



# HUSKY HOWLER

## Principally Speaking...

Phyllis Spain, Principal

Paul Harper, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

Jay Stafford 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

### Jay Stafford

### Bio



This is my 5th year with Allen ISD. I started off teaching English at the Beck Lowery Freshman Center. Having taught for two years, I was hired by Ross Roberts as House 200 Principal which I did for two years before coming to Ereckson Middle School as the 7th Grade Assistant Principal. I am beginning my 21st year in education. I have taught at the high school level for two years and the junior high level for seven years, teaching English and History. I was also an elementary assistant principal for seven years for a total of 16 years in the Lubbock ISD.

My wife Jill, is also in education. She is the Associate Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Allen High School. We will be married for 23 years on New Year's Eve. We have two sons, Coleman, a Sophomore at Texas Tech University. He is one of the equipment managers for the football team. He plans on coaching and teaching math or science at the middle school level. Our younger son Kyle, is a junior at Allen High School. He is a manager for the football team and plays baseball. He plans on attending Oklahoma State University and major in Broadcast Journalism.

I love being at Ereckson. I believe this is the age that is most crucial for students. Middle School sets the tone for many changes and growth for students here. I hope I can be a positive asset to the students, faculty, parents, and community at Ereckson.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Ava Reis

### 7th Grade English Teachers

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English! This school year promises to be an exciting time for our 7<sup>th</sup> graders! We started the year by having students write an essay about choice. Students are not only learning how to write a personal narrative 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, Mrs. Cooper, and Mrs. Reis are looking forward to a fantastic year! Please do not hesitate to contact us should you ever have any questions or concerns.



### Ereckson Orchestra News:

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 11th at the new **AISD Performing Arts Center (PAC)**

EMS Chamber Orchestra students presented an "In-Class Concert" for the 5 year olds from Primrose Preschool on September 30<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job playing fun songs like "Hokey Pokey", "The Wheels on the Bus", and many more as the young ones sang along. They then played some of their upcoming concert music for the students and showed them their instruments up close. Orchestra officers also prepared coloring books with copies of the songs and instruments for the pre-schoolers to take home with them after the concert! Pictures of this event are available at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?uname=M aCimbalo&target=ALBUM&id=5659819259489736465&authkey=Gv1sRgCNS-y-3h2v35VA&feat=email>

A number of our more advanced students from the EMS Chamber Orchestra and 6<sup>th</sup> grade as well, 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 29<sup>th</sup>. Students who are selected to this group will have a rehearsal and clinic with a guest conductor on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12th. 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](http://www.allenorchestra.org)

## Boys Athletics

**Brian Flowers**

Boys Athletic Coordinator

The 2011 Ereckson Huskies Football teams are having another great year. The 100 degree practices have cooled off and the Huskies are showing week to week improvement against teams from Rockwall, Wylie and Allen too. the Huskies 8<sup>th</sup> grade football teams are still undefeated and marching toward historic seasons, wish them luck in finishing the season with no losses. The coaches are appreciative of the support from the all the parents and the effort of the all student-athletes in the classroom and on the field. **Go Huskies!**

## Ereckson Teen Leadership

The Ereckson Teen Leadership class has been building relationships in class and making it our goal to get to know more people and letting more people get to know us. We have discussed how important first impressions are, how we see ourselves and what our image is, and how we can try to keep a positive attitude. We are going to be reading Who Moved My Cheese- for Teens in the next few weeks. In Teen Leadership we have enjoyed sharing about ourselves and discussing new ways to handle things in our lives.

# GO HUSKIES!



## Ereckson PTA

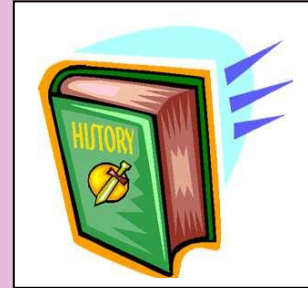
Thank you to all EMS parents and staff who generously donated to the Husky Helping Hands at the beginning of this school year! Your donation will support PTA sponsored activities which include: Back to School Bash, Red Ribbon Week assembly, parent programs with speakers, winter dance, reflections contest and lots more!

Thomas Ereckson Middle School PTA is a non-profit 501 c3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible. If you would like a receipt, please email Debbie Bailey at [dpbailey0@gmail.com](mailto:dpbailey0@gmail.com).

Thank you again from the Ereckson PTA Board



# History Department



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

In both On-Level and Pre-AP Texas history, we started the year off with a little bit of a review unit. Classes covered everything from maps and graphs to geography terms. We quickly then moved into the physical geography of Texas. Students learned about the four natural regions and eleven subregions found in our great state. Currently, classes are covering the Native Americans that once lived in Texas. While learning about those that once lived in Texas, we focused on the four cultures that once called Texas home. Soon we will study the European explorers that came to Texas searching for riches and glory.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade history we began the year with a review of geography and explorers. We then moved on to colonization to understand how our country started and got to where it is today. Students created ad campaigns and jingles to convince colonists to move to their area. We are now beginning our study of the American Revolution starting out with a concentration on the causes. PreAP students are creating album covers and On-Level students are creating Acts booklets to demonstrate their understanding of the subject matter. Beginning with the next grading period, we will move on to study the American Revolution battles and the contributions of significant individuals.

*Lisa Weston*

*U.S. History/PreAP U.S. History  
History Dept. Chair*



**Parents! Be sure to sign up for the daily announcements so you can know what's happening at EMS!!**

**Send your email address to: [Cindy Barter@allenisd.org](mailto:Cindy_Barter@allenisd.org)**



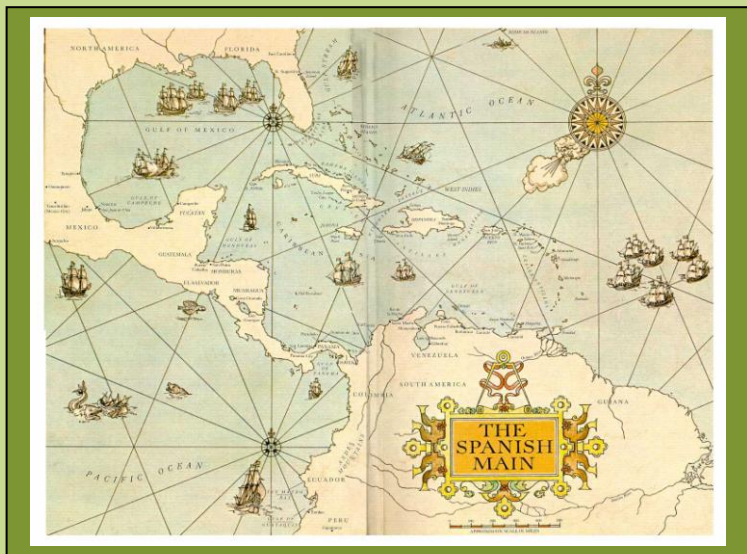
**Announcements**

# Spanish I Pre-AP/IB addition

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 Gutiérrez and Señora Storey when they speak 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 continued 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*. (to be). So now we are creating our own sentences in Spanish and having short conversations telling a little about ourselves.

Each chapter highlights a different country in order to introduce a little culture into our study of Spanish. Our first chapter focused on España and Capítulo 2 on Puerto Rico, so we are learning not only geographical information about these two great countries, but about their rich cultural heritage as well. This includes learning a bit about such cultural features as celebrations, food, architecture, art, traditions, and other interesting cultural notes to improve our understanding as global citizens.



The **PTA Reflections** contest is here and ready for some great entries. Students may submit entries in literature (prose, poetry or drama), music composition, photography, visual arts (collage, painting, drawing, fiber work or computer-generated art), dance choreography or film/video production (animation, narrative, documentary).

This year's theme is "**Diversity Means...**" There are entry forms in the hallway between the office and library. If you or your students have any questions, please let me know. **Entries are due October 28<sup>th</sup>.**

## Section 504 Child Find and Non-discrimination Statement

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Allen ISD has a duty to identify, refer, evaluate and if eligible, provide a free, appropriate public education to disabled students.

Allen ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education or providing access to benefits of educational services, activities, and programs.

Follow the Ereckson PTA on **Facebook**. You'll find reminders, updates and pictures. **Send us yours!** You'll find us by searching: **Ereckson PTA.**

You can also find information on our website:

[www.ercksonpta.org](http://www.ercksonpta.org). Or <http://www.allenisd.org/ercksonms>



# **Husky Basketball**



## **Try Outs**

Dear Parents,

Your athlete has shown interest in trying out for this years' Husky Basketball team. Try outs will be held for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade on **Wednesday Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>** and, **Friday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**. 8<sup>th</sup> grade try outs will be **Wednesday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Thursday Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>** and, **Friday Nov 4<sup>th</sup>**. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students that are not in athletics will report to the gym for try outs immediately after school. 7<sup>th</sup> grade students that are not in athletics will be released at 8:10 to get ready for first period. Teams will be announced on Friday after school.

If your athlete does not have a physical on file with the Ereckson athletic department for this school year (2011-2012) they will need to get one before they can try-out. This is an AISD policy that we must follow for your athletes' safety.

The athletes will be put through a series of drills to show their skills and abilities. Each athlete will need to come to try outs in shorts, t-shirt, and tennis shoes. If you wish to save on expense please wait to purchase any basketball shoes until final cuts are made.

**All 7<sup>th</sup> grade try outs will be in the morning beginning promptly at 7:15. Please be at the gym at least 15 minutes before try outs begin. 8<sup>th</sup> grade tryouts will be after school and will be over at 4:30.**

If you have any questions about try outs please call me at 972-747-3308 ext 1505 or email me at [bryan\\_jordan@allenisd.org](mailto:bryan_jordan@allenisd.org).

Thanks and I am looking forward to working with your athlete.

Coach Jordan

Head Basketball Coach

Ereckson Middle School

[bryan\\_jordan@allenisd.org](mailto:bryan_jordan@allenisd.org)





**GO HUSKIES!!!**

Ereckson Middle School Newsletter

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