

Dino Tracks

October
2009



A Publication of the Deep Wood Elementary PTA

What's Inside This Edition

- Principal/
President's
Letters
- Upcoming
Events
- Counselor's
Corner
- Info from
specials
- Online
Resources
- Grade level
updates

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

Dear Deep Wood Parents,

We have had a FABULOUS start to our new school year! We want to welcome all of our returning families, as well as the families who are new to Deep Wood! You will soon find out just how welcoming our community is, as well as the awesome support of everyone!

If you haven't **signed up for eNews** yet, please take a few minutes to do so. If you go to the RRISD webpage, you will see on the left side of the page - "Receive Round Rock ISD News via E-mail! [Subscribe Update Subscriptions](#). If you click on this link, it will allow you to choose RRISD news, as well as news for Deep Wood.

We are starting our monthly "Monday with Meredith" meetings again. Typically, these meetings will be on the first Monday of each month. We will alternate mornings and evenings as we did last year, based upon feedback from you. ☺ This is an informal time for us to get to know each other, answer questions you may have, and determine topics of interest for future meetings. We will serve coffee as well! The October meeting is on October 5th from 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in the Art room.

Please remember that on **early release days** for the elementary campuses, the students will be **dismissed at 12:45 p.m.** Lunches and specials times will be slightly altered those days as well. In addition, we will be practicing a **lockdown drill on October 14 around 2:00 p.m.** **This means that no students or parents will be allowed in or out of the building during this time. This should only last about 5 – 10 minutes.** We will always let you know about disaster drill or lockdown drill practices ahead of time. ☺

We now have a new Parent Support Specialist (PSS), Kristin Hamilton. Kristin has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work. She has experience as a PSS in the district as well as social work experience. She will be a resource to all families. Her email address is Kristin.hamilton@roundrockisd.org. Kristin will be at various Deep Wood functions to get to know all of you and to share information with you! ☺

We are very excited to be starting the **Deep Wood WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students)** this year! Brady Traywick, Lauri Etheridge, and Kristin Hamilton will be the coordinators. Our WatchDOGS Kick Off Night is Monday, October 12, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria! We will have pizza that night. We hope to see all dads and their kids there! ☺ Please come to this event to learn more about this program and how you dads, grandfathers, etc. can be volunteers in our school!

DINO PRIDE will be on the last Friday of each month. This is a time when students are nominated by their teachers for various achievements. You will be invited to attend if your child is receiving an award that day. In addition, students will be receiving awards from their teachers each nine weeks in their classrooms.



I look forward to seeing you soon! ☺
Meredith Perkins, Principal

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.

October 2009



From your PTA president...

Ready, Set, Go! The 2009-2010 school year is well underway and we are off and running. We have already had Meet the Teacher Night, Orientation, our first school holiday, our first early release,

Grandparent's Day, school pictures, the first Dino Pride, and the cookout. Now we have After School Enrichment, Physically Fit, the first Dino Spirit Night, teacher conferences, and the annual Harvest Hoedown and pumpkin contest to look forward to in October.

Hopefully, everyone has heard from their room parent and been informed about the upcoming Hoedown. If you have a home business, own a business, work for a business, or are a patron of a business that would like to make an item donation to our Silent Auction please contact me, Becky Velasco, at beckyvel@msn.com.

There are a lot of ways to get involved with your child's school. You can help in the library, read to children, help with PTA and school events, send in needed items for the classroom and class parties, and so much more. However, don't forget to complete the Volunteer/Mentor Application if you plan to help within the school. You can do so on line at www.roundrockisd.org. The application is under the "Students/Parents" tab. Please also remember to sign in and out in the front office...it's for our children's safety.

It's going to be a great year full of fun and excitement so get involved any way you can.

Becky Velasco
PTA President

Upcoming Events:

- 10/2 PTA Board
- 10/4 – 10/9 Education Go Get It Week
- 10/5 Monday with Meredith 6:00-6:30
- 10/6 Physically Fit Begins
- 10/12 Parent/Teacher Conference/Student Holiday
- 10/21 Pet Clinic
- 10/24 Hoedown
- 10/25 – 10/30 Red Ribbon Week
- 10/29 Picture Retakes
- 10/30 Dino Pride 7:45

Physically Fit



Can you believe it is already time to start up Physically Fit again? Our first day will be Tuesday October 6th. It will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. The last day for Physically Fit in the Fall will be November 12th. There have been some changes to how it is going to work this year, so make sure you read the Information Sheet and the Rules that are included with the sign up form.

Parents, we want to see you out there as well. We need some to walk the track with the kids, and need help with checking out. We have a place for all of you!

I am excited to see everyone from last year back out, and many new ones. Come ready to run and/or walk, and make sure you bring your water bottles!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at carlyjfranks@yahoo.com or 497-8286.

Student Directories should be out this month! If you have a paid PTA membership, watch for your free copy to come home with your student. If you're not a PTA member and would like a copy, or if you need an additional copy for the spouse or car, they will be available in the office for \$7



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.

Do your holiday shopping early!

With the need for PTA to raise over \$50,000 this year to fund things such as class parties, field trips, curriculum enhancement, and other classroom materials, we have decided to hold a catalogue fundraiser! Items such as wrapping paper, gifts, candies, magazines, and crafts will all be available for sale! There are frames for grandma, candles for your teacher, and even sports related items for that soccer player in your life! And great prizes too! You can even win gift cards and school supplies for your teacher! So look for the information to come home the first week of October!



Cooking with the Deep Wood Dinosaurs!

We're still in the process of preparing a taste-tempting cookbook featuring favorite recipes from YOU! It will be a wonderful treasure for you, your family, and others in our community!

Please consider submitting 3 or 4 of your favorite recipes so you can be represented in Deep Wood's 1st Cookbook!

Please return your submissions to Lauri Etheridge by Friday, October 16. Feel free to email them to Lmetheridge@gmail.com





This year's theme is: "Beauty is...." We want to encourage every Dino to creatively express themselves – there are six entry categories, and students may enter as many times and in as many categories as they like! An entry packet was sent home with students – Reflections entries are due October 29th, and we will have a Gallery Night on November 5th to honor all of the participants. Have questions? Contact:

Shaleen Wilding: shaleenatbeatexasstar.com
Debra Stinson: debra_stinson@att.net

This Just In... From the Texas PTA:

Texas PTA is 100 years old!
Here's a flyer about the Centennial Celebration of Texas PTA
http://www.txpta.org/documents/Events/Student_Flier.pdf

Teen Driver and Booster seat laws
<http://www.txpta.org/documents/Legislative/2009/august/Teen-booster-flier.pdf>



Save those Box Tops for Education! Our fall deadline for submission is Wed., Oct. 14th. Recognition will be given to the student on each grade level that turns in the most Box Tops. In order to be given credit the Box Tops must be in a bag with the student's name, teacher's name and grade level. Also, visit www.boxtops4education.com for other ways to earn money for Deep Wood along with coupons for Box Tops products. Turn in your Box Tops and help us earn money for our students!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN PTA!

Last year, Deep Wood PTA spent over \$88 per child on such things as field trips, after school enrichment programs, curriculum enhancement, classroom materials, the literacy library, and much more! Just by joining PTA, you help us get a head start on raising the necessary funds we need to help support these programs. And you get a lot in return for your membership! Your \$7 membership in PTA gives you online parenting resources and other materials on issues related to education, health, and well-being, newsletters on parenting issues, special offers and discounts from corporate supporters of PTA on things such as insurance, books, vacations, and much more! And from Deep Wood PTA, you will receive: a school directory full of addresses, phone numbers, teacher contact information, and schedules, \$7 off each After School Enrichment course you sign up for, 7 Hoedown tickets, and the chance to win free t-shirts, yearbooks, community cookbooks, ASE classes, Chuck E Cheese tokens, cookie dough, and more!

Please join PTA today! For further information, please contact Lauri Etheridge at Lmetheridge@gmail.com!



COUNSELOR'S CORNER
Betty Carbonneau

Welcome to a new school year! We will be working together this year to make sure that your child has every opportunity possible to meet his/her full potential at Deep Wood. Always feel free to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. My office phone # is 464-4405 and my email is betty_carbonneau@roundrockisd.org .

The RRISD September Character Trait focus is on **Career Planning**. During the months of September and October, classroom guidance lessons will focus at all grade levels on Career Pathways and Goal Setting.

Education Go-Get-It Week is October 5-9 this year. During this week we have many student and staff activities planned to celebrate what we have been learning about college and career opportunities, the importance of education, high school graduation, attending college, and various career pathways.

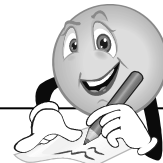
As you know, at Deep Wood we use the Positive Behavior System (PBS) to establish behavior standards and expectations for students: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful. This year we are adding another piece to PBS which is "Bully Prevention" (BP-PBS). At this time, we are training all students and staff members in this system because we believe that bullying of any kind is unacceptable. This system defines bullying as:

- One-sided, intentional, and repeated
- Happening when someone purposely hurts, frightens, or threatens someone else
- Happening when someone purposely leaves out, ridicules, spreads rumors, or makes offensive comments to someone else.

Our anti-bullying goals this year are to create a positive school setting, increase awareness about bullying among all educators, staff, and students; enforce school anti-bullying rules; provide enhanced supervision in bully-prone locations; and teach students skills to deal with bullying, problem solving, and making friends.

A letter will be sent home soon explaining BP-PBS in more detail. For now, you can ask your child about:

STOP, WALK, TALK, which is the common language we are all learning to use in response to any bullying situation.



PBS CORNER

Hi Everybody – PBS Parent Booklets were sent home this month. I hope that you have had some time to discuss student expectations with your child(ren). All the students are doing a wonderful job following the expectations in the 7 common areas especially in the hallways – they're so quiet! Our afternoon car pick-up is running very smoothly, students and parents have become familiar with process and being very safe and responsible. We really appreciate your support in making our first 9 weeks such a success!

This Friday will be our first Dino Pride assembly – we will be celebrating students exhibiting PBS Dino Pride and recognizing them for great character; you will be receiving a letter home this week if your student has been nominated. Additionally, classroom teachers will be recognizing students in their class with classroom incentives.

Thanks again for all your support and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Therese Wafford



Physical Education Information

This is the link for Mary Sue Thompson's website:
<http://www.teacherweb.com/TX/DeepWood/DeepwoodPE>. The year is off to a great start in the PE department. We are selling strings as a fund raiser. They are only \$1 each – students will be learning the technique from each other and in class later.

Marathon Kids kick-off mile will be October 3, 2009 at the Mike Meyers Track and Field stadium at UT. Please send in the registration to me if you want your child to participate. The link on my website for Marathon Kids has all the papers you will need to download.

<http://www.teacherweb.com/TX/DeepWood/DeepwoodPE/photo1.aspx>

Mary Sue Thompson
P.E.W.E. Deep Wood Elementary
464-4416



FROM VISUAL ARTS

The Deep Wood Art Studio is already very busy! All levels of students are developing the use of art elements starting with line, shape and color and discovering the major roll they play in creating all visual forms of expression. As the weeks progress we will continue our investigations - adding the elements form, space, balance, texture, and value..... learning how we use them to build our creative art works much like the alphabet builds the structure of our language. Along the way we recognize how, as artists, we make many natural connections to Math and Science using rulers, measuring length, using geometric and freeform shape, and studying color mixing, and sooooo much more.

Sincerely,
Mary Reilly
Visual Arts Educator



on another note

Welcome back students and hello to all of our new Deep Wood Dinos. We have so many new things to learn in music classes this year. Please remember you can always get the most recent information about music on my music class web page at <http://TeacherWeb.com/TX/DeepWood/Music> or by going to Deep Wood's home page, then clicking on "Our Staff" and then click on the Teacher Web icon by my name, Mrs.Choate. The web site has information on class studies, a calendar of upcoming performances, my class schedule, our *Tyrannochorus Rex* choir, fifth grade's Recorder Karate details, and other information. You can also sign up to receive the weekly e-mail newsletter for music class with reminders and lesson plans.

We do have some performances planned so you can save these dates on your calendar:

December 8th – *Tyrannochorus Rex* 4th and 5th
Grade Choir Concert

December 18th – Holiday Sing-Along

February 5th – 2nd Graders Sing at Chili Supper

March 11th – 1st, 3rd, and 4th Graders Sing at World
Cultures Night

April 16th – Kindergarten Concert

May 28th – 5th Graders Sing at Recognition
Ceremony

I will give you more details as we get closer to the programs. Have a great year.

Your Music Teacher,
Lorinda Choate










CHECK THIS OUT....



Round Rock ISD has purchased several databases to help your student on their research projects and reading. On the next page is a sheet with the home user names and passwords. The web address to locate the databases can be found at the bottom of the page. These resources are safe and kid-friendly. They are not linked to the Internet. Call the librarian, Ms. Thelen, at 464-4409, if you have any questions.



RRISD Databases
 Deep Wood Home Access
 09-10 School Year

<p>BookFLIX</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: rrisdes password: bkflix</p>
<p>Britannica</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: DWES password: Ktwelve</p>
<p>EBSCO</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: dwstudent password: student</p>
<p>GALE</p> 	<p>For Home Access: http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/rrockisd password: remote</p>
<p>Maps101</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: rrisd001 password: region13</p>
<p>NetTrekker</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: deepwood password: student</p>
<p>SIRS</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: RRELEM password: express</p>
<p>TeachingBooks.net</p> 	<p>For Home Access: http://www.teachingbooks.net/students Complete the profile form. Sign In Here: RoundRockSchools</p>
<p>TumbleBooks</p> 	<p>For Home Access: username: roundrock password: books</p>



Kinder

Kindergarten is off to a terrific start. We are so proud of our newest Dinos! Our kinder students have been learning what school is all about. Please be sure to read over the PBS handbook with your child and review what being safe, responsible and respectful looks like. Along with safety, we will be learning about our families, our classmates, and ourselves. If you hear a little tune coming from the backseat of the car, it could be one of many new songs our students are learning. They just might take a survey and graph the results, as we have been graphing all kinds of information. In math we will continue to graph as well as explore shapes and three-dimensional figures and count, count, count. Please be sure to get your kinder student to school before the 7:45 bell. Some of our best learning moments are at the start of each day. Our little Dinos really depend on your help to meet this very important starting time.

1st Grade

Welcome back to school. First grade had a great beginning of school! We are so lucky to have wonderful classes! During August and September we are assessing the children's skills in reading, writing and math. We are working on following directions and learning how to be independent workers. We'll be learning about rules, community helpers, timelines, and properties of solids and liquids. Remember that the district conference day is Monday, October 12th. Make sure that you sign up for a conference when the forms go home later! See you then!

2nd Grade

2nd Grade is now in full swing! We have our testing completed and are refining individual goals. To help your child meet his/her goals, have your child practice their math facts daily and read nightly for at least 20 minutes. All second graders will be taking the OLSAT test October 6th and 7th. To ensure your child will do his/her best, make sure they get to bed early and eat a breakfast before coming to school. We have no school on October 12th. This day has been set aside for parent conferences. We will try to schedule as many as we can on that day, but we will need to schedule some later that week also. Please make sure you set a conference time with your child's teacher so that you can collaborate on strategies to help your child have a successful year. Thanks for being supportive parents.

3rd Grade

Our third grade celebrities have been working hard on our classroom routines and procedures. In Math students are learning about place value and becoming expert problem solvers. In Reading students are working hard responding to literature and discussing elements of the Reader's Workshop. Students are developing their writing skills working on personal narratives. In Science students have been exploring science tools and how to be safe in the lab. Please continue to check your child's agenda and Dino Folder daily for any important information. Your child should be reading nightly and studying their math facts. Thank you for all you do so that our kids can be successful!

4th Grade

Fourth grade has had a great start to the school year! In Language Arts we have been busy setting up reading and writing workshop and working on comprehension strategies. We have discussed book genres and how to choose books. In October we will be participating in Youth Scoop in the Green sheet - Be on the lookout for our published work! In science we have been studying the water cycle and states of matter. We will be investigating changes and patterns in space and earth materials in October. Upcoming math topics include multiplication and patterns in tables. Check out the teacher web pages for up to date information about classroom happenings.

5th Grade

5th grade is adjusting to a demanding schedule. In math we have studied place value of whole numbers and decimals and now we are beginning mental math, rounding, and estimation. Spelling units are assigned on Monday, practiced through the week and tested on Friday. In science we completed safety procedures; we are going on to Forces and Motion. In Reader's/Writer's workshop the students are working on choosing books at their interest and reading level and writing thoughtful responses to their reading. We will also begin composing our first personal narrative. We are learning why Europeans came to the New World. Students can bring an extra snack/drink, pillow or small stuffed animal, and good reading material for Free Read Friday. These are always held on the last Friday of the month. Our schedule is full, but using time wisely in class keeps homework at a minimum. Check our Teacher's Web for more up to date information.

