

# Mark Twain Elementary School Newsletter

November 14, 2008  
Volume 1, Issue 4

**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

*Congratulations!*



Mrs. W.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher  
Athens Marathon Runner  
5 hours 25 minutes

Dear Parents,

The Parent-Teacher Conferences gave each one of you an opportunity to sit down and discuss your child's progress with their teacher. Our teachers enjoy having this one-on-one contact with you so early in the year because it enables them to carefully discuss areas of strength and areas that need strengthening in your child's academic studies. It also gives you an opportunity to ask questions, make recommendations and share information that might be crucial to your child's progress. Thank you for keeping your appointments and, as usual, being supportive of our school.

Now, as we head toward our winter break starting December 19th, we anticipate a flurry of events and excitement. Following are up-coming events:

- **November 18:** "Child Lures" sessions for all grades presented by ACS.
- **November 26:** "Golden Book" student recognition by LTC White.
- **December 8:** "Nutcracker Musical" & PTA Meeting in the High School Auditorium at 17:00 hours.
- **December 3, 4, & 5:** PTA sponsored "Holiday Market" for students in the teacher's lounge.
- **December 12:** "Box Top" monthly collection.
- **December 12:** USAREUR Band Quartet will play holiday music for our Students in the music room.
- **December 12:** PTA Sponsored "Polar Express" for all students in teacher's Lounge.

As you can see there are many exciting things planned for our students and in-between all this they are enjoying being challenged by their teachers and busy with their studies. It is a pleasure to walk into classrooms every day and to see children who are focused in what they are doing and teachers who are empowering them to do their best. Thank you for doing your part at home and sending us such nice children.

Respectfully,  
Carmen D. Crooks  
Principal

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**PE Shorts! – Ms. S.**

**P.E. SHORTS:**

The MTES After School Sports Club is in full swing now and is full. We are not accepting any more members at this time. We will try to stay outside as long as the weather cooperates. Pick up will be at the Jungle gym front door or the MTES playground.

- ❖ Did you know that exercise can improve our ability to learn? Cardiovascular exercise creates new brain cells in the brain. The new neurons grow in the area in the brain dedicated to learning and memory. The benefits of exercise for better brain function are numerous:
  - Exercise protects brain function and increases brain health.
  - Exercise organizes and integrates the brain for optimal cognition.
  - Exercise increases executive functions like planning, sequencing, and problem solving.
  - Exercise acts in the body as a natural antidepressant by putting important brain chemicals back into balance.
  - Exercise improves mood and behavior and reduces stress.

Recent research has shown a direct link between being physically fit and improved academic test scores. A study done in California showed that students with good fitness scores performed better on the state standardized tests. In Naperville, Illinois, students who had physical education the first period of the school day had significant improvement in English class, compared to their counterparts who had the same English class during the last period of the school day and no physical education.

- ❖ You can model the importance of being physically active by including more activity time with your family. All of us can benefit from exercise that reduces stress and energizes the brain and body—*especially with the holiday seasons right around the corner.*



**From the Reading Room - Ms. C.**



One of our School Improvement Goals is to help students improve the quality and expand the use of written communication across the curriculum. Recently there was an article in Scholastic's *Instructor Magazine* titled "Inspiring Kids To Write...Your step-by-step guide". This article listed 10 great ways to inspire children to write. The article reminded readers, "What's exciting is that all of us who write with kids are contributing to this endeavor." That means parents too. Please enjoy these hints to inspiring your child to write.

- 1) Be a writer yourself...show them that you write often, and for many purposes.
- 2) Build a Writers' Community...share writing among your family to show different styles and levels of success with writing.
- 3) Read Aloud...use stories that provide creative wording and interesting endings to inspire use of these strategies in their own writing.
- 4) Use storytelling...encourage them to use personal stories as the best raw material for writing.
- 5) Have kids read like writers... encourage them to note ways authors draw readers in, develop a character, and make feelings and events seem real.
- 6) Guide your writer to tap into more topics...Children write about what they know... remind them of the many aspects of their lives they can write about.
- 7) Help kids put pen to paper... Take time to help them with the steps of the writing process to ensure success. (story map/ideas, rough draft, editing/revising, and final draft)
- 8) Do more showing than telling...sit down and actually write a story for and with your child.
- 9) Use writing to preserve childhood memories...let them help you journal for scrapbooks, after family trips and in day to day diaries.
- 10) Set expectations high...encourage them to do more than "just enough" to finish. Encourage them to amaze!



**Music Beat – Ms. W.**

**“The Nutcracker – A Youth Musical”  
Monday, December 8, 2008**

Items still needed for costumes-  
Tutus  
Grey sweatshirts-will be altered  
Sheer Fabric  
*Seamstresses*

*There will also be an added rehearsal for those who have speaking parts on Wednesday's from 2:15 – 3:13.  
If you have any questions please contact the school.*

Thanks for sending in all of those box tops!



You may also send in Campbell Soup labels



### PTA News Prints

Thank You!

I would like to thank all of the wonderful parents who helped make the Sock Hop such a huge success. The kids had a great time and it couldn't have been done without the great support that you all gave.

A huge thank you to all of the "super bakers" for donating items for the bake sale table that the PTA worked during the HCSC Bazaar. With your help we were able to raise approximately \$240.

If you would like to volunteer with any PTA events we would be happy to have your help. Please email me and we will put you on our volunteer roster.

As always if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please let me know.

PTA President  
msdwwarren@hotmail.com

#### Coming Events:

##### Holiday Market: December 3rd-5th.

Students will visit with their class on the 3rd or 4th and be able to make purchases at that time. Open shopping will take place on the 5th. More info will be sent home soon.

**Spelling Bee:** Interest flyers will be coming home soon. Practice will take place on Jan. 14th and the competition will be on the Jan. 21st following school. The European Round will be in Ramstein on March 14th.

**Reflections:** Students who are interested in showing their artistic talents will be able to enter an ARTS contest. Information will be sent home with the student.

### October Golden Book Nominees

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| L. T. | K. G. |
| J. M. | A. K. |
| D. L. | A. C. |
| T. D. | R. R. |
| K. G. | J. G. |
| M. C. | M. T. |
| J. B. | K. M. |
| K. C. | A. H. |
| A. S. | K. H. |

C. S.



*"Our Congratulations!"*

### English As A Second Language

ACS is offering English as a Second Language classes at Patrick Henry Elementary School on a weekly basis. If you know anyone who might be interested in enrolling please email Mirka Ivancikova, the teacher, at [Ivancikova@yahoo.de](mailto:Ivancikova@yahoo.de) for details. If there is enough interest the classes would be offered at Mark Twain Elementary School.

### After School Clubs

<b>Chorus</b>	<b>Sports Club</b>
Mondays	Wednesday
14:15-15:15	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grades
	Thursday
<b>Odyssey Of The Mind</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grades
Monday	14:15-15:45
14:15-15:30	

#### *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.

### A Message from the Office-

Check out our school's web page for great information. Our webmaster has posted a link to the DoDEA Customer Satisfaction Survey, Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. This is your opportunity to tell DoDEA how we are doing. <http://www.heid-esm.eu.dodea.edu/0708/index.html>

Secretary/Registrar

*Mark Twain Elementary School  
Congratulations to  
America's Future Leaders:*

**Mark Twain ES  
Sock Hop, Book Character Parade  
& Mock Election**

*SUPER HONOR ROLL*

- M. D.
- E. D.
- A. G.
- K. H.
- E. J.
- A. W.
- K. F.
- J. M.

*HONOR ROLL*

- M. A.
- T. C.
- C. E.
- E. H.
- T. H.
- C. S.
- S. T.
- E. W.
- W. W.
- J. B.
- M. D.
- K. M.
- J. N.
- N. R.
- A. S.
- S. B.
- M. C.
- K. D.
- G. D.
- A. G.
- C. H.
- C. L.

