

# COUGAR CALL OUT

★ HUNTERS CREEK ELEMENTARY ★

2011-2012

Stefanie Roach, Principal

January 4, 2011

## From the Principal

Happy New Year to all of Hunters Creek!

I am looking forward to a wonderful semester of teaching, learning and working together. Our commitment to your children is a priority and we anticipate a terrific 2012 for all!

Welcome back!



## Calendar

- 1/4 School resumes
- 1/6 Report Cards
- 1/12 Spelling Bee
- 1/13 Love and Logic, 8:30-10:00, Room 20
- 1/16 MLK—Student Holiday
- 1/20 Love and Logic, 8:30-10:00, Room 20
- 1/20 Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 1/27 Love and Logic, 8:30-10:00, Room 20
- 1/31 PTA Meeting
- 2/1 100th Day
- 2/3 Progress Reports

## Crystal Awards

Congratulations to kindergarten teacher **Sheri Clark** and 1st grade teacher, **Gale Lourie**, who were recently nominated for the Crystal Awards recognition through the SBISD Education Foundation. Parents wrote nominations on their behalf because of their love of teaching and wonderful work that they have done with hundreds of students over the years.



## Love and Logic

If you plan to attend the *Love and Logic* sessions in January and February, please email either Mrs. Roach or Mrs. Luberger. Thank you as we plan for attendees.

## Campus Report Card

Our HCE campus report card, issued by the Texas Education Agency, will be released and available for viewing on-line by January 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Roach.



## LIFESKILL

Cooperation  
To work together

# Music Notes....

The music program at Hunters Creek follows the SBISD Elementary Music Curriculum Guide and is based on the Kodaly method of teaching music.

1. It uses the student's own voice as the basic instrument for learning.
2. It uses folk songs from America's varied ethnic and cultural heritages as the basic instructional vehicle.
3. It uses a sequential approach to skill development in singing, reading and writing music.

On every grade level classes begin with listening to masterworks. So far this year, students have heard works by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky. In this semester we will be listening to composers from the Romantic and Modern Periods.

**First Graders** can distinguish between beat and rhythm and are now reading and performing rhythms containing quarter notes and eighth notes (we give them the nicknames "ta" and "ti-ti"). Very soon they will be introduced to quarter rests, and we will begin to sing in solfege starting with the syllables do, re, mi.

**Second Graders** can find do, re, mi, sol and la on the staff, and they can read and perform rhythms containing quarter, eighth and half notes and quarter rests. Half rests and sixteenth notes will be introduced this semester, and many songs and song games will be performed using the pentatonic scale (do, re, mi, sol, la).

**Third Graders** have expanded the pentatonic scale to include low sol, low la and high do. We will be working on accurately reading rhythms using quarter notes, half notes, whole notes (and their corresponding rests) in addition to eighth notes and sixteenth notes.

**Fourth Graders** will be introduced to absolute pitch (reading the letter names of notes) in preparation for playing the recorder. Look for the recorder order forms! The recorder unit will last from February through mid-April.

**Fifth Graders** will also be starting a recorder unit that will last from February to mid-April, so it's time to look for those recorders! For those who need it, a recorder form will be sent home. We will still be using the Recorder Karate method, so students may begin with the last belt they earned the previous year.

## Performances:

Second Grade musical – Birds of a Feather

First Grade musical – Bugz

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Choir – SBISD Choir Festival

Winds of Time – black belt recorder students

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation

Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m.

first week in May (date to be assigned)

Friday, May 25

Thursday, May 31

Mary Sherman Willson  
HCC Music grades 1 - 5

# Cougar Computer Lab Bits and Bytes!



Our cougars have been very busy in the computer lab! They have mastered logging onto the computer with their username and password. Their username is very important to remember since it is also used to register for some of the Web 2.0 websites that they will be working on throughout the school year. Here's some of what our students have been working on so far this year:

Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Students are learning keyboarding and computer skills by completing lessons in the "Type to Learn, Jr." and "EasyTech" programs. They have also been working with the "Kidspiration" program that teaches them web creating skills. First graders have been using a program called Scholastic Keys that interfaces with Microsoft Office, allowing them to create Word and PowerPoint documents in a "kid friendly" environment. They have also learned how to use a new Web 2.0 website, [www.kerpoof.com](http://www.kerpoof.com), which allows them to create documents with pictures and even movies!

2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Students have been introduced to Google Apps, creating documents and presentations. Google Apps is a suite of online software that includes word processing, spreadsheet and presentation applications. It is free and also allows for sharing and collaboration! Second grade has created a presentation called "All About Me" and a document called "How to Make a Snowman" These documents supported their classroom's "How To" writing curriculum. Third grade has created documents about "A Pumpkin Patch", Thanksgiving and holiday traditions. Fourth grade has been busy creating a slide show using Museum Box, a Web 2.0 tool. They will be learning Google Apps within the next 9 weeks. Fifth Grade has created a document on holiday traditions also. They have also been busy with creating Glogster posters, xtranormal movies, and typing a news article in Microsoft Publisher. They also continue to work on their keyboarding skills, using the programs "Type to Learn", "EasyTech" and "Tiger Shark".

Keep up the great work, students! Continue to cowboy up and lasso those computers!  
Mrs. Karna

## Congratulations to all Reflections Program Participants!

The following HCE entries were chosen to progress to the next level in the Reflections art competition:

- Seb Seager (5th) – film production category / title: "Diversity in Africa"
- Jordan Wood (1st) - film production / title: "Diversity Butterflies"
- Jake Wood (K) - Photography / title: "Big and Small"

These students were recognized and their art works displayed on December 13th at Barnes & Noble (12850 Memorial Drive.) Way to go!



# HCE Policy Corner

## Lunchtime visit reminders:

Parents are welcome to visit campus during lunchtime to eat with their child. Please keep in mind these cafeteria guidelines:



1. All visitors must sign-in at the front office
2. Parents may eat lunch with their child only
3. The parent and child must sit at the designated parent table
4. Children eating lunch with their parent must remain at the parent table and follow all cafeteria guidelines
  - a. Use a quiet (6-inch) voice to communicate
  - b. Raise hand for assistance and for all questions
  - c. Remain seated unless given permission to move from the table
  - d. Use appropriate table manners
  - e. Clean up eating area
5. Parents are asked to supervise their child during the lunchtime visit
6. If parents leave prior to the end of their child's lunchtime, the child will return to the class cafeteria table

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to your lunchtime visits.

## 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](mailto:rdemoes@comcast.net)

281-381-6545

[rwitte2@comcast.net](mailto:rwitte2@comcast.net)

713-647-8444

[gkarathanos@att.net](mailto:gkarathanos@att.net)

281-813-5937

[rhondadavisonmetz@yahoo.com](mailto:rhondadavisonmetz@yahoo.com)

713-410-5408

[sassydesignsinc@gmail.com](mailto:sassydesignsinc@gmail.com)

713-906-1289



From the Editor

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!