



# Texas Star Light

Monthly Newsletter of John F. Ward PTA

October 13, 2009

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Visit us at: [johnfward.txpta.org](http://johnfward.txpta.org)

## From the Principal



**Happy October!** Thank you to all who came to our first PTA meeting this year. We appreciate your participation in our school happenings! The following classes earned extra recess for having the most parents attend: Kinsey, Powell, Standa/Hopkins, Fernandez, Penny, Ruby/Kistler. Congratulations!

I would also like to congratulate all of the fifth grade students who tried out for a student council officer position. We had 21 students deliver a very confident and persuasive speech as to why they should be chosen - I wish all could have been selected! The fifth grade students chose the following students as the 2009-2010 student council officers: President - Jamison Sander, Vice President - Chelsea Hunter, Treasurer - Matthew Tamburello, Secretary - Sydney Young, and Publicity Chairperson - Holly Frank. I know it will be a great year with these students leading the way!

You should have received information last week about our **Curriculum Fair**, which is our math, literacy and science night all wrapped up into one great event! Please mark the date for **October 29th**. This is a very important evening as our focus this year is on providing information to our parents about linking learning from school to home. Most parents want to know how to better help their students at home because schools of the 21st century are not the same as when you and I were in elementary school! If there is any event you come to this year, please make this the one!

A special thanks to our Girl Scouts (led by Rebecca Standa) and our Cub Scouts (led by Richard Stahmer) for sweeping

up the pea gravel on our Kinder playground. We are hoping this will help with an on-going problem we are having with dogs defecating in this area. We have made many calls home for Kinder parents to bring up clean shoes - not fun! If you walk your dogs near our playground area, please make sure they have a place other than where our kindergarteners play to do their "business."

Just as an FYI to parents, our current absences due to illness are in line with our typical absences for this time of year. We've had about a 5% absence rate the last one to two weeks. Prior to that we increased to about a 9% absence rate due to flu like symptoms. Please know that our school district has had a heightened cleaning process in place since the beginning of school, disinfecting desks more often, wiping doorknobs and many other precautionary measures to help prevent the spread of germs. Please encourage your child to wash his/her hands with warm soapy water for 20 seconds to help stay healthy.

**A little trivia:** Did you know we now have five oceans? The Southern Ocean has recently been named for the area surrounding Antarctica. Ask your child if he/she knows the names of the other four oceans.

Hope to see you at the Book Fair and the Curriculum Fair this month!

Kathy Gouger  
Principal



## Red Ribbon Week

**Red Ribbon Week Oct 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>**

Red Ribbon Week is an annual event designed to educate and increase awareness about drug abuse and prevention. Ward Elementary is proud to be a participant again this year. Encourage your children to wear their red ribbons every day and to participate in the daily events as they show their commitment to be drug free! The school will be decorated with a banner and red ribbons and there will be daily announcements to remind students and teachers of the Red Ribbon events.

**Monday, October 26th** - No School - Teacher In Service

**Tuesday, October 27th** - No School - Teacher In Service

**Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>** - "Team Up Against Drugs." Please wear your favorite team shirt or jersey on this day to show our friends we team up against drugs. Children will receive their red ribbon on this day.

**Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** - "Crazy Hat/Sock Day." Ward Stars SAY NO TO DRUGS FROM HEAD TO TOE. Wear your craziest hat and /or socks to school today.

**Friday, October 30th** - "United We Stand for a Drug Free Land." Wear your red, white, and blue on this day to show we are proud to be drug free.

Thank you for your support of Red Ribbon Week. Please take this opportunity to talk to your children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse. Let them know we've got better things to do than drugs. Remember, it is never too early to educate!



Shelley Knobloch  
Red Ribbon Week Coordinator



## Ward PTA News

The first PTA Meeting of the year was a great success! Thank you to Mrs. Gouger and the teachers for the enjoyable and informative presentation on all the great things that are happening at Ward. Also, thank you to all of the parents who attended.

There have been a few changes to the PTA Board since last spring. The following changes have occurred on the PTA Board since last spring: Andrea Williams - President, Kathleen Davies - 1st Vice President, Shelly Gray - Newsletter, Jennifer Burkett - Website, Stacie Burcl - Corporate Donations, and Annette Craig - Events. We are excited to continue the tradition of high standards for Ward PTA, and look forward to a great year.



The Next PTA meeting will be **Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm**. It will also be our Open House and Ice Cream Social. We look forward to seeing all our students and their families.

Andrea Williams  
President, Ward Elementary PTA

## Imagination Celebration

Just a reminder that Imagination Celebration will be honoring young artists and musicians on **Saturday, October 24th, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** This will be the 16th year of celebration. There will be many different booths where students can create their artwork for free. I hope to see you there.

Craig Russell  
Art Teacher



## Movie Night

### PTA MOVIE NIGHT IS COMING BACK TO OUR SCHOOL!

Join us for an evening of family fun! Watch the movie, **Monsters vs. Aliens**, with your friends and family on Friday, **Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00pm** in the Ward cafeteria.



Admission is **FREE**. Bring a blanket to sit on. Drinks and snacks will be available to purchase for \$1.00 each.

Please look for a participation form in your child's folder and turn in by October 15<sup>th</sup> to be entered into a drawing for a door prize!

Kathy Bauer  
Movie Night Coordinator

## Reflections



Are you creative? Artistic? Unique? Then the Reflections program is for you! The 2009-2010 Reflections theme is "**Beauty Is...**" Students of all ages can create and share something that represents this year's theme. There are six categories: Photography, Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Film and Literature. You can even enter the contest in more than one category! Entry packets are available in the Great Hall and the front office. The official rules and paperwork for the Reflections program are also available at [www.txpta.org](http://www.txpta.org). **The entry deadline is Friday, October 30th, 2009.**

Jennifer Hammock  
Arts in Education  
(281) 772-3227

## Literacy Library



Literacy Library is excited to have received many new books this school year. We are

looking for volunteers to help place them on shelves in the Literacy Library. Volunteers are welcome any day or time of the week that will work with your schedule. The teachers are excited to use the books in class, but we cannot start putting them in the classrooms until they have been unpacked and shelved. Please contact Bridget Comeaux at 281-461-8011 to volunteer.

Bridget Comeaux  
Literacy Library

## Science Fair Boards

Science Fair boards will be sold at the **Curriculum Fair on October 29th**. You can choose from the following colors: white, black, dark blue, light blue, red, yellow, and green. White boards are \$7 and the colored boards are \$8.



Stephanie Cole  
[tmcole1967@att.net](mailto:tmcole1967@att.net)

## Environmental

Just a reminder that Cartridge World pays Ward Elementary for used ink jet cartridges.



Ward will also be collecting aluminum pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Galveston. Both recycle bins are located in the front hall. Thanks for your donations!

Stephanie Cole  
Environmental



## Scouts Service Project

On September 27<sup>th</sup> Cub Scouts from Pack 870 and Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1750 took part in a service project to clean up gravel from the old pebble play box in the kindergarten playground. Many of the scouts are current and former Ward students. Piles and piles of gravel were raked together and then shoveled into buckets or wheelbarrows and hauled over to help with drainage in another part of the school. The prepared scouts brought their own tools and buckets, and plenty of drinking water to get the job done. The scouts were assisted by their parents, brothers, and sisters. Two and a half hours and thirty-two people later, the job was finally done.

Richard Stahmer  
Cub Scout Pack 870

## Scholastic Book Fair

### Book Fair October 12-16



Ward's 1<sup>st</sup> book fair of the school year will be held the week of **October 12-16**.

The book fair will

be open Monday - Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> we will close at 1:00 pm. Our night event will be on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

Door prizes will be given away. Teacher Wish List baskets will be available if you would like to purchase a book for your child's classroom.

We hope to see you there!! All profits from the book fair will be used to redecorate the library.

Mrs. Klein  
Ward Elementary Librarian

## Giving Tree

A special thanks to all of the families who have donated items through our giving tree! You are creating many extra opportunities for your children. If you have not had the chance to pull a leaf, we invite you to do so the next time you are up at school. Thank you for supporting us!

Ward Staff

## Birthday Bear

It's not too late to participate in the Birthday Bear program. We accept forms all year long. Celebrate your child's birthday by donating a book to the library in their honor. The cost is \$20.00 (cash or check). Checks should be made payable to: Ward Elementary.



Mrs. Klein  
Ward Elementary Librarian

## Book Club Facilitators Needed

Book Club facilitators are needed for book clubs of 4-6 kids, grades 2-5. Groups typically meet weekly (flexible) during the students' lunch time to discuss a reading level appropriate book. Please help if you can, as many groups are still without facilitators.

Please contact Stephanie Homan @ [homanjlsk@aol.com](mailto:homanjlsk@aol.com) to volunteer.

Stephanie Homan  
Book Club

## Calendar of Events

Oct 13	Book Fair Night
Oct 16	PTA Movie Night
Oct 19	3-5 Reading Benchmark
Oct 20	3-5 Math Benchmark
Oct 21	4th Writing/5th Science Benchmark
Oct 22	The Ned Show
Oct 23	Early Release
Oct 24	Imagination Celebration
Oct 26-27	No school
Oct 28	Team Jersey Day
Oct 29	Crazy Hat/Sock Day Curriculum Fair
Oct 30	Wear Red, White, Blue Day K-5 Awards Program Report Cards go home Reflections Deadline Newsletter Deadline
Nov 1	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov 3	Election Day
Nov 6	Lockdown Drill
Nov 10	PTA mtg/Open House Ice Cream Social
	Next Newsletter Published



## Newsletter Deadline

Please note the next PTA Texas Star Light deadline will be **October 30th!** Please type articles within email rather than word programs. Make sure to include your email address, or title if staff, with each article submitted. If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Thank you for helping make our newsletter fun and informative.

Happy Fall y'all!  
Shelly Gray  
[m\\_mgray@yahoo.com](mailto:m_mgray@yahoo.com)

