

Eisenhower Informer



A newsletter for the Eisenhower International School family.

Vol. XIII Number 3 ▶ December 2004

~ dolphin calendar ~

December

- 15** Teacher Holiday Luncheon
- 17** Last Day of Winter Clothes Drive
- 20** Winter Break Begins (No School)

January

- 3** School Resumes
- 17** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)

~ A Message from the Principal ~

Dear Parents:

We would like to "THANK" the Eisenhower PTA and all the parents who volunteered their time to help at Kids' World and Commemoration. The events could NOT have happened without you! Thank you for your support and your generosity with your time. We appreciate you!

Please join me in welcoming Donna Boswell as one of Eisenhower's newest partners. She has joined forces with our counselor, Melanie Heil, and is offering her expertise and time to help our students. She is willing to actually see students at her office who may need additional services outside of what the school can offer. We appreciate her willingness to help any Eisenhower student. Welcome Donna!

Many of you may have read in the papers about whether or not schools have made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). This term is associated with the Federal law "No Child Left Behind". Each school in the nation is required to make AYP each year, and the State of Oklahoma uses a term called API (Academic Performance Indicator) to calculate whether the Oklahoma schools have made the progress or not. Eisenhower was well above the state average last year and we are very proud of our API. We want to continue to improve and continue to increase our API score every year. While test scores at the 3rd and 5th grade level are 90% of this calculation, daily attendance is also a factor. Please know how important it is for your child to attend school every day. Of course, if the student is ill we would expect the child to stay home. Let's work together and keep our API strong!

There will not be a "School Talk Time" in December. Please look in the January bulletin for a date in January.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all the families of EIS! See you next year!

Sincerely,
Stacy Strow
Eisenhower Principal

~ A Message from the PTA President ~

Happy Holidays to all of the EIS families!!!! This has been a very busy Fall for everyone and I am sure even a busier holiday season!! Many of you already know that our next PTA Meeting will not be held until January. I thought I'd bring you up-to-date on some recent PTA information.

The PTA sponsored two parenting seminars this Fall. The seminars were conducted by Dr. Mary Rineer, a clinical psychologist with expertise in educational issues and a parent of an immersion graduate. The seminars were open to the public. In attendance were Zarrow staff and families, EIS staff and families, as well as members from the community who were considering immersion for their children. We certainly had a great group of participants and good discussion of school and family-based issues surrounding immersion. Many parents expressed an interest in continuing the seminars in the Spring. Issues that arose were the possibility of creating the opportunity for English and Grammar tutoring for our students if needed, as well as special learning styles of students and how to make appropriate accommodations.

The abovementioned topics will continued to be explored. EIS will be sending two staff members to training in January that specifically deals with learning styles of children and focuses on their strengths. This is based on the work of Dr. Mel Levine and his course "All Kinds of Minds."

I certainly hope we can continue this work in the Spring and involve a greater number of EIS families, as well as members of the community. Immersion programs are so unique, seminars such as those this Fall create great discussion, ideas and support for the individuals involved. This will only strengthen our school and services to our children.

Hope you have a fabulous holiday season and break!!!!

Donna Boswell
PTA President

Computer Lab - An Update

by Karen Bruns

Many of you are wondering why the computer lab isn't functioning yet. A meeting was held on December 3, 2004 with TPS officials after several months of waiting for the computers to be connected to the TPS server. TPS officials have decided not to allow any more "old" equipment on the TPS server. This is not what we were told this summer as work began on the computer lab. However, TPS feels it is the best decision for the district. As a result, we are purchasing new computers so that this lab can be up and running as soon as possible. Ms. Strow is purchasing 5 new computers for the GLC, the 5 old systems from the GLC will then be transferred to the computer lab. In addition, the PTA will purchase 10 new systems using the encumbered funds already in the current budget. This will leave a small amount of money in the computer lab for software purchases, etc.

I would like to thank the committee members for their patience and hard work. While we have been frustrated by this whole process, we learned some lessons which will help us the next time we take on a project of this magnitude. Look for the lab to be up and running in January when the children return from the holiday break.

**9th Annual
Winter Clothing Drive**

Through December 17



Please bring your gently worn clothes to donate. Our Cub Scout Pack distributes the clothes to people that really need them.

Items we need: coats, hats, gloves, long sleeve shirts, long pants, warm ups, children's pajamas, or any items to keep people warm. All sizes needed for both male and female.

Donation boxes will be located at the North Entrance and by the Gym.

If you have questions, please contact Vernia Jones.
Thank you in advance for your donations.



Mark your calendars - the date has been set!
All we need is you!

Saturday, March 5, 2005
6:00 PM
The Atrium at CityPlex
2488 East 81st Street

We are getting excited about Fiestavale! We've had our organizational meeting and planning is well underway. Several wonderful parents have volunteered to fill some of the key positions of this event! Kim Hutton Warlick, Melinda Dickson, Robert Tett, Sandra Elbon, Lisa Lutke, Connie Welch, Kara Folkins, Elaine Ard, Jennifer Cook, Karen Bruns . . . Thanks to each and every one of you!

We are putting the finishing touches on our theme and will share that with you after the winter break. Some things to keep in mind as we approach the end of the year are:

1. Has your class made plans for its class project? Determine the project now so that you'll be able to start early next year. The class projects are live auction items and have great potential for raising lots of \$\$\$!
2. Are you thinking of ideas for a Family Basket which you can donate for the Silent Auction? These baskets can be lots of fun to put together and can be in any price range.
3. In the past couple of years, themed dinner parties have been hot items in the silent auction. Would you consider hosting one? Ask a friend or two to help and have fun planning it, too! These parties could be planned for kids, as well, if you're a brave soul!
4. If you need a home for holiday gifts that aren't quite your thing, donate them to Fiestavale for the silent auction! Remember, one person's "unwanted gifts" are another person's treasure!

Call us if you have any ideas or questions. Have a great holiday!

Fiestavale Co-Chairs: Keren Wright (293-9495); Samantha Heinen (250-8822)

Reflections Program

2004-2005

Have you ever dreamed of having your drawing or photo framed and hung in a special art exhibit at your school? Can you imagine what it would be like to have your story or poem published in a school or PTA newspaper, or to play or sing a song you wrote in front of an audience?

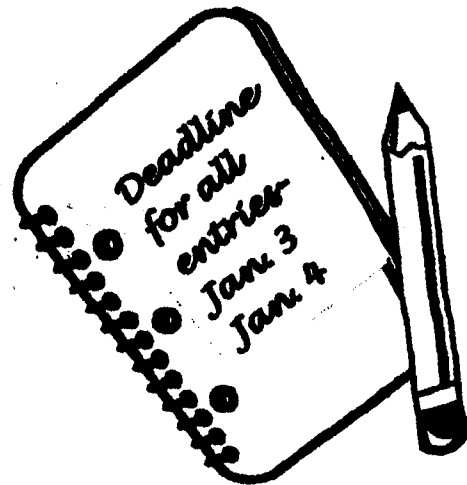
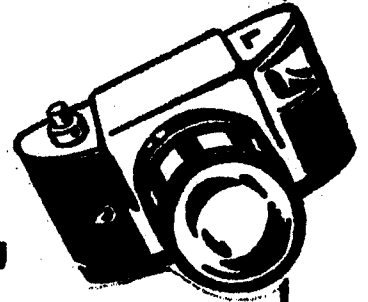
You may be able to if you participate in the Reflections Program that the PTA has every year. The theme for this year's program is **"A Different Kind of Hero"** You can think about the theme and talk with your family and friends about what it means to you. Then, create a piece of artwork, take a photo, write a song, or write a story about it. It'll be fun!

If you have a computer at home or at school, you can look at what other kids did last year. (You may want to ask a grownup to help you find the Reflections Gallery on the Internet.) All you have to do is go to the Parent Involvement section of www.pta.org and look in the Family Fun area.

Packets with complete rules and entry information for all categories are available at the table by the Main Office

*Questions - Contact Angela Loegering
493-6414 or aloeger@sbell.net*

* Entry forms + rules also available at www.okpta.org



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CULTURE BOX NEWS

The Eisenhower International School –Tulsa Global Alliance Culture Box Project has been making a great educational impact in K-College classrooms, teachers' meetings and KIDS WORLD during the autumn of 2004. Boxes have traveled from the Missouri border to Norman with stops at places like Catoosa inbetween. Presidential teacher, Betty Wright, used the Vietnamese box in Oklahoma City workshops.

The boxes have stimulated READING. Mary Ramey of Lindbergh writes, "My kids loved the boxes. We had great time learning about Mexico...a lot of my students picked up the books about Mexico and did not want to put them down. Thank you from the 4th grade at Lindbergh Elementary." Other Tulsa Public Elementary Schools using the boxes are Eisenhower, Emerson, Wright, and Cherokee.

The boxes have encouraged MULTICULTURAL UNDERSTANDING and appreciation of diversity. The French and Bolivian boxes were exhibited at KIDS WORLD at the Eisenhower booths.

Model United Nations students at Booker T. Washington and Oral Roberts University use the boxes and enhance the boxes with their RESEARCH. African boxes enhanced a Malawi student's presentation at TCC.

The boxes have FOSTERED APPRECIATION of children's own heritage. Vickie Chyan and Yujen Lin checked out the Taiwan box for use at Tulsa's Chinese School.

Films and books from Spanish and Portuguese boxes have supplemented study of the explorers in the FIFTH GRADE AMERICAN HISTORY PASS OBJECTIVES at Eisenhower and Heritage Academy.

Heritage Academy, Tulsa's Jewish Day School has used the boxes in two extensive INTERDISCIPLINARY units on Greece and Water in Israel. Students created products such as masks, maps and art. They even created an entire booth at KIDS WORLD inspired by the Israel box.

The boxes were presented at workshops for teachers at Fulton, the University of Tulsa, Eisenhower School, OASIS and Early Childhood Educators. At the Fall Forum of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence in Norman, award-winning teachers from across the state agreed that the boxes promote critical thinking, avenues for visual, auditory and tactile learners.

Thanks to a grant from the Charles Schusterman Family Foundation, Emily Wood is able to check, supplement, and enhance the boxes at Eisenhower and give workshops. She would welcome volunteer help on Fridays. Karen Schafer, Executive Director of TGA administers the grant. If you are traveling to one of the 39 culture box countries your leftover coins are very welcome.

Kinder 2005 Tours & Applications

Beginning in January, interested parents of potential students can tour Eisenhower. Be sure to watch for the Tour Eisenhower dates. All applications for Eisenhower and Zarrow will be due in late February. Check www.Eisenhowerinternational.org for specific details as information becomes available.



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Contact Cari Bashaw for more info
918/698-1001 or cari@ThinkNTrain.com