

Dino Tracks

May
2008



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

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



An event 30 years in the making.....



Teachers, staff, parents, and students all gathered together on April 19 to celebrate Deep Wood's 30th Anniversary. Several VIPs spoke, including superintendent, Dr. Jesus Chavez, assistant superintendent, Beverly Helfinstein, our principal, Jeresther Thorpe-Page, and our PTA president, Lauri Etheridge. Incoming school board member, Brian Sellers, took the mic to honor his former kindergarten teacher, our own Sara Field. The new dino "bones" sculpture (courtesy of Stony Point High School's shop teacher and students) was unveiled, and everyone enjoyed the weather and the music, provided by 5th graders and later, by the Blue Diamond Band.

– Marie Gonzales
Newsletter Chair

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May 2008



From your PTA president...

WOW! Another school year has just about passed us by. Don't know about you, but it seemed to go too fast. Now we have to figure out what to do with the kids all summer. :D

I really appreciate everything that our wonderful volunteers did this year to make so many events and learning experiences available to our kids. They still have so much to do before the end of the year with field trips and class parties. And don't forget Teacher Appreciation Week coming up May 5-9. It's so important to let our teachers know how much you care and are grateful for the time they have spent with your child this year!

We really need your help on PTA next year! I don't think you realize all the people that work behind the scenes so that you can enjoy events like Hoedown and Chili Supper, or so that your kids can go on great field trips or have really cool events come to the school. Many of the people who have made these events happen are moving on – their kids are growing up and moving on to middle school. But someone has to take over the reigns or these things won't happen. So step up to the plate and give the PTA and Deep Wood a little of your time. Many committee positions don't take a lot of your time. And you can also be part of a larger committee ... the more folks that participate, the less work for everyone involved! Give your time, your skills, your dedication to helping all of our kids thrive in their learning environment. Don't forget to join us in the Election and Installation of PTA officers, tentatively scheduled for May 15th along with a book swap event ... details to follow soon!

Everyone have a safe and fun summer. Play a lot, laugh a lot, and read ... a lot!

Upcoming Events:

- 5/1 Science TAKS – 5th Grade
- 5/5 Butterfly Farm – 1st Grade
- 5/5 DARE Day at Dell – 5th Grade
- 5/6 Early Release (12:45)
- 5/7 Nurse Day
- 5/7 Cedar Park YMCA – 4th Grade
- 5/8 Early Release (12:45)
- 5/9 Field Day
- 5/12 Principal's Coffee (8:00)
- 5/13 Math TAKS Retest for 5th Grade
- 5/15 Aids Lesson – 5th Grade
- 5/16 Duck Pond – 4th Grade
- 5/16 5th Grade Maturation
- 5/21 Pet Clinic
- 5/22 TAG Open House
- 5/22 Mrs. Fowler's Retirement Party (3:30)
- 5/23 Sea World – 5th Grade
- 5/26 Memorial Day (Student Holiday)
- 5/28 RR West Park – 2nd Grade
- 5/28 4th Grade Play in Cafeteria
- 5/29 RR West Park – 3rd Grade
- 5/30 5th Grade Graduation (8:00 – 9:15)
- 5/30 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Lauri Etheridge
PTA President 2007-2008



REFLECTIONS Reminder:
The theme for 2008/2009 is:

"WOW!"

Think about Reflections over the summer –
what "Wow" things will you be doing?
Show or tell us about it next school year!

Debra Stinson
Reflections Chair



A Note From the Principal:



No way! It is hard to believe we are entering the last month of the school year. This year has just flown by with many things to CELEBRATE. Here are just a few:

- Increased Levels in Academic Rigor, Enrichment & Student Performance
- Friday Morning Awards Assemblies
- Collaborative Teacher Planning Times
- Dino Time, a campus wide intervention and enrichment time for students
- Increase Participation in Science Night/Science Fair with great representation going on to Regional Science Fair. Many of our students received 1st Place Ribbons and National Recognition.
- AWESOME 30th Year Celebration! Friday's student assembly was amazing. Our students took us back to the "too cool" 70's through music and movement. It was a BLAST!

There are many more celebrations to share. Our Dinos have grown academically, emotionally and socially. They have mastered their goals for the year and are ready to move on to new challenges. We are very proud of their many accomplishments. I would encourage all of you to stop by during our school's open house and allow your students to personally share their successes with you.

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, April 29th – Thursday, May 1st TAKS Testing for 3rd-5th Grades
- Tuesday, May 6th Early Release @ 12:45
- Tuesday, May 6th Campus OPEN HOUSE from 1:00 - 3:30
- Thursday, May 8th Early Release @ 12:45
- Friday, May 9th Field Day, 8:10-10:45 PPCD – 2, Noon – 2:35 3rd-5th
- Monday, May 12th Principal's Coffee from 8:00 – 8:30 am in the Library
- Thursday, May 15th "Reading Is Sweet" book swap in the Library from 6 – 7pm
- Monday, May 19th – Wednesday, May 21st Book Fair in the Library
- Tuesday, May 20th Volunteer Tea from 3:05 – 4:05 in the Science Lab
- Thursday, May 22nd Mrs. Fowler's Retirement Party in the Library
- Thursday, May 22nd TAG Open House, Student Project Exhibit
- Friday, May 30th LAST Day of School for Students!



As you can see, we have a full month of activities. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events. I would like to extend a personal invitation to all of our Volunteers to attend this year's Volunteer Tea on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 3:05 in the Science Lab. This is the faculty and staff's opportunity to show our appreciation to our volunteers for their dedicated service to our school.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is my pleasure to service the Deep Wood Community.

Fondly,

Jeresther Thorpe-Page, Principal



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD) is committed to high student achievement, creating safe and nurturing schools, and operating effectively and efficiently. To help us measure how well we are succeeding, we are asking you to complete a survey about the school(s) your child(ren) attends. We value your opinion and believe that your responses will provide us with information critical to our continuous improvement process.

The survey can be found at the following link:

<http://www.roundrockisd.org/surveys/surveys/08-Parent.htm>

The survey can be accessed from any computer with an internet connection. If you do not have internet access at your home, you might check with your nearest public library for computer availability. Staff members at your child's school will also be happy to provide assistance in accessing the survey. (In the event that you encounter any difficulties with the on-line version of the survey, a small quantity of paper surveys will be available at each campus.) We ask that you please complete your online survey by May 22. (Paper surveys may be returned to the office at your child's campus and they will be forwarded to the Assessment Office.) You are not required to include your name, and all responses will remain anonymous.

Each year, results of these surveys, as well as feedback from teachers and students, have been analyzed by Site-Based Advisory Teams, campus staff, and district personnel to identify existing strengths and areas for improvement. We appreciate your participation in the survey and look forward to the opportunity to continue to enhance our services to the children of RRISD.

You may direct questions about the survey to Angi Hughes, Assessment and Research Division, at 464-5094, or e-mail survey_web@roundrockisd.org

Best wishes,



Jesús H. Chávez, Ph.D.
Superintendent

May 2008



COUNSELOR'S CORNER
Elizabeth (Betty) Carbonneau

During the month of May our Deep Wood **Character Education Program** will focus on learning about and demonstrating SELF-RELIANCE and ADVOCACY. Some examples of these character traits that we share and discuss with students during morning broadcast, classroom meetings, and guidance classes are listed below.

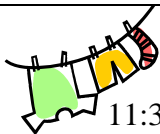
SELF-RELIANCE – The ability to believe in yourself, rely on your strengths, and feel that you make a valuable contribution both as an individual and as a member of a group.

- I believe in yourself and my abilities.
- I make a valuable contribution both as an individual and as a member of a group.
- I remember that I have many strengths.
- I work hard to learn and prepare for my future goals in life.
- I know that I am a valuable person.
- I am a responsible person that others can depend on.
- I try to solve my own problems before expecting others to help me.
- I am learning how to take care of myself.
- I am capable of making good choices and decisions.
- I am growing up and becoming responsible.
- I know how to keep myself safe

ADVOCACY – Speaking or writing in support of something that you believe in.

- I stand up for what I believe in.
- I stand up for people who need my help.
- I am reliable and dependable in words and actions.
- I remember that we are all capable of learning.
- I make many important contributions at school and in the community.
- I do my best to help others.
- I speak up for the things I believe in.
- I speak and write about things that are important to me.
- I am learning how to be assertive instead of passive or aggressive.
- I speak up for younger children when they need help.

If you are looking for a Residential Summer Camp or Summer Day Program for your child, we have copies of the **Summer Programs Directory for 2008** which is available in the counselor's office at your request.



Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on 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!





30 Years in Educational Excellence 1977-2008

Anniversary stuff still available!!!

T-shirts, Dino Salsa, and Dog Tags celebrating the 30th anniversary of Deep Wood Elementary are still available! T-shirts have all the teachers, staff, and kids names from 2007-2008 listed on the back. What a great way to remember this fabulous celebration!

T-shirts

Adults	\$8.00
Kids	\$6.00
Dino Salsa	\$6.00 (hot or mild)
Dog Tags	\$3.00

Contact letheridge@austin.rr.com to order. Get yours today while supplies last!

GO GREEN TIP:

Now that the weather is nice enough to leave the windows in the car down consider turning your engine off while waiting in the pickup line.



Support Our Troops!

A community project has been initiated by Congressman John Carter and sponsored by the City of Round Rock and the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce to provide morale and support to the troops and their families of the 404th Aviation Support Battalion out of Fort Hood. Our neighborhood has committed to partner with a platoon of about forty soldiers and their families. Although still in the planning stages, it is my hope that the families at Deep Wood Elementary will get involved in this project in the next year possibly by having classes 'adopt' a soldier, write letters, send hand-drawn pictures, etc. to show our support. The soldiers really appreciate the interest, curiosity, and effort that kids show. Regardless of your politics and how you may feel about the current military climate, remember that our support is for the men and women in our armed forces, as well as their families, in the hardships they face completing their assigned tasks. Please support this project! Details will soon follow including plans for a kickoff tailgate party at Dell Diamond on May 18th.

Thanks!

Lauri



GIANT BOOK SWAP COMING!

Join us for a
Reading is Sweet
Book Swap
&
Read-In

When: May 15th --Thursday night
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 pm
PTA meeting 6:00 - 6:15

Bring up to 6 gently used books -- paperbacks or hardbacks
Take up to 6 new-to-you books
If you want to bring more books we will take donations for Libraries of
Love,
a nonprofit group that builds and supplies student libraries in Uganda

Then, we spend the rest of the time reading!
Cookies and milk will be served!
Free bookmarks will be given away
Wear casual clothes or pajamas

Reading is Sweet!!!

May 2008



WE DID IT!
Congratulations to all
at Deep Wood for
collecting a total of
39,400 lbs. of paper for
recycling! We beat last
year's totals by 36%!



Earth Day is here. Celebrate by taking small steps. There are dozens of small things your kids can do every day to save energy and keep the world cleaner and greener. Your kids can:

- Shut off the water when they brush their teeth
- Take faster showers or baths in just a small amount of water
- Help hang clothes on the line instead of putting them in the dryer
- Choose products that are not over packaged

DEEP WOOD WILD, WILD WEST FIELD DAY MAY 9, 2008

ALL YOU COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS OUT THERE – REMEMBER TO COME TO THE WILD, WILD WEST FIELD DAY HERE AT DEEPWOOD ON MAY 9TH. VOLUNTEERS CAN STILL SIGN UP USING THE WEBSITE: DOWNLOAD YOUR VOLUNTEER SHEET AND SEND IT WITH YOUR YOUNG COWBOY OR COWGIRL TO MRS. THOMPSON OR MRS. OSTEEN. SEE YA THERE!

**THE PPCD, K-2 WILL HAVE THEIR TIME FROM 8:05-10:50.
THE 3-5 GRADERS WILL BE FROM 12:10-2:30.
CLEAN UP IS SCHEDULED FROM 2:30-2:45.**

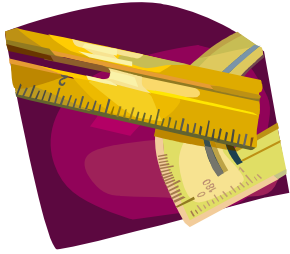
MARY SUE AND AMY



Nurse Kellee Flemmons
reminds parents to please apply
sunscreen to your little darlins'
on Field Day. THANKS!



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 received the school supply order form in their folders in April, and you have until May 2nd to place your order. You will also be able to order online at <http://deepwood.btspacks.com> until May 2nd. For more information or questions contact Sandy Mitschke @ 388-5432 or sandymitschke@sbcglobal.net.

CHECK THIS OUT.... FROM THE LIBRARY!

Deep Wood Library presents:

BOOK FAIR
MAY 19TH, 20TH, AND 21ST

Monday, May 19, is a PREVIEW DAY for all classes.

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20 – 21

are SHOPPING DAYS!

Hours: 7:30 - 4:00

Place: Deep Wood School Library

Stock up for summer reading!!!

REMINDER FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT:

Check Mary Reilly's Visual Arts web pages by going to the Deep Wood Teachers Web. You will find some information about summer art camps, classes, and other enriching opportunities for your whole family. Take summer opportunities to draw, draw, draw!

Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator
Deep Wood Elementary
464-4420



On Another Note

We have had a wonderful year in music classes. We have learned new notes and rhythms, new songs, new instruments, new composers and musical styles, and even a couple of new dance steps. May will bring another new experience for many students as we get to use a classroom set of electronic keyboards. Every student will get their own keyboard to play. May also brings the last chance for fifth graders to perform together as Deep Wood students as they sing one last song at their graduation ceremony. Enjoy your summer vacation. Play, read, dream, and don't forget to make a joyful noise. See you next August!

Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate

May 2008



Kinder

Wow, it is hard to believe the end is near! Our Kindergarten students have been working so hard this year. We are proud of all of them. During the month of May we will finish our farm unit, discuss land and water, and make surprises for our mothers and fathers. In math we will continue to work on our addition and subtraction while trying to problem-solve. Water Day will be the afternoon of the 23rd. Be watching for more information about this special water event. We want to wish everyone a happy and safe summer!

It's hard to believe that May is already here. The year has certainly flown by. The children have learned so much, and they will make excellent second graders! We hope that you will enjoy the summer vacation as much as we will. During the month of May we will be studying rocks, soil, water conservation, and our natural resources. We will be going to the Butterfly Farm on May 5th for our last field trip. We need chaperones, so mark your calendar now! A permission slip will be coming home later in the month. Please keep your children doing their homework every night. We will be testing your child's progress in reading and math. It's important that they continue to do their best!

1st grade

We still have a lot of activities yet to come, even as the school year is rapidly coming to a close. Our sock hop fund-raiser put us over the top so that the students will not have to pay any more toward the Sea World field trip. Yea, fifth grade!! Early releases will be May 6 and 8. Fifth grade is going to Dell Diamond for DARE Day on May 5 and Field Day is on May 9. The final book report is due May 6; it is to be a collage (the paperwork has been assigned already). Twelve AR points are due May 27 and Graduation is May 30 at 8:00 - 9:15 in the morning. The 5th grade class picnic will follow at the Duck Pond. This has been a great fifth grade class. We fifth grade

What a great year we have had in 2nd grade! Thanks to all of our super parents for assisting us with successful learning. A huge thanks to the parents that made Extended Planning possible, providing us quality planning time to develop units and activities. (Thank you – Erica Neidig, Mary Kirby, Debra Stinson, Bekki Davis, Becky Willard, Becky Velasco, Elizabeth Dixon, and Lauri Etheridge!) This month we will assess all areas for the final report card. We will finish up stories in Writer's Workshop, learn about economics, recycling, digging for dinosaurs, adding & subtracting 4-digit numbers, multiplying & dividing. Please have your child read daily over the summer and participate in the RR Library's Summer Reading Program. Students should also work on addition & subtraction of 2 and 3-digit

Grade Level Updates

teachers wish them all the best as they move on to middle school.

5th grade

numbers. Important dates are on page 2 of the newsletter. Also, please note the following: 5/13 field trip to Texas Memorial Museum and Pease Park; 5/28 2nd Grade trip to RRWest Park; 5/29 Pizza Party/Game Day (bring board games to share.)

2nd grade

May is a busy and exciting month for our 4th graders. We have a field trip to the Twin Lakes YMCA in Cedar Park to explore ecosystems May 7th. We will also perform our musical plays the last week of school. In math we will focus on problem solving and preparation for 5th grade. We will continue to read a variety of novels in literature circles. We will also complete a poetry unit. Our focus in social studies will be the 20th century in Texas and economic changes in the state. In science we will study adaptations of plants and animals as well as inherited and learned behaviors. The boys and girls have worked hard this year, and we look forward to seeing them as our school leaders in the fifth grade next year!

3rd Grade TAKS tests are over! Thanks to all of our parents for help with reading and math homework. Ecosystems and habitats continue to be our focus in Science. An animal report and project will conclude this unit. Math focuses on problem solving and MASTERING the multiplication facts up to 12. 4th grade teachers expect students to walk in knowing those facts. Please work on these over the summer. Our Deep Wood website has several computer games that can help. Ecosystems have been a part of our reading, also, and we will continue Literature Circles in the classroom. We highly encourage each child to go to the RR Public Library for their Summer Reading program. Thanks again for being an important part of your child's education. We hope that you and your family have an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing all of you again in August – except Mrs. Fowler who's retiring this year. She'll be around though, substituting

4th grade

3rd grade