



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE
ETHRIDGE ELEMENTARY
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Dear Parents,

March 28, 2008

We are half-way through the 5th six weeks, and the end of school for 2007-2008 is flying toward us! As you look over and discuss with your child the work in today's folder, encourage him/her to set a personal goal of making every day from now until the end of the school year the very best yet. As adults, we know how important attitude and goal setting are to progress and success. Being a good parent, you are the best model and teacher for your child as s(he) grows and learns from your love, example, and daily conversations.

The annual "**Countdown to Kinder**" seminar, sponsored by The Colony Early Childhood PTA, will be held here in the **Ethridge Elementary cafeteria on April 22 at 7:00**. The seminar is an effort to provide information regarding readiness, the developmental characteristics of 4, 5, and 6-year-olds, and tips on evaluating and preparing your child for his/her first encounter with the classroom. Kinder teachers will be available to help answer specific questions.

Please be reminded that **April is "Ethridge Elementary Month" at the Library**. Our challenge is to be the school with the most card-carrying (and using) students! Getting those cards now will set you in good stead to continue those good reading habits during the summer months ahead. I hope each of you will visit the library not only this month, but in all months to come.

You are invited to attend **The 10th Annual LISD Elementary Art Show** which runs from March 28th – April 13th at the Lewisville Visual Art League Gallery, I-35 and Fox Avenue in the Lewisville West Shopping Center (look for the blue "Art Gallery" sign). The Opening Reception is Friday March 28th from 7-9pm (It is always very crowded!). The Gallery will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4pm. Special thanks to **Mrs. Douglass** for taking our students' artwork beyond our school and into the community! Visit the gallery and be impressed with the level of art talent in our schools: you will be amazed and glad you did!

April birthday celebrations will be on Wednesday, April 9 this month. Thank you, **PTA**, for providing this special time for our children!

April is one of the most busy months for us – many days are taken with testing preparations (staff) and the testing itself (students). **5th graders** will take their Math TAKS right away - on Tuesday, April 8. (Other tests will be coming up the 29th-30th!). If you parent a 5th grader, give him/her all the encouragement and attention you can during the next few days. Most importantly, make sure s(he) arrives at school on test day rested and nourished. Your positive support and encouragement are your child's best "test preparation". Do everything you can to help alleviate any stress your child (and/or yourself!) may feel: this is the first of THREE opportunities for 5th graders to pass their grade level math test. Those who pass this first time will not take the math test again this year. We anticipate super results – even on this early test!

Speaking of testing, **CONGRATULATIONS to students, staff and parents on TAKS results just received:**

(3rd and 5th grade parents: You should have receive your child's results by this afternoon.)

96% of the Third Graders passed Reading, and 50% of those received Commended scores.

96% of the Fifth Graders passed Reading, and 28% of those received Commended scores.

Brief reminder regarding homework: The most important responsibility of a parent in helping a child with homework is just to make sure your child understands the assignment and then to provide an appropriate place/atmosphere where the child can work. Remember that homework is for the *child* to do *unless the parent is asked by the teacher* to help in some specific way. **"The best way to destroy self-esteem and a sense of worth in young people is to do too much for them. This robs them of a sense of personal capability."** (Dr. Stephen Glenn: **Raising Self-Reliant Children**).

Please remember that students are not to be exiting the kindergarten doors after school, nor are they to exit to the playground to meet you there. If your child has been meeting you after 3:00 in either of these ways, please make other arrangements to pick them up in front of the school, at the back gym door, or through 5th grade or 3rd grade wings (only until 3:15; *after 3:15 all students must be picked up at the front door.*) These are the only "sanctioned" exits for our children. Reason everyone is moved to the front: Besides the fact that waiting students are disrupting tutoring and/or clubs that meet in nearby classrooms, doors do not always close/lock automatically/completely when people exit. We must KEEP our building locked down after our 3:15 security check for the safety of our extended day students, late-working teachers, custodians, and anyone else who must be in the building working late. Thanks for helping out.

Thanks, as always, for being such great parents and partners! Have a super weekend.

Sincerely,

Linda Humphrey

Leslie Smiley