



The Rennell Review

Issue 1

Rennell Elementary School

September 9, 2010

Principal's Page



On August 23rd, we began the start of an exciting new school year. I was thrilled to be back on a campus with children. The process for opening a new school is a very long and complicated one. I could not have done this without the help of some incredible people. I want to thank my administrative team, my teaching staff, and my support staff for working so hard to get the school up and running with only a week to move into the building. I also want to thank a wonderful group of parents who have served on the PTO Steering Committee since last spring. These ladies have organized plans to begin the PTO at Rennell. Their positive energy and enthusiasm have made opening a new school such a pleasure. So many of you have congratulated me, but in truth, this was a team effort. The credit for this beautiful new school goes to everyone who participated in making Rennell a reality.

Since we are on the topic of teams, I want to share some exciting news regarding the teams your children will be on this year. Our school is divided into two equal teams. Both teams have children from kindergarten through fifth grade. Each team has their own hallway. The McDonald's Masterminds reside on the Black Hallway. The Melancon's Marvels reside on the Red Hallway. Each team will participate in a friendly competition for a period of three weeks. This period of time constitutes one "game". There are twelve games during the school year.

In the game, children will be able to earn points for their team in several ways. Points can be earned for attendance, cleanliness in the restrooms, cafeteria, and classrooms, wearing spirit shirts on Fridays, positive behavior in the classrooms and on the bus, and of course academic performance.

Our academic performance is divided into two areas. During each game, children will take a three-week common assessment or "pop quiz" in each of the four core subject areas. These assessments cover the concepts that have just been taught and will help teachers identify what skills your

child has mastered. In addition to the common assessments, students will be involved in Science Bowl each Friday during lunch. In Science Bowl, five students from each team will be randomly selected to answer questions much like a game show in order to earn points for their team.

At the end of the three week game, scores are added up and a winner is announced. The winning team has a celebration pep rally in the gym during announcements.

By playing "The Game" we have an opportunity to teach children many important skills for life. They include working together as a team while still having individual accountability, and learning good sportsmanship. One of the most important lessons students learn is that you do not always win at everything you do, but you have another opportunity to try again. Perseverance is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children in this day and time. The Game helps children understand that how you deal with a defeat is even more important than how you deal with a win. Our children at Rennell will learn that just because they lost one game, they are capable of coming back and doing even better in the next competition. Our goal is to instill a sense of confidence in students, helping them to know that they are capable of dealing with all kinds of situations, including disappointment without becoming defeated. We are excited about the school year and look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Leslie Thomas



Counselor's Corner



I am thrilled to be the counselor at Rennell Elementary School. As counselor, my job, like that of all Rennell staff, is to help Rennell students be more successful at school emotionally, behaviorally, socially and academically. For example, I teach monthly guidance lessons addressing the state-required skills for which counselors are responsible— such as classroom behavior, friendship skills, and career and college awareness, test stress or anger management. I help individual upset children calm down in order to successfully return to the classroom environment as needed. Later this fall I will offer group counseling for children needing more assistance with skills taught in guidance or addressing special topics as requested by parents of the children. I am also available to consult with parents and staff. If you have concerns that you would like to discuss with me, you may call the school number (281-213-1550) and ask for me, Cheryl Schindler. If you reach my voicemail, please leave a message with your name, your child's name and phone number, as well as convenient times for me to return your call. I check phone messages before school, at lunch, and after school. I feel privileged to be the school counselor for your children.

Each month I will include some parenting pointers in the Counselor Corner section of the newsletter. This month I am suggesting that you explore the Love and Logic Institute, Inc. website, especially the page containing free articles for parents. These articles cover a wide variety of topics for parents of infants, children, teenagers, and children with special needs. The URL address for the Love and Logic parenting articles is:
<http://www.loveandlogic.com/articles.html#six> Parents often find Love and Logic methods and skills to be practical and effective. If you need help with a parenting concern that is not sufficiently addressed in these articles, I would be happy to hear your concern and help you find other resources and ideas.

Cheryl Schindler,
Counselor



Child Find Project

What?

Child Find is a process designed to locate, identify and evaluate individuals with disabilities who may need special education and/or related services specific to their individual needs.

Why?

Early identification and intervention may help children overcome barriers to learning.

Who?

Anyone may refer children, ages 0-22 years, who are experiencing learning difficulties. Learning difficulties may include: speech impairment, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, learning disabilities, mental retardation, emotional disturbance, autism, multiple disabilities, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, auditory impairment, or deaf-blindness.

How?

For more information, contact your neighborhood school or call Region IV Education Service Center at 1-800-392-2761.



Adult Education Technology Classes

Adults (18 years and over) interested in learning more about computers will have the opportunity to register for computer classes on Saturday, September 18, 2010 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Instructional Support Center of Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. The building is located at 10494 Jones Road (The 3-story building on the corner of Jones Road and Fallbrook.) There is a limited class size; registration will be on a first come first serve basis. Class schedules are available at your school website or call Instructional Technology at 281-897-6443 to have a schedule mailed to you.

The schedule may be accessed through the district's website at www.cfisd.net. Click Departments/Technology Services/Adult Community Computer Courses. The 6-hour classes are \$60.00 per class, and the 3-hour class is \$30.00. All classes offer hands-on experience. All fees are due at registration in the form of exact cash or check ONLY. Classes may be canceled if the minimum class size is not met. **NO REFUNDS ARE ISSUED UNLESS A CLASS IS CANCELED by Cy-Fair.**

For further information, please call the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Instructional Technology Department at (281) 897-6443. **** See Attachments for Class Schedules****

Book Fair Is Near!!!

The Rennell Library is proud to announce its first major family event! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! Mark your calendars! **October 4-8th from 9:00- 3:30** we will offer amazing new books and toys! Guest speakers! Free books given every 30 minutes at the family night! Pictures with a surprise storybook character at night and much, much more!!! Be a hero! Support our book fair! Stay tuned for more exciting news! Up, up, and away!!!!



Here's To Our Heroes...Reading Saves The Day!

Do you know of someone who is an everyday hero? A policeman? A fire woman? A person who touches or who has saved other's lives in exciting ways? If so, please e-mail Mr. Palomares at joel.palomares@cfisd.net. Please include that person's complete name, contact information, and student connection. We are looking for a few good men or women who would be willing to share about their lives or careers during our family night book fair on October 7th in the evening. There are heroes all around us...is it you?

The Library Wants You!

Do you want to be a celebrity among our students? Would you like to share great stories with puppets or expressive voices? Does shelving library books or working in book fairs give you a wild rush? If so, join the Library Volunteer team! Flexible hours, rewarding hugs from students, and eternal admiration from the librarian would be your reward! Everyone is welcome! Exciting volunteering opportunities could be yours! Just e-mail Mr. Palomares or fill out a volunteer form in the library today! The library wants you...today!



Does Your Child Love To Celebrate Their Birthday? Read This!



The Birthday Book Club is fun for all students! If your child is enrolled in the birthday book club, they will be remembered in the Rennell Library forever! Here's how it works: On the day of your child's birthday or a chosen date, your child will be picked up from their classroom to select a brand new book. A special sticker with their name and birthday will be placed inside the book. All student's will have their picture taken with their book. Their picture will be placed in a digital photo frame that will flash their picture on it every day! When they have finished reading their book, they return it to the library and it will highlight their name and birthday every time the book is read! To enroll, I fill out the "Birthday Book Club" form and return it with a \$15.00 check or cash to the Rennell Library at least one week prior to their birthday. Make your child a star! Enroll them in the Birthday Book Club today!



Hi, I'm Ms. Melonson, the school nurse. I am very excited about our new clinic! We are in need of gently used clothes, sizes 5-14, boys and girls. We also need underwear in the same sizes (new only, please) and bins to store the clothes in. I am look forward to taking good care of everyone here at Rennell.

Teri Melonson
School Nurse

Lunch Schedule:

Pre-Kindergarten	12:50-1:20
Kindergarten	10:45-11:15
1 st	11:15-11:45
2 nd	11:45-12:15
3 rd	1:15-1:45
4 th	12:45-1:15
5 th	12:15-12:45



Lunch Deliveries

We have found that many of our parents are bringing lunches into the office after school has started. We want to make sure that your child's meal gets to them at the right time for them to enjoy a relaxed lunch. You will need to let your child know ahead of time that you will be dropping off a lunch. When you bring the lunch, please have your child's name and teacher attached to the lunchbox or bag. As the class walks down to the cafeteria, your child will be able to come by the office first to pick up their lunchbox before going to the cafeteria.



Transportation Changes

During the first couple weeks of school we averaged around 60 to 70 changes of transportation a day. Rerouting that many students can become very complicated, especially if the changes are made late in the day. Students often become confused about how they are supposed to go home when there are daily/weekly changes made to their transportation plan. We realize that emergencies arise, requiring a change to be made. We would ask your help in keeping those changes to a minimum so that we can help students reach their destination safely at the end of each school day.



We would also request that there be no changes made after 3:00. Dismissing our children safely requires every staff member to be assigned to a dismissal duty. As a result, we do not have extra staff available to assist with these late changes.

We have a very detailed system in place to account for all students. The beauty of our system is that all students are safely inside the building during dismissal until their ride/bus/ daycare has arrived. This means that our students do not have to wait outside in the heat or cold. To do this, children move to a station for their particular method of dismissal such as car rider, bus line, or day care.

Staff is required to account for each child assigned to their area. When a child goes home in a manner that is different from normal the staff member in charge of that dismissal station must track down where the child is and how they went home before they can dismiss their group. We have a method in place for notifying staff of students who were absent or left during the day, however, it is very difficult to communicate late changes in transportation.

Our goal is to make sure your child is safe. We appreciate your help and support as we work together to make our dismissal process smooth and safe for all children at Rennell.



Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation for grades 3-5 will be September 13 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Immediately following, from 7:30-8:00, PTO will have a meeting in the cafeteria.



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13	Parent Orientation Grades 3 rd – 5 th
Sept. 27-Oct.1	Book Fair from 9:00- 3:30
September 30	Book Fair Night 6:00-8:00 pm
October 11	Parent Conferences / Student Holiday



Field Day, November 22

Save the date RedHawk parents!

It's an all day event for all grades (pk-5th grade). We'll have a blast! The older grades will help younger grades accomplish their activities on each station. Twenty-one stations in all! They'll have lots of fun sharing and helping one another. Come and join us!

OZONE RESPONSE PLAN

Ground-level ozone is the most common air quality problem in Harris County. When the school district receives an ozone alert from the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, district personnel carefully monitor the ozone levels in **northwest** Harris County. When the ground-level ozone reaches unhealthy levels in our geographic area, campuses are notified of the specific ozone warning level of orange, red, or purple. Based on the ozone warning level, certain strenuous outdoor activities, such as physical education or recess, will be curtailed for some or all students.

Additional information about ground-level ozone is available in the Student Handbook or on the district's website at <http://www.cfid.net>.

PTO Corner

President's Note

School is in session! It has been a busy three weeks around Rennell as children have gotten used to their new environment and found their way around! It has been so much fun to watch our RedHawks quickly adapt to their new school and enjoy all that it has to offer.

Many volunteers were working hard this summer in order to get ready for the new school year. Thank you **Mary Skirm** for creating our fabulous new t-shirts! **Khristina Howton** worked closely with our principal and assistant principals last spring to get our school supply packets just right. Thank you Khristina and your team of volunteers for handling a smooth delivery from EPI to the classroom. Kindergarten parents had the chance to socialize and meet some new people at the first annual Kisses and Kleenex Breakfast. Thank you **Merry Queen and Dee Siscoe** for hosting this fun time for our new families. And thank you to Towne Lake for sponsoring the morning and providing the delicious pastries.

On August 30, Rennell Elementary PTO members had the first official General Meeting. At this meeting, the Rennell Elementary PTO was officially formed, the by-laws were accepted, and the slate of officers was accepted.

Congratulations to our new Rennell Elementary PTO Executive Board:

President	Molly Speciale
VP Homeroom Activities	Tammy Thiel
VP Major Fundraising	Jenise Galey
VP Curriculum Support	Jamie Perkins
VP Minor Fundraising	Mary Skirm
VP Membership	Khristina Howton
VIPS	Merry Queen and Dee Siscoe
Secretary	Jenny Orwin
Treasurer	Cindy Feris

We look forward to a great year! We have lots of things coming up including our VIPS Orientation and our next General Meeting. The VIPS Orientation will be held on Friday, September 10 at 9:15am in the Rennell cafeteria. Our next General Meeting will be immediately following Curriculum Night on Monday, September 13 in the cafeteria!

Attached to the newsletter you will find a copy of our Rennell RedHawk order form. This will be your last opportunity to order spirit shirts and volunteer shirts through backpacks. We have had such an amazing

response to both orders that we already need to place our first REORDER. Please return your order form by **September 13** to ensure that the size you or your child wants is available.

Don't forget- our first membership drive is underway! Our Kindergarten team is currently leading the grade levels in participation! Remember, the grade level with the highest participation will get to watch Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Melancon, and Mrs. McDonald participate in RedHawk's version of Fear Factor games! Help us reach our goal of 75 % participation. If RedHawks achieve this goal, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Melancon, and Mrs. McDonald will sing and dance in their RedHawks costume **ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL!** Contact khowton@sbcglobal.net with any questions.

RedHawks on the Rise!
Molly Speciale, PTO President



VP Homeroom Activities

My name is Tammy Thiel and I'm the vice president for homeroom activities this school

year. Thanks so much to everyone that signed up at meet the teacher for homeroom parents and helpers. We have a great team of grade level representatives! They will be working with the homeroom parents to coordinate our holiday parties and other events, including the End of Year Activities for our 5th Graders. They also help the teachers by coordinating homeroom helpers, Thursday folder helpers, and parent readers. Our grade level representatives are:

Kindergarten	Jennifer Garrison
1 st grade	Lisa Shaw
2 nd grade	Jill King
3 rd grade	Angela Folmar
4 th grade	Staci Perrin
5 th grade	Heather Kelly

These Grade Level Reps will be contacting the volunteers who have been selected as the Homeroom Parents shortly, and those Homeroom Parents will be contacting the parent volunteers for each class.





We need YOU!!!

****Some of our homerooms still need a homeroom parent. ****

Pre- K	4th Grade	
Hoffman - Am	Buentello	
1st Grade	5th Grade	
Rodriguez	Boyd	Maestri
	French	Nieswiadomy

If you're interested please go to <http://www.rennellpto.ptomanager.com> and complete the volunteer interest and child's teacher information tabs and email me. Thanks so much for volunteering your time for our students!

Tammy Thiel
tammythiel@earthlink.net
281-304-9721



5th Grade News

So, parents, are you ready to start planning that all-important end of the year 5th grade party? Well, believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about themes and t-shirts. If you'd like to be a part of the planning committee, please forward your information to heather.kelly@att.net.

Chuck E Cheese Family Night

Come to Chuck E Cheese Tuesday, September 28th from 4:30-8:00. Ten percent of all food and token purchases made at the counter will benefit Rennell PTO and your Redhawks.

Box Tops for Education

What are Box Tops for Education? They are a little pink coupon on items that you purchase every day. The Box Top labels are worth \$0.10 each for our school. They are found on hundreds of different items including General Mills cereals, Pillsbury cookie dough, Betty Crocker Cake mixes, the bottom of Kleenex boxes and many other items. To find out more information about the Box Tops and the products they can be found on, go to www.boxtops4education.com. Here you will be able to get coupons and find out all the ways you can earn Box Tops for Rennell. You can shop online and earn bonus boxtops for the school. You can also sign up for many bonus drawings for Box Tops. This is a really easy and fast way to earn money for the school buying products that you use already. Right now many products in the stores have bonus Box Tops on them. When shopping, make sure to pick up a few of these items, cut out the boxtop coupon making sure to include the date on it and save them for the school.

Kroger is currently running a special. If you purchase 4 Box Top items, they will give you a code to go on line and earn 15 Box Tops for Rennell. If you purchase 8 Box Top items, you will get a code for 25 Box Tops. You can do this each day and earn many extra boxtops for Rennell. I took my coupons from the website to Kroger and have received 3 codes so far. In addition, you will have the Box Tops from the items that you purchased that you can send to the school. Please check your cabinets to see how many of these items you already have. Please do not throw out the Box Top with the trash. Just keep a sandwich bag to collect them in. We will have upcoming contests. What's for dinner?—Hamburger Helper!

