

Dino Tracks

February
2010



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition

- Principal's & President's Letter
- Upcoming Events
- Counselor's Corner
- Candidate's Forum
- Parent Events
- Info from specials

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

A Note From the Principal

Dear Deep Wood Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is February already! ☺ Remember, we have early release day (for staff development) on February 10th. Also, our 3rd grade parents and students have TAKS Orientation night on February 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

All of our fifth graders will be going to the McNeil Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Wednesday, February 3, to hear to learn about their elective choices at Chisholm Trail Middle School. CTMS staff will be coming to visit Deep Wood on Monday, February 8, as a follow up. Look for more detailed information to come home with your fifth grader that day. If you are here on transfer, and will be attending Canyon Vista Middle School, here is information from the principal, Barbara Paris (you will need to make arrangements to go to Canyon Vista, if this applies to you, for orientation information):

INCOMING Canyon Vista 6TH GRADERS

FEBRUARY 9

Fine Arts presentation at the McNeil Performing Arts Center (PAC)

(Incoming 6th graders will be transported from their elementary campus to learn about their elective choices)

FEBRUARY 11

Choice sheets due back to current 5th grade teacher

APRIL 13

PTA night for families new to CVMS

6:00-6:30 Club Fair

6:30-7:00 Organizing for Success @ CVMS

7:00-8:00 Parent Orientation

MAY 4 and 6

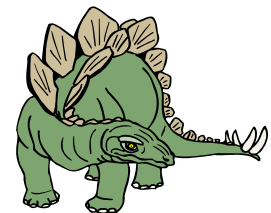
Brown Bag with administrators and counselors for families new to CVMS 12:00-1:00 (this is an informal bring your own lunch Q and A session.)

MAY 11(Jollyville), 12 (Spicewood), 13 (Laurel Mountain), 14 (Caraway)

Incoming 6th graders experience a typical Mustang school day.

TBA

Additional dates for schedule pick up, lockers, PE uniforms, testing etc



We hope to see all of you at the PTA Chili Supper and second grade performance on this Friday, February 5th! Last year, all of the chili was fabulous! We had lots of great entries and tons of fun that night!

Kindergarten Round Up will be March 8 at Deep Wood. We look forward to meeting all of our incoming kindergarten students and their parents! ☺

Thank you for all you do in supporting your children and our school!

Meredith Perkins. Principal

Principal, Deep Wood Elementary

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.

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.

February 2010



From your PTA president...

Deep Wood Families,
We are moving along in our second semester of the 2009-2010 school year. It is hard to believe the year is more than half over. PTA has sponsored a lot of

exciting and educational events thus far and there is so much more to come. This month is Deep Wood's annual Chili Cook-off. This is a fabulous event where you can try your hand at making a pot of chili or just come sample everyone's creations. All while enjoying the beautiful tones of our second graders. February also brings class Valentine's parties and the cookie dough fundraiser. Just around the corner is our famous World Cultures Night in March. Ms. Reilly does an amazing job each year of making this a night to remember so don't miss it. Also in March is a Chuck E. Cheese Dino Spirit Night.

It's time to order your yearbook. It's a nice quality book filled with wonderful memories for only \$10. If you have any pictures from school activities please contact Lauri Etheridge (lmetheridge@gmail.com). Also, Deep Wood PTA's very own cookbook will be available soon. It is full of tried and true recipes from Deep Wood families.

Believe it or not it is already the time of year where we put together our PTA nominating committee. This is a committee that recruits people to be PTA board members, both officers and committee chairmen. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or holding a board position please contact me at the e-mail address below. We always need more people and new people. Many of us currently on the board are in our final years at Deep Wood. We need new people to come on board (pun intended) at take positions such as Harvest Hoedown, Silent Auction, Chili Supper, Website, and more.

With Dino Spirit,
Becky Velasco
PTA President
beckyvel@msn.com

Upcoming Events:

- February 1st 6:00pm-6:30pm Monday w/Meredith
- February 3rd 5th to PAC for CTMS Fine Arts Presentation
- February 5th 9:30am PTA Board
- February 5th 6:00pm 2nd grade Singing Program
- February 5th 6:30pm PTA Chili Supper
- February 10th EARLY RELEASE 12:45pm
- February 12th 1:30pm-2:30pm Valentine Parties
- February 15th School Holiday/Staff Development Day
- February 17th 6:30pm-7:30pm 3rd Grade TAKS Night
- February 25th 6:30pm Dynamic Dinos performance
- February 26th 7:45am Dino Pride/ Dynamic Dinos performance (tentative)

Don't Forget to Save Your Pennies! Bring your **"Pennies for Peace"** to World Cultures Night on Thursday, March 11th. The money will go to the Central Asia Institute to help buy school supplies for students in Pakistan and Afghanistan. At Deep Wood our students not only learn about the world – we help the world learn too!



Physically Fit will start back up February 23rd. Look for packets to go home the week before. Please make sure you read those packets, even if you have participated in the past, as there are some significant rule changes. Make sure both you and your child sign the permission form so we do not have to send it back home. As always, Physically Fit will meet every Tuesday and Thursday afterschool until 4 pm. We will not meet some days because of TAKS and World Cultures. These dates will also be included in the packet that is sent home. We need parents to help, so come on out and join your kids on the track!



Prize Winning Chili Coming Right Up!

Deepwood's Annual Chili Supper and Cook Off
Friday February 5th 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Check your child's folder for entry forms & ticket reservations
Questions? kquinn5@austin.rr.com
Sponsored by Deepwood PTA



Please join us for the PTA Afterschool Enrichment
Dynamic Dinos Disney Dazzle
Performing in the Deep Wood Cafeteria
Thursday, February 25, 2010, 6:30p.m.
Bring the whole family for a short, Disney-style,
singing, dancing, good time!!!

GOT PHOTOS? OF COURSE YOU DO!

Please send them our way! We're in the process of gathering photos for the 2009-2010 Deep Wood Dino Yearbook! We need pictures from everything from the first day of school, to Hoedown, to everyday classroom events. So send us your pictures to shine on our pages. You can send loose pictures (we'll scan and return), copies on disk, or, if you have .jpgs on your computer, you can email them in!

It's your yearbook! Make sure it reflects visions of you! Be sure if you need something returned you put your name and teacher on it!

Send everything to: Lauri Etheridge lmetheridge@gmail.com



COUNSELOR'S CORNER
Betty Carbonneau

The RRISD January Character Trait focus is on **Acceptance**. During this month, classroom guidance lessons have been about Diversity, Communication, Cultural Celebrations, Self-Esteem, Self-Awareness, and Expressing Feelings. Connections are continually made between positive character traits and school success and future career opportunities.

The February Character Trait is **Friendship** which will involve classroom guidance lessons on Bullying, Making and Keeping Friends, and Conflict Resolution Skills. Interpersonal skill development including critical-thinking, decision-making, goal-setting, and problem solving skills will be a part of the lessons for students during the month.

Counselor **Dino Groups** are focused on Social Skills. During this month we are working on how to be GOOD LISTENERS and how to IGNORE DISTRACTIONS with specific skill development and role playing to practice those new skills.

Counselor **Lunch Bunch Groups** are in the process of learning how to develop PERSONAL GOALS by creating strategies to assist in working toward these goals, reviewing individual progress weekly with support from the group when we meet, and planning for future achievement.



It is with great pleasure that the Round Rock ISD Council of PTAs will be hosting its 3rd annual "A Sprinkle of Fairy Dust" program on March 27th, 2010 at Ridgeview Middle School. This event focuses on junior and senior girls in the Round Rock ISD high schools who are dealing with financial hardship in their families and will have difficulty going to prom without some outside assistance. Fairy Dust sprinkles a girl with compassion and allows their dreams to become reality by providing a dress and hopefully a few "sprinkles" for this memorable evening. The PTA cordially invites you to be a part of our program and participate in our first district-wide donation drive in 2010. We are looking for gently used "fashionable" formal gowns, party dresses or prom dresses that are clean (preferably dry cleaned) in any size from 0 - 22. We are also seeking donations of gift cards/certificates for services such as hair styling, manicures, make up sessions, flowers, dinner for two, etc.

Please contact Becky Velasco (beckyvel@msn.com) or Lauri Etheridge (lmetheridge@gmail.com) if you wish to make a donation.
Council PTA Contact: Mary McGuire: 507-7008; mmm McGuire@austin.rr.com





State Board of Education District 10* Candidates' Forum

Sponsored by Area 6 Council of PTAs & Ed First

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010

7 - 9 p.m.

Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center
5800 McNeil Drive, Austin

Moderator: Drew Scheberle, Sr. VP for Education & Talent
Development,
Austin Chamber of Commerce

**Hear what the candidates for SBOE District 10
have to say about public education**

Invited to participate are
Marsha Farney - R
Judy Jennings - D (confirmed)
Rebecca Osborne - R
Brian Russell - R

Responsibilities of the SBOE:
Write the Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)
Invest funds of the Permanent School Fund (PSF)
Approve the creation of Charter Schools
Determine passing scores on TAKS

<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index3.aspx?id=1156>

**District 10 includes Travis County north of the Colorado River, Williamson County, Bastrop County, and other counties south to DeWitt and southeast to Fort Bend. Travis County south of the Colorado River is part of SBOE District 5.*



Greetings from your Deep Wood Parent Support Specialist!

It has been so fun getting to know the Deep Wood Community and I have enjoyed meeting some wonderful parents. Thank-you for all that you do for the school and for your children! Please remember to visit **the Parent Resource Center**, Room 213, in the school. It is **your room** for meetings, projects, gatherings and has a wonderful parent library and children's place space to use.

Upcoming Parent Events:

- February 20: **Becoming a Love and Logic Parent**, 9:00-4:00
Blackland Prarie Elementary School
Contact: [Felice Grear@roundrockisd.org](mailto:Felice_Grear@roundrockisd.org) or 424-8600
- February 23: **Parent Talk**, February topic: **Allowances and Chores** 11:30-12:30
Deep Wood Parent Resource Center, Rm. 213
Bring your lunch and join us for some parent talk!
- March 6: **FAFSA day**,
Round Rock High School, 8:30-12:30
Help for high school seniors and adults wanting to fill out financial aid forms for college programs
- March 9: **Parent gathering for families with children with Special Needs**
Deep Wood Elementary Library
Come meet other parents and learn about special education services in RRISD and the community
- March 11: **Deep Wood World Cultures Night**, 5:45-8:00
- March 22, 29 April 5, 12: **Becoming a Love and Logic parent**, 11:30-1:00
Great Oaks Elementary, 464-6857
- March 23: **How to Talk to Your Teenager**, 7:00-8:30
Stony Point Lecture Hall, (main entrance)
Annie Drake, renowned lecturer and author
- March 30: **Parent Talk**, March Topic: **Discipline** 11:30-12:30
Brown Bag Lunch in the Deep Wood Parent Resource Center, Rm 213
- March 30: **Mean Girls**, 6:00-7:30 Walsh Middle School

Questions about any of these programs? Didn't find what you were looking for?
Contact: Kristin King Hamilton, 464-4432, kristin_hamilton@roundrockisd.org

Times are tough for all families; here are a few resources to help

Angel Food Ministries: Sells fresh and frozen food boxes for \$30.00. One box of food feeds a family of four for about one week. Available 1x each month. Open to all and food stamps accepted. Order by calling 310-9159 or www.angelfoodministries.com

Kids Eat Free or Almost Free

Sirloin Stockade: From 5:00-9:00 on Tuesdays
4-10 year olds is .99
11-12 year olds is 3.59

Buffalo Wings and Rings: Monday kids 12 and under eat free

Mangia Pizza: Kids eat free with an adult meal purchased

Pok-E-Jo's Smokehouse: Kids eat free after 5:00pm

Serranos: Wednesdays, kids eat free

I-Hop: Every day kids eat free with an adult purchase

Souper Salad: Every day kids 4 and under eat free and kids 5-12 eat for 3.49

Lubys: Wenesdays after 4:30 kids 10 and under eat for 2.00

Central Market: Tuesdays, kids 12 and under eat free.



People and Places and Funny Faces! That's what YEARBOOKS are made of!

Don't miss out on all of the fun times and wonderful memories of the 2009-2010 school year!

Just fill out the order form below and return it before March 1, 2010! Yearbooks are just \$10 each and are promised to be fun, fun, fun!

Please address checks to Deep Wood PTA. We'll distribute the books the last week or so of the school year.

Extras will be limited and may not be available, so order yours in advance!

Questions? Ask Lauri Etheridge at lmetheridge@gmail.com

It's your yearbook! Make sure it reflects visions of you!

Student name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Student name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Student name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

I wish to order _____ copies of the yearbook @ \$10 each

Total enclosed: \$ _____



on another note

February is here and you know what that means. It's time for Deep Wood's Annual PTA Chili Supper. The second 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 such old Texas classics as "Deep in the Heart of Texas", "The Yellow Rose of Texas", "Home on the Range", "Jingle, Jangle, Jingle", and others. The program will start at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria on Friday, February 5th. So 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 Thursday, March 11th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Save the date and come travel with us and don't forget to bring your "Pennies for Peace".

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 Saturday, March 6th 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 Olivia Chapman, Heather Choate, Sam Dixon, Unique Dominguez, Mary-Ashleigh Hamlet, Nicole Kelly, Mason Morin, Erin Mueller, Allysa Ramos, and Joseph Trevino.

Keep singing everyone!
Your music teacher,
Lorinda Choate

FROM THE ART STUDIO:

Studio projects and activities are in full swing. I am excited by the children's enthusiasm for this unit! Looking at visual arts through the cultural window opens our eyes to both our cultural differences and similarities.

You will want to plan to attend Deep Woods biggest student showcase, World Cultures Night, on March 11th ... The halls will be a cultural gallery of student art and there will be student singing and dancing performances as well! The studio is very busy, and as the big night approaches, there will be lots to do to make sure the scene is set for our travel experience!

Here are a few of the many ways I will need help to be ready for this big night.

- Project "display readiness"
- Hallway "display readiness" (days prior to Mar. 11)
- Hallway "display readiness" (the day of Mar.11)
- Food portioning (cutting and portioning single bites, and getting them on trays)
- Exhibit/display hosts (20 minute time slot)

If you are interested in helping in some way, please contact me at the e-mail address below, or contact Kristin Hamilton, our Parent-Teacher liaison.

Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator
mary_reilly@roundroicisd.org
464-4420



Marathon Kids Final Mile

The time for the Marathon Kids Final Mile has come, it will be on February 20, 2010. It will be at the Tony Burger Center in Austin. If you need more information follow this link and you will have a map and directions to the event. <http://www.marathonkids.org/events/austin-final-mile>

Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart

Deep Wood is having its annual event on February 10th and 11th this year. The envelopes will be going out on January 29th. Please help your child with this event. I am enclosing links to the American Heart Association page to help with setting up e-mail links.

<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2360>

http://honor.americanheart.org/site/PageServer?pagename=jump_map



Kinder

February may be a short month but it will be a busy month for our kindergarten students. In science we will be on the lookout for the famous groundhog shadow and a unit on rocks, soil and water. 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 and important historical figures such as Stephen F. Austin. In math we will be working on activities around the number 100, measurement using area and capacity, and subtraction.

4th Grade

The 4th grade students will continue to work in Writing Workshop this month as we prepare for the TAKS Writing Assessment on March 3. We are reviewing all of the skills we have studied this year. The students are taking pieces of writing through the writing process. The students have regular opportunities to brainstorm, draft, revise, edit, conference and publish their work. In reading the students will be working in literature groups where they are reading and responding to literature and then sharing their observations in small groups. In social studies our focus will be the founding of Texas as a republic and state. We will learn about famous Texans such as Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones. In math we will study weight, capacity, and volume. In science our focus will be roles of organisms in living systems.

3rd Grade

Happy Valentine's Day and Black History Month. In class students are problem solving to find the perimeter and area of polygons. Students set goals and made their resolutions as they continue to develop their writing skills in Writer's Workshop. Students will continue to develop and improve their reading skills as they work in Literature Circles, Guided Groups and Independent Reading time. Please make sure your child is reading at home every night. In Social Studies and Science students are learning about Earth changes and landforms. In class students will be taking a Reading and Math TAKS Release Test. These practice TAKS test will help us know what skills your child needs extra help with. Information will be coming home soon about the Third grade Parent Orientation of TAKS on February 17. Parents and students are asked to attend to get more information about upcoming TAKS homework, strategies to answer questions, and information about the TAKS tests. We thank you for your continued support!

5th Grade

With on-going benchmarks, and our unit assessments, our fifth graders have been busily tested!! To help prepare for the TAKS Reading, Math and Science Test they will be assigned a homework TAKS passage each Thursday and it will be due on the following Tuesday with parent initials. We are helping the students get used to the format of these tests so that they will be prepared when they get the test in front of them. The Valentine party will be held on February 12th from 1:30-2:30. On February 3rd fifth graders will travel to the PAC for the CTMS introduction of the electives, your child will attend a short presentation by each department. This third nine weeks is a time when we all do the "big push" to get prepared for our three TAKS tests. Your encouragement and support at home can make a big difference in your child's performance at school. The fifth grade teachers appreciate all of your help because we all want our fifth graders to be successful and prepared for middle school.

