



Williams Elementary Parent Newsletter September 2009

Dear Parents,

Thanks for sharing your child with us! We have had a very smooth, successful beginning! We have very high goals for each and every child, and we know you will be an important part of this journey to success. We are very PROUD to announce our 2008-2009 RECOGNIZED rating from the state which exemplifies our good works from last year! I feel very privileged to be the principal of Williams Elementary. I am so proud to work with such a professional staff of educators. You will find that we have caring, knowledgeable teachers and staff who are committed to children and learning. Please call us anytime with information, concerns or questions.
WELCOME to the 2009-2010 school year!

With PRIDE,

Natasha Drumgoole
Principal

JOIN US MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29th
AT 6:30 for our PARENT NIGHT in the Auditorium. Parents will proceed to the classrooms at 7:00. Please plan on attending as the principals and teachers will share valuable information about each grade level curriculum, instruction, and assessments as well as this school year's events

Car drop off and pick up ONLY in the car lane coming from the NORTH on COLLEGE Street. Please do NOT drop off at any other location, as it is not safe. Keep in mind; if you are coming from east University, you can utilize Pine and Maple Streets instead of WALNUT Street to access College Street.

Please drive carefully and slowly in the neighborhoods, as there are many walkers and narrow streets.

PLEASE DO NOT USE 9th or 10th streets from Walnut to get to College as these are very narrow streets.

ALSO, please do not park across the street and walk across and pick your child up. **IF YOU ARE PICKING YOUR CHILD UP AT 3:00, we need you to do so in the car lane or through the office as different teachers bring students out of the building.**

No picking up students BETWEEN the buildings as we are not able to check identification at these locations.

* All parents and visitors must report to the office to sign in through our RAPTOR computer system with your driver's license and receive their visitor's badge. This is a SAFETY ISSUE. We must know who is on our campus at all times.

* The U.S. and Texas Pledges are recited each day as well as observing a moment of silence due to the Texas regulation that was passed last summer. All students must participate unless a parent requests nonparticipation through a written note to the principal.

* RESTRICTED FOODS: Staff, parents, and students may not serve or provide to elementary students any food or drinks that are considered by the TX Department of Agriculture as FMNV (Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value) during the school day. This includes carbonated drinks, all gum and all candy. Some foods are acceptable as noted on the blue handout that went home the first day of school.



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Counselor's Corner

Welcome back. It has been a long hot summer and we are all ready to be back at school.

You will be receiving quite a bit of paperwork at the beginning of school. There are some programs that you might be interested in for your child so I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of them.

One such program is the Mentor program and a purple mentor permission form will be coming home in the take-home folder. If your child would like to have a mentor this year, please complete this form and return to the counselor. Please be aware that every year I have many more requests for mentors than I have mentors and will try to match your child in a timely manner. If your child is matched with a mentor, the mentor would come one day a week usually at lunch time and eat lunch and read or play games with your child. All mentors must complete a background check and be cleared before serving as a mentor. Fifth graders are eligible to be matched with high school PALS.

I will also be sending a pink "Information Release for Assistance" form. If you would like to be considered for assistance from the following agencies, please complete this form. The Assistance League of Georgetown's Operation School Bell, The Caring Place, Blue and Brown Santa, Church holiday assistance and others. If you need information regarding other resources, please do not hesitate to call me at 943-5162. "Bridges to Growth" that was housed at our campus last year is located in the \

building east of us and across the street. They are a wonderful resource for parents. They have a lending library, offer parenting classes and children's activities. Their phone number is 864-3008.

Terri Boccella
Counselor

Please do not send birthday treats or snacks to school that will be shared with other students prior to checking with your child's teacher or the office as we are required to follow these regulations.

* MORNING TUTORING coming soon.

Please check your child's THURSDAY TAKE HOME FOLDER each week for important information.

*ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER CHANGES: It is so very important that we have current address and phone numbers for each child in case of an emergency. PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE RETURNED YOUR CHILD'S CORRECTED

REGISTRATION FORM THAT WE SENT HOME ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. Always let us know of changes so we have up-to-date information.

*MOVING DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR – One of the most difficult things for a child is to change schools during the school year. We find that this hinders the learning process. Please try to keep your child in the same school all year long! If you must move, please share this information with us immediately.



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Nurse's Nook

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you all had a great summer. Please note the precautions listed below to help protect against the flu:

- Get a seasonal **flu vaccine** for yourself and your child to protect against seasonal flu viruses.
- Take everyday steps to prevent the spread of all flu viruses. This includes:
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Teach your child to take these actions too.
 - Try to keep your child from having close contact (about 6 feet) with sick people, including anyone in the household who is sick.
 - Keep surfaces like bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, kitchen counters and toys for children clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label.
 - Throw away tissues and other disposable items used by sick persons in your household in the trash.

A vaccine against novel H1N1 flu is being produced and will be available in the coming

months as an option for the prevention of the new H1N1 flu. A vaccine against seasonal flu is available each fall and winter. More information about the new H1N1 flu vaccine and the seasonal flu vaccine is available on the CDC Web site.

Keep your child home from school, for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone. (Their fever should be gone without them having taken a fever-reducing medicine.) A fever is defined as 100°F or 37.8°C. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov or www.flu.gov or www.texasflu.org or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe school year,

Nurse Johns

**Please note that our first CIP (Campus Improvement Plan) meeting is September 9th at 3:15-4:30. We invite all parents to join us in these meetings as each committee plans and carries out the actions needed to continually improve our student's success.*

****Please use the GISD website: www.georgetownisd.org as there is a wealth of information as well as access to the Williams website under "schools".**

****Join PTA-membership forms will go home soon. We will hold GENERAL PTA meetings periodically throughout the school year.*

******All teacher's HOMEWORK HELPLINES are up and going. Call 943-5001 then punch in the teacher's phone extension to hear the message.**



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Attention all Williams 4th and 5th graders and their parents:

If you are interested in some after-school fun, remember that the Williams Choir and Garden Club (The Dirt Diggers) will be meeting every Thursday from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Parents, if your son or daughter is interested in joining either group this school year, have them sign-up with either Mrs. Walker (Garden Club) or Mr. Votolato (choir) as soon as possible to receive more information. We would love for as many students as possible to take advantage of these fantastic programs here at Williams!

Families can receive regular emails from Williams Elementary School by signing up on the WILLIAMS PARENTS email address book. To do so go to the GISD homepage and sign up www.georgetownisd.org for the Williams list.

*****Parents may check their child's lunch account through our web site. You will need your child's six digit ID number to create the account-more information on the GISD website. Please return the FREE/REDUCED application if this applies to you. Remember that ALL students must pay \$1.50 for SECOND LUNCHES. Ice cream is offered daily beginning September 8th for 50 cents. Students may only purchase ice cream if they have the exact change. No charges for ice cream or second lunches are allowed. Students are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school as well as a mid morning, healthy snack.

If you still have questions about bus routes, please call transportation at 943-5126.

IMPORTANT DATES:

SEPTEMBER

- 3-CiCi's pizza night
- 7 – NO SCHOOL-Labor Day Holiday
- 8-PTA Meeting-6:15/Boy Scout recruitment Meeting-7:00
- 8- 1st day of ice cream at lunch
- 9-CIP Committee Meetings
3:30-4:30– parents welcome!
- 9-Choir Meeting-6:00 pm
- 17-Progress reports go home
- 22-WATCHDOG training
6:30 PM-7:30 PM
- 22 – Fall pictures
- 24-Choir and Garden Club begin
- 29-Academic Parents Open House-all grades

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

OCTOBER

- 1– Cici's pizza night
- 2-Fall Cookout
- 6-PTA Meeting-6:15
- 9-Parent-Teacher conferences
- 14-CIP Meeting-3:30-4:30
- 16-End of 1st Nine Weeks
- 26-30-RED RIBBON WEEK

Important Phone Numbers:

Main: 943-5160

Principal 943-5165

Assistant Principal 943-5167

Counselor 943-5162

Librarian 943-5163

Cafeteria 943-5164

ESE 943-5166

