

Dino Tracks

January
2010



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

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

A Note From the Principal

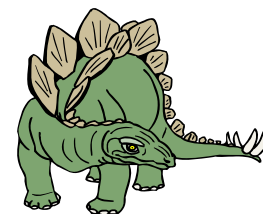
WOW!! It's hard to believe we have finished with our first semester! What an AWESOME fall semester! We have so many things to celebrate – fantastic PTA support (did you know that they provided the Hoedown, ALL of the after-school clubs, the night at MacDonald's, as well as paying for field trips, providing 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 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.

Thank you for all of the tremendous support you provide to your children and the school! 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



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.

January 2010



Upcoming Events:

- January 11 Monday w/Meredith (8:00 AM)
- January 13 5th Grade spinal screening
- January 14 3rd Grade TAKS Night (6:30)
- January 18 Student Holiday
- January 21 1st Grade to Paramount
- January 26 PTA Earth Dome
- January 28 Science Fair Viewing (6:30)
- January 29 Science Fair
- January 29 Dino Pride (7:45)

Saddle up!

The Chili Supper is right around the corner on Friday, February 5th!



Clinic Notes

Find the Nurse Web Page at:

<http://teacherweb.com/tx/deepwood/flemmonskel/>

New articles are being added all the time.

Check out the information regarding the acanthosis screening, lice, food allergies, and upcoming dates of importance.

If you would like to request different articles in the posted information, email me at:

kellee_flemmons@roundrockisd.org.

- Notify the nurse office if your child has a contagious illness we should be aware of: pink eye, strep throat, pertussis, flu, etc.
- Send medication to school only in the original prescription bottle, OTC medications in the original container, and note from parent giving authorization for child to take that medication. Go to Medication Guidelines page for the medication permission form.
- See the calendar page for upcoming dates: spinal screening for 5th graders
- Nutrition information websites and recommendations.
- Frequently asked questions page, when to send my child back to school after illness, how to treat lice, can I send medication to school for my child?
- Make sure your child is well and fever free 24 hrs without medication before returning to school.

Keeping your children healthy, happy and in school.



PTA Reflections Council Level Results are in:

Literature

Heather Choate "Bonnie" Award of Merit
Erin Hudgins "The Greatest Climb" Honorable Mention

Film Production

Holton Carner "Untitled" Honorable Mention

Music

Heidi Wilding "The Beauty Around Me" Honorable Mention

Photography

Nicholas Starich "Flowers 'Glowing' in the Garden" Award of Excellence
Sam Dixon "Granit Hill" Award of Merit

Visual Arts

Nicole Kelly "Beauty is...All Around Us" Award of Merit
Kiara Haney "Never Ending Pathway" Honorable Mention
Sarah Swindell "Untitled" Honorable Mention
Aidan Mercado "Dinosaur Parade" Honorable Mention
Kara Montalvo "Untitled" Honorable Mention



Congratulations to ALL of the participants of the Reflections program... You did a fantastic job! We hope you will keep being creative in all you do! Nicholas Starich's photography will go on to be judged at the next level: Go Nicholas!

Science Fair is right around the corner!!

All Kindergarteners through 3rd graders are invited to participate in the Deep Wood Science Fair. If you need information on how to do a project, or the rules, please see the DWE PTA website (deepwoodpta.org) and click on "forms". Scroll down, and you'll find a helpful K-3 packet. All 4th and 5th graders are required to do a science experiment as part of their grade, and a packet is online for them as well.



JUDGES!! We need JUDGES! Neighbors, relatives, co-workers, retired people you know who can come during the day to help judge our projects...we'd love to have them! Anyone who does not know the students directly...we really need to get some names of people who can help us in this area. Please ask them, or I'll call if you can give me a name and number.

The projects are due in the gym Thursday, January 28, 2010 (4th and 5th grade projects are due in class earlier). ALL projects will be on display for everyone to view Thursday night from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Come see which projects will advance to the Austin Regional Fair!!

Questions? Judges? Please call or email, Tina at 310-9010, or trisinger@yahoo.com



on another note

Thank you to all of our Deep Wood families who attended our performances in December. 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 5th and at World Cultures Night on March 11th. Kindergarten will share all they have learned during the first year of school on April 16th, and fifth grade will show off their recorder skills in a performance on April 23rd.

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 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 instruments of the orchestra and orchestra music. They will attend a concert by the Austin Symphony Orchestra in May. The fifth graders are already 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:

January finds that Art students have begun their studies of many of the cultures in our world. Our focus is on the art that distinguishes cultures from each other. Through art's diversity, it also enables students to discover the ways that art unifies cultures.

I invite you, our Deep Wood families, to consider your own family's heritage. Perhaps you have an artifact that you would like to share. There are a few ways we can arrange that. You may contact me through e-mail: mary_reilly@roundrocisd.org or phone: 464-4420.

Sincerely,
Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator



2009 WSSA STACK UP!

Most People Sport Stacking in Multiple Locations in One Day

2009 WSSA STACK UP!

tops a quarter million 276,053 sport stackers set new Guinness World Record!

From Malaysia to Maryland, sport stackers from around the world gathered on Guinness World Records Day to set a new mark for "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." They stacked in school gymnasiums, on playgrounds, in hospitals, libraries, and even at a horse shelter. Using specially designed plastic cups called Speed Stacks®, stackers raced against the clock, competed in relays and stacked in a variety of fitness activities for at least 30 minutes. The number to beat: 222,560. The record-setting count being submitted to Guinness stands at 276,053 representing 1,252 schools and organizations from 24 different countries. All 50 states in the US were represented.

"We hoped to reach a quarter million, and we cruised right past that," said Mark Lingle, Director of the World Sport Stacking Association, which organized the event. "Next year we'll shoot for 300,000." The stacking action was part of the annual WSSA STACK UP! presented by Wonderful® Pistachios and Speed Stacks, Inc. Major stacking in Malaysia Chong Hwa Independent High School in Malaysia had 3,653 stackers take part in the STACK UP!, the largest school outside of the USA to participate. Above, many of the proud stackers pose with their GWR banner. California strength stacking students at Valley Prep in Redlands, California helped push up the STACK UP! total with some push-ups of their own.



Kinder

Kindergarten will ring in the New Year learning about winter and discover all the changes in animals, plants, and people during the winter season. In science we will be observing weather, day/night, and earth materials: rocks, soil, and water). In social studies we will study Martin Luther King and the impact he made. Problem solving along with addition and subtraction will be our main focus in math. Happy New Year!

1st Grade

We hope everyone had a relaxing holiday and is ready to get back to learning. During January we will be learning about systems and parts of systems. This will lead us into studying about properties and change. We will also be learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Dental Health. The 100th day of school will be coming up soon. 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

are buckling down for the 2nd 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 2nd graders will participate on January 28th.

3rd Grade

Happy New Year! Welcome Back! We hope you had a relaxing break and enjoyed the company of your families. It's time to make New Years' Resolutions. We resolve to keep putting our best foot forward for a successful school year. The 3rd 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 developing their writing skills in Writer's Workshop, and reading strategies in Reading Workshop. In Math students are using problem solving strategies in measurement, telling time and fractions. In Social Studies we will study communities past and present. In Science we will explore earth forces and materials.

4th Grade

The students will study biographies and autobiographies in reading this month. We will also begin our weekly TAKS writing homework practice. The boys and girls will be assigned two passages to revise and edit each week. Assignments will be given on Thursday and due the following Tuesday. The students should use the checklist in the front of the folder to help them complete the homework. In social studies we will focus on Texas Independence. In Math we will be working on linear measurement and fractions when we return to school. Students will also finish up their Science unit on Soil and Earth's Changes, and will be moving onto nonliving systems. We look forward to a new year filled with learning!

5th Grade

There is a lot going on for fifth grade with the new year. All fifth graders are expected to do a science experiment for their science project, due Jan. 27th in order for students to practice their presentations in the classroom before they meet the judges on Friday, Jan. 29th. Starting Jan. 7th you will begin seeing a TAKS practice folder coming home. It will be assigned on Thursdays and due back on Tuesdays. We will alternate TAKS Reading passages and TAKS Math practice every three weeks until April 5th! Please sign these folders and check over your child's work. We will be looking for them to use ALL of their strategies. TAKS Math is on April 6th and TAKS Reading is on April 8th. In language arts the students will work on persuasive essays and reading and writing a variety of fiction pieces. Social Studies will concentrate on the post revolutionary war era. In math we will work on fractions and in science we will study changes to the earth's surface. January is filled with exciting activities and will fly by!!

