

Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter
November/December 2009



NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Williams Elementary School Community,

Wow, we have already successfully completed our first nine weeks! The school year has been so smooth thanks to our staff, students and parents. I appreciate all of the parents who attended our PARENT NIGHT on September 29th, as well as all the families who attended the FALL COOKOUT. Both were huge successes! Also, thank you for meeting with your child's teachers for PARENT CONFERENCES. It is so important for a positive partnership to develop between school and home. If you have not scheduled a conference, please call your child's teacher as soon as possible. Additionally, please continue to call or email us anytime you have a question or concern. Communication and working together as a TEAM is so vital for our children's success.

We celebrated our first nine weeks accomplishments at our AWARDS ASSEMBLIES held on Friday, October 23rd. We recognized students on the HONOR ROLL, those who receive PRIDE awards as well as students with no tardies and perfect attendance. We

ensure that we schedule each grade level assembly around the lunch schedule at least one time this year so parents can attend both the assembly and stay for lunch.

We strive to continually motivate and recognize our students' academic progress and positive behaviors. We regularly hand out PRIDE tickets to students. Students may keep the tickets for rewards in the classroom or can deposit the tickets in a grade level container. We draw five students from each grade level on Fridays to come to the office to be recognized and pick a treat. We also recognize ON TIME – NO TARDY students as well as PERFECT ATTENDANCE students at each Awards Assembly.

Academically, our students are working diligently. They routinely take reading, math, science and writing assessments. This is done not only to check their progress but also to provide insight to our staff on type of instruction each child needs to progress at their grade level. All of the reading and problem solving strategies that we teach are important strategies that will help all students throughout college and life! Please call your child's teacher or the office anytime you have a question about these assessments.

Our website: www.georgetownisd.org (click on SCHOOLS and choose WILLIAMS) as well as individual teachers' websites are up and going. Reminder also that our PARENT CONNECT program is up and going. This is an on-line system in which parents can check their child's grades, attendance and tardies. Also, just a reminder that each teacher has a HOMEWORK HELPLINE. Just call

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943-5000 or 5001 and put in the teacher's extension to hear updated homework and class information. We hope through our school website, individual teacher websites, the homework helpline, PARENT CONNECT, the THURSDAY EAGLE folders, the parent newsletters and teacher newsletters, our email system, and notes, we keep you informed of the many activities and academic expectations. Again, please call us anytime.

And lastly, great appreciation and recognition goes to two of our Administrative staff: our AWESOME Social Issues Coordinator (counselor), Terri Boccella and our FANTASTIC Assistant Principal, Kimberly Sepulvado. Mrs. Boccella is our leader in assisting students in all areas of need (general assistance as well as evaluations for learning, social and/or emotional difficulties, Gifted and Talented, family conflict resolution and any and all counseling areas). Also, she is the first to welcome and place new students. She, as well as all of our staff, cares about and loves each child at Williams and works diligently to help all children and families. Mrs. Sepulvado assists in all areas with staff, students and parents here at Williams and is quickly picking up the Williams Ways! WE ARE SO VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE BOTH OF THESE LADIES AT WILLIAMS. Please thank them the next time you are on campus! Again, thanks for sharing your child with us each day!

With PRIDE,
Natasha Drumgoole
Principal



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From the Counselor:

Gifted and Talented
The nomination window for
2009-2010 is November 2nd-17th

Parents and teachers can refer students in grades K-5 for screening for the Gifted and Talented services from November 2-17. GT Services are designed for students who demonstrate academic and intellectual abilities and thinking processes that are remarkably advanced for their ages. Please consult with your child's teacher when making a referral. If your child is already identified GT in one area this is the time to nominate for testing in other areas. Please contact Terri Boccella at 943-5162 for a referral packet if you are interested in referring your student for the Gifted and Talented Program. Each year various community organizations provide opportunities for students and families to receive assistance through the provision of goods and/or services for qualifying families.

These organizations may include but are not limited to the following:

- The Caring Place
- Blue and Brown Santa
- Church Holiday assistance and others

If you would like your child and/or family to be considered for any of these opportunities, please call for our "Information Release for Assistance" form. This is a light

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pink form that was sent home earlier this year. We must have this form on file for you to be considered for this assistance. These opportunities are usually available to those students receiving free and sometimes reduced lunches. Again, please call 943-5162 if you would like an application.

Parenting Tip:

There is an excellent book called "Parenting with Love and Logic" for times when you may find yourself at a loss in regards to raising children. The book is an excellent resource that can make a huge difference for you and your child. Copies of the book are available for check-out in the Williams library.

Terri Boccella
Social Issues Coordinator
Williams Elementary
512-943- 5162
boccellat@georgetownisd.org

Dads, or other significant male role models, are needed to help out at school as Watchdogs. Dads come for one day, help with security, play, listen to kids read, and act as a role model at recess and PE. A background check must be completed before reporting for duty. Please contact Mr. Garcia for more information.

Nurse's Nook

Williams Elementary is hosting "Smile Programs", the mobile dentist on February 12th. We have invited the Smile Programs to bring their on-site preventative dental care services to our school because we know how important good oral health is to our children's overall general health. The Smile Program's team will set up a mini-dental office in our building and can provide preventative services for all children who return completed forms.

Learn more about Smile Programs, the mobile dentist, by going to its website: www.mobiledentists.com and watching the short video about the preventative dental care program.

Please call Williams Elementary School nurse, Christine Johns, at 943-5161 or email johnsch@georgetownisd.org with any questions.



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**IMPORTANT
DATES**

NOVEMBER

Nov 3rd-PTA Meeting-6:30
Nov 5th- School picture retakes
CiCi's pizza night
Nov 9th-13th:- BOOK FAIR-volunteers
needed!
Nov 10th-Bridges to Growth Parent
training-6:00-8:00 pm
Nov 11th-Veteran's Day program 8:30
Nov 18th-Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov 24th-Multicultural Day
Nov 25th-27th-NO SCHOOL
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

DECEMBER

Dec 3rd- CICI's Pizza Night
Dec 8th-PTA Meeting-6:30
Dec 10th-3rd grade Choir Concert-6:30
Dec 17th-Ford/Williams Holiday
Concert
Dec 18th-Winter Break Parties
(3rd-12:30, 4th & 5th-2:00)
Dec 21st-Jan 5th: WINTER BREAK
HOLIDAYS

JANUARY

Jan 5th--Students RETURN
STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY, January 5th, 2010

Please do not take your child out
early or return late!

**LABEL jackets, coats and lunchboxes!
LOST AND FOUND is in the cafeteria.**

TARDY POLICY: If your child is tardy, arriving after 8:00 a.m., please PARK and come to the office with him/her to sign in and receive a pass to class. Excessive tardies will result in disciplinary consequences. Please work hard to get your child to school on time – THANKS!!!



TAKS TESTING SCHEDULE:
3rd GRADE: Reading (4/28/10)
Math (4/27/10)
4th GRADE: Writing (3/3/10), Math
(4/27/10), Reading (4/28/10)
5th GRADE: Reading (4/7/10),
Math (4/6/10), Science (4/29/10)

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**MOTIVATING YOUR CHILD TO
SUCCEED IN SCHOOL:**

- Show interest in your child's learning. Ask about what is happening in school. Ask to see their TAKE HOME FOLDER each Thursday!
- Work with your child on setting daily goals that are attainable. Write the goals in a prominent place.
- Help your child envision and formulate long-range goals.
- Instill in your child the idea that achievements are usually the result of persistence and hard work, not luck or ability.
- Show caring and love if your child makes a mistake or fails and help him or her see mistakes as opportunities to learn and grow.
- Use words and actions to demonstrate faith in your child's ability to learn and achieve.
- Look for successes in your child's efforts and acknowledge them.
- Recognize, praise, and celebrate your child's successful completion of a goal.
- Model for your child language that conveys positive expectations, such as *I can, I will, I want to, I understand, my goal is,* and so on.
- Frequently stress to your child the importance of learning and education.

ABSENCES: Thanks for calling the office and sending a note when your child is absent. This helps us **TREMENDOUSLY!** Also, remember, if you take your child to the dentist or doctor and bring us the doctor's note, we can count your child excused!



PICKING UP: Thanks for using the car lane or coming to the office when picking up your child. ***Deadline for calling in to change the way a student goes home is 2:30pm. Our afternoon procedures have been very smooth thanks to parent cooperation in following our afternoon procedures.***