

Dino Tracks

March
2008



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition:

- Principal Letter
- Important dates
- Counselor's Corner
- Science Fair Results
- Specials Info
- Grade Level Updates

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

Celebrations & Thanks!

PTA & Parent Volunteers, thank you for your continuous support in volunteering. Parent volunteers support our school in many ways:

- PTA 30th Year Celebration Planning Committee
- Organizing Scouts to keep our grounds beautiful
- Reading with our primary grade students
- Collaborative Planning Team Volunteers
- Volunteering as recess monitors
- Cutting and preparing classroom materials at home and/or working to prepare classroom materials in the workroom

It all counts in our efforts to provide enriching learning experience to Deep Wood students! Parent involvement is a key factor in increasing student achievement. It starts at home, at the family table by asking your kiddo about their day. We are an excellent school, and we have a great students and parents!

Science Fair was a huge success! Thank you to all of the parent volunteers and judges who worked with Tina Risinger to make our Science Fair the best ever. We had to biggest turn-out for Science Fair Exhibit Night.

Chili Cook-Off! WOW! Thanks to the Quinns and the many parent volunteers who supported this amazing event. We could not have done it with your support. A Big Dino Thank You to all of the students, parents, teachers, and community members who came out and shared this event with us. The Western flare and 2nd grade performance was the highlight of the evening. Deep Wood's students and teachers benefit in many ways through PTA's sponsorship and programs.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming spring events. Please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Fondly,
Jeresther Thorpe-Page
Principal, Deep Wood

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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March 2008



From your PTA president...

Spring is (almost) in the air! And what does that mean? Time to start thinking about what your role with the PTA will be next year! Yep, time to step up to the plate and volunteer a little bit of time to help make all the fun stuff

happen! There's plenty to do, from fund raisers to after school enrichment, coordinating the yearbook, directory, and school supplies. If you have an area of interest, let us know. If you want to give an hour or two, we're interested! Every minute you spend enriches your child's learning experience.

Don't forget about World Cultures Night. It's been rescheduled to March 27. Group pictures are the 27th as well. And Mad Science will be here on the 28th for assemblies (the topic is a surprise!). There's also a skate night scheduled for March 31st. Boy! Another busy month at Deep Wood!

Information on pre-ordering school supplies will be sent out soon. This is a great way to save time and money! We'll be using the on-line method again this year (you can still order without it if you don't have Internet access) and, since the list is already made up, you won't have to drive to three different stores to find exactly what is needed for your classes next year. We should also have information on ordering yearbooks out soon. If you have pictures, please be sure to share them with us! The more we have, the better your child's memory book can be!

Have a great spring break!
Lauri Etheridge
PTA President 2007-2008

Upcoming Events:

- 3/1 Elem Music Festival (12 – 6, PAC)
- 3/5 TAKS testing (3rd & 5th reading, 4th writing)
- 3/5 5th Grade to Duck Pond
- 3/10 – 3/14 Spring Break
- 3/17 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 3/21 School Holiday
- 3/27 World Cultures Night
- 3/28 PTA Presents "Mad Science"
- 3/31 Skate Night
- 4/8 – 4/9 TAKS testing
- 4/10 Chuck E Cheese Night
- 4/11 Kindergarten Program
- 4/14 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 4/18 – 4/19 30th Anniversary Celebration
- 4/29, 4/30, 5/1 TAKS testing

TV recycling - You have all heard about the news of TV stations switching to a digital signal. (HD) This change coupled with the dropping prices of HD tvs is going to mean an estimated 50 million TVs and monitors will go to the landfills in Texas alone this year. The Texas campaign for the Environment is fighting to force electronic companies to recycle their products. Electronics are loaded with heavy metals and lead. You can find additional information at www.texasenvironment.org





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.

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

Linda Harriman
Consumer Bonuses Chairperson

Congratulations to all those students who received an award at the Council Reflections Awards Ceremony on February 18th. And congratulations to those two students who went on to the Area Reflections Program, Rose Wilding and Mason Herring. Both students received Honorable Mentions for their wonderful entries!

Watch for news of next year's theme!

Debra Stinson
Reflections Chair



A flyer went home with 5th graders on 2/18 regarding 5th grade Yearbook Dedications. All 5th graders receive a FREE 1/4-page space in the "Dedications" section of the yearbook. A handful of larger ad spaces are available for purchase on a limited basis, first come, first serve. A half page is \$30; a full page is \$60. The deadline for dedications is 3/5. Checks should be payable to Deep Wood PTA and placed in an envelope marked PTA-Yearbook Dedication. Yearbook order forms will be coming home soon, so be on the lookout!

If you want to share photos of any school events, please email them to me or send them to school in an envelope marked PTA-Yearbook. Questions? Email Sheila Runkle at yearbook@deepwoodpta.org.

Thank you!
Sheila Runkle, Yearbook Chair
(512) 238-7385

At the Hop!

Deep Wood will be a rockin' and everyone will be hoppin' at the third annual Deep Wood Sock Hop!



Mark your calendars! Friday, April 11th, from 6-8 pm, in the Deep Wood cafeteria! Everyone in the school is invited to this family event, and you won't want to miss this great evening of fun. Tickets will be sold individually or as a family package, and you'll get an evening of great music, contests, food, and the chance to win many great prizes!

The Sock Hop is sponsored by the 5th grade parents, and helps the 5th grade students go on their class trip in May. More details later...but go ahead and dust off that poodle skirt right away!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Elizabeth (Betty) Carbonneau

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

Perseverance

- Not giving up when things get difficult
- Following through on commitments in doing what I say I will do
- Realizing that the only way to fail is to not ever try
- Showing that others can count on me to complete assignments and tasks
- "Standing in my own truth" by always doing the right thing
- Working until my assignments are completed at school or at home
- Trying again if I don't succeed the first time
- Remembering that achieving goals in life sometimes requires hard work

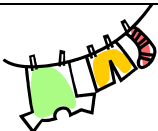
Optimism

- Finding the positive parts of any situation
- Looking for something I like in all situations
- Knowing that all people are unique and special
- Seeing every day as a fresh start in reaching my goals
- Expecting good things to happen in my life
- Giving others the benefit of the doubt
- Recognizing my own strengths and believing in myself

Guidance Classes during March will focus on CAREER EXPLORATION.

Dough for Dough!

PTA just wrapped up its Cookie Dough Fundraising Drive, and we hope you got a chance to order. The Chippy cookies are the best around, and they'll be to you in time for Easter. Makes decorating Easter cookies a breeze! In case you didn't get your order in, call Tina at 310-9010 RIGHT NOW. The order will be turned in ASAP the first week of March.



Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on the following dates: March 20th, April 17th, and May 15th from 9:30 to 11:30 at Voigt Elementary school. Please contact Becky Velasco (341-9204, beckyvel@msn.com) if you are able to fulfill this need. Deliver used clothing in good condition to the nurse's office. Thank you!





We need pictures! We need pictures for the yearbook AND we need pictures of anything that might have happened over the past 30 years for the anniversary celebration. We'll take pictures of classes, class parties, kids on the playground, chili suppers, a teacher with her finger up her nose – we're not particular!



Send pictures to the links on the web page:

reunion@deepwoodpta.org and/or yearbook@deepwoodpta.org

OR

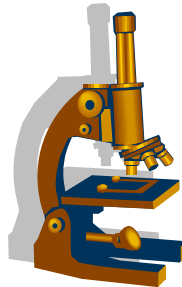
put hard copies in an envelope addressed to Lauri Etheridge along with a brief explanation (who/what they are of.) She'll scan them and return to the owner.

Science Fair Rocks!

12 projects won blue ribbons at the Deep Wood Science Fair this year, signifying the highest level of ability in science experimentation. The DWE January event qualifies individual projects in 1st through 5th grade to be able to enter the Austin Energy Regional Science Fair on the last weekend in February. (At press time, the students had not yet competed. Watch for the results next month!)

Students with blue ribbons were:

Kindergarten: Mason Herring
1st: Xavier Mercado
2nd: Brittany Norris
3rd: Heather Choate
4th: Dimitris Lynch
Ezekiel Carreno
Rachel Spratt
Eylssa Koog



5th: Kendall Choate
Emily Risinger
Rose Wilding
Tyler Hamlet
Madison Ptachek

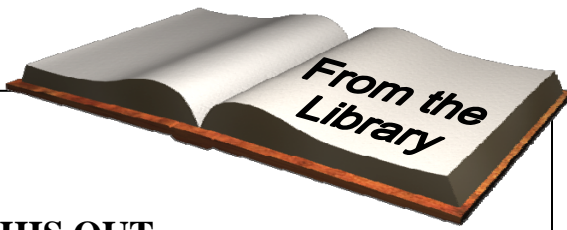
Also qualifying for Regional this year were Taylor Cruse and Chase Davis. Way to go, scientific Dinos! Good luck in Austin!

2008-2009 School Supply Sale

Take care of next Fall's school supply needs this year!

Avoid shopping hassles and order your student's supplies this year through the Deep Wood PTA. Everything will be packaged together and delivered to your child's classroom by August 21st. All students will receive the school supply order form in their folders in April and you'll have until May 3 to place your order. You will also be able to order online at <http://deepwood.btspacks.com> until May 3. For more information or questions contact Sandy Mitschke @ 388-5432 or sandymitschke@sbcglobal.net.





CHECK THIS OUT....

The library is receiving their district refresh of technology on February 28, 2008 – which means great new computers with flat screens and fast access! Students have been learning how to use various databases and online encyclopedias provided through state and district funding. These research tools can be accessed at school or at home via the internet. Passwords for home use are given to the students so that they can continue their research on their home computer. These data bases are accessed by going to the library page via the school website and accessing the online student resources. The direct link to the online database page is : <http://www.roundrockisd.org/home/index.asp?page=1314>.

Students and parents can now access iBistro, the library's online catalog from home as well. This enables parents and students to see what titles are available for check-out in our school library as well as the whole district.

These tools provide invaluable resources for us all!
Enjoy!

Martha Alderson
Laurie Thelen,
Librarians

March is Youth Art Month....
and we celebrate in a BIG way!

You won't want to miss our

6th Annual World Cultures Night!

The date: Thursday, March 27

(please note the date change!)

The time: 6:00 - 8:00

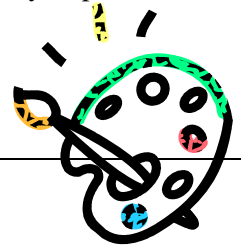
This event is designed to be an interactive activity for the whole family, from the opening Chinese Dragon Parade (6:00) and student music performances that follow, to the fun passport activities throughout the main halls of Deep Wood. Come and experience many cultures of our world through traveling the exhibits of student art work and authentic artifacts; Sample a taste of foods from other continents while earning visa stamps for your passport.

(Deep Wood Students who participate and complete the event's passport activities will be eligible to win a grade level prize.) In the spirit of the evening I invite you and your children to wear authentic cultural clothing or T-shirts that you may have from your travels. (Round Rock is on the map, too.)

The event starts with the Chinese Dragon Parade right at 6:00. The front doors will be opened at 5:50 so you can come find a spot along the parade route in the main halls.

Bring your camera....there will be plenty of photo moments throughout your travels.

Mary Reilly, Visual Arts Educator
464-4420



On Another Note

March is Youth Fine Arts Month and we will be celebrating both the music and visual arts of our students and cultures from around the world at Deep Wood's World Cultures Night from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 27th. First and third graders will present the program "It's a Small World" immediately following kindergarten's Chinese Dragon Parade. The program will feature songs and dances from Mexico, Liberia, Japan, Morocco, Italy, New Zealand, Ireland, Israel, Canada, the West Indies, and Hawaii. Later that evening at 7:15 p.m. our fourth graders will remind us there's no place like home when they share songs and dances from our own Texas culture. Come travel the world with us!

Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate



Kinder

Spring is the theme for Kindergarten during the month of March. In science we will plant seeds and observe insects. Cowboys and cowgirls will fill up the halls with our traditional rodeo as we study about Texas in social studies. Math will be filled with problem solving strategies and telling time to the hour. We look forward to a wonderful and safe spring break.

Spring is here! First grade would like to give a big thank you to all the parents who helped with the Valentine parties. Thank you for volunteering your time and all the good food. The children had a blast. Spring Break will be March 10-14. During the month of March we will be studying about Texas! We will learn about Texas facts and symbols. We will also be learning about animals and plant life in spring. We will investigate the life cycle of a chicken. Mr. Wright from Williamson County Extension will be bringing fertilized eggs and an incubator into our classrooms. We will be monitoring the temperature of the incubator and we will be turning the eggs. Mr.

1st grade

Wright will return to candle the eggs and then later take the hatched chicks back to the farm.

It is hard to believe that 3/4 of our school year is over! This month in math we will work on measurement and place value to the thousandths place. Social studies will focus on producers and consumers, which links to the Junior Achievement lessons that begin this month. In science, we will learn about classifying animals, and we will incorporate the 6 Traits during Writer's Workshop. Please continue to have your child read nightly – it won't be long before we assess reading levels again. In technology, we will integrate multi-media into our projects and presentations. Mark your calendar – World Cultures Night on 3/27 is a fun family evening which includes student work displayed in the halls and student performances for all to enjoy, and we are going to the Paramount on 3/31 for "Let's Go Science." Check out the Teacher's Web on the Deep Wood website for 2nd grade and specials info!

2nd grade

Third grade will be taking the TAKS Reading test on Wednesday, March 5. Students, teachers, and parents have been working hard all year long to prepare for this test. Each student can do a great job on the test by reading carefully, looking back in the passage, and proving their answers. We really appreciate all your help with the TAKS homework these last five weeks. Please be sure your child gets plenty of sleep and a good breakfast during TAKS week. In Math we will review the skills from this nine weeks in preparation for the District Math Benchmark. Then we will learn about measurement-capacity, volume, weight, mass. Writing will involve grammar as well as writing compositions in preparation for the District Writing Benchmark. The topic in science will be plants, animals, ecosystems, and habitats. As TAKS approaches, please let your child know you believe they can do a great job!

3rd grade

Fifth grade is finishing up measurement and starting geometry. We are still studying Revolutionary War figures. We have charted the phases of the moon and made comparisons of earth, moon, and sun. Reading TAKS is on March 5. Math TAKS practice folders will be coming home on Thursdays, due back the following Tuesday. During the last week of March, fifth grade will participate in MATH CAMP, a general review before TAKS on April 8. At the end of February, Deep Wood fifth-graders traveled to the PAC for a CTMS Fine Arts program to help them decide upon their electives for next year. Everyone is looking forward to

Spring Break—
be safe and enjoy.

5th grade

Fourth Grade students will take the TAKS Writing Test on Wednesday, March 5. The students have been working extremely hard. They have learned editing and revision strategies as well as creative writing techniques. We ask that the students get a good night's rest before the test and eat a healthy breakfast that morning. In math, we will cover measurement which will include capacity, weight and mass. We will also study geometry. Our focus in social studies will be Texas independence and statehood. In science we will begin our study of ecosystems. Students will also bring home weekly math and reading TAKS homework. The children's folders will have detailed instructions and strategies. Thank you for all of the assistance you have given us, parents. The fourth graders are reaching great levels of success!

4th grade

Grade Level Updates