



**Panther Pause**  
**Faubion Elementary School**  
**1209 Cypress Creek**  
**Cedar Park, TX 78613**  
**Phone: 435-4950**  
**Fax: 435-4955**  
**Sarah Grissom- Principal**

**November 2009**

**From our Principal:**

By now, you should have received a letter in the mail regarding your log-in for ParentLink. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to go online and make sure that your contact information is updated. ParentLink is a great communication tool that I use on a weekly basis. It allows me to send out e-mails to parents about upcoming events, or even to send out urgent recorded messages over the phone. The most prominent way I use ParentLink is with my weekly email in which I remind parents about the week's events. I believe in having a strong home and school connection. We want you informed, so you can be involved. If you have questions on how to access your ParentLink account, please call the front office at 570-7500.

Always REACHing,  
*Sarah Grissom, Principal*

**From our Assistant Principal:**

The safety of your children is our first priority. All students arriving by car need to be dropped off in the designated drop off lanes. If you drop your children off in the parking lot, you

are putting them at risk, because drivers cannot see small children in between the cars. Also, please do not drive into Woodhollow Cove to drop off your children as this can be a huge safety hazard for children walking and using crosswalk. Students who walk to school should travel through the designated crosswalks to enter the Woodhollow Cove entrance to the school grounds. Students are not safe walking or riding bicycles on Cypress Creek Road as there are no crossing guards to monitor them.

Please drop off students after 7:20 a.m. -- the doors do not unlock until that time and students will be left unsupervised if dropped off earlier. Learning begins promptly at 7:45 a.m. Please ensure your child arrives in time to begin their day without feeling rushed.

*Bobbie Steiner, Asst. Principal*



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Early Release Day**

Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> will be early release day. Please make arrangements for your child picked up at **12:00pm**



**Veterans Day Lunch**

All veterans are invited to come enjoy lunch with us on Monday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> as we observe Veteran's Day on this day

**Thanksgiving Lunch**

We will celebrate our traditional Thanksgiving lunch on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> during your child's regular lunchtime:  
 Kinder - 10:40 -11:10

- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade - 11:00-11:30
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - 11:20-11:50
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - 12:00-12:30
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - 11:35-12:05
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade - 12:35-1:05

**News from the District**

**Dear Parents:**

This August, Leander ISD launched ParentLink, a communication tool that keeps our parents interested, informed and involved in their child's campus. ParentLink has proven to be extremely effective in enhancing LISD's ability to communicate campus and district activities with our stakeholders.

In October, LISD mailed parents their login IDs, passwords and instructions for accessing their ParentLink account. Using this information, parents can now log in and change their user ID and password to one of their choosing. *(Note: This information does not pertain to Parent Connection, the system that allows parents to access their student's grades and attendance information.*

*ParentLink is strictly for campus and district communications.)* Some parents may have received more than one letter, each with a different ID and password. If you received more than one letter, please log in under one ID and password. Once you have logged in, you have the ability to merge all of your accounts into one account.

If parents need assistance editing their account information, they can visit [www.leanderisd.org](http://www.leanderisd.org) and click on ParentLink/Insider News or contact their child's campus.

**Notes from our Grade Levels**

**Kindergarten** - In Kindergarten this month we are learning about

the seasonal changes of fall, thanksgiving customs, problem solving, graphing, and more reading! Also, Look for our turkeys in disguise... they don't want to be eaten for Thanksgiving dinner.

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** - The first nine weeks has flown by. We are continuing to work on classroom expectations with our students. Please discuss REACH---Responsible, Effort, Attitude, Commitment, Helpful. Our Science Kit for the second nine weeks is New Plants. We will learn about seeds, parts of plants and what plants need to grow. In Math, we will learn number place value, odd and even numbers, problem solving and addition and subtraction. One of our units of study for Language Arts will be non-fiction text and recognizing the purpose of the text. Please visit the first grade website for a complete list of our skills. We have also put some links to games on our page. It is our goal to keep the page updated with current information. It is just one more way that we can have communication with you.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** - In second grade we have been writing change-ups to a story called, Turk and Runt by Lisa Wheeler. The students wrote their own short story and designed the perfect disguise for their turkey. We are exploring the use of sensory images in their writing and learning about poetry. In reading we are making predictions and doing detailed retells of the story. We continue to look at sentence structure and identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Our math focus is on time and temperature, problem solving, and money. In Social Studies we are working on "Parts of government" along with land forms and will be doing a class

project. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks in Science is Air & Weather with lots of journaling and hands on exploration.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - Third grade is falling into November with great anticipation for the weeks and holidays ahead. They will begin to unlock their imaginations as they explore the worlds of fantasy and science fiction in literature. Students will be able to let their imaginations fly as they create their own stories of limitless possibilities. We are also marching into that time in the third grade season where students are introduced to the wonderful word of multiplication. They will be practicing and memorizing their facts to build a foundation for all the wonderful years of math to come. Finally we have safely landed from our space exploration and will be heading off to explore one of the most unique properties of our own wonderful planet water. We are eagerly anticipating the new journey of learning in the upcoming weeks.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - We cannot believe that the first nine weeks are over!! It has been a great first quarter and we have been learning a lot. Some of the reading classes have started their "Book Clubs." Several students read the same book, then they meet to discuss what they have read and to do activities related to the reading. Classes also continue to work on comprehension skills, sequencing, characters and point of view. Social Studies classes have been working on map reading and important cities in Texas. They are also working on landforms such as deltas, plateaus, peninsulas, etc. We are also working on elevations, climate, and natural regions. In writing we

just finished up our big Poetry Unit, and we are now moving onto Personal Narratives. We are also focusing on the Traits of Writing and certain aspects of grammar. Our next unit in science will be "That Sinking Feeling" and "Nature's Reflections." This focuses on sinking/floating (buoyancy) and water displacement. It also looks at how light travels and reflects. In math we will be working on two digit by two digit multiplication, area, fractions/decimals, probability and rounding. Hope to see you at the goal setting conferences on November 4th.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - My how time flies! We enjoyed "the Geography Guy" who flew in from Alaska gave us an amazing tour of our fifty states. We identified mountains, rivers, states, capitals, years states were admitted to the union, the first 6 states and much more. Do you know which state was the 31<sup>st</sup> state to join the Union and when or where each Great Lake is located? We bet your student does... Our young scientist will be focusing on our earth next. We will be learning about landforms, volcanoes, plates, earthquakes, and the ring of fire and that is just scratching the surface. Now that we have learned about explorers in social studies, we will become settlers and study how our great country came to be. While comparing the colonies, we will be learning about daily colonial life on Colonial Day November 20<sup>th</sup>. This is where we could use your help. We will be collecting supplies to use on this day, so start saving any baby food containers, tin cans (larger vegetables cans), and pine wood or plywood cut into 2 ½" squares. We will be sending more information and a supply list home

soon. We are looking forward to our next adventure this nine weeks. Remember to have your students practice their math facts and states and capitals throughout the year. Thanks for all you do!

## Nurse News



"Green" or "natural" cleaners may clean surface dirt, but they often can't kill certain harmful bacteria or viruses. These products aren't tested for germ-kill efficacy by a government or health agency, as traditional disinfecting products are. Using an EPA-registered disinfectant is the best way to be sure you're effectively killing germs on surfaces that can cause illness.

## Counselor's Corner

### Ethical Principle: Concern for Others

Caring about others and helping others is something to do all year long. Simple ways for kids to show they care include a smile or kind word, sending birthday cards or thank you notes.... The holiday season is a great time to help even young children learn about giving to others. Donations of toys, clothes, canned foods are an easy way to teach about giving and helping. Participating in an event/volunteering your time, such as serving food on Thanksgiving at a shelter, will have an even greater impact.

### Guidance Lesson: Communication Skills

We will focus on improving listening skills, expressing our thoughts and feelings appropriately, and understanding how body language, facial

expressions, and tone of voice can impact what we say.

### LISD Clothes Closet:

The Clothes Closet is for children in need of new clothes, especially some warmer clothes for the winter season. It's located in Leander, near Leander Middle School. It is open on Friday and Saturday. \*If you do not have your own transportation, Faubion now has volunteers who will go to the Clothes Closet for you. The volunteers are able to go for any family that has the need. Volunteers will be given a list of items and sizes, but not the students' names in order to protect their privacy. If you need clothing for your children, please contact interventionist Heather Mossell, registrar Brandie Martinez, or the counselor Kristin Wilson for more information.

### Veterans Day: November 11

Hooray for Veterans! Many of our friends and family have served or are currently serving in the military. We want to honor them and thank them for their service. This year we are giving students a chance to design a poster to show their support for veterans. We will have a contest, and the winning posters could be sent to veterans hospitals, Camp Mabry, Fort Hood, and even the Pentagon. Stay tuned for more information.

### Education—Go Get It Week!

November 16-20

A week to focus on higher education, learning new vocabulary words such as diploma, degree, junior college, associate's degree, and dual credit. It's never too early to start planning for a

bright future. The following web sites have lots of good information for students and parents...

[www.collegeboard.com/student/planning/starting-points/156.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/planning/starting-points/156.html)

[www.getdegrees.com/articles/career-resources/40-reasons-to-go-to-college/](http://www.getdegrees.com/articles/career-resources/40-reasons-to-go-to-college/)

[www.college.gov/wps/portal](http://www.college.gov/wps/portal)

[www.CollegeForTexans.com](http://www.CollegeForTexans.com)

Kristin Wilson, School Counselor



## Library News

### Author Visit

We are very excited that author Jackie Mims Hopkins is coming to visit on Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>. She is the author of many wonderful children's books such as Goldie Socks and the Three Libearians, The Shelf Elf, and The Horned Toad Prince. Ms. Hopkins will be available for book signing and books will be available for purchase on the day of her visit. To learn more, visit her website at <http://www.jackiemimshopkins.com/>.

### Bluebonnet Book Clubs

We will be beginning our second session of Bluebonnet Book Clubs this month. Book clubs meet once a week and will be held during lunchtimes as follows: Third grade - Tuesdays or Thursdays, Fourth and fifth grades - Wednesdays or Fridays. Students who are interested in participating may sign up for one session that meets one day a week. A sign-up sheet is available in the library.

### Extended Library Hours

The library will be open on early release day, Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 6pm. Parents are invited to stop by the

library when you attend your student's conference.

## Fine Arts News

Show-Off Week for 4th & 5th Graders in Specials: Nov. 2nd-6th

This is your opportunity to come see what we do in Specials. You are invited to come during 4th grade time: 8:40-9:30 & 5th grade time: 10:30-11:20. We would love for you to come!!!!

On November 16th, the students will be moving into new specials.

If your child has been in Art, they will go to Music. If your student is in Music they will move to Theatre Arts, and TA students will move to Art!



## Theater Arts

In Theatre Arts, the last four weeks are busy ones! 4th Grade and 1st grade are busily preparing and rehearsing for their annual plays. 2nd grade is working on producing their own commercials, 3rd grade is working on Story Telling and 5th grade will be focusing on performance as well!

In Kindergarten, we are continuing our study of creative drama and having tons of fun with it!! As always, if you are cleaning out your closets, we will always take donations of shoes, purses, costume jewelry, briefcases, etc.

We would love to add them to our costume center.

## PTA News

With the craziness of October over, Faubion PTA looks forward to a relatively quiet November. I want to thank everyone who volunteered to work Fall Fest,

especially Lisa Keating and Cindy Davis. They put in a great deal of time to make this such an enjoyable event. Thanks also to Janet Fiala for organizing our annual Donuts with Parents event. It was a great success. Our Reflections Art Night was also another great event and we entered many fantastic works of art into the PTA Reflections Art contest. Thanks to Dianne Hall for chairing our Reflections program. We welcomed Neal Nichols, the Geography Guy for two days and he did a fantastic job teaching our students unique ways to learn about our country and the world. We hope that you student enjoyed his presentation.

October also began our Watch DOG program and we have had a fantastic response from dads and teachers alike. So far, Randy Hall, Michael Burkhart, Don Johnson and Matthew Fuller have volunteered their time to help out at Faubion. Our students seem very excited about the Watch DOG being on campus and I want to encourage other fathers and father figures to sign up or learn more about that program. Of course, you can always find more information about that program and anything else that PTA does on our website at

<http://faubion.my-pta.org>. Cookie dough will be arriving on November 10th. You can pick up your orders after school on the 10th until 7PM. More information will go out in Wednesday folders. Our Escrips fundraiser ends on the 11th of November. This is a great way to buy gift cards for the holidays and support your school! These cards will be delivered before the Thanksgiving break. Specific details about this fundraiser will be in your Wednesday folders. December

picks up speed again with our book fair and Cookie & Cocoa with Santa. There will be a many opportunities to volunteer at both of those events. Book fairs are a great way to get started volunteering at school and all the proceeds from that event go directly back into the library. PTA will also sponsor a underwear and socks drive during the book fair to help out the Leander Clothes Closet. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I want to make everyone feel welcome to volunteer and I always value new ideas.

*Patty Fuller, PTA President*



## Parent Make & Take

While you are here for your Goal Setting conferences on Wednesday, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> make sure you stop the MPR for the Parent Make & Take. We will have various games to make for home that practice and reinforce reading and math skills

