



# The Rennell Review

Issue 5

Rennell Elementary School

January 13, 2011

## Principal's Page

We have had the best start to 2011. The students and staff seem rested and ready for the challenges ahead.



New Years has also brought some changes to Rennell. I have already informed some of our first grade parents that we will be saying good-bye to Mrs. Sykora at the end of this month. Her husband has been transferred to a new location with his job. I have known Mrs. Skyora for five years. She is a very dedicated and talented educator. She will be missed at Rennell. We wish her all the best in her new home and hope that she will continue to stay in contact with us.

Another change that is coming our way is the addition of the School Tipline. This is a software program purchased by the district which allows students and parents to report incidents of safety concerns anonymously. The district is currently training all administrators how to use the program.

Once it is launched, students under the guidance of their parents at the elementary level, will be able to report issues directly to a school administrator any time or day of the week. The system offers those that report an opportunity to track their report to see what type of action is being taken with regard to their report.

The system will also allow an administrator to request additional information from the reporter for further investigation of the situation without having to reveal who initiated the contact.

In the very near future, you will be receiving a letter from us regarding the specific directions and guidelines for the program. We will also be talking with students at school about how they can use the program to help us keep the students at Rennell safe.

This system will function much like a 911 call for our school. It is important that parents read the information carefully and help instruct their child about the proper use of the program. We will take every report sent very seriously and are asking your help to ensure that information provided is done with your knowledge and approval. This will prevent us from spending valuable time investigating prank contacts.

One other big change is the new format of the newsletter that we will begin offering this semester. We will be posting our newsletter on our school website each month for parents to view. For those families who still need a hard copy, we will continue to offer that as well, but we will only be sending one copy per family. **Please see the form included in this newsletter if you are wanting to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.**

Sincerely,  
*Leslie Thomas*



## Counselor's Corner

### **Rennell's 2010-2011 Red Ribbon Week, January 18-21:**

This year we will celebrate Red Ribbon Week, January 18-21 (the 4 days after Martin Luther King Day). Each day will have a drug prevention theme related to the day's assigned type of clothing (hat, sunglasses, crazy socks and red), and a Drug Awareness gift for each child provided by PTO. Red ribbons will be placed on trees around the school and Red Ribbon banners signed by the students will be displayed in the hallways. Guidance lessons on January 14 and 21 will be Lesson 2 of "Drugs Hurt - So Don't!" from the District's Elementary Project Safety Curriculum. The objectives of the lesson are 1) to understand why students sometimes use drugs (including prescription drugs and illegal drugs), 2) review safe use of prescription drugs, and 3) review dangers of drug abuse.

The schedule of the activities is outlined in the Red Ribbon Week memo included in this newsletter. Please consult the schedule in the newsletter to help your child prepare for each Red Ribbon Week day.

### **Ideas for Parents:**

When giving your children directions and telling them expectations, it is most effective to assure you have their attention and then briefly describe the behavior you want or the product you expect to see. A behavior or a product is something you can see, hear or feel that can be measured. For example, "Larry, I expect you to be in the house at 6:00 pm." "Susie, please speak in a softer voice so I can focus on your words." "Alex, please pick all your clothes up off the floor. They must be hung in your closet, placed in appropriate drawers or placed in the dirty clothes hamper." "Katy, sit at your desk and complete problems 1 through 5. Then tell me you are ready for me to check your homework." "Emma, pet the dog softly and gently." "Matthew and Lori, follow your babysitter's directions and go to bed without arguing when she says it is time."

### **Future Guidance Lesson Topics:**

The next Project Safety lesson will be "Bullying Hurts, So Don't, Lesson 3". Other guidance lessons will continue to focus on respecting and valuing differences among individuals and strategies for assertively and respectfully resolving conflicts. As we near TAKS tests, grades 3-5 will participate in lessons on how to perform one's best on tests. Future newsletters will include strategies parents can use to help their children be prepared for tests.

### **Small group counseling:**

Current small counseling groups on divorce or loss and grief will continue through January. I will soon start working with students who are experiencing test stress. Most other small counseling groups offered this year will focus on social skills, such as making friends, anger management, making decisions. 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

Thanks!  
A simple cartoon drawing of a smiling face with its hands raised in a gesture of appreciation or excitement.

Rennell Elementary would like to thank the following restaurants for their generous donation of a wonderful luncheon for our staff. Please help us show our appreciation by thanking these restaurants when you visit them.

La Hacienda  
12503 Telge Rd.  
Cypress, TX 77429  
281-373-0300

Fajita Willie's  
15650 F M 529  
Houston, TX 77095  
281-859-4700



## Rennell Red Ribbon Week January 18-21, 2011

### Tuesday, January 18:

- "Hats off to Being Drug Free"
- Wear a hat
- 2nd grade provides a student written Drug Awareness composition to be read over the morning announcements



### Wednesday, January 19:

- "Shade Out Drugs"
- Wear sunglasses
- 3rd grade provides a student written Drug Awareness composition to be read over the morning announcements



### Thursday, January 20:

- "Sock It to Drugs"
- Wear crazy socks
- 4th grade provides a student written Drug Awareness composition to be read over the morning announcements

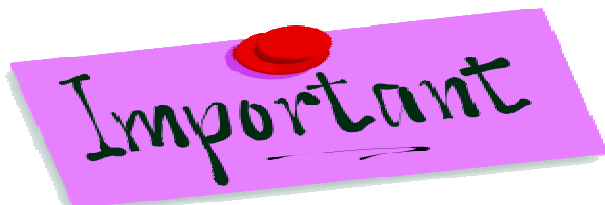


### Friday, January 21:

- "Red Hawks Are Drug Free"
- Wear red
- 5th grade provides a student written Drug Awareness composition to be read over the morning announcements
- Weather permitting, an all-school Red Ribbon Week picture will be taken outside



**Many thanks to Mary Skirm and to PTO for supporting Rennell's 2010-2011 Red Ribbon Week by helping plan the week and providing the red ribbons outside and the drug awareness items children will receive each day.**



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.
- Girls 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.

**When your child borrows clothes from the nurse please make sure to wash and return them.**

Teri Melonson  
School Nurse



### DATES TO REMEMBER

<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>
<i>February 3-</i>	<i>Bear Creek Skate Night</i>
<i>February 15-</i>	<i>Texas Road House</i>

# PTO Corner

## President's Note:

The holidays are over and we are headed into the Spring Semester! The PTO is busy planning activities for our RedHawks!

Thank you to Tammy Thiel and her amazing team of Grade Level Reps and Homeroom Parents. Our first round of parties went smoothly thanks to their efforts! The crafts and snacks were a hit in all the classrooms!

We are currently in the very early stages of planning the First Rennell Spring Fling! If you are interested in helping in any way with this event, please email [rennellpto@gmail.com](mailto:rennellpto@gmail.com). We are looking forward to making the day a great event for all our RedHawk families!

Thank you to all of our families who are sending in your BoxTops for Education. We have already received our first check from the fall collection for \$669. Please keep sending them each month!

Don't forget yearbook orders are underway- don't forget to order yours before January 28!

Mark your calendar and invite family and friends! Our January Spirit Night is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 at Spring Creek BBQ. Rennell PTO will receive 25% of the TOTAL SALES for the night- so spread the word!

RedHawks on the Rise!

Molly Speciale, PTO President  
[rennellpto@gmail.com](mailto:rennellpto@gmail.com)



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.



## SRC:

If you are interested in showing animals to the kids please help out. Here are the demos and the training dates that are available:

### Kindergarten:

Feb. 9 – Hedgehogs - 9:30-11:30 am or 12:30-2:30 pm

Feb. 18 – Guinea Pigs - 9:30-11:30 am or 12:30-2:30 pm

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Jan. 25 – Insects – 9:30 am-12:30 pm or 1:00-4:00 pm

Feb. 16 – Body Coverings – 9:30 am-12:30 pm

March 23 – Reptiles – 9:30 am-12:30 pm

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Jan. 28 – Amphibians – 9:30 am-12:00 pm

April 5 – Snakes – 12:30-3:00 pm

If you have any questions or are already trained, please let me know.

Thank you for your help,  
Mary Skirm  
[marye@skirm.com](mailto:marye@skirm.com)



**Rennell night @ Spring Creek BBQ** on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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!



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

YEA!!!! The directories arrived before Thanksgiving and were distributed on Thursday before the break. Just as a reminder, only those families that paid their \$10 PTO membership fee AND turned in their family information by the DEADLINE were included in the directory.

The directory has a new look this year because we went with a local company named My Directory Publisher, which is owned and operated by two Cypress moms . They offered the directory free to schools, so that was a huge savings to our PTO. We were also presented with an incentive check by My Directory Publisher from the ads purchased by Rennell families and local businesses. Thank you to everyone who purchased ads!!! We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of Rennell Elementary!! Check out the ads in our directory and support these businesses!

Rennell has amazing talent, easily seen by all the artwork submitted for the directory contest.

Congratulations go to the following students for having their artwork chosen as grade winners:

Victoria Gutierrez – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Naomi George – 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Aditi Mani – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Karina Tolkov – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Olivia Shaw – 1<sup>st</sup> grade

Sofia Fuller – Kindergarten

These winners were chosen by members of the Rennell Administration and the My Directory Publisher Company. This year all 5<sup>th</sup> grade artwork submitted for the contest was able to be displayed throughout the directory. We want to apologize to Victoria Gutierrez for the misspelling of her last name on the cover of the directory!!

If there are any other questions regarding the directory, or if you did not receive yours, please email [khowton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:khowton@sbcglobal.net).



## Yearbook

### Yearbook Order Deadline January 28

Yearbook orders are due Friday, January 28.

Yearbooks are only \$15.00 each, and you have the option to send your order through the school or order online. When sending your order through the school, please remember to write your check to “Rennell Elementary PTO.” If you choose the option to order online, please note that there is a \$1 convenience fee added to the price. If you have ordering questions, please contact Jenny Orwin at [jenorwin@comcast.net](mailto:jenorwin@comcast.net). Take Flight! Make sure your RedHawk gets a copy of the Inaugural Yearbook!



### We Need Your RedHawk Pictures!

Our yearbook is coming together and I am excited to see pictures from many of the events that have already taken place! I need more pictures with students from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. I’m looking for pictures from **all** grades, but have a greater need for these grades. I’m looking for pictures from our dedication ceremony, holiday parties, field day, book fairs, clubs, nature trails (both grades), 5<sup>th</sup> grade happenings, and random pictures of staff and volunteers. Please email pictures to me at [clarissa.lorraine@yahoo.com](mailto:clarissa.lorraine@yahoo.com). If you have more than 10 pictures, contact me, and you can upload directly to the website.

Thank you, Clarissa Escobedo