

Ford Elementary

News

November 10, 2015

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From The Principal's Pen

We have completed the first quarter of the 2015-2016 school year! I want to begin by thanking you for your wonderful participation in the *Book Fair* and the awesome *Fall Book Fair Family Fun Night!* We are indeed fortunate to have such a dynamite librarian, Mrs. Thiel, who marshals the efforts of volunteers to provide such fun activities and events for our children!

Additionally, the staff and I have been very excited about the level of involvement of the Dads here at Ford! Many Dads bring their children to school, eat lunch with their children, and are involved in the *Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students)* program. So many of our Ford fathers work hard to play a critical role in their children's education, and research conducted by the *National Center for Fathering* has shown that when fathers are involved, their children learn more, perform better in school, and exhibit healthier behavior. Thank you, Ford Dads, for all your support!

There are so many times in life that we don't take time to count our blessings for services that are provided to our students. The blessings that I would like to highlight this month are the services of the cafeteria department at Ford. The GISD Nutrition Service Department, of which the Ford cafeteria is a part, is committed to offering the Ford students very nutrient-rich foods. We have a new cafeteria manager, Bonnie Hurley, who has done an amazing job working with the cafeteria staff to provide the most nutritious meals possible for our students. The cafeteria staff is always smiling and interacting with our students. A big thanks to the cafeteria staff and their commitment to kids. We appreciate you!

I hope you all have a wonderful November.

Donna Wallace

From Your PTA President

As we begin our busiest time of the year, many of us will gather around our Thanksgiving tables with our family and friends from near and far and give thanks for our many blessings. It's during this time of year that we think of our family and friends and how grateful we are for each other.

At Ford Elementary we are especially thankful! We are thankful for the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make our PTA outstanding; for the teachers and administrators who devote their lives to educating our children; and we are thankful for the generous community members who support our school and PTA!

On behalf of the Ford Elementary PTA, I would like to say, "Thank you," for your time and dedication to the children of Ford Elementary.

On behalf of our children, thank you so much for all that YOU do!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jill Ashby
Ford Elementary PTA President

Counselor's Corner

Empathy

During the second 9 weeks we will be focusing on Empathy. Empathy is the ability to share another person's experiences and feelings; to understand how someone might feel.

As a school, we will be conducting a "No Place For Hate" activity in November in which we will be demonstrating empathy through a service project.

Our teachers and students will be reading "How Do I Stand in Your Shoes?" by Susan DeBell. **As a follow up to the story, we will be requesting donations for new or gently-used shoes to be donated to one of our local charity organizations.** We hope all can join in and show our students that helping and understanding others is a great virtue.

Thanks,

Karen Cavanaugh

Classroom Highlights

Kindergarten

Please watch for “November” Kindergarten updates in your child’s weekly folder.

1st Grade

Where did October go? It was packed full of fun learning activities! In Science, we learned all about seasons which included writing a *5 Senses* poem about fall weather, and we ended our learning about objects in the sky and studying the phases of the moon just in time for Halloween! In Social Studies, we started out learning about Christopher Columbus, which led the way in our *exploration of map skills*, during which we drew our own map of the classroom, practiced guiding a classmate with the compass rose directions, and we also talked about how technology has changed the way we get from place to place! In Math, we have practiced many different strategies to add and subtract numbers, wrote *fact families*, and we are now working on *Place Value* and *Re-grouping*. Most importantly, we are continuing to rock our reading in 1st grade!

2nd Grade

In Second Grade, we are continuing to have a blast working and learning together! In Math, we have been studying various strategies to help us add and subtract basic math facts and two-digit numbers. *Our goal is for second graders to master their addition math facts by Winter Break.* Your child can practice with flashcards, XtraMath or other computer games at home. We also worked on number patterns, even, and odd numbers. In Language Arts, we learned about *cause and effect* as well as *fact and opinion* which will help us comprehend the stories we read better. We learned all about common, proper, singular, and plural nouns as well! In Science, we made ramps to explore force and motion. In Social Studies, we learned about goods, services, producers, and consumers. We are looking forward to seeing what next month brings!

Classroom Highlights, continued

3rd Grade

The Third Graders have been working hard this year! In math, we are exploring multiplication and division situations using number lines, arrays, and strip diagrams while examining the relationship between multiplication and division in problem solving. In Science, we will use a variety of tools to measure, test, and record physical properties of matter. We will also create a mixture and demonstrate that a mixture can be separated into its parts. In Language Arts, students will continue genre studies, including poetry, fiction, biographies, and informational texts. We are using these texts to make inferences, draw conclusions, summarize and analyze characters. We will also explore prefixes and suffixes to determine word meaning, and we will continue explaining our ideas using a focused topic sentence with supporting ideas and examples in writing.

4th Grade

UIL started last week!

Ms. Pitkethley is leading the charge as UIL Coordinator. Ms. Buckley is coaching Ready Writing; Ms. Leimer, Spelling; Ms. Morelli, Oral Reading; and Ms. Supak, Art. *Thank you, Ladies!*

READING

We have finished our fiction novel, *Holes*. We have done quite a few reading response activities including designing a new book cover. We have been “mind mapping” several *Reading Street* stories and *Texas Weekly* articles to work on main ideas and details. Your student will be coming home with a new book to read and a STAR brochure to complete. Most students will have a biography since we will continue our study of biographies and other nonfiction works.

Classroom Highlights, continued

4th Grade, continued

SOCIAL STUDIES

4th Grade is excited to have a “Social Studies Weekly” for every student now! *A special thank you to our parents for helping finance this purchase!*

LANGUAGE ARTS

Spelling dictation is improving greatly! The kids are getting better at identifying conjunctions and applying grammar rules.

SCIENCE

Our scientists are studying circuits and have built “Conducting Creatures” out of shoeboxes *complete with circuitry to light up the eyes!* Stephen Paul, a Ford parent, is coming to talk with kids about the principles of electricity, how it is transmitted, circuits and circuit breakers, and electrical safety. He is bringing examples of conductors, cables, and other visuals to help the students understand the basics of electricity. Mr. Paul is Vice President of Electrical Sales for Eaton Corporation. He is a Class of 1999 Texas A&M graduate with a degree in industrial distribution (engineering and business). He has worked in the electrical business 17 years. He has experience building electrical panels, switchboards, and motor control centers, basically anything that keeps the lights on! *Thank you in advance, Mr. Paul!*

MATH

Students are learning many different ways to multiply, specifically 2-digit by 2-digit numbers, and starting division in math. To practice students have been working problems at their desks with EXPOS and whiteboards and even playing games here and there to make learning more fun. *Ask your student to show you the bow-tie method of multiplying or to draw an array!*

Classroom Highlights, continued

4th Grade, continued

If you are interested in math games, Ms. Supak suggested a few pentathlon games for you to enjoy at home:

<http://store.mathpentath.org/games/division-iii-grades-4-5-games>

JUGGLE ~ In this game players “juggle” polyominoes in order to be the first to complete their 9 x 9 grid-like gameboards. The roll of two dice determines which pieces are selected from five different types of polyominoes, including pentominoes and tetrominoes. In the process of playing the game, students develop a deeper understanding of mathematical relationships involving area, perimeter, and transformational geometry (flips/reflections, turns/rotations, and slides/translations). Spatial and logical reasoning skills are enhanced as students try to balance probability and chance, as well as numerical and structural relationships.

CONTIG 60 ~ The four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), probability, and algebraic thinking are integrated in this strategy-chance game. Numerical values are arranged in a particular pattern on the gameboard. For each play students form number sentences based on the roll of 3 regular dice and place chips on corresponding numbered spaces. Arranging 5 chips along contiguous horizontal, vertical, or diagonal lines relates to one goal of the game. A second goal pertains to scoring and connected chip placement. By playing this game students practice basic skills in a highly motivational format that also enhances their problem-solving and computational reasoning abilities.

QUEENS & GUARDS ~ This spatial reasoning game combines the simplicity of rules found in Checkers with the complexity of strategy experienced in Chess. A gameboard of tessellated hexagons that form concentric bands and pawns (queens) and chips (guards) are used to simulate the agonistic pattern of bees in a beehive. By learning how to construct a variety of triangular and other structural arrangements on the gameboard, students develop spatial thinking as well as many other logical reasoning skills, including deductive and inductive thought.

5th Grade

Please watch for “November” 5th Grade updates in your child’s weekly folder.

Miss Smith's Music Notes

Hello Wonderful Ford Parents!

Our Fifth Graders have been working very hard to prepare for our Veterans Day Program. I am so excited for you to hear how musically they are singing. They are going to perform wonderfully! We invite all Veterans to come join us for refreshments in the library before their performance. It will be a wonderful celebration of the brave men and women who have protected our country.

SAVE THE DATE:

Veterans Day Program

(5th Grade Performance)

November 11th, 8:15 a.m.

***Please e-mail photos of your Veterans to smithj7@georgetownisd.org **
to have them included in the program slideshow.*

Please Note: Choir and Instrument Ensemble will NOT meet the week of Thanksgiving.

Want to be a Volunteer for the Choir or Instrument Ensemble?

Please email me at smithj7@georgetownisd.org, or call at 512-943-5180, ext. 7940

Sincerely,
Jayme Smith
Music Teacher

Art News!

In honor of the *Fall Book Fair*, several grade levels completed art works based on the monster theme! *Kindergarteners* created their own *green monsters*, based on the story by Ed Emberley, "*Go Away, Big Green Monster.*" *First graders* painted *Joan Miro* inspired monsters. *Third graders* explored positive and negative space for their scary *jack o' lantern pumpkins*. The art works were on display in the fifth grade hallway during the October 29th evening of the book fair.

Currently, in the art classroom, all students are preparing their ornaments for the Ford Christmas trees. Our trees will host about 530 ornaments! The ornaments will be completed before the students leave for Thanksgiving break. I personally cannot wait to see them all displayed!

Looking Ahead:

Square 1 Art Fundraising has finally arrived! The deadline to turn in your order forms is November 10th. These products will arrive before Christmas break making them the perfect gift for friends or anyone in the family.

There are two easy ways to order:

1. Paper order form located on the back of the catalog with your child's art on it.
2. Online at www.square1art.com/shop. Create an online art gallery using the access code located on your catalog. Shop useful custom products that display your child's artwork!

Art Club:

This school year the art club will be student-led in three main stations: ceramics, drawing, and painting. The students will have many opportunities to explore each of the mediums, while creating their own personal artworks. This semester we will focus on how each station functions.

Want to be a Volunteer in Art?

Please email me at szatkowskia@georgetownisd.org, or call at 512-943-5180, to find out how you can help.

Sincerely,
Agnieszka Szatkowski
Art Teacher at Ford Elementary

Library News...

Thank you to everyone that supported the Ford Library program by attending the Scholastic Book Fair!

A MONSTER big thank you to the following volunteers: Logan Nations, Jen Miller, Laurel Morris, Kristi Fluitt, Stacy Lindell, Robin Morales and everyone that spent hours helping at our Book Fair!

Additionally, thank you to the following **local community sponsors** for donating to our Book Fair raffle baskets!

Raffle Basket Donations Provided By:

- Victory Martial Arts
- City Lights Theater
- Pinot's Palette
- Painting with a Twist
- Mel's Lone Star Lanes
- Cherry Berry
- Hula Cowgirl
- Zydeco Ice
- Chick-Fil-A
- Sonic
- Jazzercise

Food/Drink Donations:

- Cane's
- Costco
- HEB

The Book Fair funds are used to purchase books, databases, ebooks, and much more for our library and school!

Victoria Thiel, Librarian
JoAnn Ford Elementary School

NOVEMBER MUSTANG MEALTIME!

November Mustang Mealttime will be hosted by
Manhattan Pie Co.!

Stop by 3010 Williams Dr #118 anytime between **Tuesday, Nov. 17 through Friday, Nov. 20.** Please join us in supporting Ford while enjoying some great pizza!

Remember to tell your waitress/waiter that you are there to support Ford Elementary. This will help ensure Ford receives a portion of the sale!

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

We did an amazing job with our Fall Kickoff Fundraiser – Yankee Candles! Once all of the orders were in and invoices paid, our final profit was well over what we had estimated. **We raised over \$13,000!** That is an amazing fundraiser – all due to your efforts and contributions! We had over 260 students and staff members participate in this year’s fundraiser, either by selling products or collecting donations. Each person who participated will receive a treat from our friends at Hat Creek Burgers.

****Congratulations to Our Top Sellers****

Top Five Sellers

(who will have a candle-lit lunch with Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Wells!)

1. **Xochitl Hassan**
2. **Giovanni Madsen**
3. **Phoenix Matlock**
4. **Gus Papaconstantinou**
5. **Alexis Pfitzner**

Our Top Selling Class

(that will get a popcorn treat!)

Mrs. Musgrove’s Kindergarten Class

Our Top Selling Staff Member

(who will get an extra 30 minutes of lunch, with lunch provided!)

Ms. Torres (from our office)!

Did you miss the deadline to order? Want to order more? Need some holiday gifts?? It isn’t too late! The Ford Yankee Candle Fundraising site is still active, and with every order you place through the end of December, Ford PTA will receive 40% of the amount spent! Any order placed online will be shipped directly to you! www.yankeecandlefundraising.com (Group #990066046)

And remember.... It is NEVER too late to make a tax deductible donation to the Jo Ann Ford Elementary PTA! Place your check in an envelope labeled “Fall Fundraiser Donation.” Be sure to include your child’s name. We will happily

Where Your PTA Money Goes

Each fall as a new school starts, you are asked to join the Ford Elementary PTA and to support the PTA by participating in various fundraising activities. This fall those fundraising activities have included the Yankee Candle sales and the opportunity to purchase Ford spirit wear. Both of these fundraisers have been very successful, and our PTA thanks you for all of your generous support. So now that we are off to a good start raising the money, let's talk about how the money is spent throughout the school year.

The money raised by PTA supports numerous programs that benefit the students and teachers at Ford throughout the school year. PTA funds are used to support the following programs and activities every year:

- Reflections Art Program
- Library Needs
- UIL Academic Competition Activities
- Science Fair
- Student Assembly Speakers
- Watch D.O.G.S.
- Funds to Support Field Trips and Other Activities for 1st through 4th Grades
- 5th Grade Farewell Celebration
- Field Day
- Kindergarten Graduation
- The Summer Reading Program
- Training and Classroom Needs for Teachers
- Family and Teacher Hospitality

In addition to these ongoing programs, the Ford PTA has also been raising money to donate to the school for the purchase of a new playscape for the playground. Last school year, Mrs. Wallace asked the PTA for assistance in purchasing a new playscape due to the ever-increasing number of students on the playground as our school grows. Based on initial cost estimates identified by Mrs. Wallace, the PTA estimated that it would take approximately three years of fundraising to fully fund the purchase of a new playscape. Last school year, the PTA was able to set aside \$13,000.00 to go toward the purchase of the playscape. Our current budget aims to raise an additional \$13,000.00 during this school year. Currently, Mrs. Wallace is working to obtain a more detailed and precise cost estimate for what a new playscape will cost, and as soon as we have that information, we will update you on how close we are to our goal of fully funding the new playscape.

In the meantime, fundraising activities will continue. It is never too late to become a member of or to donate to PTA. We are also still accepting sponsorships for this school year. In early November, PTA sponsored an aluminum can drive. Mustang Mealtimes will continue each month for the rest of the school year after two successful events at Catfish Parlour and Hula Cowgirl Shaved Ice in September and October. We continue to collect Box Tops. (You may not know it, but every box top collected raises ten cents for PTA!) In April, we will have our second big fundraiser of the year. While the theme of this year's fundraiser is still a surprise, it will be just as fun and exciting as Ford Family Fun Nights of past years. And as the school year ends, you will have the opportunity to purchase school supplies for the next school year, with PTA receiving a percentage of those sales.

Again, **the PTA thanks you for all of your generous support!** If you have any questions about the budget and how the funds are being used, the budget is addressed at every PTA meeting. Please feel free to attend those meetings to ask questions and share your thoughts on how PTA can better support the students and teachers of Ford Elementary.

PTA Membership

If you have not had a chance to join Ford PTA it's never too late! Complete the attached form, and submit it with \$7 (per PTA member). Your membership entitles you to many discounts at places like Great Wolf Lodge, Sea World, Six Flags, Schlitterbahn and Texas Rangers!

Most importantly, your membership gives us another "voice" for our children, school and community!

Please join today!

Over one-third of Ford households have joined PTA so far this year. To date, Ford Elementary PTA has approximately 190 members. Please join and add to this number.

JOIN TODAY!

JoAnn Ford Elementary PTA 2015-2016

MEMBER NAME:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

\$7.00 per Member

TOTAL:\$ _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Check all that apply:

_____ Student _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Faculty/Staff

_____ Community Member _____ Other/

_____ Contact me about volunteering

_____ Contact me about a Board Position

Student(s) at Ford/Teacher Name

_____ / _____

_____ / _____

_____ / _____

Lunchroom Volunteers Needed!

The cafeteria is in need of volunteers to help monitor the cafeteria during lunch times. Any assistance that can be provided would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Melissa Foster for more details: melfoster26@gmail.com

November Reminders....

- **Collecting Box Tops:** Thanks to your efforts we have already **raised over \$250 for the school this year!** We will be holding another class contest after the new year. **When submitting your Box Tops:** Please ensure all submitted Box Tops are NEATLY trimmed and not expired. Attach the Box Tops to any flyer using tape or glue. Please do not use staples. You can also submit Box Tops in sealed baggies that are labelled with your child's name and his/her teacher's name. Box Tops that are expired and do not have the complete date cannot be redeemed.
- **No School the week of November 23rd!**
- **Reflections Artwork will be on display** in the Jungle Room (across from the office) during the week of November 9th.
- **Science Fair Participation Forms are due by November 12th.**

Have a GREAT November and Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!