



# Parent Information Bulletin

Sylvia Swayne, Principal

Jack Funkhouser, Vice Principal

September 2009

## Welcome to the 2009- 2010 School Year

We would like to welcome back everyone from a very hot summer vacation. Can you believe that we had nearly 60 days over 100 degrees Fahrenheit?

We are also happy to announce that the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has once again given Nichols Elementary an Exemplary education rating. We are very proud of the Nichols students and teachers for their hard work and efforts. The Exemplary rating means that we had over a 90% passing rate on the TAKS reading, math, writing and science tests. It takes the efforts of many to make this happen. Thanks goes to all of the students for having confidence and knowing that they could do a fantastic job and having the stamina to complete the test without giving up. We thank all of the Nichols parents for supporting your children. Thank you for getting them here early and allowing students to stay late for tutoring. We also thank the Nichols teachers for providing quality instruction and many hours of tutoring and additional support to the students throughout the year. It truly takes everyone's efforts and energy to achieve an Exemplary rating. Once again thank you.

One last item to mention, during orientation we showed about five minutes of Jim Faye's Love and Logic video. As promised you can watch the whole video on Tuesday, September 15, at 6:30 PM. The Love and Logic philosophy is one that the campus follows. We believe that students make choices and should learn from them. Please come so that you can learn the strategies we have been using and you may wish to use at home.



## Nichols Walk-a-Thon

Nichols Elementary will hold its inaugural Walk-a-Thon on Friday, October 30, 2009. This will be the campus' first ever fundraiser. Funds raised will be spent to support the many student activities on campus, such as, academic tutoring for reading and math, the Mustang Zine, Destination Imagination, Art from the Heart, Cyber Crew and choir to name a few. Funding these activities has become a challenge for Nichols Elementary. As our TAKS scores rise to the top less money is available to us for tutoring. We are planning a fun day for students to get out and walk, win prizes and collect money to support the after school activities at Nichols. We look forward to your support! Thanks in advance.

Jack Funkhouser

## Phone Number:

397-4090 (Auto Attendant)

397-4050 Office

Email address:

[www.nisd.net/nichols](http://www.nisd.net/nichols)

## Welcome back, artists!

It is good to see everyone back, and meet some new artists, too. We are already busy creating in the Stardust Studio!

As always, I welcome your empty shoeboxes. Thanks to all of you who have already brought me some - I know you were saving them this summer. Nichols' artists thank you, too! It's still a little hot, but as the weather cools down, I hope you get a chance to walk along the new museum section of the San Antonio River. It has some wonderful new sculptures and installations, and the dam and lock are fun to watch, too.  
Laura Kaarlsen, Art Specialist

## Things to Remember

Nichols PTA Meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM

**College Spirit Day** wear your favorite college shirt Sept. 9, 2009

**Love & Logic Evening for Parents** Sept. 15, 2009  
6:30 PM

## School Pictures

K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & ALE - Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>

ECC, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

**Spirit Day** Students don't forget that every Friday is Spirit Day. Don't forget to wear your Nichols shirt.

## How About a Quote?

"Each one of us has a fire in our heart for something. It's our goal in life to find it and to keep it lit."

Mary Lou Retton

**"Dream It, Believe It, Achieve It!"**

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## Stampede to Read

Welcome to Mustang Country where the kids will be taking part in the "Stampede to Read". Come join the excitement of being part of a real stampede. The Bar-N Library will provide you with novels, picture books, mysteries, easy readers and fantasy. You can explore the world of animals, science, history, art and much more. After a busy day at Mustang Country gathering around the old campfire with a good book can be very relaxing.

Mark your calendars for September 8<sup>th</sup> when the "Stampede to Read" (Mustang Reader Program) begins. Mosey up to the check out desk at the Mustang Library and get yourself a good book.

Hope to see you around the campfire!

Yolanda Zepeda, Reading Specialist;

Elizabeth Rush, Librarian;

AnnMarie Fries, Library Assistant



## Volunteer Background Checks Online

It is a NISD yearly District requirement that any volunteer, room parent, field trip chaperone, PTA board member, and/or tutor must complete an annual background check and be cleared prior to volunteering. An online version of the background check is available on the NISD homepage. You can access this feature by simply logging on to the Northside homepage ([www.nisd.net](http://www.nisd.net)). Just click on the Volunteer/Mentor link and then select the Online Volunteer background application form. Complete the requested information on the application and select submit. If you are unable to access the internet, you can come by the Nichols library to complete the application using our computers.

## @ The Nichols Library

If you participated in the San Antonio Public Library's summer reading program, and have a completed reading log or reading certificate, bring it to the Nichols School Library. You will receive a gift and have your name placed on the "Readers: Deep in the Heart of Nichols" bulletin board! Gifts are available while supplies last... so hurry! Elizabeth Rush, Librarian



## Student Council

Attention fourth and fifth grade students, Student Council will hold elections for officers on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. All interested students must see Grace Mewhinney for the application and job descriptions on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Pick Up and Dismissal

The first week has passed and the traffic in the front loop has already started to diminish. We would like to thank everyone for not parking in the red "No Parking" areas and driving 10 mph or slower. For the safety of the students we load and unload on the passenger side of the car by the curve only. Students can cross only at the crosswalk. You will find that the best drop off time is between 7:15-7:30 in the morning. You will avoid most of the crowd and the frustrations. Please remember that the front of the school is the designated area to drop off or pick up your child. Also drive past the front entrance to the end of the sidewalk to allow more cars to drop off students. For student safety, the bus circle is reserved for NISD buses and daycare vans only. In addition, the Autumn Storm exit is used for students that walk home and is not a parent pick-up area. Please remember students are immediately released out back by the duty teacher. Any changes as to how your child goes home from school needs to be planned and communicated in writing, days in advance, if possible. Depending upon the situation administrator approval may be necessary.

## Early Release

Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 students will be released from school at 11:45 AM. The teachers will be involved in Advisory planning.