



Ott Elementary—An Exemplary Campus
One School, One Team, One Goal: Student Success!

Paul W. Ott Elementary
 100 N. Grosenbacher
 210.397.5550

Trailblazer Times



September 25, 2009

Shana Hansen
Principal

Rebecca Carmona
Vice-Principal

Cathy Bordlemay
Administrative Intern

From the Principal's Desk

Hello to our Trailblazer Families. I trust that the school year started off well for your children. I know from talking with teachers, the year is going well and great learning is happening in the classrooms.

No doubt the biggest concern for many of us is the illness our families and students are experiencing with the H1N1 flu. You may have heard news reports that schools will offer vaccination clinics and that is true. Beginning in mid-October, every elementary school in NISD will offer H1N1 flu vaccinations for all students during the school day. Details are still being worked out and you will receive a letter from the district once the vaccine arrives. Every child must have parental permission to receive a flu vaccine at school. It is not a requirement, but offering the vaccines at school will be the quickest way to administer the vaccines to large numbers of students. Much more information will be forthcoming. Of course you have the option of taking your child to the pediatrician's office for a flu shot. The schools will NOT offer seasonal flu shots and at this time H1N1 flu shots will only be given to students enrolled at Ott. For more information regarding the H1N1 flu, the state is setting up a 211 number that will be live on Friday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. We want to stress that students CAN NOT be sent to school with fever or other flu-like symptoms. Children must be fever-free for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

We do have a busy fall planned. Some of our events will be the bike rodeo, Red Ribbon Week, the Great Pumpkin Challenge, the Jack C. Jordan Penny Drive, report cards will go home, and all of our teachers will be scheduling parent conferences. Thank-you for your continued support of Ott; it is so important to have good parent participation in school. Have a Happy Fall!

Important Dates To Remember For October

- 2 Green Team Meeting @ 3:00
- 5-9 Education Go Get It Week
- 5 Jack Jordan Penny Drive Begins
- 8 Bike Rodeo- Day 0
- 9 Early Release Day
- 12 Staff Development Day- Student Holiday
- 12-16 School Lunch Week
- 16 Jack Jordan Penny Drive Ends
- Book Launch in the Gym
- 5th Grade Colonial Day
- 19-23 Bus Safety Week
- 21 Langley Elem. Dedication
- 21-22 Kinder Tie your Shoe Days
- 22 Fall Picture Retakes
- 23 Stevens H.S. Theatre Performance
- End 9 Weeks
- 24 NEF 5K
- 26-30 Red Ribbon Week
- 28-29 Great Pumpkin Challenge
- 28 Chick Fil-A Night
- 30 Fall Bookfair Begins
- Report Cards Home



News From the Nurse

Please keep your children home if they are sick. Children should be kept home until they are 24 hours fever free. For current information on the flu, please refer to Flu Update at www.nisd.net. Volunteers are needed to give flu shots, please contact the nurse at 397-5559 if you are a registered nurse or physician.



T-Shirts and Planners Available

The cooler weather is just around the corner, don't forget to get your Ott long-sleeved shirts so your prepared for winter time spirit days. We have both children and adult sizes available for \$12 in the front office.

Planners are also available in the front office for \$10.

Check Us Out On The Web

www.nisd.net/ott

Check Out Procedure:

Parents, if you need to check your child out early for a doctor's appointment, etc., please come into the front office with a picture I.D., and sign your child out on the "Sign Out Sheet." The office staff will call your child's teacher and send them to the office. **We cannot call your child to the office without first checking the parent's picture I.D. and the emergency card.** Therefore, we cannot call your child to the office before you arrive at Ott.

Also, due to dismissal procedures, **students cannot be checked out after 2:30 p.m.** Please make sure to arrive before 2:30 p.m. if you need to pick-up your child early that day.

Student Absences:

If your child is absent from school due to an illness, please send a note with your child the day your child returns to school to give to the teacher. Parents have five (5) days to turn in an absence note to the teacher to change the absence from unexcused to excused. If the note has not been received within the five (5) day period after an absence, the absence will remain as unexcused.

Students are considered absent starting at 9:01 a.m.

Excused absences include: a death in the family, or a student's illness.

Unexcused absences include: vacations, weddings, or a parent's illness.

Student Tardies:

Students are considered tardy starting at 7:46 a.m. A letter will be sent home by your child's teacher if there have been three (3) or more tardies. If your child is going to be late to school in the morning, please come into the front office to sign them in. Please do not drop them off by themselves to come into school. Thank you for your help.

If you have any other questions regarding student attendance, please refer to the Student Handbook at www.nisd.net.

Book Launch

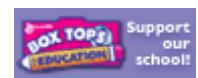
Ott Elementary will present its first Book Launch of the year featuring the book, **The Relatives Came**. A memoir written by Cynthia Rylant, is a lively book about a family and the *relatives* who *came* to visit them. "Oh how they hugged and hugged." The story is a favorite among many.

"The Relatives Came" will be brought to life as teachers and staff present the story as a play. Parents are welcome to join us on Friday October 16 at 1:30 pm in the gym. You can also stop by and read all the students' responses to the book. They will be displayed in the halls. It will be an enjoyable literary experience for all.



We're Collecting Box Tops for Education!

Once again this year, Ott Elementary will be collecting Box Tops for Education. These can be cut from a variety of products you already use at home and can help us fund projects here at Ott. Our theme this year is "One Team, One Goal: Student Success." In the spirit of that theme, we have set a goal of \$2,000 for our Box Top collection and we will not be holding individual classroom competitions. We truly want to reach this goal as a campus. There are collection boxes, located at the front of the school, or you may send them in to your child's teacher. Please be sure to cut along the dotted-line so that they are "trimmed" (as required for submittal). Thank you for your continued support!



News from the Safety Patrols:

This year the Patrol Sponsors, Mr. Resendiz, Mrs. Loyd and Mrs. Duepner decided to have Patrol Stars. Each week a patrol from the morning and afternoon groups are nominated as the Patrol Star of the Week. Their picture is shown on the announcements with a little bit of information about them on Monday and they are captains of the patrols for the week. The stars are nominated by other patrols, teachers and students who see a patrol being extra helpful to everyone at Ott, going beyond what is expected of them and always being a leader at our school. If you see a patrol that you think is doing an exceptional job and you would like to nominate them please tell Mr. Resendiz, Mrs. Loyd or Mrs. Duepner. And remember if you cross with a patrol or get help in the hall, please say thank you! They are helping keep you safe.

OTT STUDENTS SHINE ON FITNESS TEST!

All 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students have recently completed the pretest for the state mandated Fitness Gram. All 3rd – 12th grade students are given this test twice a year to determine the fitness level of each student tested. Our goal is to promote physical activity and increase the fitness level of our students to reach the “Healthy Fitness Zone”. The components for this test are:

Curl-Ups to measure abdominal strength and endurance

Trunk Lift to measure strength and flexibility

Push-Ups to measure upper body strength

Back-Saver Sit and Reach measuring flexibility

PACER measuring aerobic capacity

Each student is also weighed and measured.

This information is then tabulated by our district and sent to the state. The test results are strictly CONFIDENTIAL. This assessment helps to determine the fitness level of all students in the state of Texas. Within the next few weeks each student will receive a copy of their pretest results. At the end of the year they will receive an official copy with all the scores for the year.



I CAN TIE MY SHOE

On October 21st and 22nd (Wednesday and Thursday) we will be having a special day in the gym. We call it “I CAN TIE MY SHOE” Day. Kinder students who show us

they can tie their shoe will sign the big shoe with their teacher’s name on it. At the end of class, they will receive a certificate that says “I CAN TIE MY SHOE” or “STILL TRYING”. When every student in the class has signed the big shoe, the shoe will be given to the teacher to display outside their class for everyone to see. We have set our goal for every kinder student to be able to tie their shoe and hope everyone will work towards accomplishing it. If they have Velcro, we will allow them to tie our shoe.

GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Once again Ott Elementary gym was selected to be part of the Great Pumpkin Challenge. The Great Pumpkin will be turning the PE teachers into giant pumpkins on

October 27th – 28th. If the students at Ott accept the challenge and pass all of the fitness stations then on the 29th Mrs. Loyd and Mr. Resendiz will once again be turned back into regular PE teachers! The coaches feel confident that all of the students are physically fit and will be up to the challenge.



Green Team Announcement

Attention 3rd, 4th and 5th Graders! If you’d like to help clean up our Earth and School come, to our **Green Team Meeting** On Friday, October 2nd, from 3-4pm Please see your teacher for a Sign up sheet.

Check Us Out On The Web

www.nisd.net/ott

Counselor's Corner

Counselors

Cathy Zanatta
(PreK, 1st, 3rd, 5th)
397-5575
cathyzanatta@nisd.net



Monique Zigmond
(PPCD/ECC, K, 2nd, 4th)
397-5576

Character Counts!

Respect

Trustworthiness

Caring

Responsibility

Fairness

Citizenship

Upcoming Events

Education Go Get It Week!



October 5-9
Parent Coffee
Friday,
November 6, 2009
8:30-9:30 a.m.
Ott Library
"The Five Love Languages
of Children"

Coming Soon...Red Ribbon Week

The Story Behind The Symbol



Enrique "Kiki" Camarena grew up in a dirt-floored house with hopes and dreams of making a difference.

Camarena worked his way through college, served in the Marines and became a police officer.

When he decided to join the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, his mother tried to talk him out of it. "I can't not do this," he told her. "I'm only one person, but I want to make a difference."

The DEA sent Camarena to work undercover in Mexico investigating a major drug cartel believed to include officers in the Mexican army, police and government. On Feb. 7, 1985, the 37-year-old Camarena left his office to meet his wife for lunch. Five men appeared at the agent's side and shoved him in a car. One month later, Camarena's body was found in a shallow grave. He had been tortured to death.

In honor of Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin.

Parents, sick of the destruction of alcohol and other drugs, had begun forming coalitions. Some of these new coalitions took Camarena as their model and embraced his belief that one person can make a difference. These coalitions also adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the red ribbon.

The National Family Partnership organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988. Since that time, the campaign has reached millions of U.S. children.

In 1997, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse began committing resources to ensure the continuation of the Red Ribbon Campaign in Texas, as well as the hopes and beliefs behind this grassroots effort to protect children from the dangers of alcohol and other drugs.

— From Dept. of State Health Services
Substance Abuse Services.

Parent 411

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities has launched a new online training course for parents. The parent friendly information is based on real-life scenarios. "Parent 411: Substance Abuse Awareness" can be accessed through the NISD Parent Connection webpage.

The self-paced training program is designed to help parents, grandparents, caregivers, and community members talk to children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, recognize the signs and symptoms of substance abuse, and know how to get help if this is an issue for someone they care about.



Red Ribbon Week

Monday 10/26/09
"Ott Students Are Red-Hot To Stay Drug Free"
Wear red on Monday.

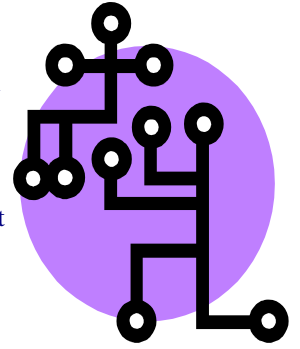
Tuesday 10/27/09
"Shade Out Drugs"
Wear sun glasses on Tuesday.

Wednesday 10/28/09
"Lei' Off Drugs: Go Hawaiian!"
Hawaiian clothes and accessories on Wednesday.

Thursday 10/29/09
"Team Up Against Drugs!"
Wear your favorite team shirt on Thursday.

Friday 10/30/09
"Scare Away Drugs"
Wear black and orange on Friday.

PTA President's Corner



Hello Ott Trailblazers, The PTA has been busy this week collecting fundraiser forms and from what I've seen, it appears to have been a success! Thank you for all your support. We are anticipating the items arriving at school the week of October 22nd.

All funds raised through the PTA come back to the children, whether it be fieldtrips, learning materials, or for school organizations. Keeping that in mind, your membership dues of \$7.00 come right back to the children of our community. In joining the PTA, that does not mean that we will pressure you into volunteering at the school, it does however mean that it will help us provide for field trips and educational materials throughout the school. Last year we had a total of 386 members in our PTA, I'd like to challenge you all to see if we can hit 500 members this year.

This month we will also begin accepting applications for the Reflections Program. Flyers about the program and applications will be sent in Friday Folders so be on the lookout for those. The deadline for children to submit their artwork will be October 30th. Judging for the artwork will take place at the next PTA General Meeting.

As a reminder, please be sure to go online and fill out the background check required by NISD, so we can call you when we need volunteers. This year we are pushing our volunteer program and want to show how much you are appreciated, so please be sure to fill out the Volunteer slips in the front office stating how many hours you have volunteered at the school and drop the slip in the PTA box. We appreciate everyone who attended the last PTA meeting and signed up to assist on the committees.

We are still having our Membership Drive, so if you haven't joined the Ott PTA, please visit the website and download the form. These forms and payment may be dropped off in the PTA box. Please feel free to email the PTA by visiting the school website at <http://www.nisd.net/ott/> or at ott_pta@yahoo.com with any concerns you may have. Please be sure to include a subject heading, so your message is addressed by the correct Board Member. We look forward to seeing you at the next PTA meeting on **Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 PM**. Our choir will be singing.

Ott Music News, September 25, 2009



The children in Kindergarten are learning new circle games and rhymes. First Graders are moving to Forte and Piano, *Loud and Soft*, learning more rhymes, playing circle games, and singing a song in Spanish. Second Graders are realizing that pitches make melodies and notes represent pitches on the five line music staff. Third Grade has listened to music from Singapore and Newfoundland and found those areas on the map, differentiated the Beat from the Rhythm, and discovered different aspects of written music. The Fourth and Fifth Graders are figuring out how *D. S. al Coda* works in written music and have been dancing Double Circle Dances. The Fourth Graders have listened to the Adagio from *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Rodrigo and discovered that Aranjuez is a city in Spain. The Fifth Graders are also learning a short instrumental arrangement. Fifth Grade String instruction is up and running and the Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir is rehearsing on Wednesdays after school until 2:45 p.m. Because of our physical activities in Music Class athletic shoes are best.

The Ott Music Specialist Andrew T. Przybyla, can be contacted at 397-5550, extension 3105, or through email, andrewprzybyla@nisd.net. You can also go to his outreach page listed under Rotation Specialist on the Ott Website.