

Dino Tracks

November
2008



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

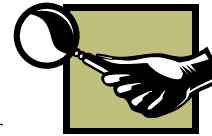
What's Inside This Edition

- Bond Info
- Principal's Letter
- President's Letter
- Important Dates
- Counselor's Corner
- Info from specials
- Grade level updates

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

Focus On:

The Bond Proposal



By:
**Cheryl
Starich**

Election Day is November 4, 2008! Deep Wood PTA encourages all registered eligible voters to participate by casting your ballot on Election Day! In addition to casting your vote for Federal, State and County elected officials, you will also have an opportunity to vote on two School Bond propositions. . .

At the recommendation of the 2008 Citizens Bond Committee that studied projected and current enrollment data, school capacity, and infrastructure needs, the Round Rock ISD Board of Trustees on August 7 in a unanimous vote called for a bond election to be held on Nov. 4, 2008, to ask voters to approve funding for capital improvement and facility projects totaling \$293,940,000.

The two propositions that may appear on the ballot include:

Proposition 1 addresses district growth and includes:

- Three new elementary schools in the Stone Oak, Paloma Lake and Parmer corridor areas
- Purchase of 15 new school buses and five additional land sites for a future high school, a school of choice high school, a middle school and two elementary school sites
- Technology to refresh, replace, upgrade and support existing computers, network infrastructure upgrades and replace existing central computer systems
- A transportation facility on the west side of the district (which could allow for the current facility on the McNeil High School campus to be repurposed)

Estimated cost for Proposition 1 projects is \$156,565,000

(Bond Proposal article continues on page 2)

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.

Nov 2008



Proposition 2 addresses additions, renovations, and safety and security improvements to existing facilities and includes:

- Phase 2 of the Master Plan additions and renovations at Round Rock High School and Westwood High School
- Safety and security improvements to entrances at secondary and selected elementary schools
- Science room additions at Chisholm Trail Middle School
- Fine Arts addition at Deerpark Middle School
- Removal of remaining carpeted elementary school gym floors and gym additions at Ridgeview and Cedar Valley middle schools
- Weight room additions at Stony Point High School, McNeil High School and Cedar Valley Middle School
- District-wide infrastructure projects including plumbing, electrical, air conditioning/heating, roofing, flooring and fire alarm systems
- Purchase of 15 new school buses
- Purchase of digital data projectors for all classrooms that do not yet have them

Estimated cost for Proposition 2 projects is \$137,375,000

Financial Impact for Taxpayers**

In order to reduce the tax impact, the Board has the option to approve the usage of a portion of its debt service fund balance to buy down the tax rate of to \$.34 through 2011. The average value home in RRISD is valued at approximately \$200,000. The debt tax rate for the 2008-09 tax year is projected to be \$.31. Based on a \$.34 tax rate, the **total monthly increase on the average homeowner in the district is estimated to be \$3.83 per month.** If approved, the bonds will be sold incrementally to fund projects as needed.

****To estimate the effect of the bond issue on YOUR property taxes, simply enter the appraised value of your home in the space provided at:**

<http://www.roundrockisd.org/2008bond/calculator.htm>

The district will be hosting Public Hearings at area high schools to give residents a chance to learn about the bond projects and ask questions regarding the election. All public forums will be held at 7 p.m. in October. The remaining hearings will be held:

Oct. 21 - **McNeil HS**, 5720 McNeil Dr. / Oct. 28 - **Stony Point HS**, 1801 Bowman Rd.

To Learn More About the School Bonds

- Visit the RRISD Web site www.roundrockisd.org
- Write or send e-mail to district officials at RRISD, 1311 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681 or community_relations@roundrockisd.org
- Schedule a bond presentation for your PTA, civic or neighborhood group

Early Voting: October 20 – October 31, 2008
Election Day: November 4, 2008 (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

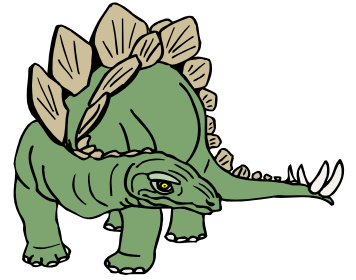
Additional information is available from the RRISD Community Relations Office at 464-5113 or visit the district's Web site at www.roundrockisd.org

Español? or for a copy of this information in Spanish, please call 464-5024



A Note From the Principal

Can you believe that we are already finished with our first nine weeks of school? WOW! This year is flying by so fast already! ☺ We appreciate your continued support to work as a team with the school. We had our “Monday with Meredith” in the evening this month to accommodate anyone who wished to come that could not attend in the mornings. We will continue to alternate months, morning and evening, to allow more parents to participate. ☺ Topics we discussed included the revisions to the kindergarten, first, and second grade report cards. Students in these grade levels will receive a written explanation of the report card in the report card packet. **Report cards will go home on Monday, November 3.** Other topics of discussion were the OLSAT testing in second and fourth grades, the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) contest we are having with classes for appropriate manners, conduct, polite interactions, and working hard as a class. The classes are earning “footballs” to post in the cafeteria beside their class’s name. At the end of the month, the GRADE level with the most footballs earned will be announced on the morning announcements! The winning grade level will decide, with their teachers, what is earned, whether it is extra recess time, shoes off in class during the week, or some other incentive that the students decide with their teachers. Each month, the contest will start over. **The November “Monday with Meredith” will be in the morning, Nov. 3, from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the library.** We will have the meetings and times posted on our web calendar, as well as on the marquee. Please let us know if you have items for discussion you would like to have on our next agenda. We will always have questions and answers at the end of each meeting to address anything you may want to discuss. ☺



Dates to remember: **October 31, 2008 is our next DINO Pride from 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.** in the cafeteria. Our **PTA Hoedown will be on Saturday, November 8, from 1:00 – 5:00.** We hope to see all of you here to enjoy all the fun! I’ll be one of the people in the dunking booth! ☺ We will have our **Family Art Night on Nov. 13 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** **Our PTA Science Night and Reflections Gallery will be November 20.** Also, please mark your calendars that we will have our **November DINO Pride on November 21 at 7:45 a.m.,** since we will be out for **Thanksgiving holidays Nov. 26, 27, and 28.** Whew! We have a busy month ahead of us! ☺

I hope to see you soon!
Meredith Perkins ☺
Principal,
Deep Wood Elementary



The district Wellness/PE department continues to search for student and family opportunities to experience physical activity at reduced rates. We are grateful that Nitro Swimming has produced an offer for RRISD students. This opportunity is offered on Saturdays within a good, safe and sound educational environment. This swimming lesson program is now available free for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch students. Transportation will not be provided and must be arranged by a parent or guardian. 30 minute swim lessons are being held on Saturdays at 12:30 and 1:00. Parents should call Nitro at 259-7999 to reserve a slot for their student.



From your PTA president...

On the upcoming bond election, there are a few things you need to think about when going to the polls. The Texas economy is in pretty good shape. We are diversified, we have low taxes, no income tax, and our sales tax revenues remain strong. Texas is a pay-as-you-go state which requires a balanced budget and no deficit spending. Texas has created 1.2 million new jobs in the last five years and our unemployment rate is well below the national average. Regardless of the downturn in the economy, which Americans have faced time and time again, the need for quality education and facilities to provide that education are not going to go away. Our children need safe schools and a number of the additions and renovations are aimed at achieving the safety and security needs to existing facilities. Many of you may feel that approval of the bonds would bring added economic burden to your already overwhelmed household. Based on the average home price in RRISD, the actual cost to you is an estimated \$3.83 per month. The RRISD Council of PTAs encourages voters to support the upcoming bond election. Classrooms 4 Kids is an important step in continuing to provide the quality education that encourages hundreds of families to relocate to our area every year!

An important reminder: Regardless of how you complete your ballot ... straight party ticket or individual candidates ... it is important that you look on the back of the voting ballot and complete the bond and other propositions section separately!

I hope everyone will come out and enjoy the wonderful fall weather and all the fun that is Hoedown! A little birdie told me that there was going to be a dunking booth and you'd get a chance to soak Mrs. Perkins and other faculty and staff! And, of course, all the other fun games, food, entertainment, and the chance to do a little early holiday shopping at the Silent Auction! Don't forget the date ... Saturday, November 8, from 1-5. It will be awesome!

I hope everyone has a great November and don't forget to vote!

Thanks!
Lauri Etheridge
PTA President 2008-2009

Upcoming Events:

- 11/3 Monday w/Meredith (8:00 AM)
- 11/6 TAG Referral Mtg (6:00 PM)
- 11/7 1st Grade to Shriner Circus
- 11/8 Harvest Hoedown & Silent Auction
- 11/11 Veteran's Day (Bring a Vet to Lunch)
- 11/13 Picture Retakes
- 11/13 Family Art Night (6:00 PM)
- 11/18 PTA Buddies Not Bullies Program
- 11/20 Science Night/Reflections Gallery
- 11/21 Dino Pride
- 11/24 4th Grade to Bob Bullock Museum
- 11/26 – 11/28 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 12/2 – 12/4 Book Fair
- 12/2 Choir Concert
- 12/8 Monday w/Meredith (6:00 PM)
- 12/16 3rd Grade Economics Fair
- 12/22 Winter Break Begins





A Note of Thanks...

"Wow!" This P.T.A. Reflections program was a great success. We would like to thank students for your participation and fabulous entries and to the faculty, staff, parents, and Deep Wood P.T.A. for your much needed support of the fine arts. Be sure to check out a wonderful, artistic display of "Wow!" Reflection entries at Science/Gallery Night, Thursday, November 20th. All students will be acknowledged for their participation this month at Dino Pride, Friday, November 21st.

Our Deepest Dino Thanks,
Valerie Castillo and Debra Stinson
Deep Wood Elementary P.T.A. 2008 Reflection Co-chairs



TAG PROGRAM Referrals FOR STUDENTS IN K-5TH

The RRISD TAG Program serves gifted/talented students in grades K-12, and addresses the needs of identified students with either general intellectual ability or specific (subject area) academic ability so advanced that he/she needs and can profit from specially planned educational services differentiated from those provided by the standard school program.

- Referrals will be accepted from Nov. 17 - Dec. 3
- Referral Packets will be available in the school office beginning Nov. 17
- Completed forms should be returned to the school office by Dec. 3 at 3:00 p.m.
- Testing for referred students will take place between Jan. 12- Feb. 6.

You are encouraged to attend the TAG Parent Information Meeting on November 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the Deep Wood Library if you are considering referring your child. If you have any questions, contact Deep Wood's TAG teacher by email at staci_kirchner@roundrockisd.org or by phone at 464-4427.

By the time you read this, the third, fourth, and fifth graders will have finished their fall fitness testing, and will be getting ready to input the data into the computers. I will have them set goals for the year, and in the spring we will redo the testing. The kinders, first, and second graders have been working on how to move safely in a large environment and while moving at different speeds and levels. They have also been working on tossing and catching. Please continue to log the mileage for both Marathon Kids and the Physically Fit program. Check my website for some new information: <http://www.teacherweb.com/TX/DeepWood/DeepwoodPE/>



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Elizabeth Carbonneau, Deep Wood Counselor

Education Go-Get-It Week was a huge success in RRISD and at Deep Wood School. During the week, all grade levels had guidance lessons pertaining to the importance of graduating from high school, attending college and preparing for future careers. We will continue to make the connections between school success, college and careers throughout the year.

Red Ribbon Week is being held the last week of October in all RRISD schools, including Deep Wood. During this week we will emphasize drug education/prevention in classes at every grade level. All students and staff members will proudly wear red ribbons to demonstrate the anti-drug message.

Guidance Classes this month have focused on anti-bullying lessons in every classroom at Deep Wood. Students are learning that "Bullying happens whenever someone uses his or her power unfairly and repeatedly to hurt someone". They are also becoming aware of the three different kinds of bullying:

1. Physical Bullying (hurts bodies and/or property)
2. Emotional Bullying (hurts feelings and/or self-worth)
3. Social Bullying (hurts friendships and/or group acceptance)

Another focus of the anti-bullying lessons is to teach students how respond to verbal bullying with various strategies such as ignoring, walking away, telling the bully to stop, using humor, etc. Children have learned that they should *always* tell an adult if 1) anything dangerous is happening to themselves or someone else, or 2) if they have tried their strategies and the bully doesn't stop. They know that this is *not tattling*.

Counselors in RRISD use the *No Bullying Program – Preventing Bullying at School* as well as other materials and programs to help students learn the importance of being kind and friendly to everyone at school. The primary message is that being "mean" to others in any way is just not acceptable behavior, which has a direct connection to our 3 B's: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.

Character Traits for September and October are Respect & Cooperation and Self-Control & Self-Discipline. We continue to tie these positive character traits to our Positive Behavior System at Deep Wood.

Clothes Closet needs your help!

We need two volunteers to help at the clothes closet on Nov. 20th, Dec. 18th, and Jan. 22nd from 9:30 to 11:30

at Voigt Elementary school.

Please contact Becky Velasco
(341-9204, beckyvel@msn.com)
if you are able to fill this need.

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

Thank you!





on another note

CHECK THIS OUT....

Author Brian Anderson will visit Deep Wood on November 21st! He is the author of the Zack Proton series. Mr. Anderson is a chemistry professor at UT and combines science and humor in his writing! Books will be on sale before and after the author visit. To learn more about the books, take a look at the Official Intergalactic Web site of Zack Proton: <http://www.zackproton.com/>

Also, December 2nd - 4th is our first Book Fair of the year!!! Mark your calendars! Plan to shop for the holidays at our Book Fair. A portion of the proceeds helps the library to buy books and bring great authors to inspire our children. Tuesday night the Book Fair will be open after the choir concert. The concert begins at 6:00.

Laurie Thelen
Teacher-Librarian
Deep Wood Elementary Library
laurie_thelen@roundrockisd.org

We have great news in the music department! Deep Wood received a financial grant from our RRISD Partners in Education Foundation. The foundation awarded us over \$1300 to purchase Music Ace software to be installed in all of the computers in our computer lab. The software includes 48 lessons in music literacy – reading rhythms and pitches and understanding music concepts such as key signatures, time signatures, and harmony. Each student will use headphones and be able to work independently at their own pace at their own computer. First through fifth graders will be using the software and we will start when everything is installed and ready to go. I sincerely appreciate the Partners in Education Foundation's commitment to education and generosity for making this learning opportunity possible for our students.

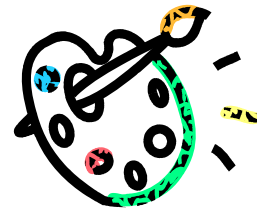
Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate

Check Mrs. Reilly's Web-Site through the Teacher's Web: <http://TeacherWeb.com/TX/DeepWood/art>

The NEWS FLASH page will have information regarding current areas of study in The Art Studio. The ANNOUNCEMENTS, CALENDAR, and SCHEDULE pages will have information as designated by name. The LINKS page (orange box with a white arrow) lists family friendly websites that provide instruction, or opportunities.

Don't forget Family Art Night is Thursday, November 13th, at 6:30!

Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Specialist
Deep Wood Elementary



Kinder

Things are changing in kindergarten. Our little scientists have been busy observing changes in the seasons. Harvest brings about lots of pumpkins and apples, and we have discovered the life cycle of each one. In math, we will study more, less, and equal through graphing, 1 to 1 counting, number concepts 0-10 and problem solving. Keep your eyes out for little Pilgrims and Native Americans this month! As the weather changes, please dress your child for change, too. The mornings may be chilly, but it gets warm in the afternoons. Layering is the key!

We can't believe that the first nine weeks is over and soon it will be winter break. During November we will be studying about maps and globes. We will learn about North, South, East and West. We will discuss how maps and globes are alike and how they are different. We will also learn about how family traditions are alike but different for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will find out about the Pilgrim's journey to America and how they survived the first year. We will be making butter and cornbread and sharing it with our Deep Wood family. Please continue to read nightly with your child. When your child reads every night he/she builds their fluency and comprehension.

1st Grade

2nd Grade

November begins the season for sharing. Mrs. Lena's 2nd graders are once again challenging the other classrooms to a food drive competition. Her class will record the number of food items brought by classes daily. Let's have 2nd grade blow the other grade levels out of the water by bringing nonperishable items for our RR Area Serving Center during our food drive, 10/31 – 11/14. We will support the concept of sharing in Language Arts with a study of the book, Stone Soup. As a culminating activity, each class will make a dish to share. In Math, we will review measurement, addition/subtraction of 2-digit numbers with regrouping. In Social Studies, we will learn about maps, landforms, settlement patterns, communities, and the Pilgrims. In Science, we will learn about our natural resources. In Writing, we will continue using the writing process with the 6+ traits.

Our third graders have been busy as they continue to dig their way into the curriculum. We've had birthdays, taken school pictures, celebrated our first Dino Pride and had a fun safety learning experience with our RR Fire Department. Our Robotics Lab is up and running, with the kids learning to build with Legos and testing their completed creations. In Reading students are responding to literature in their Literacy Circles. They are developing writing skills with correct grammar, usage and editing skills. In Math they are using problem solving strategies such as estimation, reasonableness, and patterns. In Science students have been discovering, "What's the Matter?"- its properties, and identifying states of matter. They've had a blast with the labs. We have a field trip to the PAC in December. Thanks for all you do so that our kids can continue to explore pathways to success.

3rd Grade

4th Grade

In fourth grade we will be using multiplication and division to solve problems. We will estimate and use measuring tools to determine perimeter, area, capacity and weight. In Language Arts we will generate ideas for writing stories, revise drafts, edit and continue implementing the 6+1 Writing traits to create elaborate stories. We will study Early European and Anglo-American Colonization in Social Studies. In addition to that, we are looking forward to our field trip to the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum on Monday, November 24th. Objects in the Sky, Properties of Soil and Earth Changes will be our topics of study during science class.

The fifth graders are excited about the annual Harvest Hoedown on 11/8. Each class is responsible for a basket for the silent auction, so be sure to send in your donations. Fifth grade will hold the Sea World fundraising bake sale on 11/24-11/25. More information soon. In math we have started division - please know those multiplication facts! We will start life cycles and inherited traits in science class. (Be sure to ask your fifth grader about the owl pellet.) Early European colonies will be our next unit of study in social studies. The book report for the second nine-weeks will be a historical fiction novel, due 12/15. Students will be given a rubric and guidelines for it - books will be checked out from our library. Fifth graders have done an outstanding job acclimating to their new grade level and already looking forward to even a new and greater nine weeks.

5th Grade

