

# Dino Tracks

February  
2008



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

## What's Inside This Edition:

- Celebrating Our Presidents
- Important dates
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- Counselor's Corner
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- Grade Level Updates

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

## Washington... Lincoln... Etheridge!

February is the month when we honor two of our nation's great presidents, and here at Deep Wood, we just happen to have a great president of our own. Our PTA president is Lauri Etheridge. This is her first year in the position, and when asked what inspired her to run for the office, she said it was important to model volunteering for her two children (her son is currently a second grader, and her daughter will start kindergarten in the fall.) I asked her to describe the upside of being a Dino president. Lauri responded, "Building better relationships with the teachers, staff, and other parents in the community, hoping that I'm letting the teachers know that education is as important to me as it is to them, and that I need to know if PTA isn't fulfilling their part of the bargain."

Lauri welcomes input from parents and teachers alike. She has a lot of irons in the fire: in addition to her responsibilities as president and raising her two kids, she has been working to finish a master's degree! Her biggest obstacle this year has been encouraging others to volunteer, which will become even more important with PTA nominations coming up next month. Any words of wisdom for an incoming president? "Be flexible and surround yourself with talented, dedicated, pro-active people... and know that it doesn't take a huge amount of time to give a little back to your school and community."

Volunteerism is high on Lauri's priority list. And she firmly believes the more, the merrier. Whether you have a lot of time you can devote or just a little, there's a place for everyone. Lauri said, "Get involved! We need people that have an hour here or there! Read to the kids, participate in the teacher planning periods (what a great way to see the dynamics of your child's classroom!), go on a field trip, help us order school supplies, bring pictures for the yearbook, the list goes on!" Want to pitch in but not sure where to start? Call our volunteer coordinator, Shelly Molina, and she can point you in the right direction! Lauri concluded with, "I can't emphasize enough how important each and every parent is to our group and our kids!"

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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Feb 2008



## From your PTA president...

Wow! February is upon us, and we have another month of exciting activities to benefit Deep Wood, our families, and our community: the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, Valentine's parties, Jump Rope for Heart, and best of all ... Chili

Supper! Don't forget to mark your calendars for Friday, February 8, starting at 6:00. There will be a performance by the second graders, followed by food and fun! Be sure to let Francine Quinn know if you want to enter the contest and that you can help out that night! We'll need help setting up and decorating, serving chili, and cleaning up afterwards. This has always been a great night!

Cookie dough sales will start around February 18 so that you can have your orders back before Easter! This is a great product and I, for one, never seem to order enough! The dough is great to have in your freezer for all sorts of events, is easy, and quite yummy!

Hope everyone has a great month and watch for the results of our Science Fair in the March issue!

Lauri Etheridge  
PTA President 2007-2008

### Upcoming Events:

- 2/6 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- 2/8 Chili Supper/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Choir Performance (6:00)
- 2/11 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 2/14 Valentine's Parties
- 2/14- 2/15 Jump Rope for Hearts
- 2/21 Dynamic Dinos Perform (6:30)
- 2/22 Dynamic Dinos Perform (8:15)
- 3/5 TAKS testing
- 3/6 World Cultures Night
- 3/10 – 3/14 Spring Break
- 3/17 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 3/21 School Holiday

A really quick and easy way to get more space in your mailbox and stop those annoying catalogs you never asked for is [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org). This is a completely free service and it only takes a few minutes to register. You decide which catalogs you want and which you do not want.



We are doing great on our paper collection goals for the Paper Retriever Contest. To date we have collected 9.28 tons or 18,560 pounds of paper! Three months into the six month contest and we are rocking towards our 14.48 ton goal! We are grateful to everyone contributing to the paper collection. After all we have not just gathered 9 tons, but we have saved 9 tons from the landfills!





## Keep 'Em Coming!

Please continue to send boxtops and labels. Don't overlook other avenues for earning money, including the Target guest card which applies 1% of your purchases to our school (the Deep Wood ID number is 100826,) inkjet cartridges, and cell phones (bring those in to the school office to be recycled.) All monies go toward programs for your child here at Deep Wood! We have already earned over \$500. **The next deadline is 2/20.**

[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

The New Year often means fresh starts and resolutions. Why not renew your environmental commitment? Start recycling, build a compost pile, have your home checked for heating and air conditioning efficiency, fix leaky toilets, get the car tuned up, even switching to reusable coffee filters makes a difference. There are a hundred ways to reduce our carbon footprint.



## A Picture is Worth...

The yearbook needs your help! We need a volunteer to chair the 5th Grade Dedication Pages and another volunteer to chair the Art Cover Contest. If you would like to volunteer, please email Sheila Runkle at [yearbook@deepwoodpta.org](mailto:yearbook@deepwoodpta.org). Also, if you have any school event photos that you want to share with the Yearbook, please email them to me. Thank you!

Sheila Runkle,  
Yearbook Chair  
(512) 238-7385

## Fire Up Your Crockpots... Chili Supper is coming to town!

The heartwarming Deep Wood Chili Cook Off and Supper tradition continues Friday February 8th, 6:00-8:00PM in the school cafeteria. This annual event wrangles up some of the finest chili in the West. Local "celebrity" judges will do the tasting to determine prize winners in these 5 categories: Hot Hairy Man, Texas, Designer, Dino, Chili-Chili and special Faculty Chili. Music is provided by The 2nd Grade Cowpoke Choir. New this year is *Costume Contest for Best Dressed Cowboy and Cowgirl!*

You don't want to miss this, so round up the family and head on in. Watch for Discount Advance Purchase ticket forms, entry forms, and volunteer sign up sheets coming home in your child's folder this week.

For more information, contact Kevin & Francine Quinn:  
[kquinn5@austin.rr.com](mailto:kquinn5@austin.rr.com)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER  
Elizabeth (Betty) Carbonneau

During the month of February our **Character Education** program will focus on learning about and demonstrating COURAGE and JUSTICE. Some examples of these character traits that we share with students during morning broadcast each day are listed below.

Courage

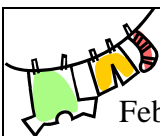
- Standing up for what I know is the right thing
- Handling my emotions without hurting others
- Being truthful – never cheating or lying
- Never taking anything that does not belong to me
- Following all of the classroom rules
- Accepting the consequences for my behavior choices
- Standing up for my rights and the rights of others
- Always trying to do the right thing
- Accepting responsibility for my successes and failures
- Solving conflicts without fighting

Justice

- Being fair and treating all people with dignity and respect
- Never participating in gossip or harassment of others
- Respecting the rights of other people as well as my own
- Taking turns and sharing with others
- Doing my part to help out at home and in the classroom at school
- Using self-control so my behavior doesn't disrupt the learning of others
- Respecting the rules and playing fair
- Not asking others to do things that I can do for myself
- Respecting the right of everyone to have their own opinions
- Listening to both sides of a story before making a decision
- Treating others the way I want to be treated

**Guidance Classes** during February will focus on:

- Tattling vs. Telling (K)
- Anger Management (1)
- Child Lures (2)
- Active Listening Skills (3)
- Study Skills (4 & 5)
- Courage and Justice (all grades)



**Clothes Closet needs your help!**

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on the following dates: February 21<sup>st</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 11:30 at Voigt Elementary school. Please contact Becky Velasco (341-9204, [beckyvel@msn.com](mailto:beckyvel@msn.com)) if you are able to fulfill this need. Deliver used clothing in good condition to the nurse's office. Thank you!



News from Deep Wood PEWE  
(Physical Education, Wellness Education)

Deep Wood has once more shown what a wonderful giving community it is. We raised \$3,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation this year. We are going to be having another event in February, on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> for the American Heart Association (JRFH and HFH). Please be looking in your child's folder at the end of January for the information on this fund raiser.

The PEWE department has also been having a lot of success with our "string" sales. The students love the colors, and they are only \$1 each.

All those of you who have been working on your Marathon Kids miles, please let me know if you are going to complete the 26.2 miles, as I have to order the t-shirts. If you will look on my website and go to the Marathon Kids page there is an attachment that you can print and send in to let us know.

If you have not registered on the Field Day webpage for instant information please check it out. As soon as we post information on this page it will be e-mailed directly to you if you have signed in with your e-mail address.

Make sure and mark the date March 6<sup>th</sup> for the Cultural Arts Night here at Deep Wood, so you can see everything from a "Chinese Dragon Parade" to a real "Down Home Scatter Square Dance". It is a wonderful event right before we head off for Spring Break.

Thank you for all you do for the students here at Deep Wood.



Mary Sue  
Amy

## on another note:

February is here, which means it's time for Deep Wood's Annual PTA Chili Supper. The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will serenade you before the chili is served with our presentation of "Songs from the Life of a Texas Cowboy". The students will share Texas classics such as "Deep in the Heart of Texas", "The Yellow Rose of Texas", "Home on the Range", and others. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria on February 8<sup>th</sup>. Come listen to some great Texas music and then enjoy our state's official dish. Don't you just love living in Texas?

February also means the art and music departments are traveling the world studying the cultures of other countries and preparing for our World Cultures Night on March 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Save the date and come travel with us.

Also this month, our fifth grade representatives for the RRISD Annual Elementary Music Festival are hard at work learning the music for their concert on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. They will be performing at the Performing Arts Center and everyone is invited to attend this free event. Deep Wood's participants include Ariana Castillo, Kendall Choate, Taylor Cruse, Madison Ptacek, Emily Risinger, Anna Roberts, Victor Rodriguez, and Rose Wilding.

Keep singing everyone!

Lorinda Choate



# Kinder

February may be a short month but it will be a busy month for our kindergarten students. We will be on the lookout for the famous groundhog shadow. During social studies we will take a closer look at patriotism and historical figures such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We will also begin a unit on Texas, Stephen F. Austin, and maps. In math we will use the number chart to 100, working with money, problem solving, and reviewing measurement.

The fifth graders have jumped in the new semester full force, working on science fair projects, biography book reports, and TAKS reading. Customary and metric measurement will be our focus in math. Renewable and nonrenewable resources and objects in the sky round out our science this month. In social studies we will continue the study of the American Revolution, with a new project in the works. All fifth graders should be getting serious about their reading as TAKS is Wednesday, March 5. Please look over and sign your child's TAKS Coach book before they turn it in on Tuesdays. Your support and involvement in your child's education is vital to their success, and is much appreciated by their teachers.

# 5th grade

We will hold our 2nd annual writing camp in February. During this fun filled week, the 4th grade students will participate in a beach themed writing camp. Each morning will start with a pep rally to get students excited and ready to write. We will sing songs such as "I Will Revise," sung to the tune of "I Will Survive." We will then spend the day completing fun and interesting writing activities. The students will also be bringing home a TAKS writing homework folder each Thursday night. Instructions will be in the inside cover, with the assignment due the following Monday. The TAKS writing test will be given Wednesday, March 5. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you are giving your child. We appreciate your help!

# 4th grade

# 1st grade

February will be a busy month for first grade. We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 14th. The party will be from 1:45-2:40. Your child is welcome to make/bring cards for the class. A list of names will be sent home. We will also be studying about the United States – presidents, symbols of America, customs, and traditions. February is also Dental Health month. Please keep your children reading at night and remember to also practice the spelling words by writing them down on paper.

Grade  
Level  
Updates

Our **Valentine's Party** will be on Thursday, February 14. Homeroom moms will be contacting you soon about how you can help make this a great party for the kids. We will continue preparing for the **TAKS Reading test**. The date has been changed from March 4 to March 5 due to primary elections throughout the state. Please go over the TAKS Reading homework passages with your child. **Math** will involve Geometry-all the two and three dimensional shapes and the related vocabulary. We will also be learning the value of coins and paper money. This is an area your student could practice with you regularly at home! In **Science** we are studying the animals, plants, soil, and habitats that make up our environment. Keep reading those **AR books**, striving for 30 points.

# 3rd grade