



JEAN E. STEWART ELEMENTARY

Stewart Stampede

April 2017

A note from Mrs. Fitzpatrick

It is hard to believe we are already in the final grading period of this school year. We continue to focus on the goals we have set for our students as well as those our students have set for themselves.

It can be difficult to keep children focused on learning with spring in the air. You can help to make school a top priority for your child.

Make attendance the first priority. Let your children know that unless they are sick, attendance is a nonnegotiable. Try to schedule routine dentist and doctor appointments after school hours, and take family vacations during school breaks.

Show you care. You want your children to know that you're interested in their learning. Talk about their school activities and projects, and attend as many school events as you can.

Keep it upbeat. Try to set a positive example for your children even when your own day has been difficult. If you show a positive attitude about your work, your youngsters may feel better about their own.

Many of our students have already participated in the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing this year. To be sure you are aware of upcoming testing dates for our students in third through sixth grades the State testing schedule is as follows:

May 8: Grades 3rd, 4th, and 6th Mathematics STAAR, and 5th Grade Mathematics STAAR retests for any student not meeting the passing standard during the first 5th grade administration

May 9: Grades 3rd, 4th, and 6th Reading STAAR, and 5th Grade Reading STAAR retests for any student not meeting the passing standard during the first 5th grade administration

May 10: Grade 5 Science STAAR

May 12: All make-up sessions for STAAR assessments scheduled to be administered from May 8–10, 2017, must be completed by the end of this day.

I love the motto . . . "hand-in-hand, we can" because it exemplifies the importance of a home-school partnership. Together we can make certain that your child receives the very best education and social and emotional opportunities possible.

Speaking of partnerships, I would like to remind you that our PTO is sponsoring our third annual Spring Carnival on April 21 from 4PM – 8PM. Your support in our Mustang Stampede is sincerely appreciated! Thank you for your continued support. Happy Spring!

Sincerely,
Carrie Fitzpatrick
Principal



- **April 11th**
Stellar Student Breakfast
- **April 14th**
Good Friday....No School
- **April 18th**
MOD Pizza Spirit Day
- **April 20th**
5th grade Field Trip
- **April 21st**
Mighty Mustang Lunch
Spring Festival 4 PM to 8PM
- **April 25th**
3rd grade Field Trip
6th grade parent Earth Day Fair

Announcements from the A.P.

Happy Spring!

We are moving right along! I hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break. Time to gear up for a rigorous rest of the school year.

The district has summer GT (Gifted and Talented) testing opportunities. The summer screening is for students enrolled during the second semester, missed the nomination window in the Fall, or for any student that was nominated in the fall and missed the testing due to illness or a family emergency. The GT nomination window is April 3 – April 28. Testing will take place June 6-8 at Mitchell Intermediate from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM. If you would like to nominate your child for this testing, please let me know.

The district also has Credit by Exam for Acceleration. This is available to all students in Conroe ISD. Credit by Exam includes grade level acceleration in Kindergarten through 5th grade and for academic course acceleration in 6th – 12th grades. Each test evaluates a student's mastery of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for each grade level or subject. There are opportunities to test during the summer months. If you are interested in this opportunity, please let me know.

☺ Jennifer Balch

****Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden****

Conroe Independent School District Pre-kindergarten & Kindergarten Round-Up 2017-2018

Parents should begin the registration process by visiting <http://stewart.conroeisd.net/> and click on the register tab. Once online registration is complete, you may bring your documents to the school. No appointment is required.

Requirements for registration:

- **Birth Certificate** - Kindergarten students must be at least 5 years old on or before September 1, 2017 to attend kindergarten.
Pre-k students must be at least 4 years old on or before September 1, 2017
- **Proof of Residence** - A current utility bill with parent/guardian's name and address
- **Proof of Guardianship**
- **Child's Social Security Card**
- **Immunization Records**

****If your student is NOT returning to Stewart next year, please make sure you stop by the Attendance Office.****



Counselors Corner

Parents,

Wow, time is moving so fast! Happy April! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. Spring is one of my most favorite times of the year for so many reasons, but mostly because of the fun sports that come with the spring! With many kids involved in sports, lessons, or other activities, finding the time for family balance can be difficult.

As you may know, some parents feel it's more productive to keep their kids constantly occupied rather than leaving free time for playing, exploring, and learning on their own. Families today are involved in several activities because parents worry their kids will miss out on key experiences if they aren't doing what other kids are.

All in all, most parents usually just want what seems best for their kids. Even when intentions are good, though, kids can easily become overscheduled. The pressure to participate in a handful of activities all the time and to "keep up" can be physically and emotionally exhausting for parents and kids alike.

So how do we find balance? When looking at your afternoon, including the miles traveled for lessons, or the time you get home at night and begin homework, take into consideration are these activities enriching to my child? If the answer is yes, then the best way to balance is to make sure children have enough time with no activities. Allow them to spend time with no goal in mind. Allow the time to explore, make messes, and have down time. The great thing about these activities is they only require time spent with you!

Enjoy the Spring!

Thank you,
Mrs. Reagan

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Spring is here and our Pre-K classes are blossoming in every way! We have been busy mastering all of our Pre-Kindergarten skills through the use of play and hands-on experiences. This month, in honor of the Livestock Show & Rodeo, our classroom centers have been based on a 'Texas' theme with cowboys and cowgirls, 'ranches' with play ranch animals, sorting and classifying buried rocks, panning for gold, and lots more. The children have become very independent at dressing themselves in their attire (bandanas, denim jackets, boots, and plastic hats) and they listen, follow directions, and use their imaginations in incredible ways! All the while, they are having so much fun, they don't even realize they are learning ~ they are writing and reading words, adding, patterning, sorting, ... it's such a joy for me to be their teacher and facilitate their growth. I am looking forward to the next couple of months to see just how far my sweet Pre-K friends will go – I'm sure I'll be amazed!

All my best,

Mrs. Massengale

KINDERGARTEN

Spring is here and it is amazing watching our Kindergarteners bloom! We are thrilled with the progress they continue to make. We are busy getting ready for first grade. We will conclude our fiction study on fairy tales. It has been fun reading and comparing the different fairy tales and discovering the elements of a fairy tale. It is always fun reading books that end with happily ever after! :) Next we are excited about our poetry unit. We will learn about different types of poems and even learn how to write them! In math, we will continue to work on adding and subtracting. Spring brings plants and animals to kindergarten. Kindergarten graduation is just around the corner...we are busy learning our songs and lines! As always, thank you for all your support!

Thank you for your support,
Kinder Team

FIRST GRADE

In first grade, we are busy bouncing into spring! Here is what we are focusing on for the month of April...

- Math: practicing addition & subtraction to 20
- Social Studies: human needs, goods & services, Earth day
- Writing: poetry that conveys feelings
- Reading: procedural texts and learning how to research
- Science: life cycles

We will be wrapping up guided reading in May. Please continue to read with your child and ask him/her questions to ensure they understand the book. Thank you for all of your support!

Thank you for all you do,
1st Grade Team

SECOND GRADE

Wow! We can't believe it's already the last grading period of school. This year has gone by so fast. In language arts, we will be reading a variety of genres. The students will find similarities and differences in texts. The students are working on their geometry unit in math. They love using tangrams! Please continue working on 3 digit subtraction with and without regrouping. The students are really enjoying learning about plants. We appreciate all the support that our students receive from home! Keep up the good work and keep reading for homework!

Thank you for your support,
~2nd Grade Team

THIRD GRADE

Third Grade will be doing the following this April:

- Math: We will be learning about Area and Perimeter. We will then start our unit over Capacity, Weight, and Mass. Finally we will begin reviewing for our STAAR test.
- Science: Students will be learning about plant structures and their life cycles. Students will explore animal life cycles and learn how we can protect our planet.
- Reading: In reading, we will discover elements of persuasive texts, review previously learned reading skills, continue to practice extending our independent reading and monitoring our comprehension over longer periods of sustained reading times. We will finish up the month with a review for STAAR that will cover all genres and the key elements of those genres.
- Writing: In writing, we will spend the first two weeks of April finishing up our poetry writing unit, and then we will learn to write persuasive texts.
- Social Studies: In social studies, we will be studying economics. We will learn about supply and demand as well as elements of a successful business. We will participate in building our own business plan for our class lemonade stand. We will monitor price, profit, opportunity cost, supply, and demand.

Thank you for your support,
3rd Grade Team

FOURTH GRADE

Reading: For the first two weeks of April, we will be revisiting the Media Literacy unit. Readers will deepen their understanding of the various ways messages are conveyed through advertising techniques. We will end the month with an Informational/Persuasive unit in which students will understand and use language that persuades people.

Math: During the month of April, students will identify and measure items using both customary and metric units of measurement. Students will also determine the perimeter and area of a given rectangle and determine elapsed time. We are still going strong with our #Sugarbowl tournament for math and reading and the students are working incredibly hard. We are so proud of them!

Writing: We are beginning our three week unit on Imaginative Stories/Fiction. The students will write imaginative stories that include characters, setting, plot, and climax. We will end the month with Persuasive essays in which we will write to influence the attitudes and actions of a specific audience.

Texas History: Next week, we will begin our Cowboy Culture unit. The students will learn about cattle ranching and how it provided economic opportunities in Texas. We will close out the month by learning about Industrialization in Texas (economic opportunities that came with railroad, oil, gas, and inventions).

Fourth Grade Scientists will learn about the Life Science unit. There will be many hands on experiments and activities happening in the month of April and May. We will explore food webs, traits, life cycles of plants and animals, and biomes. This will be the best unit and most fun, yet!

Thank you for all you do!
-4th Grade Team

Dates to Remember

- April 4 - Math Benchmark
Drew Daywalt book signing at Barnes & Noble 7pm
- April 7 - Clubs
- April 14 - Holiday
- April 21 - Spring Festival 4-8
- May 8 - STAAR Math
- May 9 - STAAR Reading

FIFTH GRADE

Howdy 5th Graders!

We are very proud of our 5th graders and how they all handled taking the Math and Reading STAAR tests last month. We are excited to see how they did!

Important dates:

- April 4: Science Benchmark
- April 7th CLUBS
- April 20: 5th Grade Field Trip
- April 21: PTO Spring Festival
- April 28: Clubs

Thank you for your continued support,
5th Grade Team

SIXTH GRADE

Dear 6th Grade Families -

6th grade will be taking STAAR on May 8 and May 9. Please be sure to send your child to school as we are learning new topics until the end of the school year. We will have information about Graduation and Project Graduation in May's newsletter. Be on the lookout for a sign up genius if you are able to help.

Thank you for your support,
6th Grade Team

ART

Dear Mustang Parents,
We are working very hard to complete new art pieces in preparation for our last art competition of the year, the Conroe ISD Art Show. This show is a compellation of all the schools in the district from elementary to high school. Each school is represented by their best artists! The art pieces that are chosen by district judges are professionally framed and matted and will be displayed in the Conroe ISD Administration Building for the entire 2017-2018 school year. Some are even chosen to hang in the Superintendent's Office! We have one from our school there this year! To help us complete this and have a great showing at the art show, please make sure your students aren't absent. We want everyone to have a chance to be chosen as one of the 20 we are able to submit from our school! Thank you for all your support!!

Sincerely,
Mr. Viser & Mrs. Lee

NEWS FROM THE NURSE...

Sixth Grade Parents:

Please remember the immunization requirement (Tdap, and Meningitis) for all sixth graders **MUST** be completed to receive a schedule for Peet Jr. High. You should have received a copy of your child's shot record from me indicating what shots your child needs. If you prefer a conscientious objector exemption, you must request a form from the Texas Dept. of Health and have it notarized before receiving a schedule. When your child receives the immunizations, or if he/she has already received them, please forward the record to me so that I may update it for you. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Vicki Wilcher, RN
vwilcher@conroeisd.net
936-709-4215

MUSIC

Congratulations to our Honor Choir participants, Ryann Gillen, Samira Jaber and Isabelle Ramirez for representing Stewart at the District Honor Choir Music Concert!

The 1st graders are practicing their music and lines for their upcoming program, *How Does Your Garden Grow*, which will be on Friday, April 7th at 9:00 A.M.

-Mrs. Cutbirth and Mrs. Kowalik

PE

We have a few exciting events coming up this spring for Stewart PE! Please mark your calendars! More information will be sent home closer to event dates. We will be in need of parent volunteers if you are interested!

-Coach Jones and Coach Skarpa

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday – May 12 th 9am-1pm | 5 th Grade STAAR Soccer Challenge <i>Woodforest Stadium</i> |
| Monday – May 15 th | Kindergarten – 4 th Water Day |
| Friday – May 19 th | 4 th , 5 th , & 6 th grade Tiger Challenge <i>Moorhead Stadium (CHS)</i> |
| Friday – May 26 th 9am – 1pm | 6 th Grade STAAR Soccer Challenge <i>Woodforest Stadium</i> |

DRESS CODE

As it gets warmer outside, please make sure your child is still following the dress code policy as stated in the handbook. Please reference the policy below.

Student Dress/Grooming: Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. The District prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations. (FNCA [LOCAL]). The District prohibits pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that are any of the following: lewd, violent, suggestive, offensive, vulgar or obscene, or advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under FNCF (LEGAL). Halter tops, muscle shirts, and spaghetti-strap tops are not permitted unless covered by another shirt. Midriff shirts, or shirts exposing the midsection of the body, are not permitted. Blue jean cutoffs or unhemmed shorts are not appropriate dress for elementary/intermediate school classes. Make-up/cosmetics may not be worn or applied at school. Hats are not to be worn inside a school. Hair and hairstyle should not be distracting. Pants/shorts may not be worn lower than undergarments. Students who choose to wear shorts to school must wear them at fingertip length when the student rests his/her arms at his/her side. Flip flops may not be worn during P.E. classes. Girls may wish to wear shorts under their dresses. Dresses and skirts should be of appropriate length (fingertip) and tights should accompany shorter dresses, skirts or shorts. A campus may have additional rules regarding dress code. The student and parent may determine the student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with these general guidelines.

Looking Ahead...

May 8th – STAAR Math Testing for 3rd, 4th, and 6th Grades, 5th Grade Retakes

May 9th – STAAR Reading Testing for 3rd, 4th and 6th Grades, 5th Grade Retakes

May 10th – STAAR Science Testing for 5th Grade & Nurse's Day

May 12th – 5th Grade, Kick the STAAR Soccer Tournament & 5th and 6th Grade Dance

May 15th – Field Day for Kindergarten – 4th Grade

May 19th – Future Tiger Challenge for 4th – 6th Grade & Talent Show

May 23rd – Awards Day for 1st – 5th Grades

May 25th – Fine Arts Spring Concert

May 26th – 6th Grade, Kick the STAAR Soccer Tournament

May 29th – School Holiday, No School

May 31st – Kindergarten Graduation

June 1st – 6th Grade Promotion Ceremony, Early Release AND Last Day of School!

Parent Teacher Organization

PTO SPRING FESTIVAL INFO

Our Mustang Raffle is going great!! We have had many students turn in their 100 sold ticket stubs and donations. Please return your sold tickets to your teacher and he/she will get them to us. Make sure to check deadlines sent with the tickets for qualifying for the incentives. We can't wait to see them jumping and having a great time at the Inflatable party.

OUR ROOM PARENTS NEED YOUR HELP

Most of our classes have not completed their donation basket for the silent auction at the spring festival. The room parents are responsible for putting the baskets together with your help. This is a very big part of the school activity fund. This fund is used by the administrators to provide things such as school improvements not funded by the district, special authors visits, motivational programs such as anti-bullying, testing skills and motivation, drug and alcohol prevention, tutoring and more. Together we can make the baskets affordable for everyone and a big success. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING AT LEAST ONE ITEM TO YOUR CHILDS CLASS BASKET.

VENDORS BOOTHS AVAILABLE

The PTO is accepting applications for vendors who would like to sell their products at the spring festival on April 21st. Please contact Kelly Duenas for more info. kelly_duenas@yahoo.com

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL

We need local businesses to sponsor our festival in order to allow us to provide it for FREE to our students. We will advertise throughout the festival, on the Conroe Courier, on Facebook and on our website for these businesses. It will be a tax deductible donation as we are a 501(C)3 organization.

- game booths \$65 per game (12 booths)
- food cost \$500 needed
- inflatable cost \$3,000 needed

Again, please contact Kelly Duenas for more info. kelly_duenas@yahoo.com

MORE PTO INFO

- Yearbooks are still on sale. Get yours now before they are all sold out.
- Keep clipping box tops all summer. We will collect them at the beginning of next year.
- School Supply Packs from EPI will be sold for next school year in May. They will be delivered to the school in August, just in time for Meet the Teacher. Forms will be sent out in May.
- April 13th is our Bowling Party for all PTO Volunteers and those wanting info on joining next year. 11am-1pm at Bowlero. Please join us! There is no obligation to join the PTO Board just for attending. A free bowling pass will be given to everyone to bring their families back at a later time.

Thanks for your support,

Angie Creech
angie.creech5@yahoo.com

Stewart

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Montgomery, TX. 77316

The Conroe Independent School District (District) as an equal opportunity educational provider and employer does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in educational programs or activities that it operates or in employment matters. The District is required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Board policy not to discriminate in such a manner.

*For information about **Title IX rights or Section 504/ADA rights**, contact the Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504/ADA coordinator at 3205 W. Davis, Conroe, Texas 77304; (936) 709-7752.*