

# Dino Tracks

January  
2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

## What's Inside This Edition

- PTA Elections
- Principal/ President 's Letters
- Announcements
- Info from specials
- Grade level updates

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

## Focus On: PTA Executive Board



By:  
Lauri  
Etheridge

### A CALL FOR PTA OFFICERS 2009-2010!!!

Now that the national election is wrapped up, it's time to focus on another presidential office – that of DeepWood's PTA!

Deep Wood Elementary PTA needs a new executive board for the 2009-2010 school year! The terms of the current officers expire, and based on the by-laws, must be filled with some new faces! Please step up to the plate and offer your services in one of the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian

Positions do not take a tremendous amount of time and you have a wealth of experienced individuals to help you through the transition and any questions that might come up. If you want more information about the positions available, please contact any current board member! Let's get some new people with new ideas to keep Deep Wood on top!

### 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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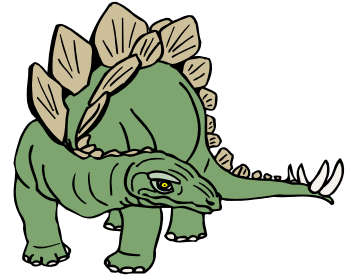
Jan 2009



## A Note From the Principal

Dear parents,

WOW!! We are almost finished with our first semester! It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year now! What an AWESOME fall semester! We have so many things to celebrate – fantastic PTA support (did you know that they provided the Hoedown, ALL of the after-school clubs, the night at MacDonald's, as well as paying for our Discovery Science web license, providing funds for literacy library books, and multitudes of other “behind the scenes” supports!), fabulous parent involvement, amazing teachers, and terrific students! ☺



As we get ready for the second semester, there are several things that are coming up. Third, fourth, and fifth graders will be preparing to take the TAKS tests in the spring. We will be meeting with parents to provide information to you with ways to help your children practice, as well as building up their confidence. We know that stress will reduce performance, so being sure that the students are confident in their abilities is a vital piece of their success. We will also be administering practice TAKS tests at various times for these grade levels to give the students a feel of what it will be like, as well as to determine the areas we still need to teach or reinforce with the students. Kindergarten, first, and second graders will have mid- year assessments to evaluate their progress as well. Teachers will keep in close contact with you to let you know how your child is performing.

We are finishing our first semester of the 3 “B’s” Positive Behavior Support contest among various grade levels. We will be starting our second semester recognition and team-building with a baseball theme. More will come to you about that! ☺ We are very proud of the responsible, respectful, and courteous behavior of all of our students!

Please refer to our calendar that is attached for upcoming events! ☺

I look forward to seeing you soon! ☺

Meredith Perkins  
Principal, Deep Wood Elementary



## From your PTA president...

Welcome to 2009! I can't believe a new year is upon us! More After School Enrichment, Physically Fit, Science Fair, Dino Pride nights, and Chili Supper, just to name a few of the events in store for the Spring Semester!

Please be sure to take the time to support these fundraisers.

You might not be aware of just how important these events are in making sure that PTA has the money available to provide all of our children with fun and enriching experiences! Unlike other schools that sell catalogue items, often requiring that each child bring in \$100, \$200, or even \$300 worth of sales to fund their programs, we at Deep Wood Elementary try to do more family fun oriented events to help raise money. In case you aren't aware of what PTA does with this money, it pays for things like class parties and field trips, after school enrichment programs such as Spanish classes, cooking and crafts, math club, and ham radio. And it brings in such fun presentations as Jungle Jim's Bugs of the World, Todd McKinney's Buddies Not Bullies, and the Round Rock Repertory Dance Centre's Nutcracker. Without your support of each and every small fundraiser we have, we won't be able to continue to provide these events. Without you, there is no PTA. Without you, there won't be any of these extra events!

It's time to volunteer your time in a board or committee position next year (2009-2010). Regardless of what type of position you take, it does not take a lot of your time! And the benefits are tremendous! Being an active part of your child's school experience makes a positive influence on their learning and helps counteract negative influences that can lead to substance abuse and inappropriate behaviors! Get involved! It's important to them and to you!

Have a great January!

Thanks!  
Lauri Etheridge  
PTA President 2008-2009

### Upcoming Events:

- 1/5 Monday w/Meredith (8:00)
- 1/8 TAKS practice tests for 3,4,5
- 1/9 PTA Board Mtg
- 1/15 PBS Celebration (7:45)
- 1/16 Student Holiday/Staff Development
- 1/19 Holiday/MLK Day
- 1/22 – 1/23 Science Fair
- 1/29 Africa Program
- 1/30 Dino Pride
- 2/6 Chili Cook-Off/Supper
- 2/9 Monday w/Meredith (6:00)
- 2/11-2/12 Jump Rope for Heart
- 2/13 Valentine's Day Parties
- 2/16 Student Holiday/Staff Development
- 2/27 Dino Pride

Calling All Cowhands:  
Time to get ready for....  
**DeepWood's Annual  
Chili Supper & Cook-Off!**



FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 6th  
Enter to win! Come to eat!  
The flavors and prices can't be beat!

Look for fliers in your child's folder this month. [francine18@austin.rr.com](mailto:francine18@austin.rr.com)



ATTENTION PARENTS....Effective January 5th, 2009

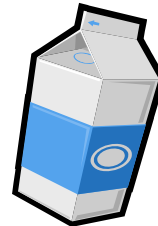
In accordance with USDA's recent milk substitution policy change, Food Services will no longer be able to provide juice as a replacement for milk, for students who have milk allergies. Most food allergies are accommodated through variety in the menu. Food Services is only required to modify the menu for students with a disability, defined under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) or Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). If a student has a disability which requires a modification to the offered meal, Food Services is required to have a physician's written statement on file in the school nurses office which contains:

- the child's disability
- an explanation of why the disability restricts the child's diet
- the major life activity affected by the disability
- the food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet and the food or choices of food that must be substituted

If your child has a disability which requires modification to the offered menu, please contact your school nurse for a physician's form. Students are not required to take milk as part of the reimbursable meal. Juice will continue to be available for purchase for \$.50 each.

For more information regarding medical or other special dietary needs, please reference [www.squaremeals.org](http://www.squaremeals.org). If you have questions regarding the physician's written statement please contact your school nurse.

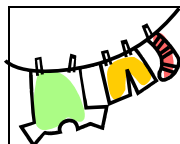
Thanks!  
Meredith Perkins, Principal  
Deep Wood Elementary



Congratulations to Elyssa Koog for her Visual Arts entry "Sonic Boom" which will be going to State Reflections! Way to go!

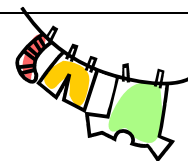
**Do you Yahoo!?** If you are not on the Deep Wood Community Yahoo! group, you are missing out on all sorts of DWE and Round Rock West updates. This was sent out at the beginning of the year, but if you missed your chance, join now! The URL is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DWEcommunity/>. It's easy, and you get a lot of great information.





### Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, and April 16<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 fill this need.



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

### Science Fair

By now all 4th and 5th graders should have their projects rocking and rolling for entry into the science fair. K-3, we sure hope you join the fun, too! We'll see all projects, K-5, during the week of January 22 and 23. Don't forget to attend Science Exhibition Night, when all projects are displayed (especially if you will need a little help for what to work on for NEXT year! hint hint!) Science Exhibition Night will be Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 6-7:30 pm. Information, order forms, and general help is always on the Deep Wood PTA website, <[deepwoodpta.org](http://deepwoodpta.org)>.



### McDonald's Nights!

We are ready for more McDonald's Nights! For the rest of the school year, January-May 2009, 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"! Everyone always has such a great time playing with friends, seeing their teachers, and taking a break that we've decided to have one each month. Dates are January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19. There will be fun activities and games during the evening, too! Join us at the 3406 McDonald's for fun each month!



### Sunshade Update!

We have a plan! Rob from Sunport has looked at our playground, and shown us a great location for the shade area. It will be along the school-side edge, right in the middle. This will allow for future expansion, and won't hinder any plans for one day covering the playscapes as well. THANK YOU to all the families who donated! Your child thanks you, too! Tentative installation is late February. We'll see how it goes!





## on another note

### CHECK THIS OUT....

Thank you, Book Fair Volunteers, for a successful book fair. It would not have been possible without your generous donation of time!

Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club begins January 5th and ends February 18th! When students in grades K - 5 complete the reading, they will receive a FREE ticket to any Six Flags Amusement Park. A student tracking form will be sent out the first week we return to school after the Winter Break

#### Winter Reads:

If you find yourself snowed in over the Winter Break, here are some great books to read:

- Owl Moon -- Yolen, Jane
- When Winter Comes -- Van Laan, Nancy
- Winter Eyes -- Florian, Douglas
- Dear Rebecca, Winter Is Here -- George, Jean Craighead
- Is That You, Winter? -- Gammell, Stephen
- Winter of the Ice Wizard -- Osborne, Mary Pope
- Brian's Winter -- Paulsen, Gary
- A Redwall Winter's Tale -- Jacques, Brian

Bluebonnet Award Reading List Voting will be during the last two weeks of January. Students in grades three through sixth will be voting on their favorite of the 20 selected books. The winner will be announced in the February newsletter. Stay tuned....

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 6th and at World Cultures Night on March 12th. Kindergarten will share all they have learned during the first year of school on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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, beat and rhythm. 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 orchestra instruments and orchestra music. The fifth graders are earning their Recorder Karate Belts and will continue to work towards 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 ART STUDIO :

The Deep Wood Art Students are already into their grade level units that cover the TEKS guiding their investigation of the art of other cultures. Students will develop key projects we will showcase at our wonderful Annual World Cultures Night on March 12th.

Each grade level unit focuses on the art forms particular to following cultures:

- |   |                              |                        |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Kindergarten - China                    | Second - Continent of Africa | Fourth - North America |
| First Grade - Central and South America | Third - China and Japan      | Fifth - Australia      |

More information about our big event will follow in the coming weeks. You won't want to miss it! Mark your calendar - March 12, from 6:00-8:00. Remember my pages on the Teacher's Web. They are full of information from the DW Art Studio. You can access them from the Deep Wood Web site.

Mary Reilly, Visual Arts Specialist  
Deep Wood Elementary



# 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).

# 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 be at the end of January. Please help your child count the days of school and figure out when is the 100th day of school! We will be doing lots of fun activities to celebrate this day!

# 2nd Grade

Now that the holidays are over, we are buckling down for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. Please listen to your child read nightly for 20 minutes from a book on his or her level. Your child should also be memorizing their addition and subtraction math facts to 18. Knowing their math facts by heart helps your child with regrouping of the addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers which will be assessed again this month. In Social Studies, we will be learning about the life of 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 Deep Wood Science Fair is quickly approaching. We hope that many of our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will participate on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# 3rd Grade

Happy New Year! Welcome Back! We hope you had a relaxing break with time to enjoy your families. It's time to make New Years' Resolutions. We resolve to keep putting our best foot forward for a successful half of the school year. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders produced some wonderful crafts for the Economic Fair. The proceeds were donated to a local children's home. For our academic studies students are continuing to develop their writing skills in Writer's Workshop, and Literacy Circles in Reading. In Math students are using their problem solving strategies in measurement, telling time and patterns. In Social Studies we will continue our studies of Communities Past and Present.

# 4th Grade

Fourth grade is so excited about the upcoming Science Fair. We are working diligently on our projects. Our December Reading Camp was quite a success! We will be spending the next few weeks working on our writing skills. We wish everyone a Happy New Year!

# 5th Grade

There is a lot going on for fifth grade with the new year. Children will check out a biography in the library for a book report. Rubrics go out on Jan. 12 and the book report is due Feb. 24. The DARE program begins Jan. 13. All fifth graders will participate in the science fair. The projects are due Jan. 20 so students can practice their presentations in class before they meet the judges on Jan. 22. Fifth graders will take all three TAKS Released Tests for Reading, Math and Science. This is good practice for the real TAKS tests in March and April. We want to treat these tests as realistically as possible so the students will know what to expect. We would like for them to get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast and come to school prepared to do their best. January is filled with exciting activities and will fly by!!

