

Dino Tracks

March
2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

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

Focus On:



By:
**Tina
Risinger**

Deep Wood Elementary had a wonderful 2009 Science Fair season! We started with our Science Night back in November, when parents and students were invited to participate in science experiments, and view examples of completed science fair backboards. In January, all DWE students were invited to enter the Science Fair, with 4th and 5th graders participating as a part of a required science grade. We had a total of 158 student projects, with 13 winning blue ribbons.

The winners were:

Kindergarten (5 projects) Eric Risinger
1st grade (4 projects) Mason Herring
2nd grade (5 projects) Jackson Kelso
3rd grade (12 projects) Andy Etheridge, Erin Risinger
4th grade (77 projects) Mason Klinger, Casey Ptachek,
Carly Powers, Alexander Billings
5th grade (60 projects) Marlee Pinkstaff, Cydnie Tschoepe,
Noah Velasco, Kristen Tomlinson



Twelve of the blue ribbon projects (and four red ribbon runner-ups) were eligible to go to the Austin Energy Regional Science Fair, held on February 20 and 21. At about 1800 projects, this fair is a huge event! We are very proud to congratulate our Deep Wood future scientists that participated in the Regional Fair this year. The results are:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Blue - Alex Gonzales, 1st grade | Red - Alexander Billings, 4th grade |
| Blue - Jackson Kelso, 2nd grade | Red - Nicholas Billings, 4th grade |
| Blue - Leah Gonzales, 3rd grade | Red - Mason Klinger, 4th grade |
| Blue - Andy Etheridge, 3rd grade | Blue- Carly Powers, 4th grade |
| Blue - Erin Risinger, 3rd grade | Blue- Noah Velasco, 5th grade |
| | Blue- Kristin Tomlinson, 5th grade |
| | Red - Cydnie Tschoepe, 5th grade |

Deep Wood can be very proud of all of these fine young students; they all did an excellent job of representing the Dinos. Thank you to everyone for another successful year of Science Fair. Get ready....next year's fair is less than 11 months away!!!

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.

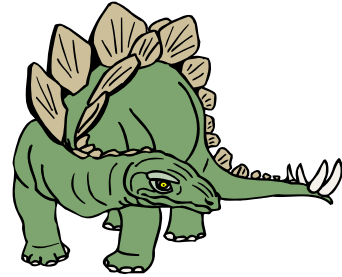
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March 2009



A Note From the Principal

March 2, 2009



Dear Deep Wood Parents,

We will be administering TAKS tests in grades 3, 4, 5 on Tuesday, March 3. *We will not be permitting visitors in the building on TAKS testing days* (unless it is an emergency) to reduce any distractions, as well as to ensure testing confidentiality. Please plan to have lunch with your children on days that are not TAKS testing days. ☺

Any 3rd or 5th grader who is absent for the READING TAKS on March 3, will have the opportunity to make it up on Wednesday, March 4. If a 3rd or 5th grader is absent on both of these dates, the student(s) will take the next round of READING TAKS testing on April 29.

TAKS Testing dates are:

| | |
|----------|---|
| March 3 | 3 rd , 5 th TAKS READING, 4 th TAKS WRITING |
| April 7 | 5 th TAKS MATH |
| April 28 | 3 rd , 4 th TAKS MATH |
| April 29 | 4 th TAKS READING, Retest for 3 rd , 5 th READING TAKS |
| April 30 | 5 th TAKS SCIENCE |
| May 19 | 5 th Retest for MATH TAKS |

On each day of TAKS, as well as the day prior to TAKS, there will be no before or after school activities. The YMCA will continue to meet for students who are already enrolled since this is childcare, not an after school activity.

If 3rd and 5th grade students do not pass READING TAKS, as well as if 5th grade students do not pass MATH TAKS, a meeting will be scheduled with the teacher, parents, and principal to discuss interventions.

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

Meredith Perkins



From your PTA president...

It's almost springtime and once again the annual plea goes out for volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year! If you notice that the slate of officers for next year has many of the same names, well, that's because you haven't stepped up to add your name to the list! Trust me! PTA needs some new names and new faces! Volunteer a little bit of time to help make all the fun stuff happen! There's plenty to do from fundraisers to after school enrichment, reflections and Hoedown, school supplies and a bunch of other stuff. If you have an area of interest, please let us know. If you only have an hour or two, we're interested! Every minute you spend enriches your child's learning experience!

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. Remember that there will not be any school supplies available for purchase at Meet The Teacher Night ... everything has to be pre-ordered!

Due to the volume of yearbooks we had to order to get the great price, we still have a few copies still available. If you haven't ordered yours yet, do so quick! They're just \$10 each, full of tons of pictures, and a great way to preserve your child's memories of Deep Wood!

Have a great March and a safe and fun Spring Break!

Thanks!

Lauri Etheridge

PTA President 2008-2009

Upcoming Events:

- 3/2 Monday w/Meredith (8:00)
- 3/3 TAKS testing: 3 & 5 reading, 4 writing
- 3/6 PBS Celebration/Character Ed Awards (7:45)
- 3/6 5th Grade Music Festival at PAC
- 3/11 1st Grade to Scottish Rite
- 3/12 World Cultures Night (6:00 – 8:00)
- 3/16 – 3/20 Spring Break
- 3/27 Dino Pride (7:45)
- 3/27 5th Grade to Duck Pond (10:30 – 1)
- 3/28 Campus Clean-up
- 4/1 Kindergarten Roundup for next year
- 4/6 Monday w/Meredith (PM)
- 4/7 TAKS
- 4/10, 4/13 Student holidays
- 4/17 Kindergarten Music Program
- 4/24 Dino Pride (7:45)
- 4/28 – 4/30 TAKS

Children's Health Festival

The 7th Annual Children's Health Festival will be March 7, 2009 from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the United Heritage Center at the Dell Diamond. The festival will have information and resources on physical activity, nutrition and safety from non-profit and government agencies across Williamson County. Some of the vendors include the Seton Asthma Center who will be providing free asthma testing, the Round Rock Fire Department, St. David's Community Health Foundation with information on dental hygiene and WCCHD's very own Jackie and Stacy will be there with information on immunizations and will be registering kids into ImmTrac on site. The complete list of vendors will be up on the RRISD website very soon.





Fourth Grade Scatter Square



Come one come all to watch the fourth graders demonstrate their skill at the "Texas" scatter square dance. All part of the Deep Wood annual "Cultural Arts Night", on March 12th. Hope to see you there.

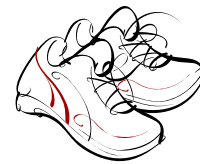


Reflections continued with the District Awards Ceremony that was held on February 12th. There were so many students being recognized for their outstanding entries. "Wow!" Now we wait to hear news of our District Award of Excellence winner, Elyssa Koog, and how her entry "Sonic Boom" does at the state level!

The 2009-2010 Reflections theme was announced in the ceremony's program... "Beauty is..." Now is the time to start thinking about next year's entry! It's not too early now that we know the theme!

"Beauty is..." found in Music, Literature, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, Film/Video, & Photography.

On your mark, get set, get fit!!
Physically Fit started on February 24th and will continue Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 – 4:00 through Thursday, April 23rd. We will not meet on Thursday, March 12th so we can enjoy World Cultures Night. We will also not meet over Spring Break (March 17 and 19.)





ROUND ROCK I S D

Health Services Department

SCHOOL HEALTH UPDATE: VIRUS & FLU

Round Rock ISD has seen an increase in school absenteeism due to illness, which is somewhat typical for the winter months. We have regular communications with the communicable disease staff members at the Williamson County and Cities Health Department and we have been reassured there is no reason to consider closing RRISD schools due to student illnesses.

There have been reports of many different diagnoses, including Strep throat, stomach virus, respiratory virus and flu. The symptoms that are being experienced with the flu are headache, body aches and an elevated temperature (fever) that may continue for six to 10 days.

School district policy requires that students ill with a temperature of 100 degrees or above will be sent home. To prevent the spread of communicable disease, students must be symptom free and fever free (without temperature reducing medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.

Direct and indirect contacts are the primary causes of illness transfer. Direct contact happens most often by touching an infected person or by someone coughing or sneezing on you. Indirect contact happens when one touches an object that has been contaminated by another person's germs.

Hands are the most common carrier of germs and bacteria. Because they are often moist, hands provide a perfect environment for germs to live. The transfer of germs from our hands to inanimate objects allows for the spread of disease. Fortunately, the spread of most disease can be greatly reduced by good personal hygiene, especially thorough hand washing.

When disinfecting your home against bacteria and viruses, be certain to clean door knobs or handles, the telephone, all faucet and toilet handles, and other areas in the house that everyone touches. After recovery from an infectious illness, it is important to replace your toothbrush—throwing away the old one—to prevent re-infection.

Reducing the risk of infectious diseases can be accomplished through good nourishment, an adequate amount of sleep each night and good personal hygiene. Children should be reminded to wash their hands frequently, cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing, and properly dispose of used tissues.

Please report illnesses to your child's campus. To help us track the reason for absences in our district, please provide a brief description of the symptoms of the illness.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the nurse on your child's campus. Thanks for your assistance in our efforts to keep RRISD students and staff healthy!



on another note



We couldn't hit the trail without a Texas size THANKS to everyone who made The Deepwood Chili Cook-Off and Chili Supper so fun and successful for our PTA. Congratulations to our Cook-Off winners: Ann Morrison, Penny Gastineau, Elizabeth Dixon, Ms. Ferrell, Dale Mitschke, Brenda Davis and Sarah Swindell.
Boy Howdy!

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 12th. 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, and the West Indies. 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

World Cultures Night Thursday, March 12

It starts right at 6:00 with the Kindergarten Chinese Dragon Parade weaving through the halls and leading everyone to the cafeteria for student cultural performances. Then, enjoy the interactive cultural exhibits while viewing student art that reflect their studio artwork.

I hope to see you then!
Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator
Deep Wood Elementary



McDonald's Nights!

We are ready for more McDonald's Nights! For the rest of the school year, 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"! Dates are 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!



Keep the paper coming! You can still drop off your paper recycling in the collection bins behind the school. Consider reusing the school papers that come home with only one side printed. The average school tosses 38 tons of paper per year. For every ton we recycle 17 trees are saved! Plus Deep Wood earns money for every pound we collect.

You can also add: magazines, shopping catalogs, newspapers, office and school papers and mail. (no paper board or phone books)



Nurses' Corner

Welcome to the Nurses Office. The primary role of schools is to educate. However, schools also have a powerful role in shaping the health and well-being of young people. Nurses have the responsibility of overseeing students and staff assisting them to stay safe and healthy. School nurses are the primary dispensers of health services to students. We deliver multiple services: health assessments and screenings, administering medications, attending to accidents and ailments, including disease surveillance, monitoring and tracking of communicable diseases, and educating staff on medical conditions.

As you can see our office stays very busy and we need your help:

- Report contagious diseases to our office (ie. strep, lice, flu, chickenpox, impetigo, etc.). The information allows us to protect other students and staff by limiting and preventing contagion. We work with the health department in tracking diseases and immunizations, to discover how well immunizations are working, and which diseases are prevalent. Quick intervention may help to provide early treatment by recognizing a disease process and it minimizes the disease spread by limiting exposure to others. It's ok to email or leave a message at 464-4404. Email: kellee_flemmons@roundrockisd.org ; patricia_crawley@roundrockisd.org .
- Send parents' note or doctor's note straight to the nurse office. We spend a lot of time investigating and asking children questions that a doctor's note or parents' email, call or note could quickly answer. Upon entering the nurses' office, the student's complaint is assessed for many things: stomachache, headache, etc. We play detective: When did it start, how long? Medications taken? Where does it hurt? What does it feel like? Have you eaten today?
- Encourage your child to try simple health methods before coming to the nurse office-get a drink of water, go to the restroom, get up and move around the room; many of the 'symptoms' we see are simply a normal body function. Valuable class time is spent on these visits that might be unnecessary. For an average child nurse visits are 1-6 times a year. If your child is coming home with visit notes more frequently you may want to discuss this further.
- Medications need a parent note with the date, name of medicine, reason for treatment, and parent signature. This includes over-the-counter medications and cough drops, make sure it has a child's dose on the container, otherwise we can't give it without doctor's orders.
- If your child has an injury limiting PE/recess activity or wears a cast, splint, or ace wrap or is using crutches at school, send a note stating injury, length of time needed out of PE/recess, and if seen by doctor-include doctor's note. These need a follow-up release note to return to full activities (parent note is only good for three days without doctor's note).

Our hope is to use our time wisely and take the best care of your child that we can. Much time is spent assessing symptoms that may be acute or serious presenting problems. We use basic interviewing questions, observation, nursing assessment; hopefully allowing the student to remain in the classroom and at school, whereby learning can occur, ultimately leading to academic success.



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 measurement and graphs. We look forward to a wonderful and safe spring break.

1st Grade

Spring is almost 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. 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. A representative 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. The agent will return to candle the eggs and then later take the hatched chicks back to the farm.

2nd Grade

Can you believe 3/4 of our school year is over?! In Math we will work on fractions, review place value, addition and subtraction with regrouping. In Social Studies, we will learn about producers and consumers. In Science, we will learn about classifying animals, learning about their body parts and functions. In writing, we will continue to incorporate the 6 Traits into our writing during our Writer's Workshop. Please continue to have your child read nightly. We will be assessing their reading levels again soon, and we want all of our students to be successful in being the best that they can be. We will integrate multi-media for our research, projects, and power point presentations. World Culture's Night will be March 12th. This is a fun evening where all grade levels have hallway displays and several grade levels will perform.

3rd Grade

Welcome Spring! Well, actually Some days here in Texas it seems like Spring in the Winter. Spring Break is just around the corner. Third graders from Mrs. Ibarra's class are working in the Robotics lab, and the kids are having a blast. All around students are preparing to show their skills on the TAKS test this month. For our other academic studies students are using their problem solving skills in the study of Fractions and Probability. They are continuing to develop their writing skills and are learning cursive writing, and they continue to improve their reading skills in Literature Circles, Guided Groups and Independent Reading time. In Social Studies students have been studying Landforms and Map Skills. Thanks for all of your wonderful support and contributions to help make our Triceratops successful.

4th Grade

The Fourth Graders have participated in a weekly Writing Camp. We are now prepared to use all of our best writing skills to take the TAKS Writing Test on March 3. In Math we will study decimal and fraction relationships, perform conversions with capacity and weight and work on geometry. We will study living and nonliving systems in Science. For example, we will learn about ecosystems such as the desert, grassland, forest, marine and wetlands. We will analyze the causes and major events of the Texas Revolution and learn about the successes and problems of the Republic of Texas. We hope everyone has a great spring break!

5th Grade

This month starts off with a bang! We've been getting ready for the Reading TAKS on March 3. Ah! One down and two to go! We encourage our students to take their time, use all of their strategies, get a good night's rest and have a great breakfast. All of this helps them be successful on these BIG tests! Biography reports are due March 6th. Directions and the rubric are in the kids' possession - ask them about it. We are still in our Geometry unit - customary and metric measurements are next. The students have a Geometry/Measurement Notebook that they should be working on as we go along. After we finish our Earth, Moon and Sun unit, we will begin our Physical Science unit. We are reading novels and practicing reading response skills. The students seem to enjoy learning about the Revolutionary War. Enjoy your Spring Break -- where has this year gone?

