

Dino Tracks

April 2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition

- Earth Day Article
- Principal/President's Letters
- Upcoming Events
- Parent Workshop
- Info from specials
- Counselor's Corner
- Grade level updates

The complete newsletter can be accessed on the web:
www.deepwoodpta.org

Focus

On: Going Green!



By:
**Noelle
Mercado**

April 22nd is Earth Day! Here are some great ways to celebrate...

1. Plant a tree. The economic downturn has affected nurseries too, but trees keep on growing. You can get some really great deals on some sizeable saplings this spring, but don't wait too long before planting season comes to a close.
2. Be a LOCAVORE. Buy local and eat local. When you spend your money at a locally owned business it is typically circulated at least five more times in Austin before going out of state or to a big business. Try the farmer's market or local vegetable stand. Better yet join a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program where you can purchase a share of locally grown organic produce. Alternatively you can work a few hours on the farm in exchange for a radically reduced price. For more information check out www.golocalaustin.com and www.localharvest.org.
3. Austin has some great resources for recycling some tricky objects. This is a great link that includes locations for recycling just about everything from cell phones to dishwashers:
http://thatotherpaper.com/austin/recycling_in_austin.
4. Take the waste free lunch challenge! In honor of Earth Day pack a waste free lunch, or better yet for the week. Be creative. Most of us have a cupboard full of small Tupperware and sport bottles that fit just fine in a canvas lunch bag. Think outside the lunch box, consider an unused make-up bag, or put utensils in a tooth brush travel case, add a small washcloth instead of a paper napkin. Another good way to get fresh ideas is to look at your camping gear. There are some great collapsible dishes and thermoses in the camping equipment. According to The Green Book you can save as much as \$250 per year and as much waste in weight as the average nine-year old!

(continued on pg. 2)

Newsletter Submissions

Want to publish information in an upcoming newsletter? Please email your submission to newsletter@deepwoodpta.org. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month and may be edited for length or clarity.

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April 2009



Earth Day Ideas (continued from page 1)

5. Try hypermiling. For most of us living in the suburbs with kids, replacing driving with biking is just not feasible. Instead try hypermiling to get more MPG. Hypermiling is the practice of coasting as much as possible and driving at or below the speed limit and less aggressively in general. Studies have shown this does actually work. Next time you fill up commit for one tank of gas to hypermile. Plus you can save some money!
6. Rid litter. Picking up after ourselves on a regular basis is a great start, how about picking up after others? For one day, one week, one month, why not take a small trash bag with you when you take the dog for a walk or the kids to the park. It only takes a few seconds to grab that loose litter and put it in the trash or better yet recycle it. Look at it this way - you are setting a fantastic example for the kids.
7. Start a compost pile. The average household produces nearly 200 pounds of kitchen waste each year. Composting is incredibly easy. Grass clippings, raked leaves and kitchen scraps all these things can be tucked under a tree or in a spare corner of the yard. A fancy container is not really needed, although there are some great ones on the market.
8. Stop junk mail! There is no downside to stopping junk mail. According to 41Pounds.org the average adult receives 41 pounds of junk mail per year! That translates to about 1.5 trees. Additionally 40% of the contents of our landfills is paper. Catalog Choice offers junk mail stopping services for free. www.catalogchoice.org
9. Bag the Bags! Those nasty plastic shopping bags take decades to decompose and give off nasty chemicals on the way for the convenience of the four mile drive from the market. In honor of Earth Day buy a few reusable bags and tuck them in your trunk. If 10% of the families in RRISD switched to canvas reusable shopping bags we would save nearly 4 million bags in one year! Check out www.bagthebags.com to see what is being done in Austin.
10. Don't forget the Austin Earth Day Festival. For more information go to www.austinearthday.com

Highly recommended Earth Day reading: Cradle to Cradle by McDonough, The Green Book, Growing up Green by Deirdre Imus.

We've Got it Made in the Shade!

Deep Wood, we have PURCHASE! As of March 16, Deep Wood PTA has found the perfect company (TF Harper) to do our sunshade. And the best news of all...it's going to be a 20 X 20 foot sunshade! This is larger than the 14 x 22 for which we originally planned. Deep Wood PTA thanks Michelle Jackson, DWE parent, who helped the sunshade committee wade through the RRISD processes. Look for the sunshade to be up near the beginning of May - hopefully in time for Field Day!

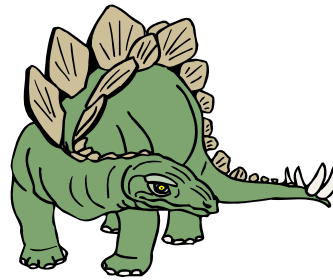
Tina Risinger,
Save Our Sweethearts Sunshade Committee



A Note From the Principal

April 2009

Dear parents,



Hi everyone! Can you believe that we are down to the last two months of school already? ☺ Time is flying by so quickly! Our 3rd and fifth grade students did very well on their TAKS READING tests in March. ☺ We will not receive official results until May, but preliminary results are outstanding! Fourth grade took the TAKS WRITING as well in March. However, we do not receive any results until May from that assessment. Remember that the remainder of our TAKS Testing dates are:

April 7	5th TAKS MATH, April 28 3rd, 4th TAKS MATH
April 29	4th TAKS READING, Retest for 3rd and 5th READING TAKS
April 30	5th TAKS SCIENCE, May 19 5th Retest for MATH TAKS

At our “Monday with Meredith” in April (Monday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Art room), we will discuss our progress toward PBS (Positive Behavior Support), discuss the upcoming TAKS testing and requirements for third, fourth, and fifth graders, as well as answering questions.

Kudos to all of you for the amazing World Cultures night! WOW!! We have such talented students! ☺ Thanks for your continued support! Our school recognition for positive behavior for February went to first grade! We are now adding individual student recognition by awarding gold stars to students who consistently demonstrate being safe, responsible, and respectful in the classroom. As students earn five gold stars, they come to the office to enter their name in a weekly drawing.

Congratulations to the following students for amazing singing in the RRISD Elementary Music Festival: Erin Gordon, Brennan Huckaby, Mackenzie Horn, Alex Paredes, Rebecca South, Rachel Spratt, Devin Stillman, Noah Velasco, Anyssa Willard. Also, thank you to the Dynamic Dinos for your wonderful concert! These students are: Aliceah Guebara, Amber Elam, Jerrin Duty, Lindsey Etheridge, Chloe Day, Jennifer Beets, Bailey Barlow, Christina Carnagey, Cooper Ward, Jack Barlow, Maggie Bowling, Maya Ramos, Michelle Haseley, Ryan Elam, Shelby Mitschke, Eden Gordon, Erin Risinger, Heidi Wilding, Jazzmine Lively, Kaya Mangum, Leah Gonzales, Payton Roberts, Savannah Coker, Allysa Ramos, Ashleigh Pevear, Erin Hodgins, Erin Mueller, Kiara Haney, Nicole Kelly, and Erin Gordon. ☺

Additional dates to remember include: **April 3 @ 7:45 a.m. – PBS Celebrations; April 10, 13 – no school; April 17 – Sock Hop for students from 6:00 – 7:45 p.m. to raise money for our Sea World field trip for fifth grade; April 23 – last day of Physically Fit; April 24 @ 7:45 a.m. – DINO Pride; April 28 – 30 TAKS testing (no visitors please).** ☺ **Have a fabulous April! I hope to see you soon at school!** ☺

Meredith ☺

April 2009



From your PTA president...

Fundraiser overload? Yep, me too. Hoedown tickets, scout popcorn, girl scout cookies, art projects, cookie dough, the list goes on. But it's important that you support each and every one of these fundraisers. Just a few dollars goes a long way with all these programs. As an example, my Kindergartener got to go on a field trip with everyone in her grade level to see Little Red Riding Hood, see the inside of the Capitol, and have a picnic lunch with all her friends. I didn't have to order tickets, talk my husband and son into sitting through the performance so she could enjoy the play, drive, find parking, fight the crowd, etc. And what did it cost me? Nothing. What did it cost PTA? Around \$10. That's \$10 for each Kindergartener. Well, I did buy cookie dough. But now I have cookies that will keep in my freezer for the next year. I did buy artwork. But I'll have something that my kids did that, as they get older, shows how much their creativity changes through the year. The money you spend to support these projects goes to a number of things you may not know about. PTA buys classroom materials, pays for field trips, contributes money to class parties, buys library books, and pays for teacher training. We spend about \$25,000 or more a year on things to enrich your child's learning and to give them a little fun. Without your support, we can't do these things.

I know times are tough for everyone. Support for all our fundraisers is down this year. We haven't brought in near the money we had hoped for. So what can we do? Support the few things left this year. Buy cookie dough. Come to the Spaghetti Supper (it promises to be a very good time!). Come to the Dino Spirit and restaurant nights. And, as we're already planning for next year, tell us what you would like to see. If you don't want to purchase artwork, is there something else you think would be fun? Is there something else you're willing to spend your hard earned money on to help support your school?

And, as always, we need your time! Just a little or a lot goes a long way in support of your child, your school, and your PTA. This is YOUR PTA. We're here to hear you. We need to hear you. But, unless you talk, we can't listen.

Upcoming Events:

- 4/1 Kindergarten Roundup for next year
- 4/2 Class/Individual Picture Day
- 4/3 PBS Celebration (7:45AM)
- 4/6 Monday w/Meredith (6:00 PM)
- 4/7 TAKS – 5th grade math
- 4/10, 4/13 Student holidays
- 4/17 Kindergarten Music Program (8:00AM)
- 4/17 Sock Hop (6:00PM)
- 4/21 PTA McDonald's Night (5 – 8)
- 4/23 2nd grade Memorial Museum/Pease Park
- 4/23 Last Day of Physically Fit
- 4/24 Dino Pride (7:45)
- 4/28 TAKS – 3rd & 4th grade math
- 4/29 TAKS – 4th grade reading
- 4/30 TAKS – 5th grade science

Thanks!

Lauri Etheridge
PTA President 2008-2009

- 5/1 TAKS
- 5/4 Monday w/Meredith (8:00AM)
- 5/5 – 5/6 Book Fair
- 5/8, 5/12, 5/14 Early Release
- 5/12 Open House
- 5/15 PTA Book Swap/Spaghetti Supper
- 5/25 Memorial Day
- 5/29 Dino Pride (7:45AM)

April 2009





Deep Wood Family Sock Hop!

Friday, April 17 6pm – 8pm

Don't miss this school-wide family event!



Food, music, drinks, games, prize drawings, and dancing and dancing and dancing! Dust off your poodle skirt or roll up those blue jeans and come enjoy the festivities. The Sock Hop is put on by the 5th graders (and their parents!) to raise money for the 5th grade trip to Sea World.

Please remember—every child must be accompanied by an adult

Hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, and candy will be sold also

And bring your camera for the photo op!



The 2009-2010 Reflections theme has been announced: "Beauty is..." Start thinking about it now and get those creative juices flowing!

"Beauty is..." found in Music, Literature, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Film/Video, & Photography.

McDonald's Nights!

We are ready for more McDonald's Nights! For the rest of the school year, we will have a McDonald's Night each month! The third Tuesday of each month from 5-8 pm will be "Meet Us at McD's"! Dates are April 21 and, May 19. There will be fun activities and games during the evening, too! Join us at the 3406 McDonald's for fun each month!



5th Grade Garage Sale

Saturday, April 4th

8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Deep Wood parking lot

Clothes, books, kitchen items, furniture, fun stuff, toys...

And much, much, more!



If you have ANYTHING you would like to donate to the garage sale, we would love to have it! Big items? We'll come get them!

Becky Velasco 341-9204

beckyvel@msn.com





ROUND ROCK **I S D**

PARENT WORKSHOP!!

April 2, 2009

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Deep Wood Elementary Cafeteria

Overcoming The Mean Girls Syndrome

Presented by Pam Butler, Callison Counselor

Relational Aggression is a growing phenomenon in the United States. More and more teenage girls are committing violent acts in response to their environment. This seminar will explore the concepts of Relational Aggression and the symptoms and signs of Relational Aggression, but most importantly the resources and tools to help girls develop and maintain healthy relationships throughout their lives.

- FREE
- NO RESERVATION REQUIRED
- TRANSLATION AVAILABLE (Contact Tina Risinger, your campus Parent Support Specialist, 310-9010)

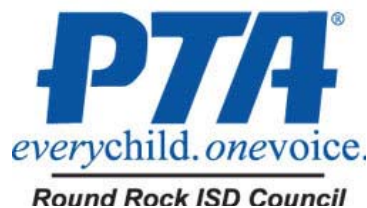
Superando el síndrome de las niñas crueles

Presentadora: Pam Butler, Consejera de la escuela Callison

La agresión relacional es un fenómeno que esta creciendo en los Estados Unidos. Más y más niñas adolescentes están cometiendo actos violentos en respuesta a su ambiente. Este taller explorara los conceptos de la agresión relacional, los síntomas y señales de este, pero lo más importante los recursos y herramientas para ayudar a las niñas a desarrollar y mantener relaciones sanas a lo largo de sus vidas.

- Gratis
- No se requiere reservación
- TRANSLATION AVAILABLE (Contact Tina Risinger, your campus Parent Support Specialist, 310-9010)

Same Goals/Mismas Metas
Different Roles/Papeles Diferentes



April 2009



on another note

FIELD DAY!

On your mark... mark your calendars!

Get set... for field day fun!

Go!

Field Day is scheduled for May 15th, with the rain day set for May 22nd. More information, including Field Day details and the parent volunteer form, can be found on Mrs. Thompson's website:

<http://www.teacherweb.com/TX/DeepWood/DeepwoodPE/>

Mary Sue Thompson
P.E.W.E. Deep Wood Elementary
464-4416



I would like to say "Thank you!" to all who helped make our World Cultures event a success. So many teachers and parents volunteered their time to help pull it all together so students and their families could enjoy a traveling experience. We even had visitors from other schools and out of town! I invite you to share any photos you took that evening. I would like to add them to a photo collection.

Our next big unit will introduce notable areas of Art History to each grade level. We approach it by looking at history as a time line that begins with art of the cave man 17,000 years ago, continuing through Ancient Egyptian art, basic elements of Classical Greek and Roman art, Medieval Period, Impressionists, to Modern/Contemporary/Modern .

We're still very busy in the Deep Wood Art Studio!

Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator
DWES



We had some great performances at our World Cultures Night in March. Thanks to all of the families and friends who were in our audiences. The first, third, and fourth graders really enjoyed sharing what we have learned in our music classes. We have another performance coming up on Friday, April 17th when our kindergarteners will perform "What I Learned in Kindergarten". The program will consist of songs we have worked on throughout the year that emphasized certain musical concepts and correlated with the classroom curriculum. The students will perform at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

The spring semester is a busy one. Second graders are learning a new rhythm, the half note, and two new pitches, Do and Re. The fourth graders are learning all about the instruments of the orchestra in preparation for a field trip in May to attend an Austin Symphony Orchestra concert, and the fifth graders are working towards their black belts in our Recorder Karate curriculum. Last fall our school received a Partners in Education Foundation grant to purchase the music software Music Ace Maestro for each computer in our computer lab. Many classes will be going into the lab this spring to learn lessons and play games that teach several music concepts, including reading notes on the staff and reading rhythms. The students will be able to work independently and at their own pace with head phones. We are really excited that Deep Wood students have been given this opportunity to use this technological tool to improve our music literacy.

Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate

Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart

The American Heart Association has received almost \$3,000 from Deep Wood Elementary this year. Thanks to the giving hearts of our community and the drive of our students we have played a part in helping others. Thank you Deep Wood!!!



April 2009



COUNSELOR'S CORNER
Elizabeth Carbonneau

During the month of March our **PBS Character Traits** will focus on **Perseverance** and **Optimism** in connection with our Deep Wood 3 B's: **Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.**

PERSEVERANCE: To stick to a purpose or a goal, never giving up even when it may be difficult to continue.

OPTIMISM: To believe in and be hopeful about the good in people and situations in life.

Parents often ask me how to help their child handle "**Bully Behavior**" I will address each of the situations below in the next three newsletters. My information is taken from "*Bullying In The Girl's World*" by Dian Senn (2007), Chapin, South Carolina, Youthlight, Inc. Although this reference is focused on girls, the same information applies to boys.

- When your child is using Bully Behaviors
- When your child is the target or victim of Bully Behaviors
- When your child is a bystander to Bully Behaviors

When Your Child is Using Bully Behavior:

- Intervene with discipline – restitution, resolution, and reconciliation.
- Assist child in identifying and listing specific bullying behaviors that need to change.
- Create opportunities to "do good" and compliment.
- Nurture empathy.
- Monitor TV, computer activities, and music.
- Be a positive role model.

Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on
April 16th and May 21st from 9:30 to 11:30
at Voigt Elementary school.
Please contact Becky Velasco
(341-9204, beckyvel@msn.com)
if you are able to fill this need.

Deliver used clothing in good condition to the nurse's office.
Thank you!



Kinder

Kindergarten will enjoy researching animals and plants as we watch things change and grow this month. Spring observations are well underway and our little scientists are taking notes. We will solve many math problems through addition and subtraction. Mark your calendars! Our kindergarten music program is scheduled for Friday, April 17th at 8:00. If you have any neighbors with children ready to enter kindergarten please let them know our kindergarten round-up is Wednesday, April 1st. Thanks for helping us spread the word.

1st Grade

The month of April is full of exciting activities. We are studying life cycles of animals and plants. We will be watching a life cycle up close and personal by hatching some eggs in an incubator. Hopefully we will have a great hatch this year! In Math we will be studying about the fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{3}$. We will then review the addition and subtraction facts through 18. Keep reading and practicing those math facts at home every night. We will continue to write small moment stories and edit them for capital letter, punctuation and spelling. We are all becoming such wonderful writers.

2nd Grade

Spring has definitely sprung in 2nd grade! We are in full bloom and at full speed finishing up this year. In math we will learn about capacity, mass, length, and probability. In Social Studies our Junior Achievement volunteers will visit with info that ties in well with our economics unit. In Science we will learn characteristics of different animal groups. Students should practice their math facts in order to achieve mastery before the end of the year. They should also read nightly for 20 minutes. April 23rd, please join us on our field trip to the Texas Memorial Museum and Pease Park to go fossil hunting. The District Reading and Math Benchmarks will be given at the end of April. We're excited about student progress so far, and we look forward to a fantastic performance on the district benchmarks! As always, we appreciate your continued support in your child's educational process.

3rd Grade

Third Graders did a marvelous job with their performance at World Cultures Night - thanks to our wonderful music teacher, and they were proud to show their parents their beautiful art work with Mrs. Reilly as their guide. We hope you had an enjoyable Spring Break. Mrs. Tuxhorn's class will begin the last rotation for Robotics lab. Students are writing personal narratives, poetry, and idioms in Writer's Workshop as they are learning cursive writing. They continue to improve their reading skills in Literature Circles and their weekly 100 minutes for reading independence. In Math students are using problem solving skills while studying Geometry. For Science students are learning about Slow and Rapid Changes to Earth's Surface. We will soon begin our study of plants. Thanks as always for your continued support, contributions, and participation.

4th Grade

Fourth graders will be focusing on their math and reading skills the month of April in preparation for the upcoming TAKS Test. The Math TAKS will be administered on April 28, and the Reading TAKS will be administered on April 29. We will celebrate our successes by spending an afternoon at the duck pond. We hope everyone is enjoying a great spring!

5th Grade

Rested and ready describes our 5th graders after a great Spring Break. Parents have received the blue Sea World letter regarding the \$15 deposit and chaperone sign up. All monies for students and chaperones is due by April 3rd. The Garage Sale Fund-raiser will be held Saturday, April 4th and the Sock Hop Fund-raiser will be held Friday, April 17th; you may contact Becky Velasco at 341-9204 for more info. IMPORTANT: Math TAKS is on April 7th and Science TAKS is on April 30th. We encourage lots of rest, a good breakfast and an upbeat pep talk for both tests. Our DARE lessons are winding down and all students must write an essay in order to graduate from DARE. It will be assigned April 14th, due on the 28th. DARE graduation is May 7th. Don't forget the book report that was assigned March 30, due May 5th. The last weeks of 5th grade are always busy!!

