

Griffin Middle School

No Child left behind, no excuses, no exceptions

Newsletter

Calendar of Events

April

- 5 End of 5th 6 Weeks
- 13 Report Card distribution
- 14 CIS study group 9-11:00
- 23 LISD Board meets

16-20 TAKS Tests

- 24 Open Forum-Mascot
- 27 Progress Reports

May

- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5 CIS study group 9-11:00
- 11 School field trip day
- 14 LISD Board meets
- 17 Choir concert @ GMS 7:00
- 19 CIS study group 9-11:00

22-24 FINAL EXAMS

Early exams will not be administered.

- 24 Early release 12:30
- June 1 Report Cards mailed



From the Principal's Desk

Greetings Griffin Family,

Griffin has begun using a new attendance and announcement system. This automated system will notify parents and or guardians of unexcused student absences. The system will begin attendance calls at approximately 6:00 PM, notifying parents and or guardians of any unexcused absence for the day. This system also allows us the opportunity to make general announcements regarding campus activities such as, PTA meetings, school dances, school closures, and the like. In fact, this system was used to generate an announcement of our new school messenger system earlier in March.

We are quickly closing in on the end of the year and the many activities that come with it. Please help your student STAY focused on learning and appropriate behavior for school.

The school wide field trip day is May 11. 6th grade students will visit the Ft. Worth Zoo, 7th grade students will tour Fair Park and Imax, and 8th grade students will attend math day at Six Flags. We are fortunate this year in that we have funding to provide transportation to these events. Your child will be responsible for entrance fee and lunch only. Look for information that was sent home with your child.

Final exams are scheduled May 22, 23, and 24. Early exams will not be administered. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 on Thursday, May 24, which is the last day of school. Exam make-up day for unavoidable absences is set for May 29 at 9:00 AM. Please make every effort to ensure your child is present for the exam days. Final report cards will be mailed to your home June 1.

Sincerely,

C. A. Williams

5105 North Colony Blvd
The Colony, Texas 75056

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Go to schools, Griffin, campus site

TEXTBOOK CHECK-IN DATES ON PAGE 2

Academic UIL

Congratulations to all the students who participated at the Academic UIL competition at Lakeview for a job well done. Students who placed are: Erica White - 6th in math; Sana Sulaiman - 5th in Spelling; Savanna Depew - 5th in Maps, Graphs & Charts; Sara Jendrusch - 4th in Maps, Graphs & Charts, 2nd in Dictionary Skills; Humberto Lopez - 5th in Maps, Graphs & Charts; Cherish Meeks - 6th in Ready Writing; Amanda Humphries - 1st in Ready Writing; Ashley Smith - 4th in Dictionary Skills; Kristopher Chavez - 1st in Dictionary Skills.

Science Cleans Up

Students and parents are invited to help spruce up the Outdoor Learning Center (OLC) on Saturday, March 31st, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. We need plants/flowers donated as well as volunteers. Parents are invited to participate and students will earn extra credit and community service hours for helping out. So bring those gardening tools and help up with spring cleaning!

Griffin Middle School February Students of the Month:

6th grade: Priscilla Martinez, Rudy Ibarra, Justin Stover, Kristen Stockton.

7th grade: Andrew Bullard, Sara Payne, Alicia Cooklin, Alex Cortez.

OPEN FORUM

RE: GRIFFIN MASCOT

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at 7pm**. We will hold an Open Forum to present a proposal to change the school mascot.

8th grade: Dustin Long, Brittany Johnson, Kevin McNealy

TEXTBOOK COLLECTION DATES

Parents and/or students may return textbooks on the following dates:

May 14-16 4:00-5:00 PM

May 19 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon

May 21-23 7:30 -8:30 AM

May 22-23 4:00-6:00 PM

PTA

Thank you to those who have been sending in **Box Tops** and **Campbell's Labels**. We have collected \$40 worth of Box Tops and have 500 points worth of labels. If each student brought in 10 Box Tops a month, we could raise \$7,200 a year! For a list of participating products, visit: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/Products.aspx> The eligible Campbell products are listed at: <http://labelsforeducation.com/fivepointproducts.aspx>. Not only are soup labels eligible, so are Pepperidge Farm, Franco-American, Prego, V8 and others. The collection box is located in the Griffin library.

The Lewisville Community Education Center is sponsoring a **Community Garage Sale** on March 31st from 8AM-2PM in the parking lot of Lewisville High School.

Christian Community Action (CCA) is collecting new jeans and/or tops. Donations will be accepted until the end of July. The donated clothing will benefit the **Christian Community Action Back to School Program**. Last year they gave 1,445 children two new outfits of clothing, a new pair of shoes, a backpack and their required school supplies. To donate your items, contact Christy at 469-384-8632 or at website@griffinpta.org.

Art-Rageous Art News!

Rotation Art will be exploring the cultures of North and South America and end up in Australia. Projects will include work in clay, painting, paper cutting, and weaving. Art I students will be exploring textiles through weaving and a "Matisse-like" collage using fabric, a portrait with a twist, and ribbon names constructed and drawn. Art II will be exploring textiles through weaving and Batik, which is a way to paint on fabric using dye and wax. We will also do one final clay project designing and constructing a mosaic. If there is time we will try some screen printing. General Art is planning a Griffin Art Show in May. We are calling it a "Chair Affair" Art II will have beautiful chairs painted in the "style" of a famous artist. There will be a silent auction for "charity. There will be paintings, drawings, and sculpture all having the chair theme. Look for more info as the time draws near.



Pioneer Team News:

The Pioneer team is practicing and reviewing the TAKS skills for the upcoming TAKS testing in Math and Reading April 17 and 18. **Reading:** Mr. Montgomery's class is still working on the Literacy Circles and the students will present their projects as they finish their books. He is offering Monday and Wednesday morning TAKS review at 8:00. Students need a pass from the teacher or parent to come to class before school.

Social Studies: Students in Miss Crooks's class are finishing up Africa and will move on to South America. The students are responsible for a current event the third Wednesday of each month.

English: Ms. Hall's class has been writing short stories, using their knowledge to find plot, setting and topic sentences. They will practice vocabulary, definitions in better writing skills.

Math: Practicing for TAKS with tutoring for the students on Tuesday and Thursday after school from 4-5:00 is Ms. Sell's schedule. Students are finishing up measurement and integers in preparation of the TAKS.

Science: Ms. Steinman's science class just finished studying motion and force. They had fun calculating speed with different balls and wind up toys. Earth, weather and the Solar System are next. Seventh grade registrations will be done through science classes March 28.

The Students are getting excited about the field trip to the Zoo on May 11th. If you are a parent of a Pioneer student and would like to have a fun filled day as a volunteer, please notify a Pioneer teacher. You must have an approved volunteer application on file with LISD.

Explorer Team

The Explorers hope that you had a wonderful Spring Break. In **Geography**, students are discussing genocide in South Africa. **Reading** classes are about to begin a heroes unit. In **English**, we will be starting a unit on mythology. In math, students will be practicing for the TAKS test, and they will be taking home TAKS packets every Thursday. The **Science** Dept. will have its next workday on the Outdoor Learning Center on Saturday, March 31st, from 9-11 am. This is a great chance for the kids to earn significant extra credit. Flowers are good to bring, but this year we really need bags of mulch to put down on the ground. Dads will be helpful because we have numerous new benches to assemble.

Comet Team

Seventh grade history students are on the road to revolution, as they explore how Texas won its independence and gained statehood. Students are also working with newspapers to stay involved in current events. PreAp students are reading *Indian in the Cupboard* -learning about acceptance of other cultures, while other students are reading *Johnny Texas* -staying involved in interdisciplinary curriculum.** Math students will be studying Probability and ending the year with an intense review of Algebra concepts. Following the TAKS Mathematics Test, the focus of instruction will be preparation for success in math as an 8th grader! *Mrs. Hilliard's 7th grade Science classes will continue the study of the Human Body and end our year in the study of Genetics and Heredity. **Over the final six weeks in Reading, students will read and analyze the novel Taking Sides. They will write a persuasive research paper in their English classes as well.

Meteor Team

The Meteor scientists are analyzing the human body utilizing maximum concentration. The skeletal and muscle units are complete. Attention will now shift to body systems such as the digestive complex. English advocates are engaged in sentence diagramming. They are also producing comprehensive research reports on one of four topics presented by their guru. Mathematicians under the tutelage of a very effective instructor are pondering the volume of prisms and cylinders. Translations, reflections, and coordinate plans are also under investigation. Reading fanatics are conducting CUA's and literature circles. For more information on literature circles, please contact your municipal library. Young Texas historians continue to impress local citizens with their extensive knowledge of The Great Depression's impact on the current spending habits of the over 80 generation.

The Lions' Team News

Math/Algebra: Ms. Bradford will guide students through the study of volume and lateral surface area of three-dimensional objects. Her Algebra 1 students will work on factoring polynomials in quadratic equations.

Science: Ms. Burrows' students are finishing up a study of Earth's cycles and the make-up of the Earth. We will begin our exploration of weather systems after Spring break, then dive into genetics (beginning with the interaction of body systems).

History: Students in Ms. Rolands' classes will seek a deeper understanding of the civil war through debates, re-enactments, and essays.

Language Arts: "Anatomy of Mysteries" is the focus of Ms. Funderburg's curriculum for the upcoming several weeks.

Reading: Ms. Bluit will engage her students with the interesting details of Mythology.

Eagle Team News

We're amping up for TAKS! The schedule is as follows: April 17--math, April 18--reading, April 19--science, April 20--social studies

Students will receive their **science** benchmark scores after spring break and will use them to review.

History will cover the Civil War before the test.

Math and literature will review for TAKS.

April topics are as follows: **Science** (Thompson) - TAKS review, genetics, wildflower project. **Math** (West) - TAKS review, rational numbers and fractions. **History** (Cates) - Civil War, reconstruction. **English** (Hames) - personal reflections and historical analysis writings. **Literature** (Dahm) - TAKS review, project.

Field trip permission forms with signatures and money, cash or money order only, are due back by April 20.

8TH GRADERS -REMEMBER

You need a current proof of residence turned in to the attendance office before your High School registration can be processed!



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Parent Involvement

Getting Involved in Your Child's Education

Parent involvement in your child's education can mean:

- Reading to your child
- Checking homework every night
- Discussing your children's progress with teachers
- Voting in school board elections
- Helping your school to set challenging academic standards
- Limiting TV viewing on school nights
- Becoming an advocate for better education in your community and state.

Or, it can be as simple as asking your children, "How was your school today?" But ask every day. That will send your children the clear message that their schoolwork is important to you and you expect them to learn.

Some parents and families are able to be involved in their child's education in many ways. Others may only have time for one or two activities. Whatever your level of involvement, do it consistently and stick with it because you will make an important difference in your child's life.

Why is Parental involvement important?

In study after study, researchers discover how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's education. Here are some of the findings of major research into parental involvement:

- When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school-and the schools they go to are better.
- The family makes critical contributions to student achievement from preschool through high school. A home environment that encourages learning is more important to student achievement than income, education level or cultural background.
- Reading achievement is more dependent on learning activities in the home than is math or science. Reading aloud to children is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Talking to children about books and stories read to them also supports reading achievement.
- When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically.
- Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters.
- The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects.
- Positive results of parental involvement include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behavior, and restored confidence among parents in their children's schooling.