



Anderson Elementary '09-'10

All-Star Gazer

Teaming up for Success



Weekly Publication of the Anderson Elementary PTA

www.AndersonPTA.com

allstar_newsletter@yahoo.com

Leslie Norris, Principal

Phil van Beek, PTA President

March 30, 2010

NO SCHOOL – Friday, April 2nd

There will be no school this Friday, April 2nd. The district decided to use June 4th as the bad weather make-up day. Enjoy your three day weekend!!!!

TAKS Tests – April 6th and 7th

The 5th grade Math TAKS test will be given on Tuesday the 6th and 5th grade Reading TAKS test will be given on Wednesday the 7th. Due to the testing visitors, volunteers, and lunch visitors will not be allowed on these two days.

Anderson PTA Board



If you are interested in becoming more active in your child's school there are volunteer positions still open for next years PTA Board. We would love to have you as part of the Anderson PTA Board. To learn more about a specific position please contact Nikki Spurgin at nikmoe@me.com. You can also find a description of the positions at <http://www.andersonpta.com/rules.pdf>. The following positions are currently open for the 2010-11 school year:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 nd VP – Programs | Allen American | Box Tops Coordinator |
| Treasurer | ACO Coordinator | Competitive Bees |
| Environmental | Hospitality | Newcomer's Chairman |
| Technology | Newsletter | Spirit Wear |
| Student Programs | Kindergarten Co-Leads | 3 rd Grade Co-Leads |
| 4 th Grade Co- Leads | | |

Curtis Middle School PTA

6th Grade Parents – Curtis Middle School PTA is in need of volunteers to serve on the PTA Board for the 2010-11 school year. If you can help out or are interested in learning more about a specific position please contact Nicole Wulf at nicole.wulf@yahoo.com. The available positions are:

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Assistant to the 2 nd VP – Ways & Means | Secretary | Treasurer |
| Arts in Education / Reflections | Volunteers Assistant | Lowery Liaison |
| Teacher Appreciation | Teacher Appreciation Assistant | Citizenship |



Anderson is Creating Compassion through Colors!



Pride Council and K-Kids are teaming up to sponsor a crayon and coloring book drive. Please bring a new coloring book or pack of crayons (any size) to school **(by Thursday, April 1st)** to be donated to Children's Medical Center. These crayons and coloring books will be distributed to new patients as they are admitted to the hospital. We have a chance to help brighten a patient's day and show them that someone cares about them. There will be collection boxes in the front hall by the video wall. If you have any questions contact Kathy Spann.

Anderson PTA Life Membership Nominations

We are currently taking nominations for this year's Honorary PTA Life Membership awards. Think of people that you have noticed consistently providing outstanding service to the Anderson students and staff by going over and above. They can be a parent, grandparent, friend, teacher, etc. Anderson PTA typically honors 2 teachers and 2 volunteers per school year with this honor. If you would like to nominate an outstanding Anderson PTA member please send nominee names to ashsouthard@sbcglobal.net ASAP, but no later than **Tuesday, April 6th**.

Advanced Academics Update – Current 6th Graders

All 6th grade students will be evaluated for Pre-AP/IB classes in English/Reading, Science and Mathematics. Evaluations are based on first semester grade in related course, 5th grade TAKS score in related subject, and 6th grade CogAT in related subject. Placements are made based on meeting two of the three criteria. Notification of placement is via the course selection sheet students receive in May. If a student does not qualify, there is an opportunity to appeal. Appeal forms are available and may be submitted online. We are excited to offer Texas History Pre-AP/IB 7, a new course for 2010–2011. All students are eligible for this course.

Information about Math 6 Pre-AP/IB for current 5th graders will be available in next month's newsletter or you may check out our website. For additional information, please check the Advanced Academics website found at allenisd.org, click on Departments, then Learner Services and select Advanced Academics/AP/IB Programs.

ACO Care & Share Donations

During the month of April, we are collecting **toothpaste and toothbrushes**.

Also, in April we will have a drawing for two Zhu Zhu pet hamsters. For each item a student brings for ACO, their name will be submitted in a drawing for these prizes. For example, if the student brings three items, their name will be entered in the drawing three times. The drawing will be held the first week in May.

Please bring the donations in a plastic baggie with the student's name, grade and teacher written on it. Please be sure to drop the donations in the bin by the side entrance near the Kindergarten classrooms by **Friday, April 30th**. Thanks for helping your community!



Cheryl Danielson, rlcprd@sbcglobal.net

Bottlecaps are BACK!!!

Bottlecaps are on sale again in the school office benefiting Relay for Life. \$3 bottlecaps and \$2 necklaces

Smencils are on sale \$1 each

This project benefits the 6th Grade sponsored George Anderson Scholarship Fund.

Counselor's Comments

What a great first week back at work! It was so fun seeing how much the students have GROWN in the 7 weeks I was gone. Day to day you don't see much change, but my goodness – a few months go by and they've shot up like weeds! Many of you have asked about the baby. Harper was born November 23 and was 8½ lbs. She is an absolute joy. She has no need for rolling over, but loves to smile, laugh, and talk. Her big sister, Olivia, is completely in love – sometimes too in love with her bear hugs and all!

Since I have been out for such a long time, I am working really hard to get up to speed on all that has happened since I've been gone. If Mrs. Gilbert was in the middle of working on something for you, please don't hesitate to let me know the details and what you are needing.

The Friendships of Girls – see flyer at the end of the newsletter for more information on an upcoming seminar.

Watch DOGS:

We only have one Watch Dog scheduled for this week ☺, but next week looks much better with only one opening on Monday. If you can be our Watch Dog on Monday, April 5th, give me a shout. We'd love to fill the spot. For the rest of April, these are the days that need a Watch DOG in the house! **Friday 4.16, Monday 4.19, Tuesday 4.20, Monday 4.26**



And...I want to end the year strong. So let's get May and June full as well. Here are the dates remaining for the rest of the year: **Monday 5.3, Tuesday 5.4, Thursday 5.6, Monday 5.10, Tuesday 5.11, Wednesday 5.12, Thursday 5.13, Monday 5.17, Tuesday 5.18, Wednesday 5.19, Thursday 5.20, Monday, 5.24, Tuesday 5.25, Wednesday 5.26, Tuesday 6.1, Friday 6.2.**

Remember to email me with the open date you want, complete your background check, and order a t-shirt!

We look forward to having you join the Watch DOGS pack!

Core Essentials:

I hope you and your family are discussing this month's Core Essential, *honesty*, at home. Have your kids share a time they were honest and how it felt and...if you can convince them, a time they weren't honest and how it felt.

Peer Mediation:

Are you tired of your child and his/her best friend having the same argument over and over? Best friends one day, worst enemies the next? Then Peer Mediation might be a good fit for your student! Peer Mediation is a way for student to resolve their differences with out any disciplinary action. It is lead by two students who have been trained in conflict resolution and know how to help student solve their own problems without it ending up with someone "in trouble". If you think your child and another student need Peer Mediation to help with an ongoing issue, give me a call!

Safety Patrol:

Team B is on duty this week. Please remember to be at your post on time. I will meet with all of Safety Patrol sometime this week to review duty positions and remind students of their responsibilities. If for some reason your child is no longer able to be on Safety Patrol, please email me so I can rearrange the schedule as needed

Guidance Lessons:

After a week of wading through email and playing catch-up, I am looking forward to getting back into the classrooms! I will be in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classrooms this week.

Having a hard time getting your child to open up? This article has some great suggestions on how to get them talking!

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD by Patti Ghezzi

One day your child tells you everything, from the consistency of the macaroni and cheese in the cafeteria to the hard words on the spelling test to the funny conversation she had with her best friend. The next day...poof.

Parent: "So, what's going on at school?"

Child: "Nothing."

For many parents, the information they receive about what's happening at school ebbs and flows, especially once their kids hit 10 or 11 years of age. Even younger children may be reluctant sometimes to share the details of school life.

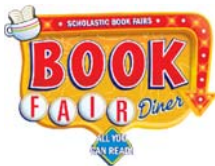
It doesn't mean that something's wrong or that you're somehow missing a key piece of the parenting puzzle. It may simply be that your child is asserting independence and craving a little privacy. "No one tells parents this," says Peter Sheras, a clinical psychologist and professor at the University of Virginia who specializes in adolescent relationships, family relationships, and stress. "Parents feel they are not very good at parenting."

Of course, that's not the case. You might just need to tweak your approach. "Don't interrogate," Sheras says. Kids don't want to be grilled. Be subtle; be patient. Learn to listen intently to the words your child does offer. Watch your child's body language and demeanor. Avoid yes or no questions if possible, and be specific. Try escalating—starting with simple questions and gradually delving into more sensitive topics. If all else fails, wait it out. Try again later with a different approach, such as choosing a different time of day to start a conversation or taking your child out for a burger before asking questions. In a place where she's comfortable, she might feel more talkative.

"Don't start the conversation with 'We need to have a talk,' Sheras says; That's when a child dives under the table." Here are some questions that can help you get started.

1. "I know you were stressed out about that math test. How did it go?"
2. "I'm really proud of how well you're doing in school. What are you studying these days that really interests you?"
3. "You seem to have some good teachers this year. Which one is your favorite?"
4. "If you could make up a teacher from scratch, a perfect teacher, what would he or she be like?"
5. "When I was your age, I really didn't like social studies. I just didn't see the point in studying how people in Russia lived or what kind of languages Native Americans spoke. What subject are you really not liking these days?"
6. "What's your favorite time of day at school?"
7. "What do you think about your grades? How does your report card compare with what you were expecting?"
8. "I noticed a few new kids in your class. Which ones have you been able to get to know? What are they like?"
9. "I know it was hard for you when Kenny transferred to a different school. How's it going without your best friend around?"
10. "Who did you sit with at lunch today?"
11. "I'm sorry you didn't get invited to Sarah's birthday party. I know you're disappointed. How have things changed between you and Sarah now that you're not in the same class?"
12. "I really like the way you choose such nice friends. What qualities do you look for in a friend?"
13. "I know you really like your new friend Caroline, but whenever I see her she's being disrespectful to adults. Why don't you tell me what I'm missing? What do you like about her that I'm not seeing?"
14. "I can tell it embarrasses you when I insist on meeting your friends' parents before letting you go to their house, but it's something I need to do as your mom. Is there a way I could do it that would make you feel more comfortable?"
15. "How's it going with your activities and schoolwork? What would make it easier for you to manage your schedule and responsibilities?"
16. "I feel like I haven't talked to you in ages. How about we go for a walk and catch up?"
17. "I'm sure I do things that embarrass you. What do I do that embarrasses you the most?"

Talking with your child should be an ongoing process. Keep the dialogue open, and be available so your child can find you when she feels like chatting. One final piece of advice from Sheras: "Keep talking even when you think your kids aren't listening," he says. "Your children are listening whether they act like it or not."



Thanks from the "Book Fair Diner"

Thanks to everyone for your fantastic support of the spring Book Fair! We had lots of special VIPs stop by and shop, and we saw many kids eagerly reading their new books all week. This is a terrific way to raise money for the school and to expand the school library collection.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who worked the Book Fair all week and made this event possible.






Also, your One For Books donations of loose change and dollars really added up! We were able to donate 14 books on behalf of Anderson Elementary to Allen Community Outreach (ACO). Thanks for giving the gift of reading!

Shamrocks Against Dystrophy


On behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association we would like to thank Anderson Elementary families and staff for all their efforts to raise money to send children affected by neuromuscular disorder to camp. Anderson once again shines and displays their caring spirit by helping those in need. We raised \$1252.00. What an outstanding achievement. I have to applaud the Pride Council representatives for their hard work in helping to make the campaign a success.

The Spann Family

UPCOMING ALL-STAR EVENTS

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------------------|---|
| Fri, April 1 | Tue, April 6 | Wed, April 7 | Thurs, April 8 | Thur, April 15 |
| NO SCHOOL  | 5th Grade Math TAKS Test  | 5th Grade Reading TAKS Test  | PTA Board Meeting 6pm | Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night |
| Fri, April 16 | Wed, April 21 | Tue, April 27 | Thur, April 29 | Fri, April 30 |
| End of 6 Weeks Chess Club in Science Lab  | Yougurtville Spirit Night | 3rd, 4th, & 6th Math TAKS Test | 5th Grade Science TAKS Test | Spring Fling in Gym 7pm - 9pm  |
| | | Wed, April 28 | Purple Cow Spirit Night | |
| | | 3rd, 4th, & 6th Reading TAKS Test | | |

LUNCH MENU

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Wednesday, Mar 31 | Thursday, April 1 | Friday, April 2 | Monday, April 5 | Tuesday, April 6 |
| Beef Soft Taco Turkey & Gravy w/ Potatoes Yogurt Combo Biscuit Garden Salad Border Beans Pineapple Tidbits Fresh Apple Half Sugar Cookie | Pepperoni Pizza Wedge Cheese Pizza Wedge Chicken Caesar Salad Banana Cake Broccoli Bites Baby Carrots Fruit Medley Banana Green Jell-O | NO SCHOOL  | Hamburger / Cheeseburger Pizza Sticks w/ Marinara Chicken Tortilla Soup Blueberry Muffin Green Peas Glazed Carrots Pineapple Tidbits Apple Blue Jell-O | Popcorn Chicken BBQ Baked Potatoes Chef Salad w/ Spicy Chicken Fresh Baked Roll Creamed Spinach Whole Kernel Corn Orange Smiles Fruit Medley Chocolate Chip Cookie |

Entire March Lunch Menu can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

http://www.allenisd.org/20061069152318433/lib/20061069152318433/March_Peanut_Aware_Elem_Lunch.pdf

Entire April Lunch Menu can be viewed by clicking on the link below:

http://www.allenisd.org/20061069152318433/lib/20061069152318433/April_Elem_Lunch_Peanut_Aware.pdf



The Friendships of Girls: How to Empower Your Daughter to Survive and Thrive

Come join Michelle Nietert, Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Certified School Counselor, and Director of Allen Counseling Associates as we explore this challenging topic. The discussion will include:

- I. Understanding the Relationship Dynamics of Girls
- II. How to Equip Your Daughter if She is Experiencing "Girl Drama"
- III. What if My Child is Acting Like a Mean Girl
- IV. Resources and Q and A

**Thursday, April 1st from 6:45 pm to 8:00 pm
in the Green Elementary Cafeteria**

This presentation is recommended for parents only and is open to the public.



Flores Floyd
Green Elementary

PTA
everychild, our voice.

