Texans Shining Brightly. This week I am going to be reminding the students of the importance of not only having “Social Intelligence” so their emotional environment is healthy but also working to keep their physical environment the best that it can be. I am going be encouraging them to clean up after themselves if they drop something. If they are eating a snack after school out front or on the playground to be sure to put their trash in a trash can. As we all need to take responsibility for our learning we also need to be responsible for our environment and we need to make it the best it can be both emotionally and physically.

Book Fair. The PTA Book Fair Fiesta! is happening this week in the school library. The Book Fair Fiesta! 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). Preview days for all classes will be Monday and Tuesday, so look for a Book Fair Wish List to come home with your child. We are in need of volunteers during our Book Fair Fiesta! If you can help out, please go to www.signupgenius.com and click on Find a Signup. Then enter our PTA President's email - lynne.rayson@gmail.com - and the code shown to find the Houston Elementary PTA signup.

McDonalds. Come celebrate the 1-year anniversary of our neighborhood McDonalds during Sam Houston McTeacher night this Wednesday, February 5th from 5 – 8 p.m. A portion of proceeds from meals ordered from 5 - 8 p.m. from the McDonalds at 5010 Teasley Lane will go to Sam Houston PTA to support reading, math, and science programs.

Box Tops Reminder. It is time for our Spring Box Tops for Education Contest to begin! The contest is between homeroom classes and the deadline to turn in Box Tops is Friday, February 21st. Turn in your box tops in a zip lock bag labeled with the number of box tops and teacher's name on it to your teacher. Limit the number to 50 box tops per zip lock bag. We do not collect Labels for Education. The class with the most will win a pizza party!

Six Flags Reading Club. Students should have received a packet of information regarding this year’s Six Flags Reading Club. Students who participate in the Six Flags Reading Club by reading 360 minutes will earn a free ticket to Six Flags. If you want your child to participate please fill out the reading log that is attached to the cover letter and return it to your child’s teacher on or before Friday, February 21st. If you need another copy of the information it is available in the office.

Science Fair and Science Fair Boards. We have Science Fair Boards for sale in the school office for $3 each. We have black, green, blue, yellow, white and red available. Our Sam Houston Science Fair will be Thursday, March 6th this year. Information packets about the requirements for the Science Fair should have come home with all students who turned in an interest form. If you have not received yours please check with your child’s homeroom teacher. Information about the Science Fair is also available on the Houston webpage under Parents/PTA/Science Fair 2014 or at the link http://www.dentonisd.org/Page/58014.

Power PLC Week. Our next Power PLC Week is next week 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 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
**Lost and Found.** The January Lost and Found was bagged up and put on the back of the stage last Friday night. It will be on the back of the stage for a month and 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.

**School Report Card.** Our Sam Houston 2012-2013 Report Card from the TEA is now available for parents to review. It is available at the link, [http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/src/2013/static/campus/c061901102.pdf](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/src/2013/static/campus/c061901102.pdf). Definitions to help you understand the report card are available at [www.tea.state.tx.us/src_2013_definitions](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/src_2013_definitions). We are very proud of the accomplishments of our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders on last year’s STAAR. We are all working hard to even do better this year. If you have any questions after reviewing the report card please don’t hesitate to call me. If you do not have internet access and you would like to request a paper copy of the report card please call the school office at 940-369-2900. We will be happy to send you one.

**Denton Dash for Public Schools 5K.** Come join us for a morning of fun and help raise money for a great cause. This run is a fundraiser for Denton ISD Senior Scholarships, Grad Night Celebrations and Teacher Grants. Our Sam Houston Running Club and many staff members will be participating in the run. If you and your children would like to run or walk with us we would love to have you join us for the Denton Dash for Public Schools 5K and 1 mile fun run/walk. There is a contest between the Denton ISD schools to see which school can bring the most runners/walkers. Maybe we can win “Top School” this year. Upon registration you will have the option to choose which school you would like to register for and the school with the "Most" registered wins. So, mark your calendars, you have 3 months to prepare. The run/walk is Saturday, April 5, 2014 at North Lakes Park. Link for registration- [https://register.racedayeventservices.com/Search/event.aspx?id=23543](https://register.racedayeventservices.com/Search/event.aspx?id=23543)

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

**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.

**Birthday Balloons.** For each student’s birthday we give them a birthday balloon. The balloons we use are made with latex. If you 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.