

COUGAR CALL OUT

★ HUNTERS CREEK ELEMENTARY ★

Stefanie Roach, Principal

2011-2012

January 23, 2012

From the Principal

One of our instructional focus areas this year was to help students develop more *global awareness* and strengthen their understanding of *empathy* as contributing members of society.

Recently, our 5th grade team was interviewed by the Memorial Magazine and this article will appear in the March issue. I am so proud of our 5th grade staff including: Cindy Sonnier, Sara Huffman, Kristina Sadlo, Marcia Menard, Melissa Anderson and Amber Smith. They truly recognize the importance of preparing our children for a world beyond our classrooms!

HCE Funky Five Changes Lives

By Dorcas Ross, Editorial Consultant, Community Magazines

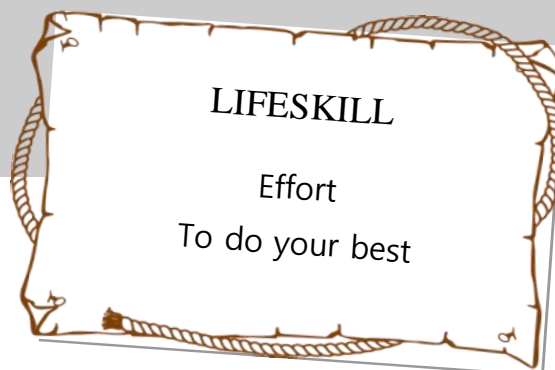
The fifth grade students at Hunters Creek Elementary are in business. Literally. The business of changing lives. Presented with the invitation to simply visit a website called Kiva, the students immersed themselves in a global awareness process that not only helps reduce poverty in other countries around the world it also provides a myriad of learning opportunities in the classroom. Spearheading the program, social studies teacher and fifth grade team leader Cindy Sonnier says “We told our students about the website with no further instruction. They took it upon themselves to dive in and begin working the process and they love it!”

Kiva is an internet based non-profit organization that connects people through lending to alleviate poverty and works with microfinance institutions on five continents to provide loans to people without access to traditional banking systems. The five fifth grader teachers guiding this initiative have named themselves The Funky Five and they seem to be instilling a passion within their students for this project that helps people all over the world to start up small businesses and become productive citizens in their native countries. Kiva lets individuals lend as little as \$25 to help create opportunity. The students take the task of choosing their Kiva loan recipients very seriously. Each prospective recipient has a profile on Kiva stating such things as their location, type of business and expenses, and the track record of their loan repayments.

Fifth grade teachers Kristina Sadlo and Sara Huffman work alongside Cindy with their classes and encourage students to earn the money they lend rather than asking their parents to provide funds. One student created a dog walking service to earn money to lend her Kiva recipient.

The teachers all agree that this program flows over into all other areas of the student’s lives and say their students are learning the importance of empathy while learning about economic and business development, leadership, conservation, problem solving, technology and the importance of education. The program is receiving recognition district wide and Hunters Creek Elementary Principal Stefanie Roach says “I would love for our students and staff to be recognized for their teaching and learning and contributions. It is an amazing project!”

To learn more about how Kiva works visit www.kiva.org.



Calendar

1/27	Love & Logic, 8:30-10, DC
1/31	PTA Mtg, 6 pm, Stephanie Carr
2,1	100th Day
2/3	Progress Reports
2/8	Counselor's Day
2/10	Kinder Hoedown, 9 am
2/10	Valentine's Parties, 2 pm
2/28	Book Fair & Dinner
2/28	PTA Mtg, 6 pm

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT TEAM NEEDS NEW MEMBERS FOR 2012-2013

GET INVOLVED AS A PARENT LEADER IN SBISD!
SUBMIT YOUR NAME FOR THE DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT TEAM LOTTERY!

Parent Representatives Lottery

The SBISD District Improvement Team (DIT) has positions open for Parent Representatives for 2012-2013 in the following areas:

- One Middle School Parent representing Spring Woods Middle, Landrum Middle or Northbrook Middle (DIT Group 1)
- One High School Parent representing Northbrook High or Westchester Academy for International Studies (DIT Group 1)
- One Elementary School Parent representing Bunker Hill, Memorial Drive, Frostwood, Rummel Creek, Housman, Valley Oaks, Hunters Creek or Woodview Elementary or Wildcat Way or Bear Blvd School for Early Learning (DIT Group 2)
- One High School Parent representing Memorial High or Academy of Choice (DIT Group 2)
- One Elementary School Parent representing Meadow Wood, Nottingham, Shadow Oaks, Sherwood, Spring Branch, Thornwood, Westwood, or Wilchester Elementary or Tiger Trail or Lion Lane School for Early Learning (DIT Group 3)
- One Middle School Parent representing Spring Oaks Middle, Spring Forest Middle, or Cornerstone Academy (DIT Group 3)
- One High School Parent representing Stratford High or Spring Woods High (DIT Group 3)

Note: Middle School representatives may be parents of a rising 6th grader, and High School representatives may be parents of a rising 9th grader.

Nomination forms are available at: <http://cms.springbranchisd.com/plan2012/DistrictImprovementTeam/tabid/26228/Default.aspx>

Please complete and submit your nomination form to Amy Byrom, SBISD Administration Building (955 Campbell Road, 77024, Room 116) by February 17, 2012.

Parents for each position are selected by lottery.

What is the DIT?

The DIT is comprised of certified campus professionals, District-level staff, parents of students enrolled in the District, community members, students and business representatives. Defined by Texas law, the DIT advises the Superintendent in such areas as planning, staffing patterns, budgeting, staff development, curriculum, and school organization.

Questions?

Linda Buchman, SBISD Community Relations Officer partner@springbranchisd.com or 713.251.2468

DR. LORI SCOVILL will speak on Thursday, February 9 in the Discovery Center. Her topic will be **"RAISING SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN: IDEAS THAT WORK."** She will also cover information on raising children **not** to bully and how to deal with bullies.

Lori Scovill has a passion for understanding Relationships, Child Development, Parenting, and Research Design. She was a lecturer at the University of Houston for 15 years where she taught courses in Child Development, Adolescence, Cognition, Statistics, Child Abuse, and others. She has won numerous student-nominated teaching awards at the University of Houston. Lori also speaks regularly by invitation in the greater Houston area on topics relating to parenting and child development. Lori Scovill



Welcome to the World of E-Books!

Thanks to the generous support of the HCE PTA, the HCE Library has an exciting new addition to the library! An **E-BookShelf** housing over 160 electronic books! All e-books are accessible to both teachers and students at school and at home. The login for this site is **User Name: HCE; Password: HCE**. Titles include nonfiction topics such as weather, states, money, seasons, colors, parts of speech, nutrition, space, physical science, habitats, plants, life cycles, holidays, and some fiction titles. Most of the e-books are unlimited, simultaneous access books and many of the e-books (located under "Digital Resources" in the top left-hand corner, and then click on "Lerner Interactive Books") include activities, videos, and a 5 question quiz.

Login, choose a book, and enjoy your e-read!



Atticus Koch

Winner, 2012 Hunters Creek Elementary Spelling Bee

and

Seb Seager

Runner-Up, 2012 Hunters Creek Elementary Spelling Bee

Hats off Word Wranglers!! They both will represent HCE and compete in the District Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 16 at 9:00 a.m. at Spring Woods High School. We wish them both the best of luck!

Special thanks to

Roberta Smiley

Our Spelling Coach and BIG BUG!

With her guidance, support, and enthusiasm all of the participants were winners.

Many thanks to all the parents who helped put together such a great school spelling bee: Tracey Antestenis, Jenny Lorentzatos and Julie White. We could not have done it without you!

Thank you to the following faculty and staff members for their assistance: Belinda Henry, Carol Karna and Felipe Rojas.

Thank you to our pronouncer - Cathie Robinson; and judges - Francie Moore, Sally Russell and Nancy Wiech.

And last but certainly not least, thank you to Gerry Diaz, SBISD Audio Technician, for setting up our sound system.

2012 Call for Grants



SBISD Teachers, Staff, and PTA Representatives . . . Would you like funding for educational classroom items, (COWs) or items currently before the planning committee? Now is the time to gather your details for GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The **Spring Branch Education Foundation** is announcing its “*Spring 2012 Call for Grants*” to all SBISD Teachers, Staff, and PTA Representatives.

SPRING 2012

TIMELINE	Spring 2012
Announce Grant Funding Opportunity	By February 1, 2012
SBEF Grant Application due to SBEF for Development Team Review	March 9, 2012 By 4:00 p.m.
Review by SBISD Development Team	Week of March 19, 2012
Mail out approve grant applications to Program & Assessment Committee	Week of April 9, 2012
SBEF Program & Assessment Committee meeting to review Grant Applications	Week of April 23, 2012
SBEF Executive Committee Meeting	May 10, 2012
SBEF General Board Meeting	May 24, 2012
Award Announcement Date	May 25, 2012
Memorandum of Understanding due to SBEF	June 1, 2012
SBEF Grant Evaluation due to SBEF	June 13, 2013

All Applicants who wish to apply for a Spring Branch Education Foundation Grant should visit the following link:

<http://cms.springbranchisd.com/sbef/GrantApplications/tabid/15940/Default.aspx>

to access the information and forms listed below:

- SBEF Grant Application Guidelines - **The Grant Application Form and the Grant Guidelines have changed - PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

- Timeline for the SBEF Grant Process

SBEF Grant Application

Questions??? Contact CeCe Thompson, Spring Branch Education Foundation, 713-251-2381.

Hunters Creek Elementary Grant Submission Process: Please notify Principal Stephanie Roach , HCE PTA President Mindy Voyles, and SBEF Liaison, Nicollette Hickman (Email: NicolletteHickman@Yahoo.com) of all grant requests to coordinate campus submissions. In the past we have received technology and other grants... If any assistance in grant writing is desired, please contact Nicollette Hickman early in the process to facilitate to make the **March 9, 2010 SBEF Application Due date**. We have great volunteer resources on hand.

To Submit a Newsletter Article

Write your article as a **Microsoft Word** document and e-mail it to **all 5** newsletter editors at:

rdemoes@comcast.net

281-381-6545

rwitte2@comcast.net

713-647-8444

gkarathanos@att.net

281-813-5937

rhondadavisonmetz@yahoo.com

713-410-5408

sassydesignsinc@gmail.com

713-906-1289



You should then **receive a response** from the editor who is responsible for that week. **If you do not get a response, please call** one of us to make sure your article will be included! The **DEADLINE** for submitting articles is every **WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 AM**. Articles will be accepted **ONLY** by e-mail. If you have any questions, please call any one. of us!