



November 24, 2008



From The President

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Well, almost. On the horizon is the magnificent Scholastic book fair slotted for the first week in December and the amazing Holiday Show scheduled for Thursday December 11. As we prepare for this wonderful time of year, I want to share some of the things I've been thinking about that we at Barton Hills Elementary have to be thankful for.

I am thankful for our fabulous Principal who always has a smile to share and an ear to listen. I am thankful for the superb office staff, of Bertha and Joann, who help keep us all on track. I am thankful for the terrific teachers, and other faculty members that care so much about our kids and their education. I am thankful for the new members of our Barton Hills Faculty Family and I am thankful for time and memories we have of those that are no longer at our school. I am thankful for the remarkable janitors and cafeteria workers who know the importance of having a tidy place to come to each day and a warm meal to keep us going. I am thankful for the extraordinary parents who volunteer countless hours and talents to make our school a better place. I am thankful for the super kids who are so sweet and have such a great love of life.

I am thankful for the honor of receiving the Shirley Igo and Statesman summer reading awards over the summer. I am thankful for the 12,000+ box tops we

collected and the chance we have to win \$10,000. I am thankful for the incredible carnival we were able to give our kids and for the \$28000+ we raised in the process. I am thankful for each and every person who has participated in or will participate in our Annual Fund at any level. I am thankful to the many businesses that have joined forces to become a Partner in Education.

I am thankful for the wonderful, cozy, welcoming building our children have to come to each day. I am thankful for the inviting library with its many fascinating books. I am thankful for our terrific computer lab and our beautiful music room. I am thankful for the cool new gym floor.

I am thankful most of all, to be a part of the Barton Hills Elementary Family. My warmest wishes to you and yours as you gather together to reflect on all that you are thankful for.

Tina Weaver BHE PTA President

100 years of Texas PTA - Part 3

Once the Texas PTA was formed in the late 1800's, founder Ella Caruthers Porter quickly got to work. Mrs. Porter said "I was overwhelmed with the responsibility and with my utter unpreparedness of motherhood . . . There were few helps to be had at that time in the way of literature or printed material, so I conceived the idea of calling together a few other mothers who would no doubt, be interested in child study and the betterment of the home." Mrs. Porter attended the second National Congress of Mothers and was appointed to organize a state congress in Texas.

After establishing one of the nation's first Mother's Clubs, Mrs. Porter went on to establish a Texas state branch of the National Congress of Mothers, as National PTA was called at that time, and she became a charter member of the National Congress' board. The Texas Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Association was formed on October 19, 1909 at the State Fair in Dallas. In 1910, Texas PTA arranged the first child welfare conference ever held in Texas at the State Fair in Dallas. Within the first three years the Texas PTA was the first to: call together 18 state organizations to discuss the conditions affecting children's' lives in Texas and to focus on fundamental needs; to develop an educational campaign for birth registration; and to promote an infant mortality survey. Texas PTA advocated laws to inspect the health of public school children, the creation of a child-welfare commission and the establishments of kindergartens.

During the early years, Texas PTA worked for the creation of the woman's division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the election of county superintendents, free textbooks in schools, womens suffrage and minimum wage law for women. The efforts of Texas PTA continued into the years 1918 and 1919 when the "Year of the Child" kicked off with a campaign to weigh and measure school age children and register births. Due to conditions discovered during the campaign, cities worked to set up clinics around Texas. The "Year of the Child" also included a back-to-school campaign. Administrators reported a significant increase in attendance following this campaign. In the early 1920's State Superintendent

of Public Instruction Annie Webb Blanton offered office space to the Texas PTA in the State Capitol. During this time, Texas PTA also sponsored a survey of the health of rural children in Texas by the Child Labor Committee.

Texas public schools have been central to PTA's mission as illustrated in a 1922 PTA report: "The Congress represents the great organized force for arousing intelligent concern in the public school system and must be recognized both as the partner of the State Department of Education and as the leading channel through which to raise the standard of our entire educational system." From its first efforts to bring together state organizations to discuss child welfare in 1910, PTA has continued to bring child advocates together to discuss the state of affairs for children. Today, members of the Texas PTA continue the work Mrs. Porter began by advocating for better laws to protect children and increasing parent involvement in schools. Stay tuned for more next month.



Parking Reminder

Barton Hill Friends, this is just a friendly reminder about parking during drop-off and pick-up. Please observe the bright orange cones that are placed in the teacher parking lots (front and back) as well as along the curb and do not try to park there. There is a lot of pedestrian traffic in the parking lots and recently, teachers have not been able to utilize the parking spaces. So, let's be kind to teachers and keep our students safe. Our principal, staff, and safety patrol do their best to keep traffic flowing in the drive-through, so let's continue to work with them. *Thanks!*

2nd Grade Submissions

The second grade teaching team, Becky Pursley, Allyn Rich, and Stacy Maine provided articles for this month's newsletter. They say that Second Graders enthusiastically write for a variety of purposes and audiences. This small sample of writing includes a letter, and interview, and fiction.

Letter by Sofia – Ms. Rich's class

October 30, 2008

Dear Opera Friends,

I like the part when Carmenella was hiding in the crowd. My favorite characters are the ugly step-sisters, step-mother, the prince and Carmenella. I like the word Carmenella because it reminds me of my aunt Carmen.

Sincerely,
Sofia

Interview by Caroline – Ms. Maines' class

Maddy

Maddy was born on November 12, 2000 in Austin, TX. Her favorite holiday is Christmas! Her absolute favorite animal is a flamingo. She has a little brother named Andrew. Her favorite memory was when Andrew was born. Maddy's eye color is Hazel. A book she likes is "The Animal Ark" series! Her favorite color is turquoise. She wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

Story by Phil Mahaffey – Mrs. Pursley's class

Back in time, times of war, times of darkness, there was a child, a child of unknown power. His name was Ike. He lived alone in a forest full of other children.

When he grew up, Ike wanted to be a swordsman. As a kid, he had a toy, a two-handed sword, which he could wield with one hand with ease.

One day in seven years, Ike set out on his quest. He bought a two handed long sword. It was crafted of the

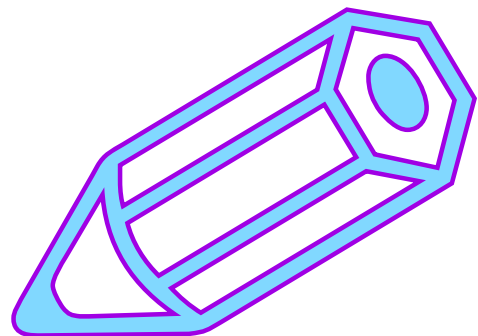
finest steel in all the Sacred Realm of Crehel. When Ike left the shop, someone jumped down out of a nearby tree. Ike drew his sword, but the one who had confronted him just stuck his hand out and said, "My name is Sothe. I come to help you. Do not fight me."

So Ike and Sothe set off on their adventure. They had run two hundred miles in two days, 8 hours, fifteen minutes, 25 seconds because they were rushed by a squirrel with a bad case of rabies!

Soon it had cornered them. The squirrel started to grow. It grew and it grew. It got meaner and meaner. Ike drew his sword and Sothe his knife. The squirrel sliced at Ike with his claws, but Ike dodged and came up behind him. The squirrel whacked at Ike with its tail, but he ducked and came up with a jumping slash upward and a two handed downward strike. To finish the squirrel off, Sothe stabbed his knife (dabbed with some medicine) in the squirrel, which returned it to normal. Sothe took the squirrel as a pet and named it Bob.

Ike, Sothe, and Bob set off on their next adventure by climbing a nearby cliff.

The End



Grocery Cards

Our Grocery Card program is already a success this year! We are earning 3% – 4% on every grocery card we purchase, and with so many supporters, this adds up by the end of the year. Many families are enrolled in the automatic monthly withdrawal. Some families also pre-order cards for the next month, by putting a check in the PTA mailbox by the 20th. But, did you know that you may purchase grocery cards on an as-needed basis? We have an inventory of cards available at any time! As you are planning your holiday shopping, please think of purchasing grocery cards through the BHEPTA first. If you are going to be shopping at Randalls or HEB, you can help your school earn money by getting your cards before you go to the store. Just contact Tonya Cook stevean-dtonya@mac.com, or Tom Campbell TCampbell@austin.rr.com and they will get you the cards you need. Together we can do more!

Book Recommendation

Bernstein Bears is a classic series and always a good mix of fun family reading and good morale truths. “The Bernstein Bears and the Prize Pumpkin” sticks to the famous formula and delivers a fun story, offers up a great life lesson all revolving around the great pumpkin festival and thanksgiving holiday. Papa bear as usual finds himself learning the hard way with the brother and sister bear getting caught up in the big hype of growing the biggest pumpkin in town. A fun read with plenty of pages filled with seeds for further discussion amongst your own family and the upcoming holidays.

written by Joi Faltesek and Rob Harris

The Holiday Show is coming!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Holiday show performed by the children on Thursday, December 11 at 6:30pm. This year's theme is the Polar Express. Watch for more info in the days ahead.

Safari Book Fair

Barton Hills Elementary annual book fair is coming up, so mark your calendar for a wild week. The Safari runs December 1–5, 2008! Setup will be on November 24th and 25th, if you are available to help set-up, please stop in the library to see Mrs. Day.

Also, if you'd like to help read a bedtime story to the students on December 2nd, see Mrs. Day.

Book Fair Schedule

December 1st – Preview Day

December 2nd – Sales Day

A Safari Sleep-Over is scheduled for 6pm- 8pm when kids can wear their pajamas, listen to a bed time story, and have cookies with milk! This is a great opportunity for parents to shop while children are listening to stories.

December 3rd – Shopping available between 7:45 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

December 4th – Morning Book Hunt where you have a chance to shop early at 7:00 a.m.

December 5th – Safari ends after last chance lunch hour, at 1pm.

Don't Miss Your Chance To Go On A Safari!

