

Dino Tracks

November
2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition

- Principal/
President's
Letters
- Upcoming
Events
- Counselor's
Corner
- Health
Update
- Info from
specials
- PTA History
Note
- Grade level
updates

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

Dear parents,

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 finding ways to utilize the grandparents in our neighborhood in the school, recruiting retired community members or others who may want to volunteer at Deep Wood. A suggestion was made to make requests through the neighborhood association newsletter, as well as having information available for visitors at our Thanksgiving Day feast. **Report cards will go home on Monday, November 2.** The November "Monday with Meredith" will be in the morning, Nov. 2, from 8:00 – 8:30 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. ☺

Our WatchDOGS kick-off on October 12 was a HUGE success!! ☺ We had about 65 dads, granddads, or uncles attend with their children! We are in the process of getting our web calendar set up so the WatchDOGS can sign up on line for any date they would like to come volunteer at our school. Don't forget to order your WatchDOGS shirt! Contact Kristin Hamilton at Kristin_hamilton@roundrockisd.org for additional information if you have questions. We can't WAIT to have all of you WatchDOGS at school! ☺

Dates to remember: **PTA Hoedown is this Saturday, October 24!** We hope to see all of you here to enjoy all the fun! **October 30, 2009 is our next DINO Pride from 7:45 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.** in the cafeteria. **Our PTA Science Night and Reflections Gallery will be November 5.** We will have our **Family Art Night on Nov. 19 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Also, please mark your calendars that we will have our **November DINO Pride on November 20 at 7:45 a.m.**, since we will be out for **Thanksgiving holidays November 25, 26, and 27.** Whew! We have a busy month ahead of us! ☺

I hope to see you soon!
Meredith ☺



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.

November 2009



From your PTA president...

Deep Wood families,
I am excited to report that our annual Harvest Hoedown profited over \$6000. More importantly, it was a beautiful day, everyone seemed in good spirits, and fun and laughter was heard throughout the neighborhood. Thank you to all the fabulous volunteers who helped make the day so successful. Additionally, the PTA catalogue fundraiser has profited over \$5000. Way to go Deep Wood families! All of these funds help pay for programs like Physically Fit, After School Enrichment, the special curriculum programs that come to the school, field trips, educational materials, library books, and other fabulous events like Family Art Night, World Cultures Night, and Field Day. Thank you for supporting your school and please come out and enjoy the fruits of your labors.

It is never too late to join the PTA. You do not need to be available during the day to be a member. There are hundreds of ways to help. Whether it's making phone calls for your class, sending in needed items for events, or making posters, any contribution of your time, no matter how small, is always appreciated.

Coming up this month is the Annual Food Drive run by Mrs. Lena's second grade class. Next time you are at the grocery store pick up a few extra cans to help keep the Round Rock Serving Center stocked with food. This is especially important as we approach the holiday season. We should be thankful for what we have and the wonderful community in which we live. It is our turn to help those in need.

Thank you,
Becky Velasco
PTA President

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 1 Daylight Savings Begins
- Nov. 2 Monday with Meredith 8:00am
- Nov. 4 PTA Body Works
- Nov. 5 Reflections/Science Night 6:30-7:30
- Nov. 6 PTA Board 9:30
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 11 Early Release 12:45pm
- Nov. 12 PTA Night at Texas Jumping Bean 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Nov. 13 Author Phil Bildner
- Nov. 17 Thanksgiving Meal
- Nov. 19 Family Art Night 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Nov. 23 4th to Bob Bullock Museum 9:30am-2:00pm
- Nov. 23 5th grade Bake Sale 2:45pm
- Nov. 24 KG Feast, 1st Cornbread and 2nd Friendship Stew
- Nov. 24 5th grade Bake Sale 2:45pm
- Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday



Reflections Gallery Night (in conjunction with the Science Night)
Thursday, November 5th, 6:30p.m.
Come join us for a beautiful evening of viewing
Deep Wood's Reflections creations!
We have a special thank you for each child who participated!



What is TAG?



Is my child TAG?

How can my child be considered for TAG services?

Have you ever had any of these questions? Interested in knowing more about Talented and Gifted Services for Round Rock ISD? Then...

TAG Parent Referral Information Meeting for Deep Wood

When: November 5th

Where: Deep Wood Elementary Library

What Time: 6:00 P.M.

Mark your calendars now! Come and have your questions answered. Learn about how to refer your child for TAG testing.



Our Next DEEP WOOD DINO SPIRIT NIGHT will be at

TEXAS JUMPING BEANS

16708 Picadilly Court

Round Rock, TX 78664

On Thursday NOVEMBER 12 from 5-8 P.M.

Join us for an evening of fun for all!

The pizza lady will be there and we will be selling refreshments and desserts.

You can get directions at <http://www.texasjumpingbeans.com>



COUNSELOR S CORNER

Betty Carbonneau

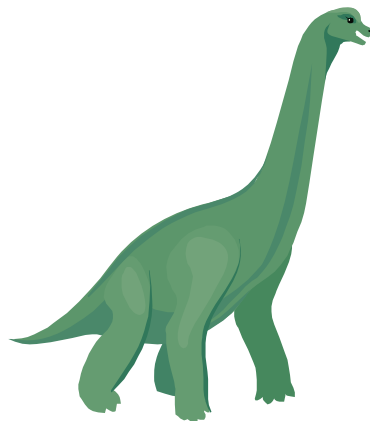
The RRISD October Character Trait focus is on **Self-Discipline**. During this month classroom guidance lessons will center around Drug Education/Prevention, Bully Prevention, Peer Pressure, Self-Control, Health and Safety.

The November Character Trait is **Responsibility** which is actually one of our 3 B's. During the month, guidance lessons will focus on the importance of Following Rules, Consequences of Behavior Choices, Personal Care and Safety.

We will celebrate **Red Ribbon Week** during the last month in October. This nationally recognized time to learn about healthy lifestyles and saying "no" to drugs. More information will come home about this program.

Our Deep Wood PBS Bully Prevention initiative is working well in combination with the "3 B's" in teaching students how to be **Safe, Responsible, and Respectful** by following the instructions they have been given to **Stop – Walk – Talk** if someone is bothering them and they can't ignore it. Of course, they have also been taught that they can always talk to an adult if something serious is happening.

I encourage you to enjoy this beautiful fall weather and thank you for sharing your very precious children with us at Deep Wood!





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!





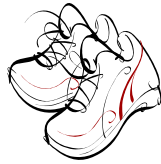
TEACHERWEB

Mrs. Mary Sue Thompson

Check frequently for announcements, homework, calendar of events, grades, and more!

Bookmark (add to Favorites) the page below the first time you go to it.

<http://teacherweb.com/TX/DeepWood/DeepwoodPE>



Get Automatic Updates

- Use **MyTeacherWeb** - www.MyTeacherWeb.com allows parents and students to track multiple teachers from a single site!
- Try the **RSS** feed. Click the **RSS** button at the bottom of the site.
- If your teacher has a **NewsFlash Page**, sign-up for email & text message updates!

FROM VISUAL ARTS

November is here, so plan to attend our annual **FAMILY ART NIGHT** on the evening of November 19!!!

Watch your child's take-home folder for the reservation slip and more information about this creative family night! You can also find out more about **FAMILY ART NIGHT** on my Teacher's Web **NEWS FLASH** page.

Sincerely,
Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator



on another note

I am really proud of how hard our students have been working in music class and how much new material we have learned. Kindergarteners are practicing the musical concepts of fast/slow and high/low and we have acted out lots of musical stories and songs together. First graders have learned how to read, perform, and write quarter notes and rests and eighth notes while the second graders learned the new pitch La. Third grade is mastering the pentatonic scale and sixteenth notes. The fourth graders have learned Fa and Ti so now they know all of the notes in the diatonic scale, and they have added syncopation to their rhythmic repertoire. Fifth graders are doing a great job on their recorders and will be earning their first recorder karate belt soon. I'm really impressed with everyone's efforts and really enjoying teaching each and every class.

You can find out more about what we are learning in music class if you sign up to receive my weekly newsletter as an e-mail. Just go to my website and click on weekly newsletter and click on the "Subscribe to this NewsFlash" icon at the bottom. Thank you.

Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate



Texas PTA's Legislative History

In 1896, Mrs. Ella Caruthers Porter established a Mother's Club in Hillsboro, TX to promote "child study and betterment in the home." Her organization led to the founding of Texas Parent-Teachers Association on October 19, 1909 at the State Fair in Dallas. Here are some highlights of Texas PTA's legislative involvement over the last 100 years. **Keep in mind, when Texas PTA was founded, women didn't even have the right to vote!**

- Creation of the woman's division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, free textbooks in schools, woman's suffrage and a minimum wage law for women. (1917-1920)
- More adequate special education programs and the prohibition of the sale of narcotics to children. (1957)
- Support for programs that discourage students from dropping out of school and support for more and better laws to curtail physical abuse of children by their parents and caretakers. (1963)
- Adequate protective standards in football head gear and equipment. (1970)
- Correction of tax inequities, smaller teacher-to-student ratios, early childhood education and expanded counseling services to help children identify and cope with problems. (1974)
- Stronger drug information in textbooks; conducted 140 drug awareness programs for Texas War on Drugs. (1982)
- Statewide campaign promoting seat belt usage. (1983)
- Impacted the Texas Education Code by advocating for increased parent rights. The revisions in the code gave parents access to 10 different student records and parent representation on the school decision making committee. (1995)
- Senate Bill 4 School Finance bill that appropriated an unprecedented \$3.8 billion for public education, school-based health clinics, limitations for minors employed to sell door-to-door and more funding for child abuse case workers. (1999)
- Passing of the Kids Aren't Cargo bill, Graduated Driver's License bill, Daily Physical Education bill, and Teacher Health Insurance bill. (2001)

From "The Texas PTA Historical Timeline", <http://www.txpta.org/about-texas-pta/history/>

Submitted by Ann Morrison,

Deep Wood Elementary PTA Legislative Chair



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, addition/subtraction in real situations, 1 to 1 counting, number concepts 0-20 and problem solving. Keep your eyes out for little Pilgrims and Native Americans this month! You will receive information from your home room mom about our kindergarten feast which will be held November 24th at the end of the day for our students. 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!

1st Grade

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 learn about natural resources and landforms. 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. In Science we will be studying weather and seasons, and rocks, soil and water. Please continue to read nightly with your child. When your child reads every night he/she builds their fluency and comprehension.

2nd Grade

November is the beginning of the season for sharing. To begin this sharing time, Mrs.

Lena's 2nd graders are once again challenging the other classrooms to a food drive competition. Her class will record and update the number of food items brought by classes and grade levels daily. Let's have 2nd grade blow the other grade levels out of the water with this competition by bringing nonperishable items for our Round Rock Area Serving Center during our food drive, November 2nd to November 16th. We will support this concept of sharing in Language Arts through a study of several versions of the book, Stone Soup. As a culminating activity, each class will contribute to a dish to be shared with the grade level. In Math, we will be reviewing measurement, addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping, patterns and money. In Social Studies, we will be learning about maps, landforms, settlement patterns, communities, and the Pilgrims. In Science, we will be learning about our natural resources and physical systems. In Writing, we will continue using the writing process with the 6+ traits. As you can see, we have a lot to do this month.

3rd Grade

Fall is finally here! In math we are busy working on multiplication and division. In writing we are digging deeper into the writing process and working on putting more elaborating in our stories. Students are learning about poetry and discussing literature in their reading book groups. In science and social studies we are exploring our solar system and how communities make decisions. Parents please be on the look out at the end of November for information about are 3rd grade economic fair!

4th Grade

The first nine weeks of school has flown by! In Language Arts we

have learned all about similes and metaphors. We spent a whole week reading and writing various types of poetry. Now we know all the techniques required to write active story beginnings and satisfying endings. A visitor from Green Sheets spent an hour with us and shared tips on how to write quality material. - Our published work will be on newsstands November 18th. Pick up a free copy! In science we have been studying the phases of the moon and tides. We will be studying Earth materials in November. Upcoming math topics include 2 digit multiplication and division by 3 digit numbers. Check out the teacher web pages for up to date information about classroom happenings.

5th Grade

Well, our first nine weeks have passed. Hopefully, the students are getting use to the grind stone. We will hold the Sea World fund-raising bake sale 11/23-11/24. More information will come home 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 5th grader about the owl pellet.) The 13 colonies will be our next unit of study in social studies. Continue reading 20 minutes at least 5 nights a week and complete the two short summaries that go with the reading log. Fifth graders have done an outstanding job acclimating to their new grade level and are already looking forward to a new and greater nine weeks.

