

Charter Chatter

February 25, 2009

Issue #24

Fun Food Friday is a HIT!!!

Fun Food Friday was exactly that ---- A Friday filled with lots of Fun and Food. Thanks go out to each and every student that bought a slice of pizza, can of Coke and even a piece or TWO of candy. It all added up to another successful fundraiser for the 8th grade class and their quickly approaching trip to Washington D C.

Special thanks go out to the following people who helped sell tickets, work food lines or made a donation of food or drinks: Beth Guerra, Debbie Focke, Mary Burton, Dhandi Dimock, Nicole Zierlein, Sarah Kattapong, Sana Haj-Khalil, Claudia Kalawick, Michelle Alexander, Gwen Bean, Christina Kimmel and Ken Williams. We would also like to thank parents that showed up and helped the younger classes navigate their way through the food lines: Cynthia Gonzalez, Sylvia Mendoza, Claudia Mendoza, Yessica Lopez, Claudia DelaCruz, Ryan Herlong, Scott Herlong and Saida Rhodes.

We would also like to thank the student volunteers: Jack Wolf, Mikala Lightning, Tiffany Sabbaghi, Valerie Flores, Karen Munoz, Roberto Mejia, Kim Kattapong, Jennifer Schultz and Kendall Williams. Thank you from the entire 8th Grade Class of 2009.

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Bury the Dead brings down the House

Briar Meadow's One Act Play team competed in the District Championship on Saturday, February 21st which was held at Johnston Middle School. After competing last week in the preliminary round BCS advanced to the finals along with 7 other schools. When the lights black out at the end of the play the audience let out an over whelming round of applause and vocal response to what was truly an outstanding performance by the entire cast and crew.

The years team brings home the first ever Theater Arts award for Briar Meadow by winning 2nd Place in the One Act Play competition. Just as in the preliminary round several of the students received individual awards. All Star Cast Awards: Aaron Ahmadu, Jack Wolf and Drake Zierlein. All Star Cast Honorable Mention Award: Kendall Williams. Best Technical Crew Member: Maziar Zarea.

Congratulations to the entire cast: Aaron Ahmadu, Ariyan Almassi, Eduardo Bustamante, Ashley Fajardo, Raneem Hamdan, Lara Hattab, Menelik James, Mikala Lighting, Jesus Martinez, Zaid Waseem, Kendall Williams, Jack Wolf, Brittany Woodard, Jennifer Schultz, Drake Zierlein. The Crew: Jacob Lopez and Maziar Zarea and last but certainly not least their talented director and teacher Kendrick Brown. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!!

Junior Achievement News

Our kindergarteners are learning about themselves. Junior Achievement Inc. volunteers from Halliburton are sharing their time and energy with our students. The purpose of Junior Achievement in the classroom is to help young people understand how choices: earning money, spending, and the volunteerism work to improve our lives.

Testing Time

Parents, it is that time of the year again when we start the State Accountability Exam: The TAKS Test. Please make sure that your child is well prepared by having enough sleep, eating a healthy breakfast, and arriving to school on time. We want each child to be successful on the exam and to do that your support is essential. On Tuesday, March 3rd all 3rd, 5th and 8th graders will be taking the reading portion of the TAKS Test. All 4th and 7th graders will be taking the writing portion of the exam. We are aiming for Exemplary this year for Elementary and Middle School! Visitors will not be permitted on campus.

Explorations

Science Interactive Family Event #2
Tuesday Night, March 10, 2009
6 p.m.-7:30p.m.

Parents, reserve the evening to engage your children in a night of science activities chosen by different grade level classes and individual students for interest and challenge.

To benefit our Outdoor Learning Center, snacks will be sold. We hope to expand our resources to offer more Field Learning Experiences for Science like gardening, composting, and ecosystem study. Parents are required and welcome to share in this event to help inspire future scientists and thinkers.

Teacher Contacts: Linda Carlson, Ann Felton

Early Pick/Up

If you need to pick your child(ren) before dismissal (doctor appt. dental appt.) please do so before the following times: 2:40 between Monday – Thursday and by 12 noon on Fridays. If students are not picked up prior to the above mentioned times, they will be released at normal dismissal times. Thanks for helping us with the dismissal procedures. Your cooperation is appreciated.

CHIP Insurance

Does your child have health coverage? If not, join us for CHIP and Children's Medicaid outreach at Fiesta (6200 Bellaire) on Saturday February 28 from 10-3 pm. Outreach workers will be there to help you with your application and answer any questions you may have. We will also provide alternative healthcare resources lists for undocumented children. We want YOUR child to have health coverage. Remember to bring:

- Proof of all income (i.e. copy of one paycheck stub or letter from an employer)
- Copy of your child's birth certificate or resident card and social security number
- Proof of daycare expenses (i.e. a typed letter confirming the amount one pays to daycare or babysitter weekly)

February & March Calendar of Events

- 27th Go Texan Day! -BCS Parade following announcements @ 8:15
- 28th Odyssey of the Mind (Paul Revere MS) 11:30 – 2:30
- 2nd First Grade tutoring begins 3:30 – 4:30
- 3rd TAKS Reading 3rd, 5th, and 8th
TAKS Writing 4th and 7th

HISD Promotion Standards

Grade 3 Requirements

Students in grade 3 must meet the requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI), which requires that grade-3 students pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) in reading before they can be promoted to grade 4. In addition to these state requirements described in the Texas Education Code (TEC §28.0211 (b)) as a part of SSI, students must meet the following HISD promotion standards:

A. All students in grade 3 must meet the state course-average requirement of a 70 overall grade-point average of all courses and the HISD requirement of a 70 or better grade-point average in reading, language arts, mathematics, and either science or social studies.

B. Students in grade 3 must earn a passing score on the reading section of the TAKS on one of three testing opportunities provided. Students who fail the test will be automatically retained, as required by state law.

C. All students in grade 3 must score no lower than one grade level below grade-level placement in reading on the Stanford/Aprena tests. (Example: A third-grade child taking the test in January would need to score at least 2.4 because the child's actual grade-level placement is third grade, four months, or 3.4.)

Grades 4–8 Requirements

A. All students in grades 4–8 must meet the state course-average requirements of a 70 overall grade-point average of all courses and the HISD requirement of a 70 or better grade-point average in reading, language arts, mathematics, and either science or social studies in grades 4 and 5. In grades 6–8 students must earn a grade-point average an average of 70 or above in three of the four core courses: language arts (average of reading and English), mathematics, science, and social studies.

B. All students in grades 4–8 must earn a passing score on the reading and mathematics sections of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). All students in grades 5 and 8, on one of the three testing opportunities provided, must earn a passing score on the reading and mathematics sections of the TAKS.

C. All students in grades 4–8 must score no lower than the grade-level standard set for that school year in reading and math on the Stanford/Aprena tests. For school year 2007–2008, students in the fourth grade must score no lower than 3.4; fifth grade, 3.9; sixth grade, 3.9; seventh grade, 4.9; and eighth grade, 5.9.