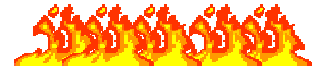


Back to School Issue - September 2009



The Principal's Pad

Dear Families,

I want to say once again what a pleasure it is to be among some of the finest families anywhere! As I saw all of the smiling faces coming through the door on Meet the Teacher Night, it was like Homecoming all over again! It is always such a special time because we see faces of the past (our former students), faces that we continue to see mature and age each year (I'm talking about the kids, not the parents!)), and those sweet little innocent kindergarten faces who are just beginning their journey with us. I get the warmest feeling being with everyone!

We are celebrating 10 years of excellence this year, and so it is only fitting that we start this year by being named a TEA Exemplary School this year AND Best School in the Frisco Enterprise's Reader's Choice Awards! In addition, our wonderful kindergarten team leader, Laura Moore, was voted best teacher! Mark your calendars for Feb. 28 as we host our 10 Year Anniversary Celebration!

As we slide into our new year, I want to reinforce our commitment to you and your child. Our goal is to provide a safe, friendly environment where each child has a positive learning experience while striving to reach his/her potential. Communication with you is an important component of accomplishing this goal. Please feel free to ask questions and provide input regarding your child, and know that we will do the same.

We look forward to a fantastic year! Let me know if I can help you in any way!

Sherri Wakeland
Principal

PTA President's Message

Our year has started out fast and furious! PTA sponsored our 2nd annual Family Fun Night and Watch DOGS kickoff on September 17th and it was a huge success! There were roughly 400 people in attendance, pizza was enjoyed by all, and the bounce houses were loads of fun! Over a dozen new Watch DOGS committed time for the year, and several returning DOGS volunteered at our event. Watch for our Boosterthon (annual fundraiser) and book fair in November. It's not too late to sign up to help if you are interested!! Let me know, and I will steer you in the right direction. Questions, comments, or ideas please email straub_pta@yahoo.com.

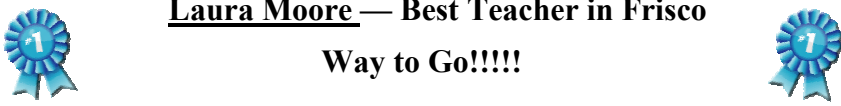
In the Know

- Oct. 4-9 Fire Prevention Week
- Oct. 6 Afternoon of the Arts (K-2)
- Oct. 7 iWalk/iBike to School
- Oct. 8 Afternoon of the Arts (3-5)
- Oct. 9 Fire Clowns (3-5)
- Oct. 12 Parent/Teacher Conference Day 10:00-6:00
- Oct. 13 School Pictures
- Oct. 13 Papa Johns Pizza Night
- Oct. 14 Kindergarten goes to Pumpkin Patch
- Oct. 23 Faculty Luncheon
- Oct. 25-31 Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 26 Wear RED to school
- Oct. 27 Bring a Stuffed Animal to school
- Oct. 28 Wear Crazy Socks to school
- Oct. 29 Wear a Silly Hat to school
- Oct. 29 Report Cards go home
- Oct. 30 Wear Spirit Gear to school
- Oct. 31 Gary Burns Fun Run
- Nov. 3-12 Boosterthon Fundraiser
- Nov. 9-13 Fall Book Fair
- Nov. 11 Faculty Breakfast
- Nov. 12 Shawnee Trail PTA Meeting 6:15pm

Shawnee Trail PTA Congratulates
2009 Star Community Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards

Shawnee Trail Elementary — Best Public School in Frisco
Sherri Wakeland — Best Principal in Frisco
Laura Moore — Best Teacher in Frisco

Way to Go!!!!



A Note From Our Assistant Principal

Dear Parents,

As we kick off another great year here at Shawnee Trail, I want to remind you of Shawnee Trail's procedures for attendance, tardies, and leave earlyies.

Students must be in their classroom **promptly at 8:00 a.m.** daily. Shawnee Trail's doors open at 7:30 and teachers are on duty to supervise students. Students will be counted tardy after 8:00 a.m. To make sure your child makes it to school on time each day, please set your clocks to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) which is what we use at Shawnee Trail. Our new marquee shows the correct time if you would like to synchronize your clock with it.

5 unexcused absences, tardies, or leave earlyies: Phone call to parent from the classroom teacher to communicate concerns, truancy letter sent by Assistant Principal and copy of letter sent to Truancy Prevention Facilitator.

8 unexcused absences, tardies, or leave earlyies: Phone call from Assistant Principal to parent and letter sent home outlining attendance record and legal requirements of student attendance. Copy of letter sent to Truancy Prevention Facilitator.

10 unexcused absences, tardies, or leave earlyies: FISSD Truancy Final Notice will be sent home as well as a copy sent to the Truancy Prevention Facilitator. A follow-up phone call will be made by the Assistant Principal. A sit-down conference/phone conference can be held between parents and school administration, including the truancy officer. Failure to attend school charges will be filed if necessary and warranted.

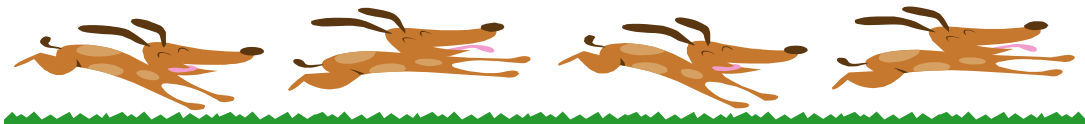
Notes to document absences: If your child is home sick, please call and notify Cristi Closs (469)633-2500 or email her at clossc@friscoisd.org. Upon your child's return, a note or email is required. If your child is absent for four or more consecutive days, a doctor's note will be required. Parents have three days to provide written documentation for the absence(s) or these days will become unexcused.

Absences such as vacations and trips (except those approved in advance by the principal in accordance with Board Policy FEC (Local)), babysitting, working (including modeling), and nonschool-sponsored athletic events and programs shall be considered unexcused.

Early Release for doctor appointments: If your child leaves for a doctor's appointment during the school day, a doctor's note will be required upon your child's return. **If a doctor's note is not received the next day, this early release will be counted as unexcused.**

We appreciate your support as we work collaboratively to encourage and develop positive habits and attitudes regarding school attendance. Please contact us if you have further questions.

Thank You,
Nancy Fatheree
Assistant Principal, Shawnee Trail



No Dogs on Campus

This is just a reminder that FISSD does not allow dogs on campuses due to the unpredictability of dogs around children. You may meet your child with your dog on the city sidewalks that border our Shawnee Trail campus. If you are in your car and bring your dog with you to pick up your child, please make sure to keep your car windows rolled up as you go through the pickup line. Thank you!



The 2nd Annual Kick-Off of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program was held September 17th during the PTA Family Fun Night.

Wow, what a turn out! We had over **35 new Dads/Father** figures sign up for this year's program. You will start to see the "DOGS" on campus at the beginning of October. When you see a "DOG", pat them on the back and thank them for their service to our school, our community, and most importantly to the students of Shawnee Trail Elementary School.

For more information, please contact Denise Avery at denise.avery3@gmail.com

Counselor's Corner

By Janet MacMillan

Welcome back to Shawnee Trail!! It is wonderful to have everyone back, both new and familiar faces, walking the halls of Shawnee Trail. We have many exciting activities planned for our children during the year.

A new program we are beginning is yearlong and school wide. "Rachel's Challenge" is a special program started by the family of Rachel Joy Scott, the first student killed at Columbine High School. The main premise is to convey her story and to promote non-bullying behaviors by students. Last year this program was implemented at the middle and high schools in Frisco.

This year the Frisco elementary schools will be implementing "Rachel's Challenge Kindness and Compassion Elementary Program Curriculum". This curriculum was developed and written by the elementary counselors in Rockwell, Texas. After seeing the impact that Rachel's Challenge was having at the older level, they wanted to start a program at the elementary level. While the circumstances around the death of Rachel Scott are not age appropriate for elementary, we will focus on her life and the challenges that she began.

The elementary program has five areas of focus – Influence, Goal Setting, Journaling, Acceptance, and Kindness. While I will teach the majority of the lessons through the guidance classes, the classroom teachers will incorporate different writing prompts and journaling topics that correlate with the Rachel's Challenge overall theme. Our specialists will use many ideas that will perpetuate the central theme of Kindness and Compassion. The wonderful parents and PTA will be involved in this school wide program.

Student Council will be the driving force in developing and implementing projects for the students to show compassion and kindness to those in the school, in the community, and around the world.

More information will be sent later through the website or student Thursday folders.

Two of Rachel's quotes are quite profound and I would like to share them with you.

"Don't let your character change color with your environment"
"People never know how far a little kindness can go. You just may start a chain reaction."

Rachel Joy Scott



Your Children will be adding links to our chain by showing kindness and compassion!!



News From the Library



Welcome back! We are very excited about the 2009-2010 school year! To promote pleasure reading we offer several reading incentive programs for our students.

The first program is the STAR (Shawnee Trail Awesome Reader) which is run jointly with BOOK IT! (Sponsored by Pizza Hut). Students will receive a monthly calendar and are asked to read five times a week for at least 20 minutes each day. Completed calendars will be returned to the library and each child will receive a free pizza coupon and a prize from the treasure box. This program begins in October and goes through March.

All third, fourth, and fifth graders are invited to participate in the Texas Bluebonnet Club. This program is sponsored by the Texas Library Association. To be eligible to vote, students need to read and pass a short quiz on five of the nominated titles. To find out more about the Bluebonnet Booklist, go to the following website: www.txla.org.

In January, the SIX FLAGS READ TO SUCCEED program will begin. Students will have the opportunity to record their reading time and earn a free ticket to Six Flags. Information will be sent home in January.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Pattie Pearson Librarian Jane McAllister Library Assistant

Mark Your Calendars!



We'll be doing the Boosterthon again this year as our fundraiser.

November 3 — Pep Rally
November 12 — Fun Run

Congratulations

to

Dennis Luna and Jamilah Reid

who have been selected to serve as

Parent Representatives

on the

**2009-2010 Shawnee Trail
Campus Improvement Team!**

Picture Day

Tuesday, November 13th!!!



We've Got Spirit, Yes We Do!

Spirit Gear is still available for order!

If you have not purchased your Shawnee Trail **t-shirt** or **baseball cap** yet, email nicole@eades.ws for ordering information, or pick up an order form in the office. T-shirts are available in both youth and adult sizes.

Both shirts and baseball caps are \$10 each.



Green News



Did you know?

Shawnee Trail recycles the following items at our campus: Batteries, Plastic Bags, Cell Phones, Ink Cartridges, Paper, Plastic bottles & Aluminum. The recycle containers can be found in the main hallway and cafeteria. Paper recycle bins are in all of our teacher classrooms, workrooms, offices, gym and library.

Be on the lookout for Adopt-A-Street cleanup dates coming soon! Please mark your calendars for **iWalk or iBike to school on Oct 7th**. Have your child, if possible, walk or bike to school on this day. Keep recycling!

Karen McClure
PTA Environmental Chair

New Law!!



TEXAS HOUSE BILL 55 makes the use of a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle within a school crossing zone a class C misdemeanor. Therefore, hand-held cell phone use while driving in all Frisco ISD school zones is now prohibited.

Check out our PTA website!
www.shawneetrailpta.org



MUSIC NEWS!!



Fall is upon us, and we are always excited to start a new year in music. With many students participating in Shawnee Trail Choir, others are preparing for the Veteran's Day program. The rest of our students are simply enjoying music and all that it offers. It has become a tradition for the 3rd Graders and the Shawnee Trail Choir to present a Veteran's Day Program in November. Our program this year is on Thursday, November 12th at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to experience this event!

We would like to honor any Veterans in our Shawnee Trail family and community. Forms will be sent home for people to fill out who have served in the military (Family members-alive and deceased, neighbors, or community friends). Those forms need to be sent back to school and a "brick" will be made and added to our "WALL OF HONOR" that is in the hall. Our program honors ALL Veterans and not just those in the families of the students giving the program that night, so everyone is invited to attend. Please contact Mrs. Rodgers, the music teacher for more information.



Nurse Notes



Here are some tips for staying healthy this year.

WASH YOUR HANDS!!

Most cold and flu viruses are spread by direct contact. Someone who has the flu and sneezes into their hand . . . passes that germ to the telephone, doorknob, pencil, computer, etc. . . . only to be picked up by the next person. So wash your hands often and for as long as it takes to sing HAPPY BIRTHDAY twice!

DON'T COVER SNEEZES AND COUGHS WITH YOUR HANDS

Because germs and viruses cling to your bare hands, you can pass the germs to others! At Shawnee Trail we have learned that coughing or sneezing into our "elbow" is the best way to keep the germs off our hands.

DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE (the "T")

Cold and flu viruses enter your body through the eyes, nose, and mouth. Ask your child about the "Don't touch the T".

DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS

Water helps you to stay healthy. You can tell if you're getting enough water if your urine is pale yellow or clear.

EXERCISE REGULARLY

Exercise helps increase the body's natural virus-killing cells.

EAT FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Increase your intake of green, red, and yellow fruits and vegetables.

Lori Larson RN
Shawnee Trail Elementary
School Nurse
469-633-2508



Thank you to Denise Avery, Kelly Straub, Shannon Thornton, Daphne Vasquez, Sherrie Shively, Holli Sherman, Annette Severance, Arlene Pinkerton, Page Sheffield, Karen McClure, Kay McBride, and Nicole Eades for all your contributions to the August 21st Faculty Luncheon.

The Faculty Pancake Breakfast on September 9th was made great thanks to the generous donations of Alisa Jarrett, Emily Williams, Gena Ross, Sherrie Shively, Kelly Raaum, Cynthia Johnson, Dawn Richardson, Katie Walker, Amy Stephens, and Alethea Crossman.

If you are interested in helping with future Faculty Luncheons, Breakfasts, and other events throughout the year, please contact Tracie Thomas at thomas.tracie@gmail.com.

Thank You,
Tracie Thomas
Hospitality Chairperson

'09-'10 YEARBOOK!

Parents-Now is the time to pre-order your 2009-2010 yearbook! The pre-sale price will be \$15.00 this year if you are paying with cash or check. After October 1st, the price will increase to \$17.00 if you use cash or check. Online sales will continue till January 31st at \$15.00.

IT'S EASY AND CONVENIENT! GO ONLINE NOW to www.jostensyearbooks.com to order your yearbook

Hand in Hand

Together



We Can!

Check Frisco ISD's Website for After-School Programs and other Community Opportunities!

Please remember to periodically check our community opportunity area of friscoisd.org for the latest information provided by our non-profit partners. You may find information on all your favorite after-school programs such as BGS Chess, Spanish Schoolhouse, KidzScience, and Young Rembrandts. You can also find information for Alpha-Best and YMCA, the on-site after-school care providers for our campus, plus lots more really great stuff!

Please be sure to visit the Shawnee Trail website to notice two new features that have been placed on the website.

A green "Electronic Take Home Folder" has been placed on the site allowing you to access after school programs, area sports and activities, and events and opportunities for your child.

Another new feature is the **Electronic Thursday Folder** which will contain information that has come home, or will come home, in Thursday folders such as messages from the nurse, PTA news, Watch DOGS information, Yearbook forms, and much more. This folder will not contain everything that comes home in Thursday folders so please remember to check your child's actual folder as well. You can access this folder by visiting the Shawnee Trail website and clicking on the cowboy boot titled Shawnee Trail Electronic Thursday Folder located on the left hand side of the page.

You can access the Shawnee Trail website at <http://www.friscoisd.org/schools/elementary/shawnee/> or by visiting the Frisco ISD website, clicking on Schools, and then selecting Shawnee Trail from the elementary schools list.

