs is \$5 to join. So be sure to contact Tina Risinger and get your membership activated today!

And remember, PTA is here to help you. It's our job to support all our kids in making sure they have the tools they need to succeed and to assist you in finding the resources you need to help make this happen. If you have questions, be sure to let us know. Look forward to working with all of you soon!

Thanks!  
Lauri Etheridge  
PTA President 2007-2008

### Was that an "h" or an "n"? Or an "r"?

Many of you filled out the form to have the newsletter sent to you via email. Thank you for your responses! However, some of the email addresses were easier to decipher than others. So, if you received only the hard copy mini-version of this issue, and would like to receive future issues electronically, please contact Marie Gonzales at [newsletter@deepwoodpta.org](mailto:newsletter@deepwoodpta.org) (NOTE: If you received both the hard copy AND an emailed version, you are all set.)

### Upcoming Events:

- 10/4 Picture Day
- 10/5 Early Release
- 10/8 Student Holiday
- 10/15 Principal's Coffee (8:00 AM)
- 10/19 Pumpkin Contest
- 10/20 Harvest Hoedown
- 10/23, 10/25 Early Release
- 11/8 Science Night/Reflections
- 11/9 Veteran's Day Program
- 11/12 Principal's Coffee (8:00 AM)
- 11/15 Picture Retakes/Family Art Night
- 11/21 – 11/23 Student Holidays

### HARVEST HOEDOWN

Need something to do? Volunteer to help with Deep Wood's annual Fall Festival. Help is needed with food, music, ticket sales, decorations, supplies, and sanity checks for the chairperson. Please contact Becky Velasco if you can offer assistance.

[beckyvel@msn.com](mailto:beckyvel@msn.com)



341-9204

The average adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail per year! Did you know you can reduce your junk mail by 90% by signing up for a junk mail reduction program that helps remove your name from mailing lists? For more info, check out [www.greendimes.com](http://www.greendimes.com) or [www.41pounds.com](http://www.41pounds.com).



From the Deep Wood  
GoGreenCommittee



# Box Tops are Back!

Last year, Deep Wood students raised over \$1000 by clipping and collecting box tops and product labels. We're off to a great start this fall, with our earnings already topping \$200! This money can be applied to PE and playground equipment – one year, we used the money to purchase a climbing wall! If you are not already participating on the box top program, please consider the one shown here, A+ labels. Clip and save them, then send them to your teacher. Additionally, Target has a guest card which applies 1% of your purchases to our school (the Deep Wood ID number is 100826.) Last but certainly not least, bring your old inkjet cartridges and cell phones in to the school office to be recycled (there is a paper recycling bin outside of the school.) **The first deadline is 10/19.**



[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com), [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com)  
[www.tyson.com/projectaplus](http://www.tyson.com/projectaplus), [www.goplaylabels.com](http://www.goplaylabels.com)  
[www.target.com](http://www.target.com)

Linda Harriman  
Consumer Bonuses  
Chairperson

## Reflections 2007-2008

This PTA program is a great place for kids to explore the arts, using creative writing, two-dimensional art, photography, music, and even choreography this year. This year's theme is **"I Can Make A Difference By..."**

Children can enter many times and in different categories. They can work independently or get "competition ready" help in the art room on 10/25, 1:00 – 1:45. Gallery Night is 11/8, same as Science Night. Want to join the fun? We need judges, advisors, and helping hands. You can contact Debra Stinson at 244-0156 or [dstinson1@austin.rr.com](mailto:dstinson1@austin.rr.com), or click on this link

for complete rules:

[http://www.txpta.org/reflections/Forms-07-08/artsarea\\_rules%202007-2008.doc](http://www.txpta.org/reflections/Forms-07-08/artsarea_rules%202007-2008.doc).

**Deadline is October 29<sup>th</sup>.**



## Clinic Notes

Welcome back to school! Hope everyone is off to a great start. As school gets into full swing, we want to remind you of key elements

for a healthy school year. Please remind your student of the importance of good hand-washing. This can prevent the spread of germs, therefore keeping us well. Your student also needs a good night sleep and proper nutrition. Please make sure your student eats breakfast, whether it's at home or here in the cafeteria. A couple of requests: The clinic is in desperate need of boys' underwear of all sizes. We have plenty of girls' underwear, but no boys. Also, **we need volunteers to help with the hearing/vision screenings on 10/18 and 10/19.** We'll need adults to measure height and weight and to serve as runners to bring classes to the clinic.

Please call us at 464-4404 if you can help, or with any questions or concerns.

Thanks!

Nurse Rhonda &  
Nurse Kellee



## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Elizabeth (Betty) Carbonneau

During the 2007-2008 school year we will continue the **Character Education** program at Deep Wood. This year, all RRISD schools will focus on the same two character traits each month, beginning with **Respect** and **Cooperation** in September. Each day during the month an example of the monthly character traits was announced on our morning broadcast (below) and teachers encouraged their students to demonstrate these character traits at school. We invite you to include discussions of the monthly character traits during family time at home.

### Respect

- being kind and polite to others in all words and actions
- giving compliments and saying positive & encouraging things to others
- using a nice voice and touching others in gentle & appropriate ways
- listening quietly and not interrupting while others are talking
- always asking permission before taking or using another persons things
- following the directions of adults on first request
- being polite and using good manners
- treating everyone with dignity
- recognizing and appreciating different abilities
- celebrating everyone's differences and strengths

### Cooperation

- considering the wants and needs of others in words and actions
- sharing ideas, activities and things with others
- paying attention and listening carefully to the ideas of others
- being patient and kind while working in groups with others
- taking turns being first, being the leader & playing my games
- having a positive attitude about helping out a home and school
- treating others the way we want them to treat us
- helping others when they need assistance
- working out problems and differences with others fairly
- doing my share to contribute to a group activity

Thank you for sharing your most precious gifts, your children, with us at Deep Wood this year! And, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



The Kindergarten classes would like to thank Holland Photo Imaging (<http://www.hollandphoto.com/>) for donating their services to develop a total of 190 science photos. The teachers will be using these photos for science activities with the children. Thanks, Holland Photo, for your superb quality of services and your generosity!

Jill Herring,  
Room Mom for Freres



From the Deep Wood  
GoGreen Committee:

Do not let your engine idle longer than necessary. It is generally more efficient to turn off the engine than to idle for even 30 seconds, according to [The Consumer Reports Complete Guide to Reducing Energy Costs.](#)





## Hoedown Carnival and Silent Auction

The Deep Wood Elementary Hoedown Carnival and Silent Auction is set for Saturday, October 20, 2007. Every classroom is in the process of collecting items or monetary donations to be put into their class basket for the Silent Auction portion of the event. Collection of such items and donations will continue in the classroom through Wednesday, October 10, 2007.

As in the past, our faculty will be offering "Teacher Treats" as part of the Silent Auction. Also, Dr. Hodgkins has graciously donated a set of braces for this year's Auction! More exciting items for you bid on will be announced soon!!!

**We are also asking parents for help in donating any type of item, service or talent that you have as a "Silent Auction" item.** Do you have a home-based business? Mary Kay, Avon, Pampered Chef, Partylite Candles, Housekeeping, babysitting, Real Estate, Insurance, Personal Chef or have any other product or service you can provide? This could be a great opportunity to advertise your business!

Do you have any contacts with a radio or TV station? We'd love to obtain a tour of a facility or have an hour with an anchor. Do you cut hair, give massages, own a spa? Have an extra set of tickets for baseball, football, movie, theater, or Esther Follies? Have golf course connections or dinner certificates? We can use it all!

If needed, we will be happy to make a certificate describing your tax-deductible donation for you. Send all donations to school with your child or feel free to drop them off at the front office and a receipt will be sent back home with your child. Thank you for your time and consideration. For questions, please feel free to contact, Marianne Reap, Silent Auction Chairperson at 255-8550.

### Coins for Coats

Our school is helping the Round Rock Volunteer Center buy new coats for children in need in the Round Rock school district. With your help they guarantee that "your kindness will be passed on through the warmth of a coat." If you would like to help, please have your child bring coins (or bills) to the school library to place in our special "Coins for Coats" container.

The RR Volunteer Center has never turned a child in need away without a coat. Please help them make this year a success.



Laurie Thelen,  
Teacher-Librarian  
464-4407

Angel Club will be shifting into high gear after Labor Day. Teachers are excitedly awaiting their new helpers, students are anxiously awaiting their new jobs and will be ready to lift the burden from the staff and faculty's shoulders next week. We will keep you all posted as to what is going on this year. Don't forget the PET CLINIC in October. Even the Pet Meds brings 1/3rd of the cost into the AC's account. Wait until you see what we are going to do with our earnings this year!



Your Directing Angel,  
Ms. T.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION & WELLNESS

### GRADES 1-5

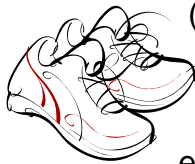
We are excited about how nicely our school year has started. We have many great activities planned for your child/children in our journey of wellness. The year started with another P.E. teacher being added. This will be a great benefit to the children on their road to wellness.

Promoting a healthy lifestyle begins with physical fitness. Our goal is to instill the practice of movement concepts, aerobic fitness and sport skills in our students, so that they will carry these principles and techniques into adulthood. Aerobic fitness skills, muscular strength and flexibility will be the emphasis in developing lifetime personal fitness. All grades have P.E. at least every other day. Some have P.E. on Mondays/Wednesdays, some on Tuesdays/Thursdays. Then all classes have P.E. on Friday for 25 minutes.

An important area of fitness is cardiorespiratory endurance. Medical information indicates that a person with an acceptable level of cardiorespiratory endurance will have a reduced risk of high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, obesity, diabetes, some forms of cancer, and other health problems as adults. Our goal is to instill good lifetime fitness habits to prevent these medical concerns.

Make fitness a family affair. Just as you want to model reading for your children, be sure to exercise in front of them and also with them. Teach good nutrition by making healthy choices at the grocery store and when going out to eat. It is a proven fact that healthy children feel better and are apt to learn more and achieve in the classroom. **MENTAL AS WELL AS PHYSICAL FITNESS MATTERS!!!!**

You as parents play an important part in the success of our physical education program. The following are ways that you can help: Please have your child dressed properly for physical education (rubber-soled shoes or tennis shoes, shorts under skirts and dresses, no jewelry, no rubber cleats, no sandals or slides). If your child wishes to wear sandals, boots, or dress shoes to school, please send tennis shoes or running shoes with him/her to wear to physical education class. Please send a note to us whenever your child needs to be excused from class. Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep (8-10hours) and eats a proper breakfast. Volunteer your time! There will be times when we will need helpers, especially during our annual field day in the spring.



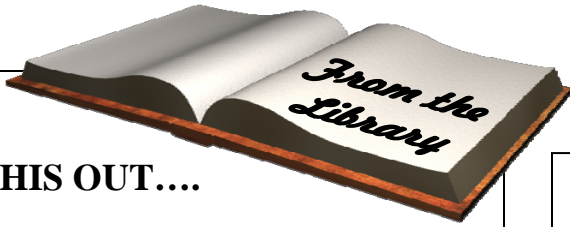
We are anticipating an enjoyable year. We sincerely appreciate your help and support in making the physical education program at Deep Wood Elementary the very best it can be. Please call us at 464-4416 if you have any questions concerning our program or your child's progress in class.

Amy Osteen & Mary Sue Thompson



According to the U.S. Energy Star program, if every American home replaced just one standard incandescent light bulb with a long-lasting CFL, we would prevent greenhouse gases equal to the emissions of 800,000 cars! The savings in energy costs from that one purchase may surpass \$40 over the life of the bulb. That is \$40 per bulb!





## on another note

### CHECK THIS OUT....

**Saddle Up & Read!** Kindergarten, first grade and second grade are ready to saddle up and read for the library fall reading incentive program.

Students will receive prizes according to the number of minutes they read. Please refer to the orange parent letter for required minutes and use the orange reading log to record this information.

**Texas Bluebonnet Award Books** - Third, fourth, and fifth graders are geared up to read from a list of 20 highly reviewed books selected by a panel of public and school librarians. Students may read or listen to five of the nominees in order to vote on their favorite title in January. Students will be recognized for their completion of 5, 6, 7, or 8 books read in the spring culminating with a Bluebonnet celebration. Current book nominees are also available at the Round Rock Public Library.

**Fall Book Fair** - Deep Wood's annual fall book fair will be held the first week of December, the 3rd through the 7th. Mark your calendars for this exciting event.



The Deep Wood Art Studio has been busy already.... So we already have a need: Please send baby food jars with lids (glass is preferred, but plastic tubs with good lids won't be turned down!) Check out our wish list, important dates, kid-friendly websites and more on the Teacher's Web (go to the Deep Wood home page, click on Teacher's Web icon, then Mrs. Reilly - Art.) I update the info to keep it current. Watch for info on our Annual Family Art Night in November. It's great fun for the whole family!

Welcome back, students, and hello to all of our new Deep Wood Dinos. We have so many new things to learn in music classes this year. Please remember you can always get the most recent information about music on my music class web page at <http://TeacherWeb.com/TX/DeepWood/Music> or by going to Deep Wood's home page, clicking on "Teacher Web Pages," then click on my name, Mrs.Choate. The web site has information on class studies, a calendar of upcoming performances, my class schedule, our *Tyrannochorus Rex* choir, fifth grade's Recorder Karate details, and other information.

We do have some performances planned so you can save these dates on your calendar:

November 9<sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day Program

December 6<sup>th</sup> - *Tyrannochorus Rex* 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir Concert

December 20<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Sing-Along

February 8<sup>th</sup> - 2nd Grade Program

March 6<sup>th</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program

April 13<sup>th</sup> - Kindergarten Program

I will give you more details as we get closer to the programs. In secondary school, students who are members of the school bands, orchestras, and choirs tend to have higher grades and SAT scores. A lot of this is due to the amount of parental support these students benefit from. These parents are actively involved in their children's lives and want them to be well-rounded students. You can show your support for your child, even at this young age, by being a member of our audiences. It is so rewarding for these children to learn new skills, be a member of the school community, and share these skills with the people who are most important to them. It is interesting to know that there is no culture or group of people, regardless of how long ago or how far away, that has ever been discovered that did not have some music as a part of their lives. It is part of being human. It is who we are.

Your Music Teacher,  
Lorinda Choate



Deep Wood Dinos,

I am very excited to be heading the Go Green Initiative for Deep Wood PTA. We have lots of exciting things planned this year that will provide some fun lessons and opportunities for the children to learn about caring for the environment. Our first project this year will be a Recycling Contest sponsored by Paper Retriever. You may have seen the green and yellow collection bin behind the school. The contest starts October 1 and runs to March 31. If we collect 15% more paper than last year (14.48 tons,) we win \$200! If we collect 20% more (15.11 tons,) we win \$400! The prize monies for this accomplishment will go to student programs and improving school grounds.

The Boy Scouts have been gracious enough to help us with this endeavor by making paper collection boxes for each classroom and transporting the recycling to the bin out back. Once the paper is collected, Paper Retriever sends it to processing centers where it is sorted into various grades and prepared for shipment. It is then routed to de-inking facilities and mills where it is used to manufacture 100% recycled content newsprint. We encourage Deep Wood families to bring their used paper from home and add it to our collection bin to help us earn money and reach our goal.

**Paper Retriever accepts:**  
newspaper  
magazines  
shopping catalogs  
office and school papers  
mail



**They do NOT accept:**  
plastic  
metal  
glass  
cardboard

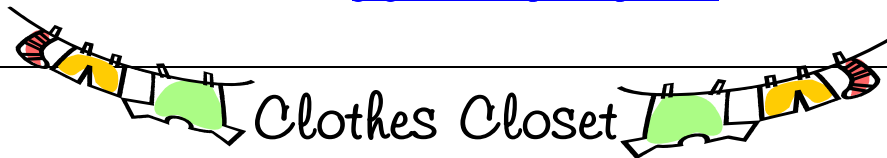
**Please add recycling to your errand route and bring your paper by once a week – help Deep Wood and the environment! Thanks for your support of this important fund-raising effort.**

In addition to the Paper Recycling drive, various “Green Ideas” are scattered throughout the newsletter. Each one provides environmental tips and facts. I encourage anyone with an eco- tip or factoid to share to shoot me an email so I can add it to the newsletter. Watch for more opportunities to support the Go Green Initiative in the coming months.

The PTA will be adding environmental awards at the science fair this year for any project that directly deals with environmental issues. Keep this in mind when planning your projects, and start thinking of ways we can be stewards of our community and our planet. We hope to get a few guest speakers this year who will give presentations to the kids on environmental topics such as recycling and green energy. Any parents or teachers who would like to help with a green project or has any environmental ideas to share, please contact me. Together we can really make a difference.

-Noelle Mercado

[gogreen@deepwoodpta.com](mailto:gogreen@deepwoodpta.com)



Did your child grow over the summer? All of his/her clothes too small? Then donate them to the clothes closet! The clothes closet provides clothing for Round Rock ISD families in need. If you wish to donate used clothing in good condition please deliver it to the nurse's office. Thank you!

Oct 2007



**Kinder** Kindergarten is off to a terrific start – we are so proud of our newest Dinosaurs! We are learning what school is all about. Safety is our number one goal, so please be sure to review school safety and school rules with your little ones. We will also learn about fire safety and different jobs that are found in a community. We will learn about our families, needs and wants, our classmates, and ourselves. If you hear a little tune coming from the backseat of the car, it could be one of many new songs our students are learning. They just might take a survey and graph the results, as we have been graphing all kinds of information. In math, we will sort objects, discover different shapes, and count, count, count. Please be sure to get your kinder student to school before the 7:45 bell. Some of our best learning moments take place through our calendar activities at the start of each day. Our little Dinosaurs really depend on your help meeting this very important starting time. Be sure to drop them off at the “kiss and goodbye.”

Welcome back to school. **1st grade** First grade had a great beginning of school! We are so lucky to have 4 wonderful classes! During August and September we were assessing the children's skills in reading, writing, and math. We are working on following directions and learning how to be independent workers. We'll be learning about community helpers, timelines, properties of solids and liquids. Remember that the district conference days are Tuesday, October 23rd and Thursday, October 25th, from 1:00 – 4:30. These are early release days from school.

Fifth grade is off to a running start. Vocabulary is a big focus this year. Each week we are learning new TAKS reading, science, and math vocabulary words. The whole year we'll be keeping a Science Journal and adding to it with each new unit. The first book report has already been assigned and is due October 23. Students must learn the Preamble in order to be ready for Constitution Day. DARE program has begun with Officer Thomason's interesting classes, and the Angel Club is up and running.

Make sure that you sign up for a conference when the notes come home with your child! See you then!

**2nd grade** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is now in full swing! We have our testing completed and our goals set. To help your child meet his/her goals, have your child practice their math facts daily and read nightly for at least 20 minutes. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, all second graders will be taking the OLSAT test. To ensure your child will do his/her best, make sure they get to bed early and eat a breakfast before coming to school. We have early dismissal on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> so that we

**PPCD**  
We are learning about Fall, pumpkins, the color orange, and bears. We will be going on a pumpkin hunt on 10/31 to find a special pumpkin to make a jack-o-lantern.

have an opportunity to meet with all of our parents. Please make sure you have a conference time set with your teacher so that you can collaborate on strategies to help your child have a successful year. Thanks for being supportive parents.

## 5th grade

4th grade students have been busy at work during the month of September. October is sure to bring lots of excitement and learning. In math, we will focus on multiplication and division. Students will learn 2 digit and 3 digit multiplication. It is important that the students have a quick strategy to solve their multiplication facts. We will begin doing timed tests of basic facts to help them acquire speed and accuracy in solving more difficult multiplication problems. In science, we will study soil. Students will be doing soil investigations and observations. We will focus on the regions of Texas in social studies. During reading, the students will be working in small guided reading groups and literature circles. Please check out the 4th grade teacher website for upcoming dates and events.

## 4th grade

We have been busy getting used to the routines in our classrooms, our new friends, and new teachers. We welcome Megan Millender and Debra Nichols to Deep Wood. Please check over students' Agenda each night and the papers in their Take Home Folder. Also, check the yellow Graded Work folder that comes home each week. Our Teacher Websites also have information about homework, areas of study, etc. All students need to know their addition/subtraction facts from 0-18. We have been working on various skills in Reading and soon will be moving into Literature Circle groups, which allow students to work on skills at an independent reading level. Thank you for helping with the Home Reading Logs. We like to see 100+ minutes on the students' logs. Also, encourage your child to check out books from the library to read for AR points. We are aiming for at least 30 points by year's end!

## 3rd grade