

HUFFMAN HERALD

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Len Stevens, Principal
Jennifer Caplinger, Asst. Principal



A message from our PTA President

Hey Huffman Parents,

Well it is a new year and so, of course, it is time for resolutions! Inspiration can come in many forms. Mine came from my car. Yes, my car. As politically incorrect as it is, I love my big SUV. It does, however, have some quirks. One such quirk is that the car must come to a full and complete stop (no rolling stops for me!) or the gears seem to slip and the car lurches in a very awkward and uncomfortable way.

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It is amazing to me how often I want to rush through that stop sign. Pay attention one day as you are driving - you'll see! We are always in a rush to get to the next activity or to-do on our list. So my resolution for the new year is to enjoy the moment. I promise to enjoy the all day field trip and the hour for lunch at school. I will enjoy stapling, cutting out, and volunteering while it is still appreciated and wanted by my child and my school. Once they hit middle school, the kids don't even look back as they head out. As my youngest is looking ahead to fifth grade, I can't believe I am already here. Every day, every minute needs to be enjoyed.

Every time I think I have mastered the full and complete stop (for my car) an "incident" happens (as my husband reminded me, when I wrote that I had mastered the proper stop). So this is a RESOLUTION to be more mindful...to relax and ignore the driver not stopping, not yielding or turning improperly. When I do get it right, I have noticed a nice side effect. As I become more patient and friendlier as a driver, it becomes contagious. If I wave someone on, the next thing you know, they are stopping so someone can cross the street in front of them. So give it a try! Share a little peace and kindness with your neighbor and pass it on.

Hoping you all enjoy the New Year and each other.

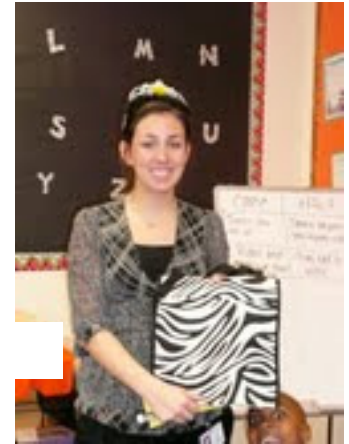
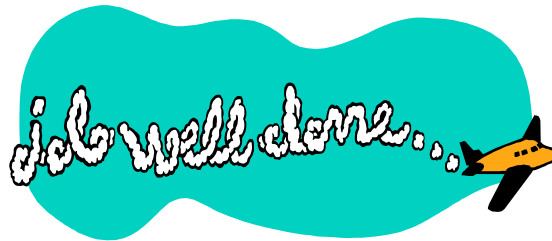
Leslie Gilvar
Huffman PTA President

Huffman Rocks in 2010!

Congrats to our Teacher of the Year Nominees!



***Huffman's Music teacher, Mrs. Feledichuck,
was nominated as our
Experienced Teacher of the Year!***



***Huffman's 2nd grade teacher, Amanda Fletcher,
was nominated as our
Beginning Teacher of the Year!***



Watch D.O.G.S.

Huffman Dad's Group Launch Event was a huge success!

The new dad's group at Huffman, Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), officially starts this month as over 100 dads turned out for the launch event near the end of last semester. The basic idea of the group is to have a Huffman dad volunteer one full day at school during the school year. Just from the launch event we have at least one dad on campus almost every day for the rest of the school year! However, there is still plenty of time to get involved and sign-up to volunteer. If you have any questions, please email Scott Sweet at scotrsweet@gmail.com or just stop by the Huffman office to pick your day to volunteer.



It's that time of year again! Don't forget to submit your Yearbook messages for your special Huffman Hawk. This is your chance to tell your child/children how proud you are of their accomplishments this year. A flyer is attached here for you to do just that!



If interested, please be sure to complete and return the attached form by Jan. 22nd with \$5.00/message (check made payable to Huffman PTA, ATTN: Yearbook) and we will make sure your message is printed in the yearbook.

5th Grade Video Montage - In the Works -

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS!

Lara Ashmore is creating the Huffman 5th grade video this year. Please send all photos that you would like included in the video to Lara at huffmangrade5@gmail.com.

If you have photos but you are unable to e-mail the images (i.e. they are not digital images and/or you do not have access to a scanner), please e-mail or call Lara at 972-207-6523 to make other arrangements.

It would be most helpful and time saving for any and all parents (and the yearbook volunteers) to e-mail Lara the 5th grade photos or submit them on a CD or in digital format to the fifth grade staff (ATTN: LARA ASHMORE).

The deadline to submit all photos is April 19, 2010.



DECEMBER ROCK STARS



Congratulations to all our volunteers
- our Rock Stars –
for the month of DECEMBER.



YOU ALL ROCK!!!

Nicole McCasland
Edith Sosa
Rachel Logan
Cathy Sweet
Kristin Robbins
Melissa Davis

Leanna Nash
Tonya Grant
Robin Murtha
Scott Sweet
Jane Choppin

Len Stevens
Capriccio Martin
Ernest Suarez
Elizabeth Rugenstein
Stephanie Bisani
Kimberly DeWeese

Notes from the Office

Please be advised that the Huffman dumpster is for school use only. When it fills up with other miscellaneous items there is no room left to throw the school's trash in between pick-ups.

We are asking your help in not using Huffman's dumpster for your household items.

Thank you.



Please remember to call the ChildSafe line at (469) 752-1900 to report your child's absence. Please also send a note with your child re their absence upon their return to school.

KIDS VISION FEST



Free festival open to the public to offer free eye screenings to all kids and free exams and glasses to those who qualify (children ages 4 - 12), plus book readings, educational vision-related activities, games and entertainment. In an effort to eliminate poor vision and its lifelong consequences, Essilor Vision Foundation and the Kids Vision for Life Coalition will host Kids Vision Fest on Tue., Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library (1515 Young St., Dallas, 75201). Children's authors and illustrators will be on site for book readings throughout the day. Kids will also be able to participate in contests, giveaways, prizes and more. Details at essilorvisionfoundation.org.

Ski Plano 2010

The Plano ISD Education Foundation volunteers invite you to put your tuxedos and ball gowns in mothballs and don your ski sweaters, scarves, and hats to warm yourself at their annual fundraiser "Ski Plano 2010," held January 30, at Southfork Ranch in Parker, Texas. Approximately 800 guests, including community leaders, elected school board members, the business community, teachers, principals, and parents will attend the event.

The evening's activities will feature hors d'oeuvres and dinner, entertainment and dancing to the music of Mars Hill, live auction, silent auction and an Avalanche raffle with fabulous prizes donated by friends of Plano schools.

Proceeds from the event will help the Plano ISD Education Foundation fund critical needs identified by Plano ISD for which tax dollars are not available, and ensure that Plano ISD maintains the highest standards of academic excellence for the benefit of all Plano children.

Visit the Plano ISD Foundation at www.pisd.edu for more information. Or better yet, contact secretary@huffmanpta.org to reserve your seat!

There's a new look to the library...



Thank you, Karen Lynch, for your hard work!

- Sponsored by Huffman PTA -

Would you like to have some input into when your child starts school?
Sign our online petition!

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/txschoolstartdate/>

Our petition simply states:

I support local control of the school calendar.

The current statute that mandates a uniform school start date should be repealed, or at a minimum, the waiver process should be reinstated.

Parents, school staff and residents of our communities should be able to help select a school calendar that works best toward addressing their communities' concerns and enables their students to achieve the highest academic success possible.

Huffman Happenings

- ◆ *Thursday, January 14*

Math Night
Dinner - 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm (Gym)
Activities - 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

- ◆ *Monday, January 18*

MLK Birthday (Student/Teacher Holiday)
**** NO SCHOOL ****

- ◆ *Thursday, January 21*

Skate Night @ Thunderbird Roller Rink
(6:00 pm - 8:00 pm)

- ◆ *Monday, January 25*

Regular PTA Meeting - Everyone Welcome!
(9:00 am - 10:00 am)

- ◆ *Wednesday, January 27*

Science Fair projects due

- ◆ *Friday, January 29*

Spirit Night
(6:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

- ◆ *Saturday, January 30*

Ski Plano @ Southfork Ranch
(6:00 pm - 10:00 pm)

January Staff Birthdays



- Jan. 2nd - Nicole McCasland*
- Jan. 4th - Kristin Ferris*
- Jan. 10th - Corey Coursey*
- Jan. 12th - Donna Jones*
- Jan. 24th - Aimee Newsom*
- Jan. 31st - Nora Oglesby*

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Huffman Family Festival is coming soon! Mark your calendars for Friday, March 5th. The theme this year is "Sports"! Lora Mortensen and her committee are working diligently on games, food and prizes for the evening. Also, back by popular demand is the popular auction. More details will be coming shortly. Please mark your calendar and contact Lora Mortensen at familyfestival@huffmanpta.org to see how you can help with this fun event!

Thank you to our Community Business Partners!!!

North Texas Allergy & Asthma Associates
 Children's Medical Center
 City House
 Cub Scout Pack #265
 Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
 Optimum Outdoor Concepts
 State Farm Agent Kim Adams & Team
 The Merlo Group

*The Huffman Herald is a publication of
the Huffman PTA.*

*Monthly newsletter submissions are
due by the 20th of each month.
Weekly calendar updates are due every
Monday.*

*Please send your newsletter
submissions/updates and pictures to
newsletter@huffmanpta.org.*