

October 2011

PTA NEWSLETTER

Eugenia Porter Rayzor Elementary

Principal Matters

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This has been the best start of a school year in my 25 years of service to your children. Our staff is working as a team - working hard to ensure your children are learning today so they can be leaders in the future. We have had lots of exciting things going on inside the classroom and outside the classroom as well. We have added golf lessons to our after school activities and we are piloting a robotics team. Once we work out all the kinks in the robotics team we will open it up to other students. More information will be coming later this fall about this wonderful opportunity.

Wolf Fest is just around the corner. For our 70 new students that is our fall festival. It is a great deal of fun and is also the 1st fund raiser of the year for our PTA (They have 2 major fundraisers a year). These ladies work very very hard to pull off this wonderful event for your child. So, please be supportive in any way you can. You are going to love this night!

Keep in mind that the end of the first six weeks is approaching quickly. During the

first week of October we will have our parent conferences. The students are released all this week at 12:50 p.m. in order to have time to meet with you and discuss your child's progress. We would love to have 100% of our parents conference with their child(ten)'s teacher(s). This is a great time to hear some wonderful things about your child, ask questions you may have, and find out how you can help with your child(ten)'s education at home.

I want to say a special thanks to our PTA for their support. This group has already sponsored lunch for the teachers as a welcome back, supplied T-shirts to the staff at no charge, donated 13 Nooks to our library, given the school \$10,000 to support our Stars of the Pack Reward System and keep our technology upgraded and organized and held the fall book fair for the year. Thank you PTA for all you do! You touch my heart everyday!

Dr. Happy Carrico
Principal

Upcoming Dates:

September

- 26th -30th : PTA Membership Drive
30th : PTA Reflections Contest Begins
(ends October 31st)

October

- 3rd -7th : Teacher Conferences and Early Release Week
4th : Texas Roadhouse Bite Night 4:00 pm-10:00 pm
14th : Wolf Fest 6:00pm - 9:00pm
17th : PTA Board Meeting -- 1:30pm-2:45pm
20th : PTA General Meeting -- 6:30pm in cafeteria
(Choir Program)
21st : Wolfing It Down--hosted by 4th/5th Grades
24th-28th Red Ribbon Week
31st : PTA Reflections Contest Ends

November

- 8th : Texas Roadhouse Drive-Thru Dinner
(at E.P. Rayzor)
- 17th : Delivery of Texas Roadhouse Rolls
Fall Picture Retakes/Makeup Date
Pictures with Rayzor
(school sponsored)
- 21st -25th : Thanksgiving Break

Meet Nurse Susan

Hi! I am the new nurse at E.P. Rayzor! Nurse Becky has gone over to Guyer High School with her children. Let me tell you a little about myself – I have been a nurse for 23 years and a school nurse for over 5 of those years. This is my first year in Denton ISD. I feel very blessed to be here in Denton, and especially at E.P. Rayzor.

September is the time to celebrate a few types of food - **Fruits and Veggies More Matters Month and Whole Grains Month**. Two of our own students here at E.P. have made a poster that is hanging on my office door. I am so proud of Iman Shah and Lexi Tovar for making this poster!

More than 90 percent of both adults and children do not eat the amount of fruits and vegetables recommended by the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans. **But just remember two (2) things ... fill half your plate with fruits & veggies at every eating occasion AND all forms ... fresh, frozen, canned, dried and 100% juice ... count toward your daily intake!**

Whole grains can be incorporated into a diet easily – even changing one or two foods to a whole grain product can make a difference in the long run!

Ways to take small steps toward changing your diet, recipes, and tips on involving children in the planning and preparing of foods, plus additional information can all be found on the websites below. Both websites currently have contests running; you might want to check them out and see about entering! You just might be the one to win a prize!

http://www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org/?page_id=963

<http://www.wholegrainscouncil.org/get-involved/celebrate-whole-grains-month-in-september>

If I can ever be of assistance to you in regards to nutrition or other health-related matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Susan Williams, RN
940- 369- 4105
swilliams@dentonisd.org

Bozeman's Banner

I am so excited about this new school year. E.P. Rayzor is a wonderful place to learn and grow. Our talented teachers and enthusiastic students work together every day to ensure learning is taking place. We are glad your children are here.

Our Watch DOG program is off to a great start. Pizza Night was well attended and filled with smiles and excitement. While our dads listened to a short program about the Watch DOG experience, children played organized games in the gym with some of our teachers. We appreciate our DOGS (Dads of Great Students) for the time and energy they put into volunteering at E.P. Rayzor. Research has shown that when fathers are at school taking an interest in the education of their children, that student's achievement rises.

When your child knows that you are committed to helping them be successful, they put more effort into their studies. If you need more information about this program, you may contact me or visit our website. Thank you very much for taking part in this program.

The end of the first six weeks is coming quickly. If you have not scheduled your conference with your child(ren)'s teacher, please contact them as soon as possible. Communication is a key factor in your child's success in school. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Mrs. Bozeman
Assistant Principal

President's Message

PTA Contacts

President

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The school year is off to a great start and your PTA Board has been working hard already to ensure another fantastic year full of activities and programs for you and your family. We just completed our annual PTA Membership Drive. Even if you haven't joined yet, I encourage each of you to join the PTA to be a voice for our children. We have several committees that are always looking for new ideas and we would love to have you serve with us.

We just finished our Fall Scholastic Book Fair and it was a huge success thanks to the leadership of Dana Linnabary and Jennifer Churchwell and of course all of you who shopped during the week. Thank you also to all of you who volunteered during the week--from helping the shoppers to restocking books to setting up and tearing down--as we couldn't do it without you. We will be able to purchase over \$7,000 worth of books for all the classroom and literacy libraries!

The Watch D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students), had their annual pizza night September 22nd. Over 200 dads and kids came to eat pizza, enjoy time together and sign up for the 2011 – 2012 school year. This is our fourth year to have this program and you can't help but smile when you see how the children react to having their dad and other men in the school. For all you dad's that signed up as daily volunteers or for special events such as Wolf Fest--THANK YOU! You truly are heroes to the students **AND** the school. Thank you to Brett Houser for chairing the committee and Brenna Newman for being the E.P. Rayzor school coordinator.

September 13th was our first Bite Night of the year at Texas Roadhouse. I hope everyone had a great night with their families and enjoyed some great food. Remember, by eating at TXRH on those nights and telling your waiter that you are with E.P. Rayzor, we earn 15% of your total check. Look for this each month on the calendars in the Carrico Communication and Bozeman's Banner. Thank you to Stacey Ferrara for working with Texas Roadhouse to offer this program.

Wolf Fest is scheduled for Friday, October 14th. For those of you new to our school, this is our annual fall carnival--a fun-filled family evening of carnival games, food, bounce houses and entertainment by local gymnastics and dance teams. There will also be a silent auction with something for practically every interest. Please watch your Friday folders each week for more information about tickets sales, donation items needed and volunteers needed.

Thank you to Jennifer Reyna for continuing to chair this committee. Please contact me or Jennifer if you can help with this great family event and fundraiser. The proceeds from this year's Wolf Fest will go towards technology upgrades for the school.

There are more great events coming your way during the second six weeks. I invite you to join us at the October 20th General PTA Meeting to learn more about the PTA's role in your child's school and to hear the E.P. Rayzor's Red Wolf Choir. Ms. Ridge is planning a fun and interactive concert and the kids will be performing the new school song that she wrote this summer! Please also read on for the changes we are making to Red Ribbon Week this year as we turn it into "Good Character Week" and expand the scope to better reach our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your PTA President during the 2011 – 2012 school year. I look forward to working with each of you.

Nadine Roberts
E.P. Rayzor PTA President

"Bite Night at Texas Roadhouse"

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 4th** as Texas Roadhouse will be raising funds again for our school.

E.P Rayzor will receive 15% of the sales generated that night.

****NOTE: You must tell your server that night that you are from E.P. Rayzor or we will NOT get credit.****

So come out and support the school and your children, as well as enjoy great food Texas Roadhouse has to offer!

Texas Roadhouse is located at 3811 Long Prairie Road,
at the corner of 1171 and 2499.

Volunteer Information

Volunteering is an essential part of keeping our school functioning and we couldn't do it without the help of all our parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors. Last school year, we reported 19,533 volunteer hours which was 10% of the elementary volunteer hours for the district (23 schools)! This year, the district is hoping for an overall increase in hours of 5%. To keep in line with this, we're hoping to increase our number of hours to 20,510. So please remember to record all your volunteer time – at school or anywhere else.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed their Volunteer Enrollment Form & Background Check. *We are anxious to get each of you into the school to help out in the specific areas you've requested.* If you haven't completed the Volunteer Enrollment Form & Background Check, please pick one up in the front office or ask your child's teacher to send one home. *The approval process can take up to two weeks.* Please remember that these forms must be completed before you are able to help with field trips, 5th grade camp or any other volunteer activity at school. Once your background check has been approved by the District, you will begin receiving emails requesting your help AND you will notice that you can sign-in as a volunteer on the computer in the front office.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the forms or volunteering in general. My email address is kldrclan@hotmail.com. Thank you!

Piper Kleider
Volunteer Coordinator

Wolf Fest 2011

Wolf Fest is Friday, October 14th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

EP Rayzor Elementary School will host its 10th Annual Wolf Fest Carnival and Silent Auction sponsored by the PTA. Wolf Fest is a carnival style event with a silent auction, games, food, prizes, and more. This is one of our largest fund raising events of the year and the money raised during this annual event supports our efforts to enhance our children's welfare and education throughout the school year. This year the funds we raise will go towards our PTA funding commitments as well as the continuation of updating our school's technology with a laptop cart for classroom checkout.

Presale tickets will be sold in \$10.00 bundles where you will receive 20 tickets + 5 free tickets!!! Pre-sale tickets will be available through your child's folder from October 7th – 13th. They will also be sold in the Car Pick-Up Line October 12 – 14th. Any tickets purchased the night of will be sold 2 for \$1.00. The average is usually \$20.00 per child.

This will be a great evening of fun! Your presence is welcome that evening and we hope you will choose to come and experience the excitement that surrounds E.P. Rayzor's 10th Annual Wolf Fest Carnival!

If you have any questions or would like to donate items to Wolf Fest, please contact Jennifer Reyna at reyna77@grandecom.net.

Reading Counts

What is Reading Counts??

Our amazing reading incentive program, Reading Counts, kicks off at EP Rayzor on October 11th! As the chair of the Reading Counts committee for PTA this year it is my personal goal to increase the number of students who participate in this program and to see our students build a life-long love of reading. Here is how the program works:

Students in 1st through 5th grade are encouraged to read for comprehension by taking quizzes about the books they have read. These quizzes are taken on school computers during school hours, at times approved and designated by their teachers. Students receive points for these quizzes and the points are totaled for each six week school period. Point goals vary by grade and increase throughout the year. The last six weeks is actually a combined total for year to date points.

Grade	2 nd six weeks Oct/11 – Nov/04	3 rd six weeks Nov/7 – Dec/16	4 th six weeks Jan/03 – Feb/17	5 th six weeks Feb/20 – Apr/13	End of the Year Total
First	10	12	15	18	55
Second	15	20	22	25	82
Third	20	25	30	35	110
Fourth	25	30	35	40	130
Fifth	30	35	40	45	150

Students who meet their goals for the current six week period will be recognized and receive a free book of their choice in our Reading Counts Bookstore. The Top 10 readers of each grade for each six week receive a 2nd free book as well as a certificate of accomplishment and an ice cream snack in our cafeteria! All students who reach their End of Year goals will have a special breakfast with the principals in the Wolf Den and the Top 10 readers of each grade for the End of Year receive a special award.

What books?

You can check the link under the Library page on the school website to browse books to see if a book qualifies for Reading Counts. Also, books checked out from the school library or most classroom books should have a sticker in the inside cover stating whether it is a Reading Counts book and how many points the quiz will yield.

When do they read them?

Anytime! These can be books they read in class, library books, homework reading, or books read at home for fun.

How do we know how many points they have?

Students have access to the computers at school to check their points and are able to take quizzes until 2:50 pm on the last day of the six week period. Reports are run after that time.

What is the key to success?

Motivation!! We have seen that students who are motivated by their parents and teachers to participate in Reading Counts become attuned to looking for books that qualify and spending 'free time' in class reading, taking quizzes and building their reading comprehension. We are also implementing a GREAT school-wide reading goal so **every** reader knows that every point counts!! Stay tuned for more details!

Be on the lookout for the Reading Counts Pledge for you and your student to sign at Teacher Conferences so that they are ready to hit the ground running on October 11th!!

Amy Deffenbaugh

We Appreciate our Teachers!

There is nothing better than a cool Sonic drink and a school colored cupcake to start the school year off with a howl! The Teacher Appreciation Committee has planned monthly sweet treats and delicious lunches for the amazing teachers & staff of EP Rayzor.

Instead, the students will be asked to appreciate his or her teacher with a homemade item assigned to each grade. This is something we will be coordinating with the home room parents. Also, this will give the students the opportunity to say thank you in their own creative way!

Finally, this year Wolfing It Down falls under the Teacher Appreciation Committee and we will no longer be asking parents for a donation to fund it.

With the new changes this year, our wonderful teachers & staff will be appreciated in more ways than one. We will be saying "Thank You" all year long!!!

Kellie Block
Teacher Appreciation Committee Chair

Good Character Week—October 24-28, 2011

We are very excited to roll-out "Good Character Week" at the end of October. This program has been enhanced to replace "Red Ribbon Week" with additional attributes of good character that will still include a "drug-free" message. Each day will focus on a different character-trait, teaching students how it applies to their every-day life. Students will still participate in the Canned Food Drive and have opportunities to win prizes. In addition, each day has a fun "dress theme" that students always enjoy.

Monday October 24th – "Good Citizen Day", Kick-off Canned Food Drive Contest

Dress Theme: Dress as your favorite positive role model (i.e. Fireman, parents, sports idol)
or simply wear white!

Tuesday October 25th – "Anti-Bullying Day"

Dress Theme: "Black out Bullying!" - Wear Black.

Wednesday October 26th – "Respect/Kindness Day"

Dress Theme: "Act the American way!" - Wear red, white and blue.

Thursday October 27th – "Anti-Drug Awareness Day"

Dress Theme: "Sock-it to drugs!" - Wear crazy colorful socks.

Friday October 28th – "End of Character Week Pep Rally!"

Dress Theme: Wear your favorite Dallas Cowboy's attire!
(A big surprise is in-store for your students!)

To reinforce what your student will learn during the week, please discuss the topics with them at home.

Thank you,
Kim Masoner
Good Character Week Committee Chair

Just Between Friends

This is the name of the new **PRIVATE** and **SECURE** database system we are using through our affiliation with National PTA. The National PTA endorses this particular system because of its privacy and security features and the fact that it does not sell customer information to outside parties. It is merely a tool to keep people in touch with the groups they belong to such as schools or sports teams.

Your PTA Board chose to utilize this system this year for 3 main reasons:

1. Create volunteer groups based on our needs (Book Fair, Watch DOGS, Library, etc) so that we can contact each group when there is a need.
2. Communicate with everyone on general information such as Texas Roadhouse Bite Nights or sending future editions of the PTA newsletter.
3. Print the school wide school directory with the click of a button once we felt we had captured everyone. **This is a very important point as we must have your student in this system in order for him/her to be included in the school-wide directory.**

Your email address is never visible to ANYONE--once you are entered, even the PTA officers that act as administrators cannot see your email so you will not receive emails soliciting your business for any product or service. You will always have access to all of your information for your family to change or edit as you need.

All of you who have signed up to volunteer or who have purchased PTA memberships, t-shirts, yearbooks, etc. during registration or Meet the Teacher nights are already in our system and we have ensured that your decision to be included or excluded in the printed directory has been carefully recorded in the system. For those of you who have recently provided us with your information for the school directory, please be watching for an email from Just Between Friends. Follow the links and sign in to start your account and then check back for announcements and calendar updates or watch your email for information regarding the programs and activities you are interested in.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Piper Kleider at kldrclan@hotmail.com or Nadine Roberts at EPRayzorPTA@gmail.com.

School Directory Update

Everyone should have received a "Directory Info" form this week in their child's folder. These are due back to your teacher **by October 7** so that we can publish the school-wide directory as quickly as possible. Please feel free to drop these off with your child's teacher during conferences or in the front office. Also, please see above for the related article entitled "Just Between Friends".

Future Newsletters

To save paper we will post future PTA Newsletters on our website. Please look on the PTA page of the school website or in your email as we will not publish a written version until the end of the school year. If you would like to receive the newsletter via email and are not already on her list, please email Dr. Carrico at hcarrico@dentonisd.org and she will add you to the list.

For questions or with information for future newsletters, please contact Kristin Myres at nathankrismyres@yahoo.com.