

Mark Twain Elementary School Newsletter

October 21, 2008
Volume 1, Issue 3

MTES School Pledge

"We at MTE promise to do our best, to do our duty and to obey the rules of the school"



Ms. Carmen D. Alvarez-Crooks
Principal

Ms. Crooks Message



Upcoming Events!

Book Character Parade
Sock Hop
Mock Election
Family Pictures
Holiday Market

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Dear Parents,

We are quickly coming up to the end of the first quarter of school. There are so many good things going on at MTES. I try to get into classrooms as often as possible and watch your children engaged in active learning that is both challenging and interesting. It's been amazing to see how quickly the first graders settled into their school routines and how well they are learning to read, write, and assume responsibility for the choices they make. In the meantime the fifth graders are engaged in research projects while fourth graders are busy dissecting worms. Recently the third graders created their individual space capsules and second graders are in the thick of journaling and expressing themselves on paper. We have an excellent school environment that is evident the minute you step in our front door. Everyone is doing their part.

Looking ahead we have the following events coming up:

- On October 22nd we welcome student teacher, B. M, to Ms. S's third grade class. He is enrolled at Texas Tech and will be with us until the winter break.
- Ann Louise Starry, Story Teller, will be telling her tales to our students on October 28th in the Information Center. This is a PTA sponsored event.
- **"Book Character Day Parade:"** On Thursday, October 30, students and teachers are encouraged to dress as one of their favorite book characters and march in the parade that will feature Colonel Uises and LTC White as the Grand Marshals. For safety reasons Military Police support will be provided.
- **"Sock Hop:"** Students are invited to celebrate the end of the first quarter at "The Sock Hop" sponsored by the PTA on October 30th. It will be held in the Bubble Gym starting right after school and ending at 16:00 hours. Drinks, snacks and cookies will be available for purchase. Music will be provided by "Disco Dean." Permission slips are required.
- **Teacher Work Day:** Teachers will be working on student Progress Reports on Friday, October 31, and there will be no school for students.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** These will be held on Thursday and Friday, November 6 & 7 and there will be no school for students. Teachers will be sending home conference slips next week. A twenty minute conference is scheduled for all students.
- **November 11:** Federal Holiday: Veteran's Day/No School
- **School Advisory Committee Meeting:** The meeting will be held on November 12th in the Staff Lounge at 14:30. Parents are invited to attend.

We look forward to meeting with you during the Parent-Teacher Conference. As always, we thank you for being supportive of our teachers, our programs and our school. It makes a big difference to know that our parents are working with us as they provide a home environment that supports learning.

Respectfully,
Carmen D. Crooks
Principal

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Counselor Corner - Ms B.



Attendance a Key to Your Child's Success

Research does show that children who attend school on a regular basis do better on Terra Nova and other standardize tests. Studies also show that kids who are absent often score lower on these kinds of tests.

Being late to school on a regular basis has a negative impact on a student's educational progress. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the school year.

Children can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what is most important: the discussions, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes learning come alive.

Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background--one that can only be gained though regular, and on-time, school attendance.

A Great Website for Parents:

This link came from an article in the June issue of Voya "Developmental Assets and Libraries". The article outlines a research initiative to find out what youths need to succeed. From this comes the web site listing these "40 Developmental Assets". You can view three documents listing the 40, by grade level.

Search Institute 40 Developmental Assets
<http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>
[<http://www.search-institute.org/assets/>](http://www.search-institute.org/assets/)

Nurse's Station-Ms. C.



Nursing Station

Dear Parents and sponsors,

The Vision and Hearing Exams have been completed and the results have been sent home.

Remember **free flu shots and flu mist** will be available at the middle school on Friday, October 31, 2008. This is a teacher work day and there is no school for students.

Nurse C.
 Mark Twain Elementary School
 DSN 370-6912 CIV 06221576912

REMINDERS!

- **UPDATE CONTACT INFO**
- **SCREENINGS**
- **IMMUNIZATIONS**



PE Shorts! – Ms. S.

P.E. SHORTS: Message from Physical Education Teacher

- ❖ October brings beautiful fall weather to enjoy time together as a family. One activity that you can add to your family fitness routine is walking to school. October is International Walk to School Month. Walking is not only good for improving heart, muscle, and bone health, but is also good for building your brain
- ❖ The **MTES After School Sports Club will begin this month.** A flyer has been sent home with this information. First/Second graders will meet on Wednesdays and Third/Fourth/Fifth graders will meet on Thursdays from October 22/23 until the beginning of April 2009.
- ❖ A good website to check out for the total health of your child is the American Association of Pediatrics -- <http://www.aap.org> A health information website that I think your child may enjoy is <http://kidshealth.org/kid/>. There is a parent section to this website too. Happy surfing!!!
- ❖ As the weather gets cooler, we will stay outside during PE until the weather no longer cooperates. Layered clothing, hats, gloves and scarves will help.
- ❖ And, as always, try to take time out of every day for physical activity and time for yourselves too.



Music Beat – Ms. W.

**"The Nutcracker" - A Youth Musical
December 8, 2008**

Auditions were held on Oct. 8 for students in grades 3-5.

The cast is-

- Marie - K H
- Nutcracker - C S
- Fritz - A G
- Judge - A W
- Rat King - W W
- Mother- E H
- Guests - A S, N C,
S T, M U, and E B

We will begin rehearsal for the children listed above on Wed., Oct. 15, in my classroom from 2:15-3:15. Choir will begin in November due to medical reasons. I will need help with costumes and could use a mom from each classroom. I am also looking for tall black riding boots. If you can go to a KIK store (the inexpensive clothing stores) please call the school .

Thank you for your support!

Ms. W
Music Teacher
MTES

Quick-Bits - Ms. C.

From the Reading Room



Reading is much more successful if it is enjoyed. Here are some tips for making reading fun for your child:

Add an audience. Have your child read out loud to you, his younger siblings, or even his toys or pets. Kathleen, for example, loves to hold dramatic readings for her dogs, Coco and Scruffy.

Start a book club. Invite some of your kid's classmates over, and serve snacks related to the book -- jumbo-size cookies, for instance, are a perfect fit for Roald Dahl's *The BFG* (short for Big Friendly Giant). Or ask the children to come dressed as their favorite characters.

Set up a screening. After your child finishes a book, watch the movie together, if there is one. When it's over, ask him whether he liked the book or the film better -- and why -- and what differences he noticed between the two.

Make a scrapbook. In it, your kid can list each book he's assigned to read and put a star beside the titles he's finished. He can also jot down his comments and criticisms, or illustrate passages he loved -- his imagination's the limit!

Send a letter to the author. If your child really loves one of the books, ask if he'd like to write to the author (make sure, of course, that she's still living!). You can address the letter in care of the publisher, or check for contact information on the Internet. Make a copy of the letter -- and the response, if there is one -- to save in the scrapbook.



PTA News Prints



This week's Newsflash is:

Sock Hop permission slips and entrance fee of \$2.00 are due ASAP.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. This is your PTA; we are here for the students and families.

Thank you,
PTA President
msdwwarren@hotmail.com

- Sock Hop October 30th
- Family Pictures (Tentative) Nov. 1st.
- Holiday Market December 3rd - 5th.

Thanks for sending in all of those box tops!



After School Clubs

September Golden Book Nominees

PTA UPCOMING EVENTS!

D M L O N D A M A H A F A D E D	E B J B C H R D N D T H E L E W S
------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

"Our Congratulations!"



Chorus
Mondays
14:15-15:15

Odyssey Of The Mind
Monday
14:15-15:30

Sports Club
Wednesday
1st & 2nd Grades
Thursday
3rd-4th-5th Grades
14:15-15:45

A Message from the Office-

Great Information can be found on our School's Web page. You will find links to our LUNCH MENU, GRADESPEED, SPORTS CALENDARS and much, much, more. We update frequently so keep checking regularly.

<http://www.heid-esm.eu.dodea.edu/0708/index.html>

Thank you for keeping the office notified of any changes such as- Phone Numbers, Emergency Contact Information, Student Absences, and Vacations.

M. S.
Secretary/Registrar

Continuous School Progress Goal:

"All students will increase their reading and writing across the curriculum."

Vision

Communities investing in success for ALL students!

MISSION

The Mission: Through a partnership with parents and the community, we will provide a safe school environment as we inspire a life-long desire for learning and knowledge by promoting mutual respect, instilling responsibility, and preparing students for a culturally diverse society.