



HUSKY HOWLER

A Word From Our Principal

Phyllis Spain

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Ereckson! We have had a great start to this year, with our enrollment up approximately 80 kids from where we were at the end of last school year. We appreciate the flexibility of our staff as we continue to grow!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of "Meet the Teacher" night for 7th grade on Monday, September 21, from 6:30-8:00 (8th grade was on Thursday night, September 17). Please take this opportunity to stop by to meet your child's teachers. Should you need to discuss your child's grades, please schedule a separate time to do that so that our teachers will be able to meet all parents that stop by to visit.

Also, I would like to encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education. We have high expectations for our students, so that they may be successful as they move into high school. Middle school is a time of major transition in which students grow both physically, socially, emotionally, and academically. If they are successful in school, academically, and are involved in some type of extra-curricular activity, they are better prepared as they meet the challenges that high school brings.

Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.

Husky Directory ADS Now Available!

The directory committee is working on putting together this year's Ereckson Middle School Husky Directory and would like to offer the opportunity to you, our school community, to advertise.

Advertising costs are as follows:

Business Card Size Ad - \$50.00

Half Page Size Ad - \$100.00

Full Page Size Ad - \$150.00

Sorry, back of the directory is already gone.

Please contact Jill Shafer, Directory Chairperson, for more information if interested in placing an ad brianandjill@tx.rr.com



Don't forget the Ereckson
Back to School Bash on
Oct. 2, 6-8:00pm!

Mark Your Calendars!

September

- 25 Parent PTA Program - 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Surviving Middle School - Strategies
- 29 Picture Day!

October

- 2 Back-to-School Bash!
6 - 8:00 p.m.
- 27 General PTA Meeting *followed by*
Parent PTA Program "How To Talk
To Your Teens About Money"
8:15-9:30 a.m.

Upcoming PTA Parent Programs

Enduring Middle School: Strategies for Survival

September 25, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Rm D130

The school counselors Renae Perez and Kim Harding will present ideas to how parents can help their students be successful at middle school.

Food Provided by Jason's Deli

"How To Talk To Your Teens About Money - The ABCs"

Tuesday, October 27 - 8:15-9:30 a.m.

Presented By: Chione Giacomarro and Ryan Landes,
Primerica Financial Services, Dallas, TX

Summary: In today's world, our teens are exposed to so many mixed signals from their parents, friends, and advertising companies about money, it's value, and how to use it. Come learn and discuss the core principles to talk about with your teens and set them on the right path financially. Regardless of their age, learn strategies for teaching and talking about money with your teens.

Food Provided by The Egg & I Restaurant

Aim For Success

When: Wednesday, December 2 @ 6:30 p.m.

Where: EMS Cafeteria

"You can never cross the ocean unless you have the courage to lose sight of the shore." - Christopher Columbus

Counselor's Corner

Rena Perez, EMS Counselor 7th Grade

Our 2009-2010 school year is off to a fantastic start. All 1080 students are in their places with excitement on their faces. Our counseling department is working on several important events/topics to inform you of. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

To the parents of 7th graders, on the horizon is the Talent Identification Program (TIP) sponsored by Duke University. TIP's major identification activity, the Talent Search, identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary school. For more information about the Duke TIP program visit the website, www.tip.duke.edu.

Tough Teachers: Why Your Kids Need at Least One

While the vast majority of educators deserve great praise for their patience, care and competence, most of us have known at least one who scowled instead of smiled, yelled instead of whispered, and pointed out our weaknesses instead of our strengths.

As parents, it's tempting to rescue our kids from such teachers...to demand that our kids be moved to another class.

My parents felt this temptation when I was in the seventh grade.

I still regard Mrs. _____ (name deleted to protect the guilty) as one of the most negative, demanding, and cold people I've ever met.

She did me a great favor!

After the first week of school, my mom and dad patted me on the back and said, "You are so lucky. This year you're going to learn how to do something that plenty of adults haven't learned yet! This year you're going to learn all about how to get along with really tough people. We will help you with ideas."

I wasn't impressed! But they were right!

When your kids meet Mrs. _____, will you give them this gift...or steal it from them?

From Love and Logic: Dr. Charles Fay Love and Logic® Institute, Inc. at (800) 338-4065



Orchestra News

Mrs. Cimbalò

We are off to a great start in orchestra this year! Students are busy learning new music for our upcoming concert. Our first concert will be October 20th at Lowery Freshman Center.

A number of our more advanced students from the Chamber Orchestra at EMS will be trying out for the TMEA Region 25 All-Region Orchestra this October. They will be learning a lot of extra music in addition to our class music in order to tryout for this group. We wish all of our students the best of luck at their tryouts on October 17th. Students who are selected to this group will have a rehearsal and clinic with a guest conductor. They will give a concert and the concert is open and free to the public.

More information about the EMS Orchestra is always available at www.allenorchestra.org

New Laws Passed Regarding Teen Drivers and Child Booster Seat Usage

Parents need to be aware of recent new laws that went into effect September 1 regarding driving and child passenger safety!

- HB 339 prohibits teens under 18 from texting or talking on a cell phone while driving.
- HB 537 requires that everyone in the car, regardless of age and regardless of where they are sitting, needs to wear a seatbelt.
- HB 61 requires that all children younger than 8 years and less than four feet nine inches tall be in a child safety seat system.

Visit the legislative page of the Texas PTA Web site for a downloadable flier and more information.

Teen Drivers

Traffic accidents are the leading cause of death for teenagers in America. Inexperience, driving while distracted by cell phone use and other teen passengers, and failure to wear seatbelts are all contributing factors.

Parents can help their teens become safer drivers by taking an active role. Supervise practice driving and be a good role model by practicing safe driving yourself. Remind teens of the new laws regarding cell phone use and texting while driving. Remind them that they and all passengers are required to wear seatbelts.

Booster Seats

Car crashes remain the number one killer of children ages 2-14 in the United States. The Safekids Buckle Up Campaign recommends the following safety tips:

- Use a booster seat correctly in a back seat every time your child rides in a car.
- Use a booster seat until your child weighs between 80 and 100 pounds, and is about 4 feet, 9 inches tall. For most children, that will be between ages 8 and 12.
- Tell all drivers who transport your child that booster seat use is a must when your child is in their vehicle.
- Booster seats are not installed the same way car seats are. They sit on the vehicle seat and are used to properly position the adult safety belt for an older child. Always use a lap and shoulder belt with a booster seat.
- Never place the shoulder belt under the child's arm or behind the child's back.

Be sure all occupants wear safety belts correctly every time. Children learn from adult role models.



Cell Phone Usage in School Zones: (posted 8/31)

In accordance with the recently passed state law regarding cell phone use in school zones (HB 55), the City has installed signs at the entrances to all school zones in the City of Allen alerting drivers to the new restriction.

The signs permit Allen Police Officers to issue citations for violations of the new law which takes effect September 1, 2009.

Violators may be fined up to \$200 (the actual amount is yet to be determined).

Reminder!

Picture day is set for Sept. 29
through Lifetouch



Ereckson English Department

From the 7th Grade English Team

Welcome to 7th Grade English! This school year promises to be an exciting time for our 7th graders! We started the year by having students write an essay about "A Time I Will Never Forget." Students are not only learning how to write a reflective essay, but they are also discovering ways to incorporate their SAT vocabulary words into the paper as well. We are also reviewing some important grammar concepts. Fragments, run-on sentences, capitalization, and punctuation have been examined, and we have been able to improve our writing by being aware of how important these rules are.

In the Pre- AP English classes, students have been studying the novel *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck. This is the tale of a poor Indian fisherman whose discovery of a pearl brings him both great wealth and great sorrow. Students have enjoyed analyzing the novel both for its symbolism and author's style.

We have been extremely impressed with our students. Mrs. Beeks, Mrs. Bradford, and Mrs. Reis are looking forward to a fantastic year!

From the 8th Grade English Team

English -The classes are beginning the novel *The Call of the Wild*. The students will be learning about the Yukon Gold Rush. They will learn about a dog named Buck who will have to adapt in order to survive the harsh environment of Alaska. In addition to reading the novel, the classes will learn about the gold prospector's life and what he/she needed in order to survive and thrive.

Humanities G.T.-The students just finished reading *The Giver* and are currently participating in a Socratic Discussion over the novel. After the discussion, the students will be working together in a cooperative group to create a fourteenth colony. The assignment is titled "Newtopia/Youtopia," and the students are given an opportunity to create a society from the ground up. In the end, the student's colony will be evaluated to see if, indeed, the colony would have survived or failed.

The students love this assignment and have a great time working with their teams to create a successful colony.

EMS Reading Department

Ondria Gerard Gadd, Department Chair

The reading classes are off to a great start! During the first six weeks of school, all reading classes are studying the elements of fiction. We will spend a good portion of our time focusing on the plot diagram through an in-depth look at several classic short stories by authors such as Roald Dahl, Evan Hunter and Rudyard Kipling. We have an outstanding group of 7th graders this year and expect great things from them.

PARENT TIPS:

EACH SIX WEEKS READING STUDENTS ARE GIVEN A CALENDAR FOR THE SIX WEEKS THAT INCLUDE SUCH THINGS LIKE: reading assignments, project due dates, and test dates. *THIS IS A HELPFUL TOOL IF YOU NEED TO MONITOR ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES* for your child, and it can always be found on the Ereckson web site under Academics and Reading Department.

REMEMBER TO CHECK SKYWARD at least once a week. If the computer shows a failing grade or a zero, please communicate with your child about the grade first. *ALSO BE SURE TO READ THE COMMENTS ATTACHED TO THE ASSIGNMENT OR GRADE.* Often, this is where you will find information about re-take opportunities or explanations behind the grade.

Special Populations

Susan Koiner

Welcome back Huskies!

We are off to a great start of a new school year! We have added several new faces to our department this year. This edition, we would like to introduce...

Kathleen Elliott

- What do you do at EMS Mrs. Elliott? **7th grade learning lab**
- How long have you been in education? **I have been going to school my entire life, so forever.**
- What are you looking forward to this year at EMS? **Not getting lost any more**
- Where are you originally from? **Pompano Beach, FL**
- What do you like to do when you are not at school? **Play cards with my friend or play tennis**

In other areas of the department, Mrs. Roger's English classes are reading The Call of the Wild by Jack London. Mrs. Koiner's English classes are working on writing essays. Ask your student what wonderful things he/she is doing in class this six weeks!

Yearbook News

Liz Barnes, Yearbook advisor

Yearbooks are on sale!

\$35 for a full color book.

\$45 for a full color book and a supplemental DVD.

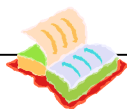
Go to Jostens.com or go to our school website under Liz Barnes's web page and there are links there to order books and upload pictures for consideration in our book.

Our yearbook staff is now offering the opportunity to "personalize" the yearbook in a very special way with a recognition ad. Space is available to tell your student how proud you are!

Regardless of the occasion, your ad provides a great way to recognize a student or event in a special and unique way. Go to Mrs. Barnes's website to find out more information.

Prices: 1/8 page = \$40.00

1/4 page = \$70.00



Ereckson History Department

7th Grade

The first six weeks of Texas History is going to cover a variety of units. We first start out with an introductory unit to the Texas government. Students will focus on the three branches of government, and the responsibilities of each one. Next, we will be doing a bit of a review with our geography unit. In class, we will look at everything from types of charts and graphs to different landforms found in Texas. By the end of the first six weeks we will be more in depth with the geography unit when we take a look at the different regions and subregions that make up our great state!

8th Grade

This year in U.S. History, students will cover the history of our country from Colonization through Reconstruction after the Civil War. We have started the year with a review of geography where students created their own Geography Islands and Continents. We are now studying about colonization and how our country came to be. We will look at the different locations of the thirteen colonies and why each colony was founded. In the next couple of weeks, we will be looking at how people lived during the colonial era. We are looking forward to a great year!

Lady Husky Athletics

Jody Hamrick, Athletic Director

The Lady Husky **volleyball** teams are off to a great start! The **basketball off-season** group is working hard, getting stronger and faster trying to prepare for the upcoming basketball season. We are looking forward to all of the Lady Husky teams having a successful year!

All Lady Husky game schedules and boys and girls golf schedules can be found on the Ereckson athletic website.

GO HUSKIES!

Husky Theatre

Mrs. Balogh

- ❖ **Theatre Club** will begin in October.
- ❖ Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m.
- ❖ in Mrs. Balogh's room B119



*"Facts do not
cease to exist
because they
are ignored."
Aldous Huxley*

From the EMS Clinic

Beth Heffernan, RN



OH NO! IS IT THE FLU?

The flu (influenza) is an infection of the nose, throat, and lungs that is caused by the influenza virus.

Symptoms: feeling tired, fever (greater than 100 F), headache, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and sore muscles. Children may also experience stomach problems and diarrhea. Cough can last two weeks or more. (People with the flu will spread the infection when they cough, sneeze and have a runny nose.) It is very important to cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough to prevent spreading germs. People become sick when they come in contact with the infection (flu germs).

Prevention:

Stay home when you are sick.

Stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or cough into the crook of your elbow. Wash your hands immediately if you inadvertently use your hand to cover your mouth.

Clean your hands.

Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Treatment:

If your child has flu symptoms, please keep him/her home and consult your doctor. It is important for the child to drink plenty of fluids and get as much rest as possible.

If your child has a temperature of 100 or greater, they can not attend school. Students must be free of fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) before returning to school. Keeping your child home and allowing plenty of rest will ensure a faster recovery for your child and prevent the spread of the infection to others.

Spanish Class News

Christine Gutierrez



En la clase de español: We are learning so much! We were speaking the first day and in the first 3 weeks we learned to greet each other, make and respond to introductions, respond to Señora Gutierrez when she speaks in Spanish, count, recite the alphabet, spell our names, pronounce and read Spanish. We know the 20 Spanish-speaking countries and their capitals and where they are in the world. We are continuing with the days of the week, months of the year and the seasons. We are learning to tell time and what it means to conjugate a verb, *ser*. So now we are creating our own sentences in Spanish! Each chapter highlights a different country. Our first chapter focuses on España so we are including cultura as much as possible.

E-mail me if you want to be included in my Spanish I parent group. I will be sending out notes from class, study guides, translations, etc. **Send your e-mail from the location where you want to receive mail from me.**

Ereckson's Back to School Bash

Who: 7th & 8th grade students
and their families

When: **Friday, October 2nd from 6-8pm**

What: **Cake walk - Face painting**
Hair painting - Snow cones
Dunking booth - Bounce houses
DJ - Sports Activities

Join us for a fun night!

For all your Ereckson Middle School Info
Check out:
<http://www.allenisd.org/erecksonms>
OR
www.erecksonpta.org




Reflections 2009-2010
THEME: "Beauty is..."

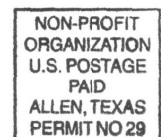
Forms are available for download
at the Ereckson PTA website:
www.erecksonpta.org

Be sure to download **1.** Student
Entry Form, **2.** General Rules, AND **3.**
Guidelines for your chosen category.

Categories are:
Photography
Visual Art
Literature
Dance Choreography
Film Production
Musical Composition

Entries Due by 10/30/2009.
Questions? contact Gelana
Todorovich at gtodo6@gmail.com

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Please Process Locally