

ELLIOTT



Excellence for All

More to Come Although Year Coming to Close

By Susan Murphy, Principal

It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want -oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so! ~Mark Twain

Too soon for any of us to get the spring fever that Mark Twain speaks of but I think we can all agree that hopefully spring has sprung! Much like how Mother Nature silently prepares and renews for tremendous bursts of new growth and color in the spring, our students do the same. They prepare and show great growth and maturity and suddenly we all notice they are not the same students that came in August.

Despite the visible growth, there is academic growth and social maturity that we are all keenly aware of and proud. It is during the spring that our students will get to demonstrate the extent of their new learning on our state assessments for 3rd - 5th graders (TAKS). This is a time of celebration for all of us- a time for our students to show how much they know and are able to do.

Below are the dates for remaining TAKS:

April 27 - 3rd/4th Math

April 28 - 3rd/4th Reading

April 29 - 5th Science

Our classroom teachers have discussed current levels of TAKS practice performance with your child as well as goal setting. We look forward to seeing our students once again surpass the state standards and do their personal best work on these testing days. Parents please let your child know especially on those days how proud you are of them and just give them that extra hug before they go out the door. We need everyone to come in refreshed and ready to do their best. Please remember that we must maintain a secure and confidential testing environment, therefore on testing days we are a closed campus and ask that parents choose a non-testing day to come to lunch or visit school.

Kindergarten Roundup will be held during the week of April 12th -16th, with Tuesday, April 13th open until 7:00 PM. With our expected growth for next year this week long event will be very important and will help our school gather accurate registration numbers.

It is hard to believe it is this time of year- but it has been another great one. Thank you for your support!



Groundwork Laid for Continued PTA Success

By Paige Whitecotton, President

Two years ago, we began laying the foundation for Elliott PTA. Our goal was to recruit board members that shared a desire to make Elliott an even better place for each and every student. In order to make Elliott an even better place, this group of people had to ensure that they set ego and personal agendas aside to put the needs of all Elliott students first. I am proud to say that we successfully achieved the goal. Over the last two years, the Elliott PTA has provided numerous educational and fun programs, books (library and guided reading), equipment and rewards to Elliott Elementary which would affect each child, and not just target one particular grade level.

I would like to recognize those Elliott PTA Board members who have laid such a solid foundation during our inaugural two years: Mary Stewart (1st VP/Programs '09-10/Volunteer Coordinator '08-09), Tina Campanella (2nd VP/Fundraising TWO YEARS), Shauna McMurray (Treasurer '09-10/Book Fair Chairman '08-09), Susan Schroeder (Parliamentarian '09-10/Secretary '08-09), Shannon Smith (Community Programs Chairman TWO YEARS), Ambyr Koke (Environmental Chairman TWO YEARS), Toni Borthayre (Membership Chairman TWO YEARS), Janelle Dugas (Communications Chairman '09-10/Treasurer '08-09), Jenny Frederick (Room Parent Coordinator TWO YEARS), Nikki Ketter (Spirit Gear Chairman TWO YEARS), Peggy Linn ('09-10 Directory Chairman/'08-09 Communications Chairman), and Sharon Sunderman (FISD PTA Council Liaison TWO YEARS), and myself (President TWO YEARS).

This group of people had to see the "big picture," and look at each choice presented to them in all points of view. Serving on a brand-new ...

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PTA's Round of Applause

Elliott Elementary PTA wants to thank the following sponsors for their continued support:

Liberty Mutual-Larry Jordan

Brother's pizza- Doc

Dress Barn- Paige Whitecotton

G'Nosh- Angela Hylton

Pampered Chef- Amy Haynes

Mary Kay- Melissa Stafford (not Elliott related she is Julie Snopik's best friend)

Live Love Laugh Photography- Jill Laber

Morgan Dane Jewelry- Karen Close

Home Stretch Parties

By Jenny Frederick,
Room Parent Coordinator

I can't believe we are already talking about planning our End of the Year activities. It seems like we just had our Winter Break!

I first wanted to say a BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers for the Valentines Parties in February. The kids had a wonderful time and again, I so appreciate all the time, effort, donations etc to make this party a success. The next few months will definitely be our most fun of the year, but will also provide the most opportunities to volunteer in the classroom.

We have Teacher Appreciation Week coming on May 3rd- 7th so be looking for correspondence from your class regarding ways you can donate time and treats for our awesome teachers. Also, our planning has already begun for our End of the Year party on June 4th so be looking for more info to come on that as we would love to have you join us.

Thanks again for all that you do to support Elliott..we have wonderful parents!

Have Questions? Here Are Answers: Boosterthon By Tina Campanella, 2nd VP Ways and Means

As VP of Fundraising, I get a lot of questions about how we chose Boosterthon as our fundraiser. It's a great question, so I thought I'd shed some light on it.

As a FUSD school, we are allowed only one main fundraiser each year – basically, we have one shot to raise enough to fund our programs, events and gifts to Elliott. In my research, I kept coming back to Boosterthon Fun Run. Their testimonials all said, "We raised more money with Boosterthon than with any previous fundraiser." Boosterthon's cost at 48% is 10-15% below industry standard. The amount of time, work and effort they put in is beyond anything I've ever experienced.

But more than that, I wanted to choose something that was GOOD for the kids and a lot of fun. I wanted to choose something that would make a difference, that might even improve the world in which we live. THIS is where the Elliott PTA and Boosterthon see eye to eye. Boosterthon employees have a motto of Change the World. They come into the schools, and using fitness as their platform, they help the students build character and learn the satisfaction of setting and achieving a goal. Beyond that, they send their resources to help areas of the world that are in need. Boosterthon employees volunteered in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, in Orphanages in South America and most recently Haiti. They are truly living up to their motto of Change the World. And by supporting Boosterthon, not only are we raising \$40,000+ per year for Elliott PTA, we too are doing OUR part to change the world.

So, Why Boosterthon? Because it's fun. Because it's the best way to raise money. And because we can show our kids that the world is bigger than Elliott. We can show them that when we each do our part, we can change the world.

Dads Trade Overtime for Quality Time

By Kasey Kirlin, WatchD.O.G.S Chair

Here at Elliott Elementary we are winding down our second year of Watch D.O.G.S. and gearing up for next year. I would like to thank all of the dads who took a day off from their jobs and went to work with their little ones at Elliott Elementary. I know being a Watch D.O.G.S. means a lot to children when they see their dad walking the school hallways and especially during lunch time. The kids love it, having lunch with their dad and showing Dad off to their classmates.

This year we had a couple great events! We did a pizza night and our first annual Chili Cook-off, both of which were a big success. We had over 20 participants that entered the Chili Cook-off! And congratulations goes out to Mike Arnold for taking first place in our first annual chili cook off. Our Elliott community knows how to make some really good chili and I got some great ideas for our next chili-cook off.

These events weren't only for the Dad's and son/daughters, but for the families of Elliott Elementary. Elliott is all of our school and a very, very important part of our kid's life and we all need to be involved with our kids and their friends and activities.

By becoming a Watch D.O.G.S. you are becoming a figure that promotes caring and safety for all of the students at Elliott Elementary. .



Keith Davis

inspirational, motivational speaker



Students Learn How to Tackle TAKS, Life in April

By Mary Stewart, VP Programs

Our PTA funds are able to bring motivational speaker, former Buffalo Bill player, and academic scholar to Elliott!! Mr. Davis will be inspiring our 3rd-5th graders to give it all they've got and tackle the TAKS test!

Mr. Davis has spoken in more than 3,000 schools worldwide as well as 40 countries including Australia, Brazil, England, Japan, Russia, Egypt, India and South Africa.

He has won 2 championship rings. After college, Keith signed his professional football contract with the New York Giants. During the pre-season, he was one of the strongest players on the team. Yet , injuries caused his time as a pro to be brief. Keith Davis stands 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighs 265 lbs., bench presses 515 lbs. and leg presses 1800 lbs.

You are invited to come and listen to him speak on April 22 @ 2:00.

Elliott Elementary Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

By Eileen Rodriguez, Volunteer Coordinator

The Elliott PTA hosted a Volunteer Appreciation lunch on February 16th, where about 60 volunteers joined in on the food, fun, and some fabulous giveaways! "Thank You" to all who were able to attend the celebration. Volunteering is the best way to stay informed and connected with your child's school life. Elliott is so fortunate to have over 150 parents that are registered volunteers at our school.

We have many opportunities coming in the next few months that need volunteers; Teacher Appreciation Week, Songfest, Field Day, Elliott PTA Picnic in the Park, and the End of the Year class parties. There are also many areas that need volunteers on a regular basis such as Cafeteria helpers, Classroom help, Thursday Folders, WatchDOG, and assisting in the library. Want to volunteer? Please email Eileenrodriguez@aol.com.

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... PTA Board requires many hours, nights and weekends, and the founding members have worked as a great team, and have given their time selflessly for the betterment of the PTA. These thirteen people were recognized at our March 25th PTA meeting.

When we started two years ago, we did not have the benefit of experience; however, that luxury now belongs to Elliott's PTA Board. We have thirteen (2-year) and six (1 year) Board Members full of PTA experience and knowledge that are ready to move forward, and continue adding to our solid foundation. We don't have to start from scratch. We can utilize the knowledge and experience that these nineteen Board Members hold to take Elliott PTA to new levels of success.

Please make sure to attend the April 22nd meeting at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. It will be our last PTA meeting of the year, and we will also hold the election of our five PTA officers for the 2010-2011 school year. Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your President the last two years. It has been an honor and a pleasure.



Volunteer Spotlight: Stacy Rank

By Eileen Rodriguez, Volunteer Coordinator

Stacy Rank and her family moved to McKinney from Overland Park, Kansas this past summer. Stacy and her husband Steve have two children that attend Elliott. Madison is in Ms. Carlisle's 2nd grade class and Drew is in Mrs. Martin's kindergarten class. Stacy knew right away that Elliott was going to be a perfect fit for her and her family!

"We have met some of the best people that I now call friends from Elliott Elementary. The welcome we have felt has been over whelming. I knew that from the very minute I met Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Mills, all the teachers and PTA ladies that this was going to be the perfect school family for us."

Stacy dedicates countless volunteer hours at Elliott. She says she volunteers because she loves it! Someone once told her before she had kids the best way to help your child at school is to get involved. Stacy says "As a mother I want to know that I am supporting the school in any way I can to make sure my children and every child at Elliott has what they need to succeed"


April's Meet the Board: Tina Campanella

By Janelle Dugas, Communications Chair

Tina Campanella is a founding board member of the Elliott PTA. She has served as 2nd VP of Fundraising for the last 2 years. During that time, she has helped raise over \$88,000 for Elliott. After discovering the Boosterthon Fun Run at PTA Summer Leadership Training in Austin, Tina pitched it to the PTA as our annual fundraiser. After she convinced the board, she had to convince Boosterthon to take a chance on Elliott - then a risky first year school. With the help of the PTA board, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Mills, she did it and Boosterthon signed on as our first fundraiser -with very successful results.

Tina was also instrumental in bringing the Watch D.O.G.S program to Elliott in 2008. She believes in an inclusive PTA and has worked along side of the PTA board to make sure that our focus is on service to Elliott and the students.

Tina also works as a Yoga Instructor. She and her husband Jeff have 2 children. Tony is 9 and is in 4th grade at Elliott. Callie is 4 and will be in Kindergarten in the fall. They also have a dog named Frankie. Tina is excited and honored to be able to serve on the Elliott PTA for many years to come.

Elliott students have collected over 8,000 box tops ... Continue to work hard & break the 10,000 goal in April & May!

ELLIOTT PTA OFFICER NOMINATIONS

2010-2011 Nominees	Nominating Committee Members
President: Tina Campanella	Suzanne Benhardt
1st VP/Programs: Mary Stewart	Candace Nielsen
2nd VP/Ways & Means: Paige Whitecotton	Stacy Rank
Secretary: Suzanne Benhardt	Wendy Rodriguez
Treasurer: Shauna McMurray	Eileen Rodriguez