Texans Shining Brightly. Last week I was reading a synopsis of the book, “The Talent Code”, by Daniel Code. From the synopsis I learned that the teaching in the book discusses the importance of one of our very important character traits “grit”, without using the term “grit”. It also discusses the importance of parents and teachers instilling Carol Dweck’s, “Growth Mindset” in children when helping them work towards a goal. The information from the book went so well with what we have been talking to the students about I shared it with them during morning announcements. Some of what I told the students is the importance of making errors while working towards a goal and the importance of deep practice. I let them know that deep practice involves struggles, failing and then more slow deliberate practicing. I related it all to a baby learning to walk. The baby falls, gets back up, falls again, keeps practicing and eventually walks. I found a YouTube of the author discussing the book at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY7QNxBziA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY7QNxBziA) if you would like to hear more.


Martin Luther King Day. We will not have school on Monday, Jan. 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Ice cream in Cafeteria. Beginning today, Monday, Jan. 13th the cafeteria will begin selling ice cream to students on Mondays rather than Fridays.

Book Fair. Mark your calendar for the PTA Book Fair that will run the week February 3rd - 7th in the school library. Look for detailed information that will come home with all students soon. The Book Fair will be open daily from 7:30am - 3:15pm and Thursday night before and after the 7:00pm PTA Meeting and 2nd Grade PE Program (6:00pm - 8:00pm).

Science Fair. Our Sam Houston Science Fair will be Thursday, March 6th this year. Papers with information about the Science Fair and a form to return if your child wants to participate were sent home before the break. The form is due back Jan. 31st. If the form didn’t make it home or if you misplaced it, information and the form are available on the Houston webpage under Parents/PTA/Science Fair 2014 or at the link [http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/58014](http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/58014). This year our students will have help coming up with testable Science Fair project questions from UNT students of science. The UNT students will be coming to campus beginning this week to discuss with students ideas for testable questions during Success Time. The four links below are to websites which have some good ideas for projects. [http://sciencenotebooking.blogspot.com/search/label/inquiry](http://sciencenotebooking.blogspot.com/search/label/inquiry) [http://www.familyscience.org/sample_activities.html](http://www.familyscience.org/sample_activities.html) [http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas.shtml](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas.shtml) [http://www.coolscience.org/CoolScience/KidScientists/TryCoolExperiment.htm](http://www.coolscience.org/CoolScience/KidScientists/TryCoolExperiment.htm)

Power PLC Week. Our next Power PLC Week is Feb. 10– 14. The schedule for this Power PLC Week will be Mon. – Kindergarten, Tues–1st grade, Wed.-2nd grade, Thurs.- 3rd grade and Fri.– 4th grade. 5th graders will be on their normal special area schedule all week. On Power PLC Weeks participating grades have all of their special areas for the week in one day. The change in schedule is so that teachers can have an extended period of time to meet as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to plan lessons and assessments for the upcoming six weeks, to go over prior common assessments to determine trends and needs, and to discuss intervention plans for students. The important thing for students to remember is to wear tennis shoes on their Power PLC Day because they will have PE twice on that day. After our February Power PLC Week we will have one more, April 7-11.

Mrs. Andress
Past FYI News

Snow Day Make-up Days. We will make-up Friday, December 6th and Monday, December 9th on Friday, April 18th and Friday, May 23rd. The district will apply for a waiver from the state for the students to not have to make up December 10th and 11th.

Growth Mindset and Praise. We have spoken for several years at Sam Houston about encouraging a “growth mindset” in students as opposed to a “fixed mindset”. A student with a “growth mindset” believes that they can learn and that hard work pays off. This fall Mrs. Smith and I went to a conference where one of the speakers spoke about the effects of “praise” on students’ mindset. He passed out some examples of praise that lead to a “growth mindset” and a “fixed mindset”. I have placed the article “The Perils and Promise of Praise”, by Carol Dweck which gives you a little insight into the significance of the different types of praise and the pages from the conference that give you examples of the two types of praise under different situations on our Sam Houston webpage under “Articles from Mrs. Andress”. I hope you find them helpful and I welcome your feedback.

Lost and Found. The December Lost and Found is bagged up and on the back of the stage. At the end of each month the Lost and Found is bagged up and put on the stage for one month. During the following month parents are welcome to go on the stage and look through the bag. After it is bagged up for one month it will be given to Goodwill. If your child misplaces anything be sure to come up to school and look for it as soon as possible so it isn’t given away. We do this because the Lost and Found gets so large that there is not a safe way to store it out in the hallway.

Birthday Balloons. For each student’s birthday we give them a birthday balloon. The balloons we use are made with latex. If your child has an allergy to latex and they need a different balloon please let us know.

Volunteer Opportunities. Whether you're a 1st year or a 6th year parent at Sam Houston, there are many ways to get involved in events and activities coming up! Be a part of the action and get plugged in by: participating in class parties, school fund raisers and field trips, helping out your child's teacher in some way, or merely providing goodies for an event. Many volunteer opportunities require very little time and effort and are so appreciated by our children, the teachers, and staff. Plus, it’s a great way to make new friends! If you didn’t check on InfoSnap that you want to volunteer or if you have another family member or friend who wants to volunteer a Volunteer Application can be completed on the DISD Webpage. Click the “Parent” tab and then “Volunteer Program”. Contact Emer Chapman emerchapman@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

Messages and Lunches. In order to not interrupt instruction the office will not call into rooms during the day to give students messages or to let them know a lunch has been dropped off for them in the office. Messages will be given to 2nd and 5th graders at 1:50 and to Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 4th graders at 2:45. Please try to call the office before these times if you need us to relay a message to your child. If you need to drop off a lunch for your child please write their name on the “Lunch Log” in the office. The “Lunch Log” for the day is hung on the cafeteria door at 11:00 each day for students to look at as they enter the caf.. Also at 11:00 we will take a basket with all the lunches that have been left in the office during the morning for students to pick up as they go into the cafeteria.

Walkers and Bike Riders. For student safety walkers and bike riders should go to and from school with a partner and should always travel at the times when other students are going back and forth. It is also important that students cross Teasley using the crosswalk at Indian Ridge and never try to cross Teasley at Pennsylvania. Crossing guards arrive at their posts each morning at 7:20am and stay until 7:50am. In the afternoons they leave their posts at 3:20pm. Students should never try to cross without a crossing guard. It is too dangerous.
Students should also never cross at CVS or the South Branch Library. They should always use the crossing guards.

**Morning Drop Off.** Things continue to go well with morning drop off. Most parents are letting their children out of the car at the stop signs at the front of the three lines. I have seen a few children trying to get out of their car in the middle or far lane before the stop signs. Parents please keep your kids in your cars until you get to the stop signs, unless you are in the curb lane.

**Afternoon Pick-up.** Afternoon pick up is also running smoothly. Ms. Taylor and Mrs. Smith are working hard to learn everyone’s cars and get the kids loaded as fast as possible. The kids are doing a good job of not crossing traffic to load into their cars without an adult which is a very safe thing. If you can please remind your children to please keep an eye on the driveway, while they visit with their friends, it will help the process move more quickly.