

# Dino Tracks

December  
2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

## What's Inside This Edition

- Principal/  
President's  
Letters
- Upcoming  
Events
- Reflections  
Recognitions
- Counselor's  
Corner
- Clothes  
Closet
- Info from  
specials
- Grade level  
updates

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

## A Note From the Principal

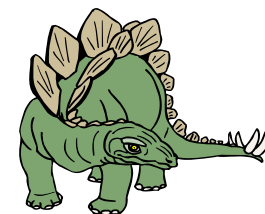
Thank you to everyone who made our Food Drive and our Blue Santa Toy Drive such a big success! Thanks goes especially to Mrs. Lena and her second grade class, who all worked tirelessly to count and organize cans for our needy families! The spirit of giving to help others is one of the most important things we can teach our children.

We have a very busy month ahead! Our Book Fair will be open from December 7- 10. "Monday with Meredith" will be in the evening on Monday, December 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We will have our wonderful music concert on Tuesday, December 8, starting at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Choate and the students have the most beautiful voices to steal your hearts and charm your ears! December 9 is an early release day. Please remember that your children will be released from school at 12:45 that day. Winter parties are on Friday, December 18, at 1:30 p.m. Please coordinate these with your homeroom parents.

We have had several Dads already join us for our Watch DOGS program! From what they tell me, not only are the kids enjoying their company, but they are like "rock stars"! We LOVE having volunteers at school. Thanks for making the kids feel so special by giving up your time to come participate in classes! ☺ Dads, if you haven't had time yet and would like to spend some time at Deep Wood with our kids, sign up! You will feel so good, tired, but good, at the end of the day! ☺

We wish you a wonderful holiday. May all of you stay safe and be filled with peace, love, and the joy of this season.

Happy Holidays!  
Meredith Perkins ☺  
Principal,  
Deep Wood Elementary



## 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.

The Round Rock Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer and provides educational services which do not discriminate on the basis of age, national origin, race, sex, color, religion, disability or against any other legally protected group. Complaints should be addressed to the district's legal department.

December 2009



## From your PTA president...

Greetings Deep Wood families, I am pleased to announce we now have an official PTA logo that should be placed on all print



and e-mail communication that is PTA related. The purpose is to make the public more aware of the many things the PTA does for our children, school, and community. Recently, Deep Wood PTA has provided funds for Physically Fit, After School Enrichment, Family Art Night, and Curriculum Enhancement programs. Additionally, The PTA funds one field trip for each grade level every year. These field trips average between \$500 and \$600 per grade level. Every dollar we raise is another dollar that is well spent on our fabulous children and their growth, education, and experiences. Thus far our fund raisers have been extremely successful and I wish to thank each and every one of you for your kindness and generosity. Keep your eyes open for upcoming fundraisers in the second semester such as Dino Spirit Nights, Chili Supper, Bingo, cookie dough, our own Deep Wood cook book, and hopefully our first annual Fun Run.

The first Friday of each month the PTA holds a board meeting in the school at 9:30. While these meetings are for the board members to discuss upcoming events, concerns, and issues we have decided that each month we will open the meeting to the general membership starting at 11:00. If you have a specific issue you wish to bring to the PTA board's attention please come at that time and share your concerns. If you are unable to attend you are always welcome to e-mail me with any topics you wish to have discussed. Also, we have several general PTA meetings throughout the school year. These are held in conjunction with other Deep Wood events. We have general meetings scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and April 9<sup>th</sup>. You are always welcome to ask questions during these meetings as well.

Thank you Deep Wood for a successful food drive and Blue Santa toy drive. Your willingness to give is admirable. I hope that all our families had a peaceful Thanksgiving break and enjoyed some time with family and friends.

With Dino Spirit,  
Becky Velasco  
PTA President  
[beckyvel@msn.com](mailto:beckyvel@msn.com)

## Upcoming Events:

- December 3rd DARE Graduation 1:45pm
- December 4th PTA Board 9:30am
- December 7th Monday With Meredith 6:00pm
- December 7th 2nd to Paramount
- December 8th Choir performs for school 7:55am
- December 8th Choir Concert 6:00pm (Afterschool Choir) and Book Fair
- December 8th-10th Book Fair
- December 9th Early Release 12:45pm
- December 11th Dino Pride 7:45am
- December 15th 3rd Economic Fair 8:00-10:00am
- December 16th 3rd to Inner Space Caverns 9:45am
- December 18th Sing A Long 7:45am
- December 18th Winter Parties 1:30pm

## Saddle up!

The Chili Supper is right around the corner on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>!



Switch to rechargeable batteries the holiday season. Four rechargeable AA alkaline batteries can reduce the need to buy and dispose of roughly 100 conventional batteries! That saves about \$40 and eight pounds of hazardous waste!





Reflections 2009 - 2010 is over at Deep Wood Elementary. A big thank you to all the children who participated:

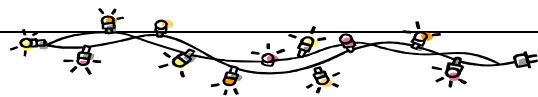
|                    |                      |                    |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Gallardo      | Guadalupe Rivera     | Madison Gray Davis |
| Adare Quinn        | Hatty McAnally       | Maggie Bowling     |
| Aidan Mercado      | Heather Choate       | Marinna Gonzalez   |
| Akira Schwarz      | Heidi Wilding        | Mason Morin        |
| Alex Gonzales      | Holton Carner        | Maya Talamantez    |
| Alexandra Gallardo | Jake Runkle          | Natalia Campos     |
| Annie Dixon        | James Thomas Ahmann  | Nicholas Starich   |
| Aurora Schwarz     | Jazzmine Lively      | Nicole Kelly       |
| Bayleigh Alexander | Kara Montalvo        | Owen Parker        |
| Beverly King       | Katelynn Blando      | Parker McAnally    |
| Carmen Buford      | Kaycee Pease         | Presley Allen      |
| De'Yante Johnson   | Kelsey Runkle        | Rebecca Buford     |
| Eduardo Rodriguez  | Kiara Haney          | Sam Dixon          |
| Eli Morrison       | Kyla Shane           | Sam Rachui         |
| Emily Pharr        | Layla Hatchett       | Sarah Swindell     |
| Erin Hudgins       | Madeline Neito-Lacey | Steven Luper       |

What beautiful creations - you impressed us all! We'll let you know how the Award of Excellence projects do after being judged at the District Level. Remember you can start on any Reflections projects for next year NOW! With the new 2010 - 2011 theme:

Together We Can...

(Even those of you going into 6th grade - they have the Reflections program at Chisholm Trail Middle School too.)

Deep Wood Elementary earns money when you bring in your paper recycling! When those old school papers build up on your kitchen table drop them off in the yellow and green Abitibi collection dumpster out back by the cafeteria entrance. Deep Wood earns cash for every pound of paper we collect. (They also take newspaper, magazines, mail and catalogs)



### A Bright Idea!

Replace your traditional holiday lights with LED types. Three strings of 100 large incandescent bulbs running five hours every day between Thanksgiving and New Years will cost about \$60 of electricity. Three strings of LED lights over the same period of time will use about 30 cents of electricity! Plus based on the life span of the LED lights you will be using the same strings for decades to come. (The Green Book)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER  
Betty Carbonneau

The November Character Trait focus in RRISD is on **Responsibility**. During classroom guidance lessons students will be learning about: Responsibility, Responsible Behavior, Personal Safety, Following Rules and Self-Control.

The December and January Character Trait focus in RRISD is on **Acceptance**. During classroom guidance lessons, students will be learning about: Diversity, Communication, Cultural Celebrations, Self-Esteem, Self-Awareness, Expressing Feelings, and Working Cooperatively in a group.

The Deep Wood PBS Bully Prevention system continues to work well in combination with the “3 B’s” in helping students learn how to be **Safe, Responsible, and Respectful** by using the instructions they have learned to use **Stop – Walk – Talk** if someone is bothering them and they can’t ignore it. I want to share the data we have collected so far in our continual effort to assess the effectiveness of this program.

- 38 students completed a survey anonymously during the month of October with 5 statements which they ranked on a 1 – 4 scale: 1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = most of the time, 4 = always for both before and after they learned about the PBS Bully Prevention program at DW. Results are below:
  1. Before: 48% of students knew what to do if someone was bothering them.  
After: 100% of students knew what to do if someone was bothering them.
  2. Before: 3% of students knew that they could raise their hand to say STOP when being bothered.  
After: 92% of students knew that they could raise their hand to say STOP when being bothered.
  3. Before: 42 % of students knew that they could WALK away if they continued to be bothered.  
After: 97% of students knew that they could WALK away if they continued to be bothered.
  4. Before: 32% of students knew that they could TALK to an adult if they continued to be bothered.  
After: 97% of students knew that they could TALK to an adult if they continued to be bothered.
  5. Before: 24% of students knew that they should talk to an adult immediately if something was dangerous.  
After: 95% of students knew that they should talk to an adult immediately if something is dangerous.
- Counselor referrals for “bully related issues” have been greatly reduced with the PBS Bully Prevention Program this year compared to the same time frame last year as you will see below:

September 1, 2008 – October 31, 2008: 46 counselor referrals for bully-related issues.

September 1, 2009 – October 31, 2009: 15 counselor referrals for bully-related issues.

- Since every student in the school has learned the STOP – WALK – TALK procedure (as well as all staff members), I have taken an informal show-of-hands survey in each classroom to determine how many students have used this procedure when someone was bothering them. Approximately 80% of students at all grade levels have used this plan with success. Of the other 20%, most have not had a situation where they needed to use it yet.



## **Round Rock Clothes Closet NEW Sock/Underwear Drive**

Due to the current state of the economy, the client base has significantly increased. With this increase, the Closet is desperately low on their supply of brand new socks and underwear. They are currently in need of both boys and girls underwear for all ages. This includes sizes beginning at youth 4 and up to youth 16. They also need men's sizes 32, 34, and 36. For women, they need 5, 6, and 7. Socks are needed in youth small, medium and large sizes. Women's and men's are welcome, too. The type of socks which work best for the clients are either the no-show or ankle type. **There will be an area set up at the front of the school to receive these donations from 11/30/09 to 12/16/09. Donations will be taken to the Closet on 12/17/09.**

### **What is the Clothes Closet?**

The Clothes Closet is a service project conducted by the Round Rock Council of PTAs which provides gently used clothing as well as new socks and underwear to RRISD students.

### **Who qualifies for the services of the Clothes Closet?**

Vouchers, good for one (1) school year, are issued by school nurses to families in need. A family's need may be an ongoing one or a temporary one.

### **How does the Clothes Closet obtain donations of clothing and new socks and underwear for its clients?**

Clothes are donated by District families through their local schools. *The Clothes Closet always needs new or gently used denim items.* Donations can be left with the school nurse. The PTAs hold new sock/underwear drives.

### **What do the Clothes Closet clients receive?**

Student clients receive 5 tops, 5 bottoms (pants, skirt, shorts or dress), 1 sweatshirt, 5 new pairs of underwear and 5 new pairs of socks per semester. They may select one coat and one jacket per school year.

### **Who staffs the Clothes Closet?**

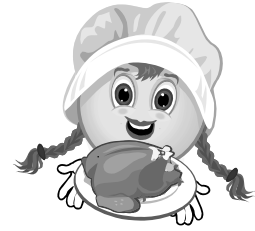
Each Clothes Closet shift is staffed by a Council PTA rep, who serves as the shift leader and by volunteers from each local elementary, middle and high school PTA. The volunteer can be the school's Clothes Closet rep or any PTA volunteer

Recycle your foam packing! Styrofoam takes an estimated 700 Years+ to decompose. Instead recycle it. Deep Wood Recycling Center accepts foam peanuts and the block foam can be taken to Cycled Plastics off of Burnet.



## PBS CORNER

*We have so much to be thankful for this school year. Our students are so responsible and respectful in their learning and in their relationships with peers and staff. This is evident as we walk throughout the school, and how students respond to the expectations taught and reinforced at school and home. We know this is possible because we have parents that support our school.*



*Congratulations to our 3rd grade classes for earning the trophies for consistently exhibiting the expectations in the 7 common areas (hallway, cafeteria, assemblies, restroom, before & after school porch, playground) during the month of October. We are looking forward to which grade level will display the trophy for the month of November. Check out our hallway graph for the latest count.*



*This is our 2nd year in PBS, and the focus will be in collecting data in the classrooms to support learning and behavior expectations. The PBS Team and Internal Coaches have been attending several trainings through Region XIII. Ms. Carbonneau and Mrs. Wafford presented at a conference on the Bully Prevention that has been implemented at Deep Wood. These trainings provide research based strategies that will support our goal in keeping Deep Wood a place where students can be safe, responsible and respectful. Additionally, it allows the PBS Team to focus on our school's individual needs to support the learning environment. Teachers have been distributing "You Rock" coupons and classes have been earning incentives. Stop signs have been posted in the hallways to designate where a class should stop and wait for their teacher. These are strategies that help our students be safe.*

*So what's new? In the cafeteria, colored circles with numbers 1, 2, 3 are permanently placed to indicate where students line up to buy school lunch. Baskets are placed at the end of each table so condiments are readily available. Starting in December, we will recognize classes weekly with the "Platinum Tray Award" for classes that are meeting the cafeteria expectations. A chart will be posted in the cafeteria to show the data for each class which will be displayed in their classroom. This allows students to set goals and see how they are progressing as a class in the cafeteria.*

*As always, we appreciate your continued support in helping your children reach their goals in learning and developing into responsible and respectful individuals. We wish you and your family the best throughout the holiday season.*

### **DeepWood's Annual Food Drive**

Way to go Deep Wood Dinos! We not only met our goal but passed it up with a grand total of 5145! 5th grade brought in the most food items with 1294. 4th grade was next with the total of 1177 and PPCD / Kindergarten came in 3rd with 848 food items. Hats off to Mrs. Hathaway's class for bringing the most food items of 547, Mrs. Page's class brought in 456, and Ms Powell and Ms Kline's class brought in 414. Mrs. Lena's class wants to thank all of Deep Wood Dinos for being generous and giving to those in need. Deep Wood Dinos Rock!



## on another note

### FROM THE ART STUDIO:

Our November Family Art Night always reveals many, many talented folks! It was wonderful to see so many families working on projects with every participant showing their creative side. Thank you for your participation in one of the Art Studio's big nights! Dino artists of all ages - you ROCK!

Next up.... After the holidays, students from each grade level will begin their investigation of art from other cultures from six continents. They will develop art works that will be showcased in our next Fine Arts event - our annual World Cultures Night on Thursday, March 11, 2010. You will hear more about it in January, when I send out a note looking for volunteers for a wide variety of project needs - before - during - and after this huge event that our whole community has come to enjoy! So mark your calendars now - you won't want to miss it!

Keep up with the latest from the Art Studio by checking out my Deep Wood web page on the Teacher's Web. You'll find some family friendly links to be creative. I hope you and your family enjoy safe and restful holidays!

Sincerely,  
Mary Reilly  
Visual Arts Educator



### Catalogue Fundraiser Update

Great job Dinos! We surpassed our goal with the fall fundraiser! Because of your hard work (and purchasing power) we are on our way to being able to fund all the fieldtrips, classroom materials, and other fun activities that make Deep Wood special. We had some kids do some incredible sales! The classroom that made the most money was Kathy Landford's Kindergarteners. Thanks to her students, Ms. Lanford will get \$100 worth of school supplies. Sure helps reduce her wish list! And congratulations to all the kids who won prizes by having their name pulled out of the box. EPI gave some great prizes for sales - games, skateboards, even digital cameras! Look for some of the same incentives when cookie dough rolls around!

December brings two musical performances to Deep Wood. On Tuesday, December 8th the *Tyrannochorus Rex*, Deep Wood's after-school choir for fourth and fifth graders, presents "The *Tyrannochorus Rex* Goes Over the Rainbow", a concert featuring music from *The Muppet Movie*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. The concert will be in the cafeteria at 6:00 p.m.

You are also invited to come and get in the holiday spirit at our Holiday Sing-Along on Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m. in the cafeteria. This annual event features performances by all grade levels and the faculty and is a great way to enjoy the holiday fun with our Deep Wood family.

Please remember you can always get more information on my teacher web page, which includes the weekly newsletter telling you what we are learning in class each week.

"Sing-cerely" yours,  
Lorinda Choate

### *Deep Wood was in the News*

*If you didn't catch it don't worry I have a link in this news release. The children at Deep Wood were part of a world wide event on Thursday, November 12, 2009. They are trying to set a new world record for "The most people all over the world stacking for 30 minutes on that day" What a fun time we had and the students that were on the news were awesome. Thank you. The link is:*  
[http://www.myfoxaustin.com/dpp/good\\_day/11209-Kids-Try-to-Break-Sport-Stacking-Record](http://www.myfoxaustin.com/dpp/good_day/11209-Kids-Try-to-Break-Sport-Stacking-Record)  
*Enjoy watching.*

*Mary Sue Thompson/PENE Teacher*



## Words of Wisdom from the Nurse's Office

**Food Allergies:** It is considered a food allergy when the individual eats a type of food that causes a severe allergic reaction or illness. For some, a reaction occurs if the individual only touches the food product or is near it. Not liking the taste of a food without the association of illness or an allergic reaction is not considered a food allergy. Symptoms of food allergies include a rash, hives, nausea and vomiting, swelling of the face, wheezing and/or difficulty breathing. There is no cure for food allergy, but medications can stop or decrease the reaction. Most common foods causing allergic reactions are nuts, milk, wheat, and eggs.

If your child has a food allergy, include this information when you complete your child's "pink emergency care card" for the school nurse. Discuss the seriousness of a food allergy with the child and provide specific instructions on what foods to avoid. That should include sharing food with friends.

\*\*\*Classroom parties can present a problem without planning.

When a child requires a substitution or modification in school meals, the parent must provide the school nurse with a note from the physician:

1. Identifying child's allergy
2. An explanation of diet restriction and limitations
3. The food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted.

This information is submitted to the Food Service Department.

Contact the school nurse about health concerns for your school age child.

**To excuse or resume participation for your child from PE or Recess due to Injury/ Serious Illness:** A dated physician's note is needed; especially if a splint or cast is in place. School nurses need complete information to properly care for a muscle strain, fracture, or broken bone; it needs time to heal and can be different for each injury. Resuming activities before healing has taken place may cause an injury to become more severe, taking even longer to heal properly. We are cautious to avoid this.

Please provide the school nurse office a physician's order to clear your child for full activity, to release your child from activity restrictions, and to appropriately assist your child. Update changes in physical status as they occur.



Many thanks for submitting your Box Tops for Education. Your contributions added up to \$533.30 for our students. This time around, the top Box Top contributors for each grade level were Meredith Levy, Ella Vidal, James Thomas Ahmann, Alyssa Leal, Sean Swain, Andy Etheridge, and Ali Boaz. Remember to save those Box Tops as you do your holiday cooking for our next submission deadline in April. Also, visit the marketplace at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for your holiday shopping to earn even more money for our students.



## Kinder

During the month of December our kindergarten students will be studying the traditions and customs of families and the community they live in. They will also explore measurement through size, weight, quantity and temperature. In math they will begin to explore simple addition and subtraction. Reading groups and writer's workshop are continuing to run through this month. Please listen to your child read to you and also continue to share your love of reading with them. Have a wonderful and safe winter break!

Although December is a short month it is still very busy! First grade will sew stockings on Friday, December 4th. Many thanks to all who will pre-cut the material, thread needles and come to help. First grade holiday party will be Friday, December 18th from 1:30-2:30. We will be studying different Christmas customs from around the world. If you have a family tradition or custom you'd like to share, please contact Ms. Kligora at school. Her email address is Alice\_Kligora@roundrockisd.org or her phone number is 464-4430. Don't forget to read over the holiday break! The children have made a lot of progress and we'd like to see it continue into the next year.

## 2nd Grade

Wow! Can you believe the school year is almost 1/2 over? In math we will be continuing our addition and subtraction with regrouping of 2-digit numbers and learning how to use a T-chart when working on patterns. We will also be determining the value of coins and reviewing measurement for length. In Science, we will be discovering physical changes as we grow crystals and discussing how systems work. To end this semester, we will be integrating Social Studies with our Language Arts as we learn about a variety of traditions and customs celebrated during the winter holidays. On Dec. 18th, we will have the school-wide sing-a-long and then later that afternoon, we will be having our class holiday party at 1:30. The second grade team wishes all of our Deep Wood parents Happy Holidays, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

The cold weather is on its way! Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate attire. In math students are working hard on division and how it relates to multiplication. Make sure to study facts at home. In reading and writing we are immersing ourselves in poetry. Remember to fill in the nightly reading log and encourage your child to read different genres at home. Students will be exploring the Solar System in science while researching the planets characteristics. Please be on the look out for more information about our upcoming Economics Sale that will be held on 12/15. All the funds earned by this service learning project are donated to the Texas Baptist Children's Home. Third grades first fieldtrip will be on December 16th. We will be going to Inner Space Caverns and Georgetown Park. Continue to check our teacher web pages for weekly happenings.

## 4th Grade

4th Grade had a great time at their Bob Bullock Field Trip before Thanksgiving - lots of thanks to the chaperones! In December we will have community volunteers in the classroom for Junior Achievement. In Math this month the students will be working with measurement, specifically finding length, area and perimeter. We will also start our fractions unit. In Science, students will be going in depth with studies in Erosion, Weathering and Soil. We will be engaged in lots of hands on activities that encourage a deeper understanding of these topics. Get ready to get dirty! In language arts the students just completed feature articles. They researched a Texas animal and then created an article using Microsoft Publisher. Students also learned to cite resources by creating bibliographies. In December we will learn about traditional literature through the study of fables, fairytales, folktales, legends, and myths. The students will also write imaginative stories that build to a climax. In social studies we will focus on the early European colonization of Texas.

## 5th Grade

Can you believe it, the holidays are upon us already! In math we will start studying and measuring perimeter, area, and volume. Then it's on to fractions! Cycles in Nature is the focus of our next unit in science. In social studies we are learning about the loyalists and patriots and the beginning of the Revolutionary War. We are honing and refining our reading and math skills and getting ready to tackle the TAKS!! We hope you all enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

