

**ETHRIDGE ELEMENTARY**

Linda Humphrey, Principal

Dear Parents,

April 25, 2008

The end of next week will see us into May how hard it is to believe that we have only 5 weeks and four days left of this school year – and lots of activity still to be packed into those remaining days! KINDER ROUNDUP brought us 29 kindergarten students now registered and ready to start next year. (That number is almost exactly the number we had after Kinder Roundup last year.) This time of year is difficult as we concentrate on wrapping up this incredible year while simultaneously looking ahead to plan the NEXT school year! No wonder I feel like I am meeting myself “coming and going”, as the saying goes.

**This next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday are scheduled TAKS testing days for grades 3-5.** If your child is testing, s(he) needs to get plenty of sleep/rest on the nights before, to enjoy a healthy breakfast the morning of testing, and to receive your encouragement not to “worry” about the tests. Ethridge students need to come rested and eager to show what they know, confident in their skills and prepared to give their best effort. Remind your child to 1) work slowly and carefully, and to 2) check and recheck answers upon completing tests. (The tests are not timed.) Your sincere interest and best wishes are the best encouragement your child can have. Thank you for helping your child to have the least stressful testing days possible.

Repeat announcement: April is “Ethridge Elementary Month” at the public library. Our challenge is to be the school with the most card-carrying (and *using!*) students in the city. 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.

NOTICE: During this time of year the LISD Food Service Department is challenged with recovering charges owed from meals eaten in the cafeterias. With thousands of dollars owed across the district, a “No Charging” policy will be implemented for the remainder of the year beginning May 6th. This means that students must bring money or have available credit on account to purchase a breakfast or lunch. (An alternate meal consisting of a sandwich will be served with a drink rather than allowing a charge.) If your child’s account is deficit, please bring it into balance as soon as possible. THANKS.

Request: Phone calls from outside school to students seem to have multiplied as the year goes on. Please limit your calls to your child (and thus, disruption to learning) to emergency status only. An emergency is defined as a situation that happens suddenly and requires immediate attention or action to resolve a critical need. Make after-school plans with your child before sending them to school in the morning, please. While we understand that plans sometimes change, our phone lines should not be tied up with daily calls for students. We appreciate your help in this matter. (Remember, as well: students are not allowed to access cell phones or beepers during class time.)

Please send your child prepared for outdoor activities on ALL days from now until **school is out for the summer on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 p.m.**, with appropriate shoes and sun screen, hats, etc. (even if the day is cloudy!) We will enjoy outside recesses until this nice weather turns too hot. Thinking of outdoors: **Ethridge Field Day** is scheduled for Friday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Lots of fun and friendly athletic competition will be the order of the day. Thanks to staff, especially Coach Ingram, and parents who “make it happen” for our kids! (Cross your fingers for nice weather! No rainout date.)

Finally, we hope you have made plans to join us for the Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> PTA meeting / **3<sup>rd</sup> grade program**. THANK YOU to both our PTA Board and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers for planning and organizing this special event.

Look for your child’s REPORT CARD as well as the **registration card for next year** in today’s papers. Have a nice weekend!

Sincerely,

*Linda Humphrey*

*Leslie Smiley*

