



Anderson Elementary '09-'10

All-Star Gazer

Teaming up for Success



Weekly Publication of the Anderson Elementary PTA
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Leslie Norris, Principal
Phil van Beek, PTA President
November 17, 2009

PTA Presidential Post

Greetings,

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us! Fall weather is finally blowing in and the holidays are in sight. I wanted to take a minute to share a "Please" and "Thank You" with the Anderson community.

The "Thank You"

I want to recognize everyone who has given of themselves this year. The hallways are decorated and the classrooms have been filled with volunteers and Watch Dogs since before the first day of school. Our teachers and students truly appreciate your involvement. Thank you for the gift of your time!

The "Please"

Unfortunately, the PTA has not received enough money to make it through the year with our current schedule of programs and events. Of our \$10,000 goal for the One Check fundraiser, **we fell about \$4000 short**. As a result, we need to make a decision - **hold another fundraiser or eliminate a few programs in the spring**. Before the Chili Cook-off on Thursday, we will hold a brief PTA meeting and I would like to hold a vote on how to move forward - **fundraiser or cancel programs**. Further, we may need to rethink the One Check Fundraiser for next year, as we only achieved **54%** participation.

As a last ditch effort to close the gap, the PTA will have the One Check Fundraiser box on the table this Thursday at the Chili Cook-off, so if you have not yet pledged to the One Check Fundraiser, please bring a check. While we will always accept more, we are asking for at least **\$15 per child, or \$25 per family**.

Thank you for your generosity,
Phil

Chili Cook-off

The Anderson Chili Cook-off is this **Thursday, November 19th from 6pm to 8pm in the Cafeteria**. Bring the family for supper – buy a bowl for **\$2** at the front table and enjoy sampling all the different types of chili provided by each classroom volunteer. The Anderson Dad's Club will judge the chili and determine winners for each category.



Also, 2 certificates for complimentary 2 month memberships to Curves will be raffled off during the Chili Cook-off.

"One Check" Donations



As noted above -- we are still accepting "One Check" donations in hopes of making it closer to our yearly goal.

If you have not made your donation this year you can bring your check to the Chili Cook Off on **November 19th**.

Please remember that 100% of your donation goes directly to Anderson Elementary and is used to provide special PTA programs and activities for the students all year, grade level activities, teacher appreciation events, grade level and specials funds for special activities planned by the teachers, and soooo many more things. Please help us keep the wonderful activities already planned for this school year by making your donation.

Participation gifts will be given to the students after the Holidays so we can make sure that everyone making a donation this week also receives their prize.

Benchmarks – Grades 3 thru 6

PARENTS -- Please note that for grades 3 thru 6 the 12 week benchmarks are approaching. Students will take the math on **November 17th** and science on **November 18th**. Tests are administered to monitor progress at the 12 week mark and to determine which students might need additional interventions. **Please refrain from making medical appointments for your child on these days if possible**. If you have any questions about this process you may contact your child's teacher.

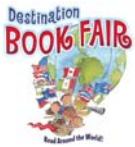
4th Grade – Writing Simulation

PARENTS -- Please note that 4th grades will have writing simulation on **Wednesday, December 2nd**. Please refrain from making medical appointments for your child on this day if possible. Also, no guests will be allowed for lunch on this simulation day. If you have any questions about this process you may contact your child's teacher.

CogAT Testing Information

AISD Learner Services and Assessment Department will be coordinating upcoming CogAT testing at your campus. All AISD **kindergarten, second and sixth grade** students will be administered a **CogAT aptitude test during the weeks of November 30 - December 11, 2009**. This test will be administered in groups at each campus. Please visit the following web link to find out more information on CogAT: http://www.riverpub.com/images/flashElements/cogat_demo.swf

Fall Book Fair Information



Have you visited the fall Book Fair yet? It's not too late! The Book Fair will be **open the rest of this week from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in the Multipurpose Room. You can also shop the Book Fair during the PTA Chili Cook-off on **Thursday, Nov. 19, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.**

Also – don't forget about "Lunch with Someone Grand." This could be a grandparent, parent, godparent, aunt, uncle, etc. Each "grand" visitor is invited to join their special student for lunch in the cafeteria then stop by the Book Fair!

Dismissal Information

We are experiencing a large amount of traffic congestion at the back of the school near the playground during dismissal. For the safety of our students, please follow the pick up procedures established by the school by picking students up in the younger car rider or older car rider lines on each side of the building. These lines flow much quicker this year due to the decrease in our student population.

In addition, please allow time for all of our students to be dismissed before using the playground area.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Reflections Program

Congratulations to the following Anderson All-Stars who have been selected to advance to the next level of judging in this year's Reflections Program:

Kennedy Martinez, 6th grade, Poem
Beau Lytle, 3rd grade, Poem
Bailey Dong, PreK, Crayons/Watercolor
Autumn Dennis, 6th grade, Colored Pencil
Milia Piepenburg, 5th grade, Photography
Anna Lanza, 4th grade, Photography



The following students also participated in the Reflections program and did an awesome job: Kylie West oil painting, Jacob Causey photography, Alison Bachellor short story, Kinsey Garbett painting, Vennela Gajjala Visual Arts, Vijit Bisht painting, Peyton Garbett painting, Caroline Dalton pencil drawing, Maya Shivers short story, Sonja Zimmerman photography and short story (2 entries), Melissa Tryon crayon, Danielle Gu pencil drawing, and Jade Ware photography.

ART TO GO is DESPERATE!!!

We need **three volunteers** for three well deserving classes.

You need only commit to **45 MINUTES ONCE** a month. No ART BACKGROUND necessary. Just enjoy presenting to the kids. Please contact Mindye Piepenburg at mpiepenb@cisco.com or 214-908-3215.

These three classes will not be able to have Art to Go without a volunteer. Some of these classes have not had it yet and we started in October. If you can volunteer for one of these times please let Mindye know.

Mr. Holley, 1st Grade: Dates: 12/17, 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12 from 2:00 to 2:40 (Mondays)

Mrs. Pence, 6th Grade: Dates: 11/6, 12/11, 1/15, 2/12, 3/12, 4/16 10:15 to 11:00 (Fridays in Mr. William's Classroom)

Mr. Williams, 6th Grade: Dates: 11/6, 12/11, 1/15, 2/12, 3/12, 4/16 1:45 to 2:30 (Fridays in Mr. William's Classroom)

Attention: SCIENTISTS

It is that time of the year to begin planning for the Science Fair. If you are interested in doing a project, see your teacher for details. Science Fair will take place on **Friday, January 29, 2010**.



K-Kids and Pride Council

GobbleGrams, benefiting The National Brain Tumor Society, will be on sale until **THURSDAY** this week. They will be sold in the front of school by the video wall and will be \$1.00 each. Send a little sweet treat to your Anderson family and friends. They will be delivered to teachers and students on Friday, November 20th.



BOTTLE CAPS ARE BACK!!!! We will be selling bottle cap magnets & necklaces again this year, but this time benefiting The National Brain Tumor Society. Stop by the office and contribute to a worthy cause!

Bottle caps: \$3

Choker Necklaces: \$2

Longer Clasp Necklaces: \$4

Way to go ALLSTARS!!! We were able to donate \$255.00 to The National Brain Tumor Society in honor of Kindergarten student Kyle Murray! We are proud of Kyle and his family for their courage and his fellow students for their support in helping raise money to help fight this disease. Thank you for your support!

Counselor's Comments



Watch DOGS:

We still need a dad/father-figure for the following dates: 12.1, 12.8, and 12.14.

January dates are: 1.6, 1.11, 1.14, 1.15, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21, 1.26, 1.27, 1.28, and 1.29.

Let's get those dates filled! Here's a link to the calendar:

http://www.allenisd.org/2007207291528280/icalsw/calendar.asp?Cal=em&calendar_ID=10572

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:

November's Core Essential is cooperation. Cooperation means working together to do more than you can do alone. Our Canned Food Drive was a great example of cooperation. Thanks to all that participated!

Peer Mediation:

There will be no Peer Mediation meeting on the Wednesday we return from Thanksgiving.

Safety Patrol:

This is the last week of duty for Team B. Team A begins their 4 weeks of Safety Patrol duty on the Monday we return from Thanksgiving Break. I have gotten a ton of compliments on Team B's helpfulness and consistency. Way to go Team B!

Guidance Lessons:

Fifth grade has guidance this week. We had some great conversations with two classes on Monday. Ask your students what we talked about!

Attention 6th Grade Parents!!!!

As in years past, 6th grade will participate in the Teen Awareness Program, or TAP. The focus of TAP 1 for 6th graders is sexual harassment. The goal is to educate students on how to avoid potentially dangerous situations. The program is designed to help students come away with an increased respect for themselves and others. The video shown in the program will be available for parent previewing on Tuesday, December 1st in the library. The student program will be on **Tuesday, December 8th**. Look for the student permission slip on Thursday, December 3rd. **Permission slips are due Monday, December 7th**. Students whose parents choose for them to not attend or do not have a signed permission slip will have study hall during this time.

This is my last week...

This is my last week of work before I go on maternity leave. My substitute is Michelle Gilbert. She has been a counselor for a number of years and recently was a counselor substitute at Green and Bolin. She and I will be in contact throughout my maternity leave. However, she is not able to start until we return from Winter Break. Therefore, Marcy Martinez will be checking my phone messages and keeping the counseling and guidance program running the best she can while still having to do her job!! Thank you Marcy!!! ☺ If you have an emergency, please let the office know. They will be able to best direct your call from there. Thank you in advance for your patience while Marcy is doing two jobs and Michelle is getting her feet wet! I will look forward to my return the Monday following Spring Break! Happy Holidays!



Anderson Fundraiser Nights – New Allen Locations

The following local Allen businesses will donate money back to Anderson when you visit them on the following dates:

Yogurtville	November 18 th
Mooyah Burger	December 1 st
Lenny's Sub Shop	December 16 th

PE News



Dates to Remember:

November 19, 2009- Anderson's first ever Turkey Trot

December 5, 2009- Rudolph Run

Anderson's First Ever Turkey Trot!

This is a school wide event to promote family fitness and fun. **This Thursday**, K thru 5th Grade parents are invited to join your student during his/her specials time to run/walk in the Turkey Trot (6th graders will be joining 2nd grade from 2:00-2:30). This event will be cancelled if we have rainy weather.

As a school we are trying to calculate the amount of miles we can obtain in one day. Then we will break it down to student with the most miles, class with the most miles, and grade with the most miles. Parent miles will be calculated in with your child's mileage. Remember this is not a fund-raiser and no money is required. However, we could use some parent volunteers. Let the coaches know if you can help.

Anderson Box Tops for Education -- November Collection Contest!

This month you will have the opportunity to win a \$25 game and ride pass to Amazing Jakes! Each student that brings in 10 Box Tops will have their name submitted in a drawing for these prizes. **Multiple Box Tops can be submitted – if you turn in 50 then your name will be submitted in the drawing 5 times.** The drawing will be held the first week in December to announce the winner.

Be sure to ask family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors or anyone else you know to help collect Box Tops! Box Tops can be submitted in a plastic baggie with student name, grade and teacher written on the front. Please be sure to turn in your Box Tops to your teacher by **this Friday, November 20th**.



Thanks for your support! *Sandy Rednour – Box Tops Coordinator*

Attendance Reminders

- School starts promptly at 7:55 each morning. Students who are not in their classroom at this time are considered tardy.
- If a student is checked out of school prior to 2:55 PM, it is considered early dismissal.

Both early dismissals and tardies are considered partial day absences by state attendance guidelines. If your child comes to school late or leaves early for a doctor appointment, please submit a doctor's note to the office when your child returns to school.

- Most out of town travel is considered an UNEXCUSED absence (refer to in Allen ISD Student Handbook)
- Notes for student absences must be submitted to the school office **within 5 days of the absence.**
- Email notes cannot excuse a student absence. Absence notes must include a parent/guardian signature.
- We encourage you to continue to call or email when you know your child will be absent - this helps the teacher and office know that your child is safe.

A parent/guardian commits an offense of thwarting compulsory attendance under Sec. 25.093, if, after having been warned in writing, a child has unexcused voluntary absences on 10 or more days or parts of days within a 6 month period or 3 or more days or parts of days within a 4 week period from school. An offense under this is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500. **Education Code 25.093/Family Code 51.03(b)(2)Penal Code 12.23**

The complete AISD/state attendance laws are located in the 2009-2010 Allen ISD Student Handbook. (This information is available on the AISD website or you may contact your child's teacher to get a hard copy.)

Thank you so much for your support and understanding on these important issues.

Anderson Administration

ACO Care & Share Donations

In the month of November, we are collecting **bath soap and deodorant.**

Also, in November we will have drawing for two gift cards donated by Family Video. 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 December.

Please bring the donations in a plastic baggie with the student's name, grade and teacher written on it. Please be sure to turn in donations in the bin by the side entrance near the Kindergarten classrooms by **Monday, November 30th**.

Thanks for helping your community.

Cheryl Danielson
rclcrd@sbcglobal.net



Parent Reminder

Parents - Please remember that the school opens at **7:30** each morning. Many students are arriving at school as early as 7:15 and have to wait outside. As student safety is a concern and priority for everyone, please don't leave students unsupervised at the school in the morning. Thank you for your help with this.



Anderson Yearbook Pictures

Get your pictures in the yearbook! The Yearbook Staff invites you to submit your photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school activities we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

Here is how you can submit photos online:

- Go to: <https://images.jostens.com/login>
- Enter username: 400004493 and Password: anderson
- Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.
- Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.
- Click "Save Details"



It's that easy! Submit your photos today! **The last day to submit photos is 2/1/2010.**

** The Yearbook Adviser will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.

Yearbook Orders

It's time to order your All-Star Yearbook!

Exciting news for this year: Every page of our Anderson yearbook will be in FULL COLOR! The price for the yearbook will still be \$20 during the pre-sale! Yearbooks will arrive in May, but don't delay, because you are not guaranteed a yearbook unless you pre-order. (Extras, if available will be sold first-come, first-served and the price will be \$25.)

You won't want to miss out on this year's book!

You may order online with NO extra service fee! Go to www.jostensyearbooks.com and order today!!

UPCOMING ALL-STAR EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Nov 17	Wednesday, Nov 18	Thursday, Nov 19	Nov 23 thru 27
Math TAKS Benchmark Grades 3 - 6	Science TAKS Benchmark Grades 3 - 6	PTA Meeting Chili Cook Off 6pm to 8pm 	Thanksgiving Break

LUNCH

Wednesday, Nov 18	Thursday, Nov 19	Friday, Nov 20	Nov 23 - 27	Monday, Nov 30
Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza Chef Salad w/ Turkey Veggie of the Day Ranch Style Beans Cole Slaw Apple Crisp Sliced Peaches Green Jell-O	THANKSGIVING FEAST Chicken Tenders Sliced Turkey w/ Dressing Yogurt Combo Fresh Baked Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Garden Salad Fruit Medley Ice Cream Cup	Chef Special Mini Rib on Bun String Cheese / Turkey & Cracker Combo Bread Basket Mixed Vegetables Celery Sticks Pears & Cherries Fruit of the Day Red Jell-O	Thanksgiving Break 	Hamburger / Cheeseburger Turkey Pot Pie Chicken Caesar Wrap Goldfish Grahams Tri-Taters Creamed Spinach Rosy Applesauce Orange Smiles Chocolate Pudding

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

http://www.allenisd.org/20061069152318433/lib/20061069152318433/November09- Peanut_Aware.pdf