

JOY JAMES ELEMENTARY
5300 BUCHANAN
FORT WORTH, TX 76114
817-252-2500



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Super Saturday School
7 March 8:30-11:30
- School Board Recognitions
9 March beginning at 7:30pm
at the CISD Boardroom
- PTO Meeting
10 March in the Joy James
library 5:30-7:00pm
- Open House
12 March 6:00-&:30 pm
- Spring Break
16th-20th of March
- Dental exams for grades 1-3
27 March 1:00-3:00pm
in the Joy James library
- Super Saturday school and
Attendance Saturday school
8:30-11:30 and 8:30-12:30
Both at the Joy James
Campus



Terry Johnson
Principal

Joy James Elementary School News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

MARCH 2009

A Challenge that can be met

We have a challenge before us at Joy James Elementary that is going to need some creative thought and a large amount of team work. A mandate that has been given to us by our state and federal government is that we increase the amount of family engagement that we have at the school. This means that we are required to come up with program ideas that will increase educationally meaningful contact between parents and teachers. The greatest challenge we have in doing this at JJE is the language barrier that exists between the community and the many of the staff at the school. So the question is what can be done to overcome the language barrier so that people will not be afraid to come to the school and volunteer or conference with a teacher? A solid suggestion has been that the teachers learn Spanish so that we will be able to more effectively communicate with our Hispanic population. Another solid suggestion is that we offer English language classes in the evenings at the school for anyone who desires to learn English. English tutoring is already offered during the day twice a week by the Tarrant County Literacy Association, and several people do take advantage of this program. To increase the amount of family involvement more ideas are needed that will take away these and other barriers that exist. In the busyness that characterizes our culture, commitment and creativity from both the faculty and staff at Joy James and the community that Joy James serves is deeply needed. Will you join me in helping to make our school more effective for the sake of the children that both of us care so deeply about?

For the children.....

TELPAS Testing Begins at Joy James

Your student might be talking about writing for the TELPAS (Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System) and you have not heard of that before. There are two components to TELPAS.

One is the RPTE which is the reading test for English Language Learner (ELL) students in Texas. It consists of progressively challenging reading and language tasks for students. Students are required to read and then answer questions about what they read. The farther they go in completing the test correctly the higher their comprehension score. This is done in English in order to see how much Academic English is being learned each year.

The second component is the TX Observation Protocols (TOP). This is an observation based testing where the teacher must use strict criteria to see how each student does in Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. The use of the criteria is critical especially in rating the writing of the ELL's. The writing portion of the TELPAS is for students from 2nd to the 12th grades. Each teacher with ELL's in their class must collect 6 writing samples and these pieces are then considered state documents and confidential.

Teachers are trained in the Fall and must take a test to show they are trained for judging the writing samples. Students begin writing from February to April of the following Spring. Once finished each teacher then puts the writing packets together and sends them to Austin.

This is important work because our students must master the English language in order to learn more from school and college or other opportunities they want to pursue.

The Mission of Castleberry ISD is to graduate all students as lifelong learners who will excel in our changing world and competitive workplace.

Joy James Elementary Newsletter

Counselor's Corner

Dear Parents,

It's been an exciting time during guidance classes. During the month of January we spent time talking about our goals...what a goal is, how do we achieve our goals, what role do qualities play in helping us to achieve our goals? Students had an opportunity to share their goals with the rest of the class. Part of our discussion about goals concerned believing in ourselves and developing inner qualities like perseverance, determination, etc. that will help us to reach tenaciously that which we desire. Along with believing in ourselves, we talked about how time and hard work are also two very important constants that are needed in pursuing our goals. One additional component in achieving our goals is to follow directions.

This month we are talking about Random Acts of Kindness. An act of kindness can be done any day, any time and anywhere. Students have shared some acts of kindness they have extended toward others as well as shared kindnesses shown to them by others. Students were encouraged to do two acts of kindness to someone either at home or school. Some of these acts of kindness might include students washing dishes, carrying out the trash, picking up something that has fallen, helping someone who's crying, etc. Please take the opportunity to ask your child what act of kindness they've done. You'll enjoy their answers!

Sincerely,
Liz Brown, Counselor

Coach's Corner & PTO Notes

This year Joy James Elementary again participated in the American Heart Associations, Jump Rope for Heart. We had 19 students; in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades participate in collecting money for the American Heart Association. They collected a total of \$779.00. Out of the 19 students we had 3 students who collected more than \$100.00. One of those students collected \$250.00 and will be entered in a drawing for a trip to Walt Disney World, FL. During these three weeks of collection all the students at Joy James were learning how to jump rope. The older kids are learned tricks with the short ropes and how to turn and jump double dutch. The younger students are learned how to jump short ropes and turn and jump the long ropes.

They're everywhere, they're everywhere. We are getting the school, parents and Sansom Park aboard for the BEST CINCO DE MAYO CARNIVAL EVER!!!! So be ready, Join in the fun. Support our kids and teachers. Be apart of the WINNING TEAM--P.T.O. Contact Clevone Alcantar and she will have a job for you to help us with. THANKS PTO For all you do!

Pre-k and Kinder Round-up

It is that time of the year again. It is time for the Pre-K and Kinder Round-up. Joy James will be hosting this event on Tuesday April the 14th 2009. There will be two sessions 8:30-11:30 am and the next session from 2:00-7:00 pm. Remember to register you need to have the child's shot records, birth certificate and social security card. You will also need proof of residence (utility bill) and income (Pre-K only) on this day. Please call the office at 817-252-2500 for more information.

For more information about Castleberry ISD

- Explore our Webpage:
www.castleberryisd.net
- Watch **Charter Cable Channel 30** in the River Oaks and Sansom Park Areas.
- Call **817-252-2000** and choose **Option 8** for weekly events.

Schedule of Events

- Your school's calendar, as well as a district-wide calendar, are available on our website.
- From our home page, choose "schools," then your school, then "School Calendar."

Family Access

- CISD parents can now go online and view their student's grades, health records, attendance, and much more.
- Sign up for Skyward Parent Access today by calling 817-252-2023.

Volunteers

- From our home page, choose "Volunteer Program."
- You can print out a volunteer application and turn it in to your school secretary.

School Board Meetings

- A summary of each Board meeting is available on our website.
- From the home page, choose "Board of Trustees."