

Dino Tracks

January
2008



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition:

- Letter from PTA president
- Important dates
- Reflections Announcement
- Volunteer Requests and Recognitions
- Counselor's Corner
- Specials Info
- Grade Level Updates

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

We'll Take a Cup of Kindness Yet....

Did you make a New Year's resolution for 2008? Are you committing to exercising more? Eating less? Getting organized? As you contemplate how you will make 2008 different from last year, please consider being a parent volunteer. Opportunities are numerous – there are several calls for help listed in this issue of “Dino Tracks.” Check out the Deep Wood PTA website. Take a look at the Upcoming Events listed on the next page – almost every event or activity will be more effective, more positive with an additional pair of hands. Review our PTA president's letter carefully: she mentions several different ways to get involved. Find an area that fits your strengths and appeals to your interests. Your child WILL benefit from your involvement, as will many other Dinosaurs!

Happy New Year!

Marie Gonzales
Newsletter Chair

.... And days of auld
lang syne.



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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Jan 2008



From your PTA president...

Welcome to 2008! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is ready for the excitement of the spring semester!

Just to give you some idea of upcoming events, we'll soon start a new set of After School Enrichment programs, another round of Physically Fit, Science Fair, more skate nights, and the Chili Cook-off, just to name a few. We still need volunteers to help on the planning committee for the Anniversary Celebration that will be held in April. We need help for everything from collecting stories from past alumni and teachers, photographs, public relations, planning the picnic and entertainment, decorating for the event, and helping with correspondence. Whether you have a few minutes or a few hours, please consider helping us make this an event to rival those of other schools in the district!

It is also time to start thinking about volunteering your time in a board or committee position next year (2008-2009). Trust me ... the nominating committee is already scoping you out, and it will be a lot easier if you come along voluntarily. They've been known to be relentless stalkers when it comes to filling spots! It doesn't mean you have to have a ton of time to be part of the board or committees – the more folks there are, the less time you'll have to devote! And remember why all of us do it. It's been proven that being involved in your child's school experience has incredible positive effects by increasing their learning and counteracting negative influences such as substance abuse and inappropriate behaviors. So get involved today!

Have a great January!
Lauri Etheridge
PTA President 2007-2008

Upcoming Events:

- 1/8 2nd Semester Begins
- 1/11 Elizabeth Kahura Africa Program
- 1/14 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 1/14 Report Cards
- 1/18 5th Grade Scoliosis Screening
- 1/21 MLK Day (school holiday)
- 1/24-1/25 Science Fair judging
- 1/28 Skate Night
- 1/30 Bus Evacuation Training
- 2/6 100th Day of School
- 2/8 Chili Supper/2nd Grade Choir Performance
- 2/11 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 2/14 Valentine's Parties
- 2/14- 2/15 Jump Rope for Hearts

GO-GREEN UPDATE:

We collected **4960** pounds of paper in November!

Most families produce 25% more trash during the holidays. Turn your trash in our CASH! Keep bringing your paper to school.





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! **The next deadline is 2/20.**

www.boxtops4education.com, www.labelsforeducation.com
www.tyson.com/projectaplus, www.goplaylabels.com
www.target.com

Linda Harriman
Consumer Bonuses Chairperson

Reflections 2007-2008 "I Can Make A Difference By..."



I would like to extend a "**Congratulations!**" to all of those students who received awards at the Council Level of the Reflections Program! There will be an Awards Ceremony/Gallery Night in February 2008, and those receiving awards will receive a formal invitation.

Awards of Excellence went to Mason Herring & Rose Wilding.

Awards of Merit went to Adam Gallardo, Heidi Wilding, Peyton Kutz, Rose Wilding and Sam Dixon.

Honorable Mentions went to David Neemidge and Mason Herring (twice).

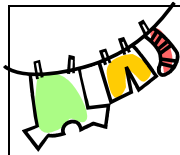
Thank you again to all students who participated in the Reflections program this year. Next year's theme will be announced as soon as we find out.

Debra Stinson
Reflections Chair 2007-2008

Extra! Extra!

We have some leftover Deep Wood Dino (PTA) t-shirts that we are offering for sale for \$4.00 each. We have limited sizes: adult small, kid's large, kid's medium. Those interested should call Dora Mueller @ 244-6097 or email her at muellersd@austin.rr.com.





Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on the following dates:

December 20th, January 24th (irregular date), and February 21st from 9:30 to 11:30 at Voigt Elementary.

Please contact Becky Velasco
(341-9204, beckyvel@msn.com)
if you are able to fulfill this need.

Pants too short? Long sleeves not long enough? Donate them to the clothes closet!

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

Thank you!



Another Man's Treasure

5th Grade Garage Sale

Thank you to all Deep Wood families that supported the 5th grade garage sale. People who donated, and those who came out to browse and buy, were really appreciated. We have two items left to be sold, and we hope someone has a good home for them.

First is a lovely all-wood crib that looks brand new! It has a trundle storage compartment and is just beautiful. Pictures available upon request! You get the crib, the trundle storage drawer, and bedding to go with it (bumper, blankets, and crib sheets). This bed normally sells for anywhere between \$250 and \$300, and 5th grade will take offers starting at \$100.

Our other item is a gorgeous beaded wedding gown. It is in excellent condition and is approximately a size 12. Pictures available upon request. We would like to receive at least \$50 for it.

Thank you for your support of the 5th grade field trip, and we hope to see you at the annual Deep Wood Sock Hop in February!

Contact Tina Risinger at trisinger@yahoo.com or by calling 310-9010.

A Blue Christmas....

Thank you everyone for contributing 6 FULL boxes of toys, gift wrap, and tape to Blue Santa. Round Rock Police Department was very excited to receive so many gifts. They were wrapped and sent on their way to brighten the holidays of many families in our community.



a fond farewell....

First of all, I want to say how much I have enjoyed being at Deep Wood and being with your Children (and you). I have watched you grow up and become wonderful adults. I have watched you bloom into interesting young people. I have watched you reach toward your potential and become terrific human beings. I have a very soft spot in my heart for my Angels. Some are now in their late twenties and early 30 and have children of their own. I hope the things that Angel Club taught you are still with you. I will miss all the fun and educational things that we have done together over the 18 years that I have been with Round Rock ISD..... 14 of them at Deep Wood. I will miss being around the Unique, wonderful, loving parents that fill our halls; that I call my friends. Thank you for some of the best experiences of my life. BUT....do not think that you can get totally rid of me that easily. I will still have several After School Enrichments each season, I will be a sub in your class rooms. I will take part in Angel Club, Harvest Hoe Down, World Cultures Night, Art Night, and any thing else that is fun. (See, I get to do the fun things now and not the Work.) My love to you all. See you soon. Thank You! "t"

Who puts the \$ in the \$ilent Auction?

The Silent Auction portion of the Fall Fundraiser is finally officially closed with all items picked up, paid for, and files packed up for next year!!! We would like to thank all the parents, volunteers, and sponsors who were more than generous with their time and donations to help raise

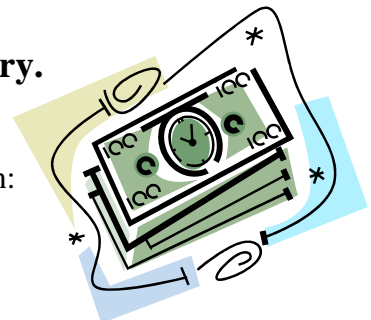
over \$7,000 for Deep Wood Elementary.

Special thanks to the following corporate sponsors of the Silent Auction:

J. A. Hanna Company – Platinum Sponsorship

First Texas Bank – Silver Sponsorship

Dairy Queen, Pflugerville – Silver Sponsorship



Thank you so much to all the homeroom parents for helping to collect the donated items and put all the class baskets together. Our thanks to the staff for their “Teacher Treats” and “VIP Parking” space and to the following individual parents who supported the Auction by collecting donations and/or helping to set up for the event: Sandy Mitschke, Linda Harriman, Jill Herring, Geri Neemidge, Tina Risinger, Amy Gautreaux, Heather Hammer, Vicki Aguirre, Joanne Blando, Elizabeth Dixon, Lauri Etheridge and Mrs. Kilgora’s class of volunteer parents.

Please forgive me if any names have been missed, but know we couldn’t have done it without you. Thank you.

Marianne D. Reap

Silent Auction Chair, 2007



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Elizabeth (Betty) Carbonneau

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

Loyalty

- Being faithful to self, family, friends, school and country in all that I say and do.
- Being willing and able to speak up for what I believe in.
- Accepting and valuing others exactly as they are.
- Listening and encouraging others with kind words.
- Helping out at home and school when I am needed.
- Following the rules at home and school.
- Helping take care of the environment by cleaning up after myself, recycling and keeping the world clean and beautiful.
- Being kind to all people and valuing each person's uniqueness.
- Letting others know that they can count on me to be honest with them.

Trustworthiness

- Being reliable, dependable and consistent in everything I say and do.
- Keeping the promises and commitments I make to myself and others.
- Being respectful – never "making fun of" or "putting down" others.
- Letting people know that they can trust and depend on me.
- Doing the right thing, even what that is difficult.
- Being respectful to people and property in my community.
- Having the courage to stand up for what I believe, even when others disagree.
- Playing fair and always following the rules.

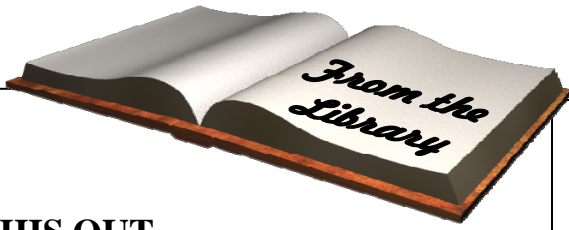
Guidance Classes in January and February will focus on:

- Loyalty and Trustworthiness
- Conflict Resolution
- Study Skills
- Career Exploration

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

A Yearbook Committee is desperately needed! We need volunteers to help make our yearbook a success! Assistance is needed with 5th Grade Dedication Pages, Art Cover Contest, taking photos at school events, yearbook sales, and layout of the yearbook. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Sheila Runkle at (512) 238-7385 or yearbook@deepwoodpta.org. THANK YOU!





on another note

CHECK THIS OUT....

A great big Deep Wood Dino "THANK YOU!" to all the parent volunteers at the Book Fair!

Without you and your hard work our Book Fair would not be possible.

Thank you to all the parents and students who purchased items at our book fair!

Your purchase will enable the library to buy new books and bring in authors to inspire our students.

Martha Alderson and Laurie Thelen,
Librarians

Thank you to all of our Deep Wood families who attended our performances in the fall semester. We have several opportunities for you to be in our audiences in the spring semester as well. There will be music at the PTA Chili Supper on February 8th and at World Cultures Night on March 6th. Kindergarten will share all they have learned during the first year of school on April 11th.

Besides rehearsing for upcoming performances, students will be learning new concepts in music class this spring. Kindergarteners continue to work with the basic concepts of high and low pitches and beat and rhythms. First graders will learn to read and write "So", "Mi", and "La". Second graders will add "Do", "Re", and half notes to their repertoire. Third graders will continue to work with the pentatonic scale and sixteenth notes. Fourth graders will learn about the instruments of the orchestra and orchestra music. The fifth graders are already earning their Recorder Karate Belts and will continue to work toward their black belts. The music room will be filled with lots of learning, lots of working, and most importantly, lots of music.

"Sing"-cerely Yours,
Lorinda Choate

From the DW Art Studio:

Thank you to all of the Family Art Night participants! It was terrific to see families in action creating some awesome art! Our next area of study: the children will investigate art from cultures representing the continents of the world. You'll be hearing lots about that and the big school-wide event on March 6. Visit Mrs. Reilly - Art - just click on the Teacher's Web on the Deep Wood home page. The NEWSFLASH page, along with other pages of interest, provides information about art opportunities available in our area and updates regarding the next area of study in the Deep Wood Art Studio. You can become an automatic recipient of updates through your e-mail if you wish. Check my NEWSFLASH page to find out how.

I wish all of you a safe holiday!
Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator



Austin Area Marathon Kids®
11th Year!
Final Mile Medal Celebration (free!)

Saturday, Feb 23rd
9 a.m. Austin ISD
11 a.m. all other school districts

Austin ISD Burger Stadium, 3200 Jones Road
Olympians with Austin Area K-5th children, families

Ceremonial Last Mile
Finale of free, six month,
nationally recognized 26.2 mile
running/walking/nutrition and schoolyard garden program
for K – 5th graders!



Presented by
Whole Foods Market
The Meadows Foundation



www.MarathonKids.org

Thousands of Austin area K-5th grade school children and parents have been running/walking 26.2 miles over the last six months, at home and/or at school. Coloring in their incremental running logs in ¼ to ½ mile segments, they also have been eating “5-a-day” fruits and veggies for 26.2 days of every month, fueling healthy habits!

On Saturday, February 23, 2008, they gather in a glorious ceremonial Final Mile, finishing what seemed at first an insurmountable project: Marathon Kids!

In its eleventh year in Austin, the nationally acclaimed, free Marathon Kids® running/walking and nutrition program expects 20,000 of the 45,000 registered children to run on Saturday, Feb 23, at AISD’s Burger Stadium. 10,000 will be there at 9 a.m. with Austin ISD. 10,000 more will be at the 11 a.m. “other than AISD” gathering.

The newly renovated Austin ISD Burger stadium is graciously donated by AISD Athletics, for the occasion.



Kinder

Kindergarten will ring in the New Year learning about winter. We will discover changes in animals, plants, and people during the winter. In social studies we will study Martin Luther King and learn about the Chinese New Year. Measurement is our focus in math. We will be doing activities related to measuring length, area, weight and capacity. In science we will be observing weather, day/night, and earth materials (rocks, soil, and water).

Holidays are behind us, we all are rested, and ready to begin the new year with a bang! The 3rd book report is a biography, assigned Jan 8. The Science Fair will be Jan 24/25 (5th graders will bring theirs Jan 22 for class presentations.) Students will read 10 AR points or more; hopefully everyone read over the holidays. Math classes will begin a unit on measurement, science finds us studying changes in the earth and objects in the sky, and social studies will focus on colonial tensions, leading to the Revolutionary War. We will practice all the reading strategies; expectations will remain high as we

5th grade prepare for TAKS and middle school.

Happy New Year! The 4th Grade teachers and students are ready for a busy and fun spring semester filled with great learning opportunities. We had a fantastic reading camp the week before the winter break. Our "Winter Wonderland" was a tremendous success. Thank you to all of our super DeepWood parents for helping with our Christmas parties and for sending in treats and goodies for the children. January will be a busy month for our students. All 4th graders are required to complete a science fair project. The students received an information packet in December. Mrs. Risinger visited with the 4th grade to give us lots of great information and help. You may also go to the DeepWood PTA website (deepwoodpta.org) to get helpful information and suggestions. Projects will be due the week of January 21. Please watch for more information on the 4th grade website and in your child's agenda.

4th grade

1st grade

We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and is ready to get back to learning. During January we will be learning about living and nonliving things. This will lead us into studying about plants and animals. We will also be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr., and be discussing dental health. The 100th day of school will also be coming up soon. Please help your child count the days of school and figure out what day is the 100th day of school! We will be doing lots of fun activities to celebrate this day!

With the holidays over, we are buckling down for the 2nd half of the school year. Please listen to your child read nightly for 20 minutes. Your child should also be

PPCD

PPCD/TWC will be learning about winter and the color blue during January.

memorizing their addition/subtraction facts. Knowing them helps your child with regrouping which will be assessed again this month. In Social Studies, we will learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the impact he has made on our society. In Science we will be learning about changes and cycles (weather, seasons, and lunar). We will continue to focus on the 6 writing traits during our Writer's Workshop. The Science Fair is quickly approaching. We hope that many of our 2nd graders will participate on 1/24.

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday! Now we are back to school and will be working hard to prepare students for the TAKS Reading test on **Tuesday, March 4**. The students will be taking a released test and a district benchmark test for reading in January. In preparing the students for **THE** test we will be sending home reading passages for homework. Beginning 1/24 students will take home two reading passages with questions, due the following Tuesday. Five weeks of this reading homework will make for a total of 10 passages. Instructions explaining how to do the work (including parents' role) will be sent home. As usual, thank you for checking your child's agenda and going over homework and the papers that come home.

3rd grade