

February 21 2012

KOLTER ELEMENTARY



A Smash And Grab burglary occurred last week on Rutherglen near the park. Parents, NEVER leave valuables in your car, even if you only plan to be away for moments.

Someone may be watching!

Important Dates

- Tuesday, February 21**
~PTO Spirit Night @ Auntie Pasta's—4:00 until 9:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 22**
~Ms Silverman's class to HEB
- Thursday, February 23**
~Principal's Coffee with 3rd Gr. parents—8:00 a.m.
- Friday, February 24**
~Go Texan Day
~Taiko students perform At Wortham Center
- Saturday, February 25**
~UIL Competition
- Monday, February 27**
~5th Grade STARR reading Benchmark
- Tuesday, February 28**
~5th Grade STARR math Benchmark
~Pre-K, PPCD, Life Skills to Natural Science Museum
- Wednesday, February 29**
~5th Grade STARR science Benchmark
~Early Dismissal—faculty Meeting -No Extended Day
- Thursday, March 1**
~PTO Board nominations due



Gratitude

By Ella Menefee

As I reflect upon my many years of formal classroom teaching, I truly appreciate the opportunity to have been a part of Kolter's educational family. Parents, children, faculty and staff: Thank you for your support, encouragement, and the love you have expressed to me. Together we have all made a difference.

Kolter has provided me memories for a lifetime. It is with sincere gratitude that I was able to share my love of teaching with the Kolter families. I look forward to more possibilities for serving others in the future as my voice becomes stronger.

From Mrs. Stewart Why I LOVE Kolter!

There are countless people I want to thank for the myriad of meaningful experiences that have taken place in recent weeks at Kolter ES! It's astonishing to think about the powerful teamwork that has taken place. The 4th Grade Team & Ms. Shong pushed student thinking and work products to a new level of rigor with the **Prairie Research Expo!** We saw another fabulous **Chinese New Year celebration** coordinated by Ms. Yu, a favorite Kolter tradition for sure! **America's black history** was remembered through the eyes of our military heroes, and children went to work in their communities to embrace random acts of kindness. Ms. Henderson and Ms. Carr-Green led coordination efforts, and virtually every staff member contributed to the efforts in some way. Thanks to Ms. Saks for providing musical support, and also to Ms. Porter for assisting in many aspects of the planning.

The impetus for renovating our traditions for **Valentine's Day** was to focus on friendship and character. On Valentine's Day, children wrote meaningful messages to their peers and PTO volunteers provided sweet treats for them to enjoy! Each grade level had a unique activity... Kindergarteners made "heart pockets", first graders used adjectives to describe their classmates, and third through fifth graders wrote to each other on a big valentine. Mr. Royal, our former plant operator, and Ms. Brown, our new plant operator were

Ms Stewart invites parents with students in the 3rd grade to join her on Thursday, February 23 at 8:00 a.m. in the Language Lab.

dressed in a Valentine costume and gave each child a sticker during their lunch. Best of all, I think our children enjoyed the read aloud from the book, "Say Something." A special thanks goes out to our Kolter classroom teachers and room parents who worked together to make it a special day.

Our **I LOVE Kolter** week culminated with the **Pancake Palooza!** Months of planning had already gone into the event, and we were quite flummoxed with the weather forecast! Alas, our gusto to forge ahead was rewarded with a wonderful family experience! The smell of pancakes and maple syrup permeated the building and our families showed up in droves. Thank you Kolter families for your support by just being there! Candace Desrosiers' vision for this event was realized in many spectacular ways! I witnessed so many volunteers at work that I'm afraid I'd leave some out if I tried to list everyone! Our Kolter teachers gave up their Saturday to help make the event extra meaningful for the children. Part of the joy was just seeing the children have a blast with the many different activities and opportunities to enjoy the fellowship of Kolter. It was a wonderful day and it reminded me to stop and reflect on our exceptional school. None of it is possible without the teamwork and collaboration that exists between our families, staff, and student body.

And that is why I love Kolter Elementary!

From The Magnet Office

By Claire Frazier

The Magnet Team" is proud to announce the Rodeo Art Contest winners for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Art Program, 2012. All winners will receive a certificate.

Blue Ribbon Winners—1st place

Noura Jabir—3rd grade with *Desert's Sunset*

Eleanor Kimbro—3rd grade with *Campsite*

Laura Hester—5th grade with *Untitled*

Red Ribbon Winner—2nd place

Abigail Hart—2nd grade with *Untitled*

White Ribbon Winners—3rd place

Virgilio Jimenez—4th grade with *Untitled*

Ella Wisdom—5th grade with *Flying Horse*

Andrea Estrada—5th grade with *The Dirty White Horse*

Freddi Linda—5th grade with *Moonlight Water*

The winners' artwork will be on display in the Kolter main hallway during the month of March. Congratulations to all participants!

Important Date Change!

The school district recently created a schedule for benchmark tests for 3-5th grade students. Unfortunately, the testing schedule interferes with our plans for the Spring Program, and has made it necessary for us to reschedule. Due to STAAR testing in April, we have decided to postpone the Spring Program until Wednesday, May 2nd. We will send notes home again closer to that time to confirm your child's participation in the program. Thank you for understanding!



From The PTO

The PTO Nominations Committee is now taking nominations for the 2012-2013 PTO Executive Committee. Several offices are open including the Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Forms are available in the lobby; you may also send an email with your nomination to advisor@kolterpto.com. Be sure to have the nominee's consent. The Nomination window will close on March 1, 2012 and elections will be held at the PTO general meeting on March 19th.

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.

Amazing Kolter Kids

Kolter Elementary salutes the following students who make us Kolter Cougar proud!

Madison Carter, a 2nd grader in Ms Derakhshan's class, and Zoe Carter, a 4th grader in Ms Lidsky's class, spread holiday cheer throughout St. Luke's hospital during the winter break. The girls, who are part of St. Luke's Junior Volunteer Council, brightened the day of many patients with their hand crafted cards that they distributed along with holiday ornaments.

Week of February 20

Kinder Carpool Duty

Ms Yeager's parents

Main Carpool Duty

Ms Hiller's parents

Week of February 27

Kinder Carpool Duty

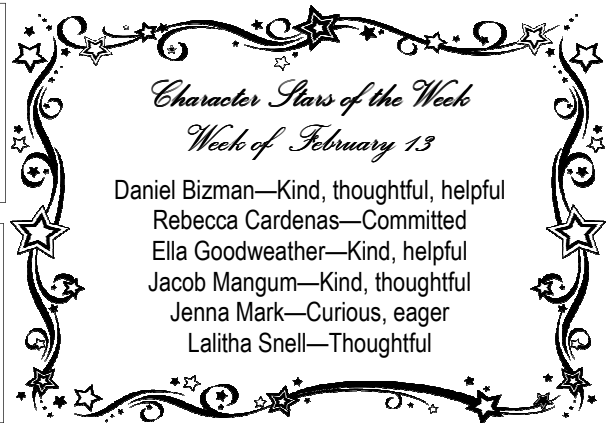
Ms Silverman's parents

Main Carpool Duty

Ms Newsome's parents

Coach's Corner

Being physically fit means having a strong and healthy body. Exercise, healthy eating, and proper rest help you get and stay fit. Exercise is moving your body to work hard and is a way to have fun. Exercise helps your heart and lungs stay healthy along with making your bones and muscles strong. Eating healthy means choosing foods that are good for your body. Getting enough rest also helps you stay fit; rest helps you feel your best. Being fit helps you look and feel your best.



Willow Pool Board Needs Your Help!

Dear Community Member,

Many of you may have children or grandchildren who have utilized the Willow Pool during their participation in area summer swim leagues. The Willow Pool board was recently informed that there is an interest in buying the land upon which the pool is situated. You may not be aware the Willow Pool property is owned by the city and leased to the pool Association. This arrangement extends back to the 1960s; the pool itself was built by neighborhood people using their own funds.

Because of the recent interest in the land, we ask that all community members write a letter to Council Member Larry Green at districtk@houston.tx.gov as soon as possible. We also ask that you copy your email to Julia Floyd, VP Willow Pool Board at 4511floyd@msn.com. Please include these bullet points in your email: That the city

- 1) Protect Willow Pool's lease by extending it for 20 years
- 2) Not allow Willow Pool's lease to be sold privately, or at auction, to an entity other than Willow Pool
- 3) Protect this community asset from permanent change that would damage this strong, growing neighborhood

Please ask your children to participate as well. Have him/her draw a picture or write a short note to Council Member Larry Green. Send the picture or note to: Council Member Larry Green City Hall Annex 900 Bagby, First Floor, 77002 Please make a copy of the drawing and/or note and deliver to Julia Floyd at 4511 Nenana Drive, 77035.

It is unclear if, or when, the issue will be presented to Council. Your timeliness in the manner is greatly appreciated.

Michele Rawson, Willow Pool Board