



The Rennell Review

Issue 4

Rennell Elementary School

December 9, 2010

Principal's Page



As we look for ways to meet the needs of our students and match their instruction with tools that will be a part of their future, we are anticipating changes to some of the work your child will be doing. We are looking at new ways to integrate technology into our instruction. We believe that using technology will be something that most students will find very motivational while providing essential skills for using technology as a tool.

Beginning in January, your child may not have as many paper pencil tasks as in the past. We are looking for ways that students can create products that show their understanding in a variety of ways. Your child's teacher may utilize electronic portfolios to save student work. We are also looking at providing homework posted on Schoolwires rather than sending home worksheets each time. By providing students with choices regarding the products they make to show understanding, we hope to tap into their creativity while stimulating a deeper understanding of the curriculum.

In addition to in class work and homework, we are going to begin offering families the option of going paperless with the newsletter. It is our hope that this option will meet the needs of families while reducing the drain on our natural resources. Our newsletter as well as updates to our calendar will be posted on the Rennell website. You can access the website by going to cfisd.net.

We want to make sure that everyone has access to the information from our school. If you would prefer to continue receiving paper copies of the newsletter and homework, please complete the form that is available in this newsletter. If we do not receive a form from you, we will begin using the electronic version of homework and the newsletter for your child and family.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday.

Best wishes for a joyful season,

Leslie Thomas

Counselor's Corner

November & December Guidance Lessons:

The second Bullying Hurts lesson from CyFair's Project Safety was completed in November. The topic, Respecting Others, was reinforced by practicing assertive, respectful conflict resolution by saying, "I feel..... when/because..... and next time I need"

In December the children are participating in the District's first "Drugs Hurt, So Don't" lesson. The students are learning that drugs are substances that alter/change the mind and/or body. Therefore, medications, which are legal, are drugs, as well as the illegal drugs. We discuss some ways drugs change the mind/body. Important concepts are that medicines change our bodies/minds in helpful ways when taken as directed and when needed; but even medicines harm us if taken incorrectly and when we don't need them. We named legal and illegal drugs. We discussed our district's policies regarding medication – that parents/guardians must bring medicine to school and deliver it directly to the nurse in the original container with directions and a note from the parent, and also that children are not allowed to bring medication to school. We discussed (and younger children practiced) reporting to an adult immediately if a student has drugs at school and/or if a stranger tries to give anything to them. We also discussed various consequences of using or possessing illegal drugs.

By the end of January, all classes will also have participated in a lesson on tolerating and valuing differences. The book that serves as a stimulus for this discussion is *The Crayon Box the Talked*. This is an excellent book for all children ages 3 through 103!



Ideas for Parents:

The most important and effective technique for influencing your children is spending time with them. When my children were growing up, the 'buzz word' (and myth) was "quality time". The message was: "It's OK if we are too busy to spend a significant amount of time with our children, because quality time is more important than the quantity of time." Now research is demonstrating that "quantity (amount) of time" is at least as important as "quality time". Children "catch" our values from watching, listening and imitating us as we interact with them and others, not from our verbal instructions. If we are not with them enough, they are less likely to learn our important values. Also, if we are not willing to spend time with our children, they believe that we do not value them. The holidays present a great opportunity to give your children a significant quantity of your time and attention.

That being said, when a significant quantity of time is combined with some quality time, your children have valuable opportunities to learn from you, and you both have the wonderful opportunity to develop a close relationship with each other. One high quality type of experience to spend with your children is to allow them to lead the play. If they want to create new rules to a game, you would follow and collaborate (and enjoy). If your child wants you to be a baby while she/he is your parent – enjoy being a child again! If your child, in the play story, says the sweet-looking fluffy stuffed bunny is mean and cruel, then it is - Respond to the rabbit as if it is being mean. Enjoy your child's play and enjoy being a child with him. This gives you the opportunity to see the world through your child's eyes, helping you know your child better, which in turn will help you guide him through tough situations that may arise. This also gives your child a chance to be appropriately in control, and most importantly, shows your child that you love and value her enough to enter her world and understand her. Cherish the opportunity. Your time with your child is a very short 18 or so years.

Future Guidance Lesson Topics:

Lesson #2 of Drugs Hurt will be taught in January, which will coincide with Rennell's 2010-2011 Red Ribbon Week. The lessons on tolerating and valuing differences in others will be completed in January. Finally, "Bullying Hurts, Lesson 3" will begin in January.

Small group counseling:

Some small group counseling is beginning in December and will continue through January. Another set of groups will be offered February through March and a third set of counseling groups will be offered April through May. If your child is experiencing a difficulty which you think might be helped with small group counseling at school, please call me to discuss this possibility. You may call the main school number (281-213-1550) and ask for me.

Cheryl Schindler, Counselor
Rennell Elementary School



With the cold weather coming, I would like to remind parents that cough drops are considered a medication so students should not be bringing them to school.

Any medicine needs to be delivered by the parent or responsible adult.



The clinic is in need of :

- Larger size clothes , boys and girls.
Sizes 10-14
- Boys underwear in all sizes.

I am also looking for crates to arrange and separate the clothes. File crates will work fine. I plan to store them under the cots.

Teri Melonson
School Nurse

DATES TO REMEMBER



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| <i>December 14</i> | <i>Rennell Night @ Texas Roadhouse</i> |
| <i>December 16</i> | <i>Holiday Party</i> |
| <i>December 21-
January 5</i> | <i>Winter Holidays</i> |
| <i>January 17-</i> | <i>Holiday</i> |
| <i>January 25-</i> | <i>Rennell Night @ Spring Creek BBQ</i> |
| <i>January 28-</i> | <i>Yearbook orders are due.</i> |



Remember we have our Texas Roadhouse Night for Rennell the second Tuesday of each month. It is a fun time for the family and kids eat free. Roadhouse will donate 10% to our school. So come out and support Rennell.



Rennell night @ Spring Creek BBQ on January 25th, so please come out and support the school. We will receive **25%** of the total sales for the night. This includes everyone who comes in that night and not just Rennell families, so be sure to tell your friends and family to come out and join us that night!



As you are aware, our district uses a software product called V-Soft to scan the driver's license of all visitors to our campus. This is just one of the many systems in place to help protect the safety of our students. On a daily basis, this system works well, but it can cause long lines on days when we have larger than normal numbers of visitors at one time. For this reason, we are offering parents an opportunity to pre-register for upcoming events where we expect larger than normal numbers of visitors to our building.

To pre-register all you need to do is come into the office and have your driver's license scanned into our system prior to the deadline for each event. **The cutoff date will be three days prior to the actual event.** We will not be able to make exceptions to this deadline. This will allow us time to get the badges printed and organized for the day of the event. For example, our Holiday Party is coming up on December 16th. The cutoff date for pre-registration will be on December 13th.

On the actual day of the event, those that have pre-registered will be allowed to enter the building through a different entrance, go to the pre-registration tables and pick up their pre-printed badge. All other guests will be required to go through the front office and sign in as usual. Even with pre-registering parents, we anticipate that there may be some long lines during some parts of the day. While we apologize for this inconvenience, we believe that the safety of our students must be our first priority. We ask for your understanding and patience on these days.



Don't Miss

PTO Corner

President's Note:

WOW! It's hard to believe we are in the second week of December and we are only 6 school days away from the winter break! It has been an amazing first semester at school and we have been able to do so much already thanks to all of the help and support the PTO has received from all of our WONDERFUL Redhawk volunteers! Can you believe we already have a classroom reader program in place, we have had a Book Fair, our kids have celebrated their first Rennell Field Day, and they have had Someone Special to lunch! None of these activities go as smoothly without the help of all our volunteers! Today, our VIPS coordinators spent the morning saying Thank You at the Mid Year Holiday Cheer. We only have the opportunity to have mornings like this twice a year, but we want you to know everyday how thankful we are for all our Redhawk Volunteers who spend their time working with our Redhawks!

November was a very busy month at Rennell! The school had their first KISS day and our volunteers were able to help in many ways. We had a Spirit Shop that day and it was a huge success with students and their families. At the same time, many Redhawks had their picture taken with their Someone Special. And the First Field Day was a huge success and we are so thankful for all of the help that day- the kids had so much fun. The PTO was able to provide water bottles and popsicles at the end of the day for all students, and they enjoyed them after a full, fun day of activity.

December has already been busy with the delivery of the major fundraiser on December 7, the Holiday Shop December 7, 8, and 9, and our Volunteer Mid-Year Holiday Cheer today. Next week, we will have our first holiday party- please see the information below for more details and see how you can help.

Have a safe and happy holiday! We are planning lots of fun activities for the spring and look forward to the new year!

Redhawks on the Rise!
Molly Speciale, PTO President
rennellpto@gmail.com



Homeroom Activities

All holiday parties will held on **December 16th!!!!** If you would like to help with your child's holiday party please email your homeroom parent or return the holiday party helper letter to the school by Friday... This letter was sent home on December 2...

Holiday Party Schedule

Pre K	11:15-11:45
K & 1st	11:45-12:15
2nd & 3rd	12:45-1:15
4th & 5th	1:45-2:15



Hope everyone has an awesome holiday season!! A huge **THANKS** to all of our homeroom parents and helpers. You've been an awesome help this school year. Looking forward to working with everyone in 2011....

Yearbook Time



Yearbook

Check your backpacks - you should have received your order forms for the Rennell Inaugural Yearbook. This is the Yearbook for everyone! Only \$15.00 each, and you have the option to order online! Mark your calendars - Yearbook orders are due Friday, January 28.

Please remember to send in your pictures of Rennell events and our Redhawks in action at school events. Email your pictures to clarissa.lorraine@yahoo.com. With your help, we'll make sure we have snapshot of all the kids. Please also email Clarissa if you'd like to be involved with putting together the very first Rennell Redhawks Yearbook.



Major Fundraiser Update

All fundraiser items were delivered on Tuesday, December 7. If you have any problems with your order, you must email rennellpto@gmail.com by Friday, December 10th. Thank you!

Happy Holidays!



A special holiday greeting from the VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) Coordinators at Rennell Elementary School! Rennell volunteers are the BEST! We have had a wonderful response from parents, family members and the community for volunteering in Rennell Elementary School this fall. THANK YOU ALL for your time and talents. To date, we have over 170 people sign-up to help our children and teachers in making Rennell a great learning environment. And, our volunteers have given 100's of hours of service so far... Go Redhawks!

There will be many volunteer opportunities at Rennell Elementary in the spring semester as well. As the new year approaches, we hope you will continue to give of your time and talents! If you are interested in volunteering at Rennell but just haven't found your niche, please contact Merry Queen or Dee Siscoe at Rennellvips@gmail.com and we will be thrilled to get you connected. Individuals that volunteer over 25 hours will be awarded a plastic name tag holder that will be kept in the Rennell office and will help expedite your check-in to the school. Individuals that volunteer over 50 hours will be awarded a Rennell lanyard that they can wear while volunteering. Two little ways for the PTO to say "thank you" for your service.

Thank you all and Happy Holidays!
Merry and Dee



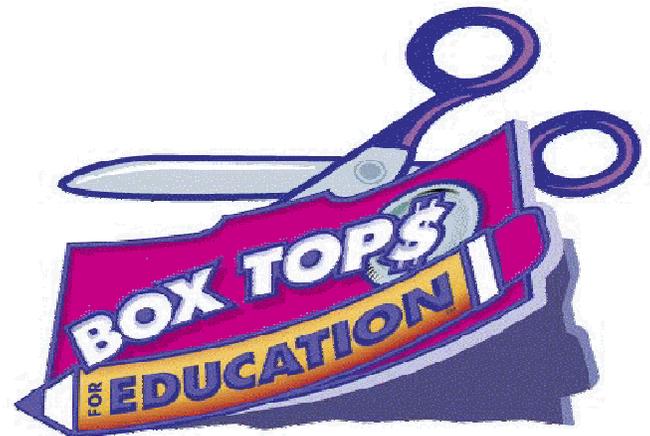
Minor Fundraising



Thank you for everyone who helped support our school so far this year. We have a lot of exciting things coming in the Spring also, so please keep reading the newsletter and check out our website for updates.

Long sleeve shirts & hoodies will all be delivered by the Christmas break. If you have any questions please email me and let me know.

We will be having **Spirit Night at Spring Creek BBQ** on January 25th, so please come out and support the school. We will get **25%** of the total sales for the night. This includes everyone who comes in that night and not just Rennell families, so be sure to tell your friends and family to come out and join us that night! The class with the highest participation will receive a prize, so mark your calendar now! Remember, the more people we invite that evening, the more money for our school- 25% of total sales will add up quickly!



MAKE OUR SCHOOL A CUT ABOVE!

Thanks to all of you that have sent in your Box Tops this year. In November we had \$195 worth come in. The class with the highest Box Tops was Mrs. Knight's class with 263 Box Tops. Keep them coming in. Don't forget while you are shopping for your Christmas presents online to log on to the Box Top market place and earn money for our school while shopping for the presents you are already buying. Check it out today at boxtops4education.com.