

# Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter

## October 2009



**Dear Williams Elementary School Community:**

**Thanks for a wonderful and successful beginning! Our students are prepared and engaged in learning thanks to your focus on school and learning as well as your support of our teaching staff. If for some reason you have not met your child's teacher, please call the school office for a meeting!**

**Williams Elementary has been honored by the Texas Business and Education Coalition!**

**The TBEC Honor Roll for 2009 recognized 254 of the state's most outstanding public schools and Williams Elementary was among those recognized! The TBEC Honor Roll is the most prestigious academic award a Texas public school can achieve.**

**Williams Elementary School, as well as all of the other Honor Roll recipients, will be honored at an awards reception and dinner in San Antonio. on Monday, November 9, 2009.**

**Way to go Williams Elementary!**

Just a reminder that we send ALL information home in a folder on THURSDAYS! Parents please check and sign this folder each week!

In your child's THURSDAY folder we regularly send out newsletters, progress reports and report cards, a variety of other information, as well as handouts on 40 DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS. A few weeks ago we sent out a brown booklet, YOUR FAMILY, USING SIMPLE WISDOM IN RAISING YOUR CHILDREN. This literature highlights the building blocks that children need to increase the likelihood of them growing up healthy, caring and responsible. Children who have more "assets" are more likely to avoid "high risk" behaviors as they go through middle and high school, and are more likely to succeed in school and LIFE! I hope that this information assists parents in providing these assets. *We are very committed at Williams in providing the "school" assets.* It truly takes the school, parents, the neighborhood and the community to raise healthy children. We firmly believe in the ASSETS!

**As you have already seen, our students have very high academic standards to meet each school year. Fifth graders are required to pass the READING TAKS and the MATH TAKS to be promoted to middle school. It is also important that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders pass their TAKS tests and equally important that our 5<sup>th</sup> graders pass the SCIENCE TAKS test.**

**In addition to passing the TAKS, all students must meet the academic passing grade requirements each year (70% or higher). Our goal is for 100%**

**Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter**  
**October 2009**

**of our students in all grade levels to pass the TAKS tests and pass their academic classes.**

At Williams Elementary School, we provide the best instruction along with practice assessments to ensure all students are prepared to meet the rigorous passing requirements.

**The TAKS tests are in the spring beginning the first week of March.**

These tests truly assess the curriculum so it is very important that each child master their grade level material to be successful the next year. Our school plan is to integrate as much test preparation into the daily schedule so students are prepared and confident when test days arrive!

**If your child is struggling there are many ways to receive extra assistance.**

We have early morning tutoring, pull out groups with our Title 1 teachers during the school day, Learning Center availability each morning at 7:25 as well as community tutoring programs (Helping Hands and Getsemani tutoring at neighborhood churches).

PLEASE call your teacher, Mrs. Drumgoole, Mrs Sepulvado or Mrs. Boccella if your child needs additional help. **We want every child to be successful!**

Additionally, in our desire to serve all students, we offer a variety of “extra” activities in which students may participate including Garden Club, Gifted and Talented program, Choir, UIL, Science Fair and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade EXTRA specials classes on Thursdays and Fridays. **Our goal is to best serve each and every child at our campus.**

Thanks for sharing your child with us daily! We thoroughly enjoy interacting with and teaching our students. We have the best students in the world and the best campus in the world. Thanks for your daily support of your child and us throughout the school year!

With PRIDE,

Natasha Drumgoole

Principal of the BEST School in the WORLD!

**PLEASE VIEW THE GISD WEBSITE FOR TONS OF INFORMATION AS WELL AS OUR WILLIAMS SITE: [www.georgetownisd.org](http://www.georgetownisd.org)**

While on the GISD website, please sign up for regular school news by email by clicking on the LIST SUBSCRIPTION for Williams Elementary School

**Also, you can sign up for PARENT CONNECT through the Williams Elementary website so you can view your child’s grades in each subject. Please click on the PARENT CONNECT on our website and follow the directions. Also, each teacher keeps their website up and going with valuable information AND each teacher keeps their HOMEWORK HELPLINE active and current. Call 943-5000 and your teacher’s extension to hear this information. We work diligently to ensure that positive and current information is relayed successfully to parents!**

**Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter**  
**October 2009**

**Nurse's Nook**

**Vision Screening**

I have almost completed vision and hearing screening. All children have a vision screening annually. If the child fails twice, a form letter is sent home via the child, informing the parent of the results. If your child should bring home such a letter, please follow up with an eye doctor and return the form to the school nurse.

If you do not have vision insurance or need financial assistance with glasses and an eye exam, please let me know so I can provide you with resources available. **Every child that needs glasses should have them; help your child be successful!**

**Hearing Screening**

All children will have a hearing screening done at school. If your child fails the screening, a form letter is sent home via the child, informing the parent of the results. If your child should bring home such a letter, please have him/her examined by your own doctor or an audiologist. The completed form should be returned to the school nurse, so the results can be recorded in the child's health record. If I can be of any assistance to you, or you have questions please email me at [johnsch@georgetownisd.org](mailto:johnsch@georgetownisd.org) or call at 943-5161.

**From Mrs. Boccella, Social Issues**  
**Coordinator 943-5162:**  
**COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

**Welcome! Please feel free to stop in or call anytime if you have any questions or need assistance with the following programs:**

- **Mentor Program/PALS**
- **New Student Registration**
- **Helping Hands Tutoring**
- **Resource Information**
- **504 Program**
- **Gifted & Talented Program**
- **Operation School Bell/Blue Santa**

**LOST AND FOUND is in the cafeteria.**  
**Please LABEL all items!**

**TARDY: Please bring your child into the office if they arrive after 8:00. All students are expected to arrive by 7:50 so they have time to get to class before the tardy bell at 8:00. Remember that breakfast is ONLY served in the cafeteria from 7:15 to 7:50. If you are dropping your child off for breakfast, please arrive by 7:30 so they have time to finish breakfast before class. #**

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ABSENCES: Please CALL us the morning of an absence AND send a note the next day! THANKS SO VERY MUCH! Students must make up work after an absence. Please ensure that this occurs.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD: PLEASE follow a REGULAR schedule so calls to the office can be kept to a minimum. It is very difficult to change "going home" plans on a daily basis.

**Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter  
October 2009**

**IF YOU MUST CHANGE PLANS FOR YOUR CHILD, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE PRIOR TO 2:30 and send a written note with your child on that specific day! We must ensure that we KNOW your intentions for your child each day! Please only pick your child up from the office or the car lane at the end of the day. We cannot dismiss students to parents in the hallways, at the doors or between buildings for SAFETY reasons as many times your child exits with a duty teacher who may not be your child's regular teacher. We are unable to check identification in these areas. Please abide by these procedures!**

**\*\*We appreciate you NOT picking up your child between 2:30 and 3:00, as this is a difficult time to pull children from classes.**

**\*\*Also, we ask parents to NOT PARK across the street and walk over to pick their child up as this increases the traffic congestion and the safety procedures.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SAFETY: Please drive slowly in the neighborhood as many children walk and cross streets. Also please follow our traffic procedures. THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO OUR SAFETY PROCEDURES!**

**NOTICE: GISD has a very strong email/internet FILTERING system. If you email your child's teacher or principal and do not get a response, please call. Some parent emails have been filtered and "quarantined". If this occurs, we do not receive the correspondence. We appreciate you using your child's name as the SUBJECT when emailing to GRAB our attention.**



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**GRADING POLICY:**  
Please note that at the 3rd – 5th grade levels, grades are composed of 60% Assessments/Tests and 40% Homework/Assignments. Any grade below a 70% is failing. Students must obtain at least a 70% in their Math, Language Arts, Reading, Social Studies and Science classes to be promoted to the next grade AS WELL AS PASS THE TAKS TESTS. IN ADDITION TO THE GISD GRADING POLICY, we enforce the GISD policy concerning FAMILY VACATIONS counting as unexcused absences. It is important that families

# Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter

## October 2009

know that absences which are due to family vacations, family trips, hunting trips, trips to Mexico, etc... are recorded as unexcused absences. The grade for homework/class work that is missed during an unexcused absence will be no higher than a 70 for each assignment that is missed.

Although the school staff and I appreciate the importance of family time, we strongly encourage you to book family activities and vacations during the summer months and school holidays. Please as always feel free to call if you have questions or concerns. We do understand that RARE opportunities do arise that parents decide it is in the best interest for their child to take a trip during the school year and attend the trip. We respect the parent's decision but also ACCEPT the grading GISD system of maximum of 70% for work! There are ALWAYS consequences and rewards for decisions and this is one of those great examples!

**PARENTS AND VISITORS:** Everyone must go to the MAIN OFFICE to sign in prior to meeting with teachers, eating lunch in the cafeteria, meeting their child at recess or any other visiting reason. PLEASE be prepared to identify yourself to the office staff with your driver's license and go through the computerized RAPTOR visitor system.

We have many parents who have last names that are different from their child's last name and we have many different family situations in which children live with parents, stepparents, grandparents or other family members. ALL of this becomes very confusing and complicating. Ensuring you have proper identification helps this process greatly. DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO A SCHOOL LOCATION WITHOUT CHECKING INTO THE

OFFICE EVEN IF YOUR PURPOSE IS TO JUST BE ON CAMPUS FOR A SHORT TIME!

NOTE: Both parents, even if they are divorced, have legal equal access to their child's educational records, conferences with school staff and access to the child UNLESS a court order details something different. We recognize both parents' rights unless legal papers are provided to the school. Also, legally STEP PARENTS have no educational right to a child's information unless that right is granted in writing by a parent.

### CALENDAR

SEPT 29<sup>th</sup>: TUESDAY NIGHT-Parent night 6:30 in the auditorium then 7:00 in the classrooms. This is an important meeting about ACADEMIC standards and expectations and services available at Williams Elementary School \*\*HEB gift card drawings will occur on Wednesday for parents who attend both the principal and teacher's presentations! You must be on both sign in sheets to qualify.

### OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup>-CICI's pizza night-10% of all receipts placed in the SPECIAL BOX will be donated to Williams PTA  
2nd-FALL COOKOUT during all lunches:  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade at 10:55, 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 & 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:35  
9th-NO SCHOOL-PARENT CONFERENCE DAY  
12th -NO SCHOOL-COLUMBUS DAY  
15th-4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders to GHS PAC for the FOGGS Concert  
16<sup>th</sup>-END OF THE FIRST NINE WEEKS!  
22<sup>ND</sup>-Report Cards go home  
23<sup>rd</sup>-AWARDS ASSEMBLIES  
(9:00-3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 10:00-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
11:00-4<sup>th</sup> grade)  
26<sup>TH</sup>-30TH-RED RIBBON WEEK  
30<sup>th</sup>-Costume Parade 8:15-8:40

**Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter**  
**October 2009**

NOVEMBER

5th-Picture Retakes

CiCi's pizza night

9th-13th- BOOK FAIR

11th-Veteran's Day Program -8:30

18th-Thanksgiving Dinner in the cafeteria

24th-Multicultural Day

25th-27th-NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

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

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DECEMBER

3rd-CICI'S pizza night

10th-3rd grade Choir performance-6:30

17th- Ford/Williams Holiday concert

18th-Winter Break Parties

(3rd at 12:30 and 4th & 5th at 2:00)

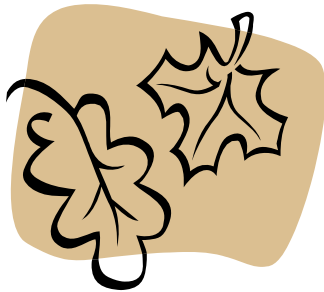
WINTER BREAK:

NO SCHOOL Dec 21st-Jan 4th

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2010!

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