



# Bulldog News



## Raul B. Fernandez Elementary EXEMPLARY!



### Principal's Corner



October 2009

Dear Parents,

If you follow the news, you have certainly seen lots of information about the H1N1 Flu Virus. Recently, this flu strain has been identified in all 50 states. In Northside we are experiencing increased absenteeism at about 6%. At this time of year, the average percent of students missing school is around 4%. While still a very dangerous virus, H1N1 has not turned out to be as severe as previously predicted last spring.

You may also have seen in the news that at the request of the Heath Department, Northside will be participating in vaccinating children in the district. Currently the district has ordered 50,000 vaccinations, to be shipped later this month. In several weeks you will receive notice from the district explaining the procedure and outlining the details of the vaccination plan. Participation in the vaccination effort is voluntary, and children will not be vaccinated without parent permission. We will share details as they come to us.

In the meantime, we are still doing what we can to prevent the spread of illness. Teachers and staff have taught lessons on the importance of using good hygiene. Students have been shown how to cover their cough properly. We have also shown videos on the importance of effective hand washing. Liquid soap is present in all class sinks, and the district installed hand sanitizer pumps in the cafeteria. Our custodians are disinfecting areas of the school multiple times a day, paying special attention to door knobs and other areas that may be touched by students. Most importantly we are explaining to parents that children must be fever free for 24 hours (with out the use of medication), before they return to school. Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts.

Thomas Mackey-Principal

### College and Career Awareness



This year Fernandez Elementary is establishing a College and Career Awareness program. Students and staff are participating in a number of campus activities including teachers/ staff decorating their doors with college and trade school information, a college kick off pep rally, and students are participating in pennant decorating. We are planning field trips to local universities, and scheduling a career day. Additionally, we are designating the last Wed. of each month as a College/Trade Spirit Day. We encourage the Fernandez students to participate by wearing a t-shirt from a college or trade school. Staff and students are excited and we encourage families to dialogue with their children about the importance of pursuing education and careers after High School.

### Campus Evacuation Training

Fernandez Elementary will be conducting a school wide evacuation training on Oct. 16th. Students will not leave campus for this drill. In an event of a true school wide evacuation, all students will be bused to the Paul Taylor Field House located on Culebra Road. Signs with this information would be posted on the school's front doors and parents would also be notified by telephone and possibly by the media.

### Illegal Parking!



Please be aware it is illegal to park along a red curbside at anytime. These designated areas are reserved for emergency vehicles only. During the day please park in the designated Visitor's parking lot. The San Antonio Police Department are enforcing this law and will be issuing tickets if vehicles are parked at these locations.

Additionally, parents should not be parking in the designated Staff Parking Lot before or after school. We have received a number of reports of parents using this parking lot for convenience and to avoid heavy traffic in the morning and afternoon. Finally, the bus loop in the back of the school is for buses and registered day care providers only. We ask for parents not to use this designated area for student drop off in the morning. Thanks!

### Important Dates to Remember

- Oct. 9: Early Release
- Oct. 12: Student Holiday No School
- Oct. 13 @ 7 pm: PTA Mtg. 2nd Grade performs
- Oct. 22: Chick-fil-A Night
- Oct. 23: 1st Grading period ends
- Oct. 26-30: Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 27: Supercitizen Breakfast
- Oct. 30: Report Cards go home

### Chick-fil-A Night!



This year we will be scheduling this night at the Chick-fil-A located in the Alamo Ranch Area off of 1604 & Culebra. Please join us from 5:00-8:00 on Oct. 22nd. Proceeds are used to assist with funding, such as field trips.

