



The Northside Learning Tree

After School Enrichment Program
A Project of the NISD Adult & Community Education Department



The Learning Tree is coming!

The Learning Tree 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant will provide free after school enrichment and activities for up to 120 students at this campus beginning in Fall 2006.

The Learning Tree 21st CCLC program supports the following goals:

- To offer expanded academic enrichment to help children, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, meet state and local student academic achievement standards in core academic subjects, such as reading, mathematics, and science;
- To offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, physical education/fitness programs, character education, and technology education programs that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
- To offer students and their families opportunities for literacy, parental involvement and related educational development.

Q. What is the Learning Tree?

A. The Learning Tree is a free (grant-funded) after school enrichment program that provides fun, hands-on enrichment classes with topics such as cooking, crafts, dance, science experiments, reading, music, drama and much more. Other program aspects include sports, homework help, daily USDA snack, community service, service learning, character development, and cultural activities. Bus transportation home is also provided.

For families, the Learning Tree offers monthly parent events and opportunities to become involved with the school.

Q. Can anyone sign up for the Learning Tree?

A. Learning Tree is open to Kinder through 5th grade students enrolled at this campus, however due to funding limitations, the program is capped at the first **120 students** who register on a **first come, first served basis**. A waiting list will be formed after all slots are full, and names will be called off the waiting list whenever there is an opening. Children can only enroll at the Learning Tree site where they attend school.

Q. When is registration?

A. **Registration at Powell ES takes place AUGUST 2, 2006 from 3:30 – 6 PM in the cafeteria.** Please plan on registering your own children only—please do not register children of friends or neighbors. Please bring the following information on the day of registration: Social Security Number, Student ID number, medical information, and current contact information including address and telephone numbers for parent/guardian, person to contact in case of

emergency, and any other persons who can pick up your child. Registration forms will be completed on-site.

Q. What are the program hours?

A. The Learning Tree program is open from 2:45 PM – 5:30 PM Monday through Friday and is closed on early release days and holidays (follows the NISD calendar.)

Q. What are the attendance and early-pick-up policies?

A. The Learning Tree is not a “drop-in” program. To make best use of our grant funds, to meet grant requirements, and to ensure each child receives the full benefit of the program, students should not have more than 3 unexcused absences and early pick-ups per semester. Parents should plan to leave their child at the Learning Tree program for the entire program time, every operating day. “Excused absences” include times when a child is absent from school, is sick, has a medical appointment, or has a family emergency. “Unexcused absences” include going to sports leagues or dance practices, or when a parent just wants the child to come home. Your child is considered an “early pick up” if you sign him/her out any time before 5:15 PM. We will communicate with each parent about attendance issues, however it is possible to be withdrawn from Learning Tree for failure to follow the attendance policies.

Each parent will receive a copy of our Policies and Procedures upon registration.

Q. Do parents have to pay for Learning Tree?

A. No. However, because the grant is also interested in parental involvement data, it is important for parents and family members to attend Learning Tree events and become involved with the school. It is also important for parents and students to follow all Learning Tree guidelines.

Q. Are summer and weekend programs available?

A. Yes. Through a partnership with the Calderon Branch Boys and Girls Club, Learning Tree students are eligible for the Saturday program from 9 AM – 2 PM, during the school year. There is no cost to enroll, however space is limited. Students will be bused to and from the Boys and Girls Club and participate in swimming, trips, crafts, technology, and sports. Lunch is provided. You will receive more information about this program once your child is enrolled in Learning Tree.

A free summer program will also be available in Summer 2007.

Q. Who runs the Learning Tree?

A. An After School Program Specialist will coordinate the Learning Tree program for your campus. The Program Specialist will have an office on-campus, is an employee of the district’s Adult and Community Education Department, and will work closely with parents and the school administration.

Q. Who funds the Learning Tree Program?

A. The Learning Tree is funded by the Texas Education Agency’s 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. Grant funds are possible for the next 3 – 5 years.

Q. Who can I contact if I have further questions about the Learning Tree?

A. The After School Program Specialist will not be on your campus until the end of July. Please feel free to contact the office of After School Programs at 397-8102.