



October

Red Elementary
Houston, TX

October 2009
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Monthly Publication

Red School Buzz

Principal's Office

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the grandparents that came to have lunch at the school for Grandparent's Day. The children were all excited and were happy to have such special guests come have lunch with them. It was a great day!

School is now in full swing. Our Open House was well attended. Parents had the opportunity to learn about a typical day in their child's classroom. Many exciting things are being planned. Please check with the school office to find out your VIPS status. Depending on the status, you may or may not need to re-register. However, in order for parents to participate in school activities they must be cleared through the VIPS Department. If you need to register for the first time or need to re-register the website is: www.houstonisd.org/ click on the VIPS login to submit your information. This includes field trips, field day, class parties, and other school-related functions. Once you have completed the on-line registration you will need to bring your driver's license to the school office. HISD policy will not allow parents who have not registered to participate in school activities. Please do not wait until the last minute. This process takes at least two weeks to complete.

Parents, thank you for continuing to do a great job sending children to school in uniforms. Keep in mind that bottoms need to be navy blue or blue jeans; uniform shirts must be red or white and have a collar. **Variations of Red Elementary t-shirts may only be worn on Fridays** with navy blue or blue jean bottoms. Closed toe shoes are required with socks – no exceptions.

Please make note that Red will have four early dismissal days this school year. The first one is coming up this month. The dates and times are:

- o **October 21, 2009** 1:00 p.m.
- o **December 9, 2009** 1:00 p.m.
- o **February 10, 2010** 1:00 p.m.
- o **April 14, 2010** 1:00 p.m.

Please make arrangements to have children picked up on time.



Birthday Celebrations

Parents may bring cupcakes, cake, brownies, or cookies to be distributed during the last part of the school day. Please do not plan to have a birthday party in the cafeteria or in the classroom. Party hats, favors, decorations, balloons, etc. should be reserved for off campus parties. Invitations to off-campus birthday parties are NOT to be distributed at school.

Please do not have flowers, balloons, gift baskets, singing telegrams, etc. delivered to school for individual students. Such items will not be delivered to the classroom.

New Law

Cell Phones - Wireless communication devices in school zones are limited to drivers in stopped vehicles or using a hands-free device.

Safety Seats – Children younger than 8 must be restrained in an approved safety seat.

Upcoming Events

October:

- 01 – Math Club
- 02 – College T-Shirt
- 06 – Choir Practice 2:30 – 3:15
- 08 – PK/K Jumpstart's Read for the Record
- 08 – Math Club
- 09 – PTO Snack Sale
- 12 – PTO Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
- 14 – Choir Practice 2:30 – 3:15
- 15 – Math Club
- 20 – CiCi's Pizza Night 3 – 9 p.m.
- 21 – Picture Make-Up Day
- 21 – Early Dismissal**
- 22 – Math Club
- 23 – PTO Snack Sale
- 23 – Great American Fundraiser Delivered
- 26 – Dewberry Farm 1st & 2nd Grade
- 28 – Choir Practice 2:30 – 3:15
- 28 – SDMC 3:15 p.m.
- 29 – Health Museum

Nurse's Station

Debbie Morice, RN, MSN

Prevention is still the buzz word in regards to the spread of flu. Good hand washing, covering a cough, and staying home with fever are the best ways to avoid getting ill. Children who have fever must stay home until they are fever free for twenty four hours **without** taking medication for fever. Flu shots for the seasonal flu are now available. Please speak with your child's doctor to see if a shot is recommended for the seasonal flu or the swine flu when the shot becomes available.

Reminder: All children in grades Pre-K, Kinder and first must keep a change of clothes for the unexpected.

I will be performing vision and hearing screening for children in grades Pre- K, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th. I will also be screening for the acanthosis marker for those in 1st, 3rd, and 5th. This marker is a risk factor for diabetes II.

Library Corner

Michelle Smith, Librarian

Nov. 5 – "Mock" Name That Book Competition gr. 3-5
Dec. 3-11 – Book Fair
Dec. 8 – Our Leaders Are Readers
Jan. 8 – Deadline for Bluebonnet Voting gr. 3-5
Jan. 15 – Bluebonnet Voting gr. 3-5
Feb. 5 – Bluebell Break gr. Pre-k – 2
Apr. 30 – Deadline for Bluebonnet Breakfast gr. 3-5
May 10 – Bluebonnet Breakfast gr. 3-5

Student Pictures

SMILE! Picture Make-Up Day is Wednesday, October 21st. Students may wear a non-uniform shirt, but change into a uniform shirt after picture has been taken. Please keep in mind that this is a pre-paid program. This is an opportunity for students who were absent or who did not pre-pay for a package in September.



Art Notes

Anne Pirtle, Art Teacher

On September the art focus was to look at Folk Art from around the world. We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by making our own Folk Art which included bark paintings, Oaxaca fantastic animals, and designs to go on plates and pottery.

In October we will compliment the science classes by exploring space with an artistic point of view. The artists we will study will be Picasso and Van Gogh. The third graders will become architects as they build Box City and look at different kinds of buildings that make up a city. Look for the display of Box City in late October.

PTO

Fundraising Made Easy: Shop at the following locations and Red will get proceeds from your purchase:



Have you joined PTO? It's not too late! All you need to do is fill out a simple short form and send \$15.00 with your child. This membership fee is applied to many different programs throughout the school. No commitment, no meetings – that simple. Please send your membership to your child's teacher.



School Store

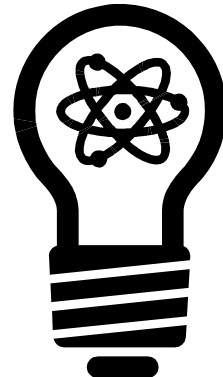
The store is open from 7:40-7:55 a.m. and is manned by Red's PTO volunteers.

Lunch \$\$\$

You can go online to load money into your child's cafeteria account. Log on to www.parentonline.net to set-up your child's account. This is an easy and convenient way to manage your child's cafeteria transactions. You must have your child's HISD student number to open an account.

Science Vocabulary:

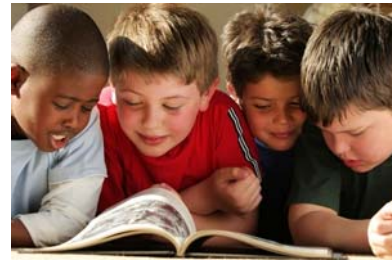
Inherited trait Gravity
Hypothesis Volts
Variables Electricity
Energy



Reading Tips

Sarah Spencer, Literacy Coach/Title I

How to help your child's reading skills at home:



PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

- Talk often with your child to build listening and talking skills
- Show your child how books and print work
- Focus your child's attention on the sounds of spoken language
- Have your child identify and name the letters of the alphabet
- Support what your child is learning in school about the relationship between letters and sounds
- Encourage your child to spell and write
- Help your child build vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and comprehension

FIRST GRADE

- Support what your child is learning in school about relationships between letters and sounds
- Encourage your child to spell and write
- Help your child build vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and comprehension

SECOND and THIRD GRADE

- Use reading opportunities to help your child develop fluency
- Find opportunities for your child to spell and write
- Find opportunities to help your child develop vocabulary, knowledge of the world, and comprehension

Magnet Minutes

Judy Douglass-Coordinator

It is never too early to start thinking ahead about middle school for your fifth graders. These first two nine week grading periods are critical for the students. They will use these grades along with the final fourth grade average for their application process. Good conduct is a must. The following are some dates that you will want to remember. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me. I will be sending more information with the students.

Saturday, November 14	Magnet Open House Hattie Mae Educational Support Center 4400 West 18 th Street
November 16-20	Parent Magnet Awareness Week Tours for parents available daily at 1:00 PM.
January 8	Applications must be postmarked no later than January 8, 2010.
March 26	Application status information mailed to parents.
April 9	Parents must notify Magnet school of choice "intent to attend".



Spanish Class

Classes for Spanish II will begin on October 8th from 3:15 – 4:15 p.m. This class is for the students that took the Spanish class last year at Red. Fliers for Spanish I will go out within the next few weeks. This class will be open to all students in grades Kindergarten – 5th grade. Space will be limited to the first 20 students that register. The fee will be \$20.00.

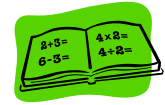
Math Vocabulary

change
amount
fraction
figure
whole

equivalent
numerator
denominator
greater than
less than

model
fractional part
difference
addition
operation

number sentence
equation
subtraction
sum
addend



Computer Lab

Ruby Prince – Computer Teacher

“Energy and Electricity” is our October theme. Students will learn about the importance of energy, sound, light, color and heat. Students will perform virtual experiments, create graphic organizers, use a word processor, and graphic art with this theme. They also will use Edmark’s Thinking Science and Zap software.

If you are interested in websites try our new site, <http://www.renzullilearning.com/default.aspx>. The Renzulli Learning Differentiation Engine puts students in touch with engaging, individualized resources specially chosen for their interest areas and learning styles. Each of our 2nd-5th graders has been assigned their own username and password.

We also have a wonderful online keyboarding program this year. This program provides lessons, practices and activity sheets. It is in English in all grades and Spanish grades pre kindergarten to sixth grade. Please encourage your child to practice his/her keyboarding at home. Perhaps you would like to brush up on your skills. Go to www.learning.com.

Our district is Houston. Students in grades 2- 5 have been assigned their own individual username and password. Students may also use the following generic usernames and passwords for each grade level.

	Username	Password
Pre K & Kindergarten	ruby	ruby
Pre K & Kindergarten Spanish	ruby1	ruby
First Grade	gold	gold
First Grade Spanish	gold1	gold
Second Grade	opal1	opal
Second Grade Spanish	opal2	opal
Third Grade	pearl1	pearl
Third Grade Spanish	pearl2	pearl
Fourth Grade	silver	silver
Fourth Grade3 Spanish	silver1	silver
Fifth Grade	emerald2	emerald
Fifth Grade Spanish	emerald3	emerald
Sixth Grade	gift	gift
Sixth Grade Spanish	gift1	gift
Seventh Grade	talent	talent
Senior	precious	precious



Science Lab

Mary Fallon, Science Teacher

September has been a fun month in science lab. Did your child tell you about Private Eye? We used a jeweler’s loupe to compare objects in matter.

October’s theme is Electricity. A friend of Red Elementary is coming to do an experiment with key limes. Ms. Morrison is an engineer and we love having her expertise in the lab. I have also started working with my Odyssey of the Mind (OM) team. We will be working on making a man-powered camper. We look forward to showing our project in spring to the entire school! As I write this report it is raining wildly. Don’t forget we have a weather station in the lab. The latest rain totals are up to two inches. Go to www.weatherbug.com to see live data from Red’s weather station at zip code 77035.



Math Lab

Alma Davis – Math Teacher

Our magnet theme for the month is Energy and Electricity. Students will explore electricity with kilowatt hours. We will also work on heat, sound, light, mechanical and chemical energy with addition, subtraction, patterns, place value, and problem solving.



Physical Education

Cara Grossman – P.E. Teacher

SAVE SAVE SAVE SAVE those Box Tops!!! For every Box Top you save and hand in to Coach Grossman, Red Elementary gets 10 cents. The money earned goes toward activities and equipment for the students.

Exercise Makes Your Heart Happy - You may know that your heart is a muscle. It works hard, pumping blood every day of your life. You can help this important muscle get stronger by doing aerobic (say: air-o-bik) exercise. **Aerobic** means "with air," so an aerobic exercise is a kind of activity that requires oxygen. When you breathe, you take in oxygen, and, if you're doing an aerobic exercise, you may notice you're breathing faster than normal. Aerobic activity can get your heart pumping, make you sweaty, and quicken your breathing. When you give your heart this kind of workout on a regular basis, your heart will get even better at its main job - delivering oxygen (in the form of oxygen-carrying blood cells) to all parts of your body. Try **swimming, basketball, ice or roller hockey, jogging (or walking quickly), in-line skating, soccer, cross-country skiing, biking, or rowing, skipping, jumping rope, and playing hopscotch** are aerobic activities, too!



El ejercicio es bueno para el corazón - Tal vez sepas que el corazón es un músculo. Trabaja duro, bombeando sangre al resto del cuerpo cada día de tu vida. Puedes ayudar a fortalecer este músculo tan importante haciendo ejercicio aeróbico. **Aeróbico** significa "con aire", por lo tanto, el ejercicio aeróbico es un tipo de actividad que requiere oxígeno. Al respirar, coges oxígeno, y, cuando haces ejercicio aeróbico, es posible que notes que respiras más deprisa de lo normal. La actividad aeróbica puede hacer que el corazón te lata más fuerte, empieces a sudar y se te acelere la respiración. ¿Te apetece practicar algún ejercicio aeróbico justo ahora? Puedes nadar, jugar a baloncesto o a "hockey" sobre patines o sobre hielo, hacer "footing" (o andar deprisa), patinar, jugar a fútbol, practicar remo o esquí de fondo, o montar en bicicleta. ¡Y no olvides que andar como un canguro, saltar a la cuerda o a la pata coja también son actividades aeróbicas!

Scheduled Weekly Events:

Odyssey of the Mind	Mondays	3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
Math Club 3 rd Grade	Thursdays	7:30 - 8:00 a.m.
Math Club 4 th & 5 th Grade	Thursdays	3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
Choir	Wednesdays	2:45 - 3:30 p.m.
Piano I Classes	Wednesdays	7:30 - 8:10 a.m.
Piano II Classes	Thursdays	2:45 - 3:30 p.m.
		(Change of time for Piano II)
Spanish II Class	Thursdays	3:15 - 4:15 p.m.
		(Spanish II begins October 8 th)



Extended Day News

Bridget Fisher – Extended Day Coordinator

Things are going well in the Extended Day Program. The kids are staying busy with homework, outdoor and indoor play and an occasional movie on rainy days. The program is currently full and therefore will not be accepting any applications. Those students enrolled in the program full-time will be able to stay on early dismissal days. The first early dismissal day is October 21, 2009.



*Turn your clocks back
November 1, 2009*

HISD DAY 2009

HOUSTON FOOTBALL VS. MEMPHIS

Saturday, November 21 @ Noon

Robertson Stadium, University of Houston Main Campus

On Saturday, November 21, the University of Houston will be honoring the Houston Independent School District and recognizing HISD students, employees, and families during **HISD DAY 2009!**

Prior to the game, all HISD students, employees, and families are invited to participate in all pre-game activities located on the west side of the stadium near Scott Street. Activities will include our **FREE** Cougar Kid Zone, live music, and the chance to meet and interact with the 8 time C-USA Championship Track & Field team. Food will be available for purchase. Kick-off is set for Noon! Arrive a couple hours early to enjoy all of the festivities.

Tickets to this game are just **\$5 each** when purchased in advance. **This price will not be available on game day!** To purchase tickets, simply complete the ticket request form below and return it, along with the correct payment, **to your teacher by October 28.** *All game times are subject to change, please visit uhcougars.com as game day approaches.



ALL TICKET ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN CASH ONLY.



Student Name _____ # of tickets _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Teacher Name _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED** = \$ _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

NOCHE DEPORTIVA PARA HISD - 2009

HOUSTON Cougars vs. MEMPHIS

Sábado, 21 de noviembre al mediodía

Estadio Robertson, Universidad de Houston, Edificio Principal

¡El sábado, 21 de noviembre, la Universidad de Houston honrará al Distrito Escolar Independiente de Houston y hará un reconocimiento a los estudiantes, familias y empleados del Distrito mediante el **Día Deportivo para HISD – 2009 (HISD DAY 2009)**!

Antes del evento, los estudiantes, familias y empleados de HISD están invitados a disfrutar de las actividades en el lado oeste del estadio, cerca de la calle Scott. Las actividades incluyen la zona **GRATUITA** para niños (*Cougar Kid Zone*), música en vivo y la oportunidad de conocer y hablar con el equipo de Carrera y Atletismo de la universidad que ha ganado 8 veces el campeonato C-USA. Habrá comida a la venta. El partido comienza al mediodía. Lleguen un par de horas antes para disfrutar de todas las actividades previamente mencionadas.

Las entradas cuestan solamente **\$5 cada una** si se compran por adelantado. **¡Este precio no estará disponible el día del partido!** Para obtener los boletos de entrada, simplemente completen el formulario que se encuentra abajo y envíenlo de regreso al maestro, con el dinero correspondiente, a más tardar el **28 de octubre**.

Los horarios de todos los partidos pueden cambiar, ingresen a uhcougars.com cuando se aproxime la fecha del juego

TODAS LAS ENTRADAS DEBEN PAGARSE EN EFECTIVO SOLAMENTE.

Nombre del alumno _____ Cantidad de entradas _____ X \$5 = \$ _____

Nombre del maestro _____ **TOTAL INCLUIDO** _____

Firma del padre o madre _____ Fecha _____