

COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
ETHRIDGE ELEMENTARY
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Dear Parents,

January 17, 2008

We are more than halfway through January and finally at the end of the first semester! (This is the first time in many years that we have completed a semester after the winter holidays, so the time has seemed very strung out for us.) We end the 3rd six weeks today; **report cards will be sent home next Friday, the 25th.**

As we move through this second semester, you will begin to see signs of preparation for major summer projects for our building. The HVAC and electrical will both be completely replaced at Ethridge. Those tasks, in themselves, are massive, but the relocation/storage of **everything** from inside the building is looking pretty daunting to us as we begin packing and moving items out so work can begin the day after school is out. LISD will provide numerous "pods" that will sit on the parking lot over the summer to protect furniture, materials – everything that isn't weather sensitive - while work is in process. (Because the ceilings will be completely removed for these projects, we cannot leave anything in the building that isn't nailed or glued down permanently). Hopefully, we will begin school next year with the cleanest, most updated building ever!

LISD is in the process of change-over from a Region Service Center data base system to a system written for our district specifically. A lot of trial-and-error, along with massive employee training, is underway. As with anything technological, time and practice will be our "friends" as well as our "enemies". The new data bases will include both finance and employee/student data. (Thankfully, **we have the BEST, smartest, and most dedicated office staff anywhere!**) Please have patience with us as we try to keep everything up and running while we attend trainings and make these changes. Be sure to give Tammie and Tawni hugs and pats on the back when you see them!

We just received news today from TEA that the March TAKS testing date has been changed from the 4th to the 5th because some schools (not Ethridge) will be used as polling sites on the 4th. (You have to stay tuned – plans can change in a heartbeat! Ha) These changes will be reflected on our March calendars.

THANK YOU for using those Kroger Cards and for sending in Tyson labels and Boxtops! Participating in these types of fundraising is one of the easiest ways to make contributions to our school because most of you shop for groceries regularly anyway, and the donations resulting from these programs costs you nothing extra. (If you need a Kroger card, please contact the office.)

LOOKING AHEAD: Valentine parties are traditionally highly anticipated and one of the most fun for our children. At the opposite end of that euphoria, however, can be real emotional devastation for any child feeling "left out" or "forgotten" if they don't receive cards. Thank you, in advance, for helping your child remember classmates in a considerate and inclusive manner. Our Valentine parties will be on Thursday, February 14th, from 2:15-3:00. (HUGE THANKS to our special moms who help organize and plan our parties!) ♥

Last week was a very busy one. In addition to the testing, technology and academic meetings I attended, it is that time of year where staffing is addressed as well. I am happy to report that no changes in staff numbers or student numbers are predicted for the 2008-2009 school year at Ethridge. The only change you may want to know of is my own: after eleven years at Ethridge, I have decided to retire at the end of this year. While I know that I will miss everyone more than I can even imagine, I am excited that both my husband and I will be retiring together, and I know that Ethridge will be in good hands. My dad is needing a closer eye these days, and Joe and I will become grandparents (first time!) in June. (I'm thinking our baby might need me!)ha A large part of my heart will always be here at Ethridge, and I can never tell you how much your caring and support have meant through all these years.

1:30 dismissal today and holidays for students on both tomorrow and Monday! Have a safe and happy *long* weekend! Send signed Eagle folders/planners back on Tuesday, please! ☺

Sincerely,

Linda Humphrey