

February 7, 2012

KOLTER ELEMENTARY

The Fifth Grade Wax Museum was a huge success! Thanks, parents for your help in providing authentic costumes and creating fabulous speeches about famous 19th century people. Students, you learned a lot and did an awesome job! What a great learning opportunity for all. Many thanks. The Fifth Grade Teachers

Important Dates

Wednesday, February 8

~SDMC meeting
~+Talk III @ 6:30 pm

Friday, February 10

~Black History Prog-9:00am

Tuesday, February 14

~At-Risk Progress Reports go home
~Valentine's Day Character Writing Project
—A No Candy day!

Thursday, February 16

~Principal's Coffee with 3rd Grade parents-8:00am
~STARR Presentation @ HMW-6:30 pm

Friday, February 17

~Title 1 Parent meeting 8:00 am—Cafeteria
~Kindergarten to Children's Museum
~1st Grade hosts Teacher Appreciation

Saturday, February 18

~PTO Spring fundraiser

Tuesday, February 21

~PTO Spirit Night @ Auntie Pasta's—4:00 until 9:00 pm

Friday, February 24

~Go Texan Day

Wednesday, February 29

~Early Dismissal—faculty Meeting -No Extended Day

Thursday, March 1

~PTO Board nominations due

WEDNESDAY NIGHT—Feb. 8: +TALK III: Cyber Technology: Catching Up With Our Kids

6:30-8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School—6802 Buffalo Speedway

Technology shapes our lives today in ways we could never have imagined when we were children. It is an exciting time, although the knowledge gap many of us feel as parents can be daunting! How do we balance our need for our children to be prepared for their future with our desire to keep them safe? How do we engage them in this ever-expanding world and somehow protect their privacy? What are our responsibilities as parents? Why is it important to tune in to, support, and assist our children in developing the critical thinking skills needed to navigate these new waters?

Join us for a presentation and panel discussion that will address the opportunity we have as a community to teach our children the importance of "digital wellness" and digital citizenship and the weighty consequences that can hang in the balance when we find ourselves falling behind our children in this compelling, new digital world.

Our expert panel will include: Amy Acosta, PhD, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine and Licensed Professional Psychologist, Texas Children's Hospital Larry Kahn, Chief Technology Officer, The Kinkaid School, and Amanda Hinton, Special Agent, Houston FBI Cyber Crime Squad.

ALL are welcome! Admission is FREE to parents and staff of +Roundtable schools, including Kolter Elementary. Admission is \$5 for other members of our community.

Come to this +Talk, the third in a series of five this school year, and find out why it is important that we ALL — Dads, Moms, teachers, coaches, principals, students — take time to get informed in order to get AHEAD of bullying and create +Upstanding Communities.

For more information, please contact:
Sarah Fisher CEO, + Works
aware@positivethinkingworks.org
www.positivethinkingworks.org

See a slide show and photo from the Wax Museum at <http://es.houstonisd.org/kolteres/wax-museum.html>

Parent Meeting Addresses Academic Strategies

Kolter Elementary will hold a parent meeting on February 17th at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. Topics will be

- Strategies for K-2 students who struggle in reading and math
- Strategies for 3-5 students who struggle in reading and math

The target audience is parents of our at-risk population. Breakfast will be served and there will be a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card.

Thanks For Your Support!

The following is excerpts from parental feedback we received after Ms Stewart's Valentine's Day letter went out.

..... awesome idea. Thanks so much for the hard work you guys do every day.

..... very positive indeed. Please pass on my appreciation to Mrs. Stewart

..... what an awesome idea. I love it.

..... this is probably the best idea I've heard on what is rapidly becoming a hyper-commercialized, soulless celebration of who knows what.

..... I support and salute you and the entire Kolter administration for standing up to the empty, mindless, and clearly damaging "celebration" that Valentine's (Day) has become. We are fortunate and proud to be at Kolter.

..... thanks! This is why I send my kid to Kolter - the faculty and principal think things through and change policy when they see things hurting our kids. I am very grateful for this change and think it is an absolutely brilliant idea! Our warmest appreciation this Valentine's (day) will go to you all!



Week of February 6 <i>Kinder Carpool Duty</i> Ms Glapion's parents <i>Main Carpool Duty</i> Ms Kyle's parents	Week of February 13 <i>Kinder Carpool Duty</i> Ms Wadih's parents <i>Main Carpool Duty</i> Ms Curry's parents
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From The PTO... Now Taking Nominations!

The PTO Nominations Committee is now taking nominations for the 2012-2013 PTO Executive Committee. Please consider serving on the board to help keep the fine Kolter PTO tradition thriving.

Simply complete a nomination form, available in the lobby, with the names of any Kolter parent, guardian or grandparent who is willing to fill an office. Alternatively, send an email with your nomination can to advisor@kolterpto.com. Be sure to have consent of the nominee.

Several offices are open including the Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Nominations will close on March 1, 2012. The election will be held at the PTO general meeting on March 19th.

HISD and the Council of PTAs will host a **STAAR Presentation** for parents on Thursday, February 16 from 6:30 – 8:00p.m. in the board auditorium, Hattie Mae White Building 4400 W 18th Street. This is a great opportunity for parents to learn about STAAR.

Kolter Prairie T-shirts with Prairie Partners

Soon the Kolter Prairie T-shirts will be printed so that they can be sold in March to raise funds for the prairie work station. The prairie work station will include 4 picnic tables and a shade cover so that students will have a place to sit and work.

We are soliciting *Prairie Partners*, persons or businesses, who will donate funds for the construction of the prairie work station. Any person, family, or business that contributes a minimum of \$250 will have their name printed on the T-shirt to be forever recognized as *Kolter Prairie Partners*. Donation levels are:

Golden Bison—\$1000 Silver Bison—\$500 Bronze Bison—\$250

Investing in Kolter's outdoor learning centers (Prairie, Pond, and gardens) directly benefit our current students and will continue to attract future families to Kolter. If you are interested in becoming a *Prairie Partner*, please contact Mrs. Shong during February.

Zoned Registration In Progress

Registration of zoned students is a high priority at Kolter! We are now accepting zoned student registration for 2012-2013 school year in order to ensure space availability for all students zoned to Kolter.

Registration is Monday through Friday 8:30am until 2:30pm. Parents, when registering please bring your child's original birth certificate, Social Security Card, complete immunization record, current report card, parent's photo ID or driver's license, and proof of residence—a lease, electric, gas, or water bill.

Recycle Sale Is March 29th

Kolter's Annual Recycle Sale will be held on March 29th and 30th from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm. Please start setting aside items that you plan to donate. We need all sorts of items, including furniture, clothing, toys, books, dishes, and tools. You can bring donated items to the Kolter cafeteria after the Spring break, between March 19th and March 28th.

Last year we used the proceeds from the recycle sale to fund the construction of the pond deck cover. This year the sale proceeds will be used to fund a shaded work station on the prairie.

HISD Introduces News Blog

Consider subscribing to the HISD News Blog, <http://hisdnews.wordpress.com>. The blog was used recently to send out live updates on storm conditions and cancellations. Go to hisdnews.wordpress.com, in the bottom right corner click the "+ Follow" box and enter your email address. You will be emailed every time a story is posted. You can click the link and go straight to the story which is presented in a mobile-friendly format.

The HISD News Blog will serve as a hub for a variety of stories – whether it's a quick update from our schools, weather alerts or closings, a great photo taken at an event, or a quote from a teacher, parent or community member. The blog also includes the top stories from our website and other sources, making it a one-stop-shop for HISD news.

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.