



PTO Newsletter

William Stribling Elementary
November 2006



News from the PTO

Congratulations to all of us on the passing of the BISD bond package. This is the first step down a long road of planning that will greatly improve the over-crowding in our schools, allow management of the rapid growth, and at the same time allow huge improvements in the ability to offer a better education to our students. Once new campuses open (Fall 2008) we should see things like dedicated science labs and additional programs returning to our curriculum. Thanks to the recommendation of Stribling PTO, we will also be seeing shade structures on our playground in the near future to protect our students from heat and cancer causing UV rays. Additional security measures like the long overdue fencing, security cameras, and emergency lighting in classrooms will also be coming soon. Thanks to all those who made it to the polls to support our kids.

I must admit that due to the amount of time invested in the bond program, Stribling PTO has been running on auto-pilot for the past month or so. However, we have completed a very successful fundraising program, are diligently working on the school directory that will be appearing soon, and have several programs in the works to add opportunities for greater success to the Stribling University educational program.

Please remember Boxtops for Education that is benefiting the Stribling music program. There are hundreds of General Mills products with the Boxtops symbol – every boxtop is a \$.10 donation to our school. There will be periodic contests and the boxtops will be collected in the student’s classrooms until that time. The PTO will sponsor our 5th annual Reindeer Lane holiday gift store December 4 – 8. This is a totally voluntary store for the convenience of our Stribling families where students have the opportunity to shop for gifts for family and friends during the school day on campus. Items are priced at cost - this is not a fund-raising venture. Our kids get a great math skills and life experience in dealing with money, budgeting and making their own purchases. There will be nearly 100 items available priced from just a few quarters to several dollars. Watch for info to come home after Thanksgiving. You can see a product brochure at <http://www.reindeerlane.com/RL%202006%20Brochure.pdf>.

School Fundraiser from Otis Spunkmeyer

The Stribling campus fundraiser to benefit the school activity fund that is used for educational tools such as teacher training, tutoring, student materials, computer programs and more is wrapping up on Tuesday November 14. The delicious Otis Spunkmeyer products are scheduled for delivery on Tuesday December 12, in time for the holiday celebrations. ALL students who sell 30 items or more will be treated to a Limo Ride to lunch!!!
Thanks for your support!!!



Lost Angels

Stribling is proud to once again sponsor the Lost Angels program to provide new unwrapped toys to kids who are not selected from the Salvation Army Angel Tree program. Instead of class party gifts, Stribling classes will provide gifts for those less fortunate in our community. Watch for info!

Dates to Remember:

- Nov 10 Veteran’s Day Program 9:00AM
- Nov 14 Otis Spunkmeyer Fundraiser orders DUE TODAY
- Nov 15 4th Grade field trip to Pizza Farm
- Nov 20-24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL
- Dec 5 Stribling Choir Christmas Program 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM.
- Dec 5-8 Stribling Reindeer Lane Store open for student shopping.
- Dec 15 Christmas Party Day – early release day
- Dec 18-Jan 2 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – NO SCHOOL
- Jan 3 Back to school – report cards go out Jan 4.

A word from our Principal...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our PTO and our parents for a great fundraiser. Due to everyone's hard work and willingness to support their school, we had a wonderful fundraiser. These monies go to provide a number of things for staff members and students.

One of the more important expenditures for our students is books for our students to read. At the elementary level, reading is the most important skill we teach. Reading is the engine that drives student learning. We have been concentrating on purchasing non-fiction books, which increases our students' knowledge base. The more students know, the better they tend to do in their schoolwork. Our goal is to give them a lot of knowledge over a broad spectrum of topics. Non-fiction books are a wonderful source of knowledge, plus being fun to read. Hopefully, the books you helped us purchase for our students also promotes a life long love of reading and learning. If you have books and magazines at home that you and your children like to read, you are greatly enhancing the likelihood that your children will be life long learners. When children see their parents reading, they tend to follow their number one role models (parents) in that pursuit.

So----happy reading to all of you.

Philo Waters
Principal



Quick Tips from the Nurse:

Did you know that children who consume one can of sweetened soda per day have a 60-percent increased chance of developing childhood obesity!!!!!!!!!!

Did you know that children who are exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from pneumonia, bronchitis, lung diseases, and may develop ASTHMA.

Also, children who breathe secondhand smoke have more ear infections.

Sheri Pope, R.N.
School Nurse
Stribling Elementary



November News from the Music Room



It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner!!!

The 5th grade classes did a **FANTASTIC JOB** on their musical "Building America in Song"!!. **BRAVO** to ALL my students!!!!

The Stribling "Singing Stars" Choir is off to a wonderful start. We have 80 fourth and fifth grade students in the choir. The choir meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:30 - 8:00 am. Choir will perform the Christmas musical "Christmas Memories" on Tuesday, December 5th at 2:00 pm for the school and at 7:00 pm for family and friends. We will also do our community caroling on Friday, December 8th during the school day.

The Stribling "Grand Friends" Singers will be making their first visit to the Heritage Place Retirement Center on Wednesday, November 3rd from 3:10 - 4:50 pm. We will sing several patriotic songs and then visit with the residents.

3rd grade parents - You should have received a note from the music room about your child's up-coming musical "Heroes". This program will be held on Thursday evening, November 9th at 7:00 pm for family and friends. We will also perform on Friday, November 10th for our annual Veterans Day program. The Friday program will begin at 9:00 am. All students will wear any combination of the colors red, white and blue.

4th grade classes have just finished their "About Texas Photo Stories". The CD that your child brings home, will have his/her Texas music project on it, so they can show share.

Kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade classes have been working the 11 music centers. They have been exploring, creating, listening to and learning music notes and concepts in the music centers.

After school music program: We do offer group **piano** lessons (for grades K-8th) and group **guitar** lessons (for 3rd- 8th) at Stribling Elementary school. For more information, please contact Linda Terry at 817-447-5755 or check out the website at www.midiforkids.com

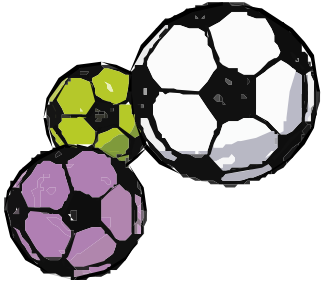
Thank you for your continued support, and Keep Singing!

Linda Terry

Stribling Music Specialist

MIDI for Kids, Lead Teacher





PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our annual Mini-Volleyball tournament took place Saturday, October 21st at Kerr Middle School. Our 5th graders who attended the tourney did an excellent job. They exemplified the meaning of true character. I was so very proud of outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork, knowing the rules of the game, leadership, and kindness. You were a class act, and we thank you for your participation.

Our next unit will be soccer in which we will learn the basics of dribbling, trapping, passing, and heading. We will also be playing some lead up games.

Computer Lab

The computer lab is up and running. We have great new countertops courtesy of the wonderful PTO! On behalf of the grateful students and staff, thank you PTO.

Kindergarten and 1st grade have focused most of our classes on keyboarding with the Kid Keys program and mouse control from various websites. Kid Pix is a favorite program of the students; we have used this program to work on the alphabet and patterns.

Second grade has done a variety of projects while we have been trying to improve our keyboarding skills. We have completed Spilt Milk and fractions (electronic pizzas) projects. Web based projects have also been a part of our lessons to practice math, punctuation, and reading.

In 3rd grade we have been working on keyboarding skills and word processing by combining these with creative writing. We have also touched on finding information on the web using the Factmonster website.

We have completed our first PowerPoint project in 4th and 5th grade. They researched animals from the Sea World website. They learned how to find images on the web and save them to use them in their project. Every class begins with an internet warm-up: to learn how to find information using a search engine and how to type in web addresses. Upcoming topics include: pie charts, bar graphs, and State research projects.



Kindergarten

Happy Autumn! We have fun this six weeks learning about fall, scarecrows, bats, spiders, and pumpkins!

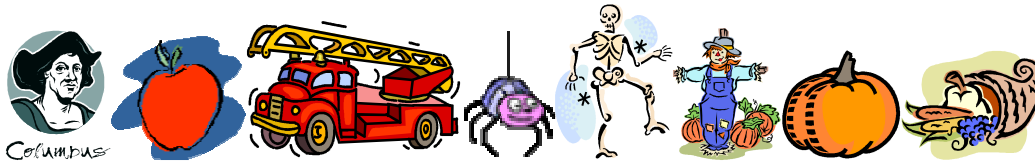


On Wednesday, October 25, we took our first field trip of the year to Mainstay Farm's pumpkin patch. While at the farm, we enjoyed learning about how pumpkins are grown, dressing scarecrows, roasting marshmallows, taking a hay ride, and choosing our very own pumpkins. Even a little rain didn't spoil our fun day! We appreciate all of the parent volunteers who joined us. The day after our field trip, we made pumpkin pies, performed math and science activities with our pumpkins, and decorated our pumpkins.

Also, a big thank you to families who helped make our fall parties a great success!

Please look for our first report card of the year on Thursday, November 9. Reading with your child each night does make a difference! Look for the new words we will be covering during the upcoming six weeks in your child's Take Home Folder.

FIRST GRADE IS FABULOUS



The second six weeks has flown by just as quickly as the first one did! Can you believe we are already planning for Christmas activities?!? We have studied many things these six weeks. We talked about how and when Christopher Columbus discovered America. We also studied Johnny Appleseed's life (John Chapman) and made yummy homemade applesauce to celebrate his contribution for American settlers who headed out West. We learned about fire safety and how to "stay low and go" and "stop, drop, and roll". Our students made fire escape plans with their families and decided on a meeting place in case of an emergency at home. The next week we talked about different species of spiders, how they can be helpful, and how some can be dangerous. First graders then celebrated autumn with scarecrows, pumpkins and Thanksgiving. Your first grader learned what the Pilgrims did for our country and how the Indians helped them get settled. We had a great time talking about what yummy foods we are going to eat at Thanksgiving.

First graders are truly amazing. We are so proud of the wonderful progress they are all making both individually as well as a team/class. Continuing to read nightly and doing spelling homework certainly benefits your child in preparing to move forward in thinking processes as well as reading and literacy skills. Thank you for all your wonderful support. Also, as a team, we'd like to sincerely thank you for taking time to conference with us about your child's report card and TPRI scores. Staying in touch helps us all know we are on the same page in reaching our goals.

Sincerely,
First Grade Teachers
Mrs. Cloud, Mrs. Halford, Mrs. Murray, Miss
Strayhorn, and Mrs. Trammell

"Thank you so much for our great fall parties. We had such a fun time and the kids are still talking about it! First grade parents really are the best!"

Second Grade News

Fall is here and second graders are working hard to learn the skills that they will need to use this year and in third grade! We enjoyed our "Native Lands" field trip on Nov. 2 and learned a lot about other cultures. We also had terrific fall parties that our room mothers put together. Thanks, moms, for all of your hard work!

Congratulations to all of the second graders who were nominated for the Stribling Reading Bee this year. Spencer Gellerup represented us at the district bee and did a great job!



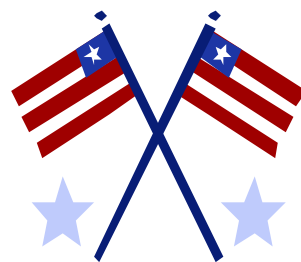
Ms. Joy's class is corresponding with a class in India and a class in England this fall. They look forward to hearing about schools in other countries! Mrs. Bushman's class is corresponding with a second grade class from New Jersey.

Second grade welcomes Mrs. McGee to the team! She will be taking over for Mrs. Poirier who is moving. We will miss Mrs. Poirier and we wish her the best in her new place!

Second Grade Teachers

Third Grade News

We hope you all will join us for our music program on Nov. 9th at 7:00 PM & Nov. 10th at 9:00 AM. It is called *Heroes*, and will be a special part of our annual Veteran's Day Program. Thank you Mrs. Terry for all your hard work with our students. Our fall parties were a huge success. Thank you room mothers and helpers for all your dedication.



Our math classes have been working on counting money, making change and telling time. These are skills that are easily practiced at home. Our main focus for the 3rd 6 weeks will be multiplication. We will begin with the 0's, 1's & 2's, and we will work toward the 11s & 12s. Practicing with your child at home can be a great help.

Reading classes have worked on main idea & summary recently. Ask your child about the question, "Who does What? When? Where? & Why?." The next objectives will be Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions.

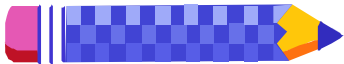
Our first checkpoint tests are behind us, and tutoring programs have begun for those needing extra support. Our 2nd checkpoint for reading is scheduled for the week of November 7th. Parents, thank you for all the help you give with our weekly homework. We appreciate you!

Forth Grade News

Lang. Arts:

Can you believe another six weeks has flown by? October is gone and November is here!

We have been busy with checkpoints in reading, math, and writing. We received the students' scores on their writing checkpoints last week and will be sending home the results this week along with their writing composition. In addition to the scores, we are involving our 4th grade parents with writing this year through a Student/Parent Conferencing activity that we tried last year. The parents were very supportive and enjoyed watching their children improve as the year progressed. Be on the look-out for this packet. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Tatum or Mrs. Smith.



Speaking of writing...Some of the classes are writing to pen pals in Seattle, Washington. We are still looking for other pen pals for some of the other 4th grade classes. If you know of any, please let us know.

Reading:

In Reading class the next six weeks we will be working on summary, main idea, context clues, making inferences and comparing two selections. We will focus on nonfiction passages. After Thanksgiving we will begin the novel *The Best/Worst Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Math:

In math we will begin working on fractions and decimals while we work toward mastery of multiplication and division. Continue working on math facts at home. Mastery of facts is a key component to success in middle school.

Science:

We are starting a new unit called "Nature's Reflections". Students will experience the magic of mirrors as they learn more about the properties of light.

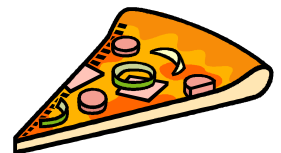
Social Studies:

We are focusing on the first explorers of Texas. Their travels changed the land and people forever. This unit is directly related to all the wonderful things we will see and experience when we go to Austin in April.

Upcoming Field Trips:

November 15-

Our students will have a hands-on experience to learn where all the ingredients of pizza come from. The Extension Food & Fiber Committee teamed with 20 community groups to create a giant pizza with each 34-foot slice containing raw ingredients including pigs for pepperoni, dairy cows for cheese, tomato and pepper gardens for the sauce, wheat for the crust, as well as a variety of herbs and spices. They finish up with pizza and ice cream. It will be a blast!



December 12-

We will spend the day at the Burluson Outdoor Learning Center located at Bransom Elementary. We are going to explore the outdoors while applying our math, science, reading, and writing skills.

We want and encourage all parents to attend these two events with us!

The 4th Grade Team:

Joy Williams

Carey Beckwith

Brauni Tatum

Ronda Reed

Michele Smith

Fifth Grade News !!!!



Thanksgiving Break Nov. 20-24

Next Star
Store

Nov. 10

We need
many
items.

Think
Thanks-
giving


and
Christ-
mas!



**Keep sending in the
Camp Carter Payments!!**

Language: Language arts classes will continue working on our reading skills using both classroom learning and study island in the computer lab. Additionally, students will read from authentic literature for their reading logs (each student is responsible for 100 minutes of reading outside of class time per week) as well as in classroom study groups. Our spelling program continues with the word wall. Each week they are tested not just on the words they are given on the study/homework list, but also on new words that follow the spelling patterns that were the focus for the week. The holidays bring rich opportunities for creative writing. We will take advantage of those opportunities and give students the chance to tap into their artistic/creative sides.
*IBP Project due November 17*****

Science: We are concluding Objective 3: Physical Science and heading off to Earth Science. There may be a need to review some students throughout the year to make sure the Science information is not lost. I will do this through after school tutoring. Please help by looking for a permission slip to stay after school.

Math: Multiplication and Division of decimals and whole numbers is our focus. Coming soon to a Math class near you: Fractions, Fractions and More Fractions. If you do not know your math facts, now is the time. Don't delay!!!! Study Island is a great place to practice skills. 

Social Studies: In social studies we will be moving from the Native Americans times and into a period of the exploration of our country. We will be discussing some of the first explorers to the Americas such as Christopher Columbus, Giovanni Caboto, and Amerigo Vespucci, to name a few. This next unit basically covers the years 1275 - 1620 a.d.