

SAILOR SIGNALS

Note from the Principal

Dear Ferguson Families,

Welcome to February! We cannot believe how fast time is flying by! I guess the saying is true- time does fly when you are having fun. I have always thought February is a time to reconnect to the things we truly love and find passion in doing. The staff and I at Ferguson truly love having the opportunity to work with and touch the lives of your children each day. We recognize the impact we have on children's lives each day and vow to make it an extremely positive one! Our goal is to help connect students with their strengths and passions each day, along with your help at home.

Here are some important dates to make note of in February:

- February 2nd- 3rd grade Field Trip to Moody Gardens
- February 6th- 4th Grade Writing Benchmark and 5th Grade Math Benchmark
- February 7th- 4th Grade Writing Benchmark (Day2) and 5th grade Reading Benchmark
- February 9th- Math and Science Night- 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- February 10th- Early Dismissal
- February 14th- Valentines Parties (see teachers for specific details on times and events)
- February 15th- 5th Grade visit to Houston Symphony
- February 16th- Skate Night
- February 17th- Diane Spurr Author Visit
- February 20th- Student Holiday
- February 27th- Maestro Magnificent Assembly for 1st Grade

Sincerely,

Lauren Ambeau

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PTA President's Message

What a busy start to 2012! The 2011-12 yearbook cover was chosen. Congratulations to Patricia Mal Her artwork will grace the cover of this year's yearbook! Ferguson was well represented at Ferguson Night at the Houston Aeros on January 20th. Many families enjoyed our always popular Pastries with Parents on January 24th and 25th. The PTA also brought a brand new program to Ferguson on January 23rd; Dinosaurs Rock! If you haven't heard about this fun interactive program from your student, be sure to ask about it. A big thank you to **Stephanie Sanders, Robyn Fitzpatrick, and June Alper** who worked hard planning and coordinating these great events. See inside this newsletter to find out which students advanced to Area in the Reflections program.

You'll want to mark your calendars for this month's events:

On February 9th at 8:45 am in the cafeteria the PTA will hold a **General Meeting** and **Coffee Talk**, where we will nominate and elect the **Nominating Committee**. This committee will begin the process of filling PTA board positions for the 2012-13 school year. If you are interested in serving on the board be on the lookout for a **nominations form** coming out soon. It is a rewarding experience! This meeting will also be used to present and vote on **Special Purchases**. Come and be a part of this exciting process and enjoy some coffee and a light snack on us.

On February 9th from 5:30-7:30 pm the Ferguson faculty and PTA are bringing back Math & Science Night. This family night is not to be missed. See more detailed information in this newsletter.

On behalf of your executive board we look forward to seeing you at both of these events. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

~Suzy Wilson, PTA President

School Store

The school store is open daily from 7:45-8:10am.

We have t-shirts, supplies and sweatshirts in stock. We also carry Ferguson colored hair bows and bottle cap necklaces.

Stop by and see us!

Teacher Google Sites

Just a reminder that the teacher and departments Google Site pages are active. Be sure to check the Google Site regularly for updates from each teacher.

To access the Google Site pages, you can:

- 1) Go to www.ccisd.net, then click on "Our Schools." Click on "Ferguson Elementary." You will then see a link at the top right side of the page for **Teacher Websites**. Click on that link.

or

- 2) [Click this link](#) to go directly to the Google site. The teacher or department names are on the left side of the screen.



Yearbook

If you have pictures you would like to submit to the yearbook, please send them to:

ferguson_yearbook@yahoo.com

Questions may be directed to Christie McGrath at 281-989-4885.

Community Partner Involvement



It's the Spring Box Tops, Campbell's, and Tyson Labels Collection rally. Our collection bins are located in the main entry way and hallway under the PTA News wall. The deadline for the Spring collection period is **Friday, February 10th**. Your continued support is so important and we appreciate all of your efforts for this program!

Ways to Participate and Help - Register with the following websites:

Box Tops for Education (BTFE) (General Mills): <http://www.boxtops4education.com/>

Labels for Education (Campbell's): <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>

Tyson Project A+: <http://projectaplus.tyson.com/>

Randall's Box Top Program: <http://www.2ways2earn.com/>

Kroger's Box Top Program: <http://www.rewardyourschool.com/>

Clipping Reminders

- When clipping your Box Tops Labels, please be sure to clip the entire top. Tops that are missing the expiration date do not count.
- Check the expiration dates. Tops that are expired do not count.
- When clipping Labels for Education, be sure to clip the UPC portion of the label. Labels that only have the Campbell's logo or the Labels for Education label do not count.
- When clipping Tyson 1-2-3 Labels, be sure to clip the entire 1-2-3 section on the Tyson bags. Incomplete labels do not count.

We truly appreciate all your efforts to make this a successful program for Ferguson. If you have any questions, please contact Yannet.

~Yannet Brister, CPI

713.304.4246

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GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

Fun & Fit

Well, it's about that time again...our Spring Session of Fun and Fit Club. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 28, and will run through April 24, 2012. The Awards Ceremony and Party will be held on Thursday, April 26th. With the exclusion of Spring Break, we will meet for 8 weeks, twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at our regular time of 7:15 am - 7:50 am.

Coach Cristy and I hope to see everyone soon, and we look forward to hitting the track! If you have any questions, please contact me at (713) 459-9160, or via email: tmcginnis@coatsrose.com.

Gotta Run,
Coach Tanya



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Programs

Ferguson Elementary would like to thank Walt Whittington for his presentation of Dinosaurs Rock! On Monday, January 23rd all of our students enjoyed a show about Dinosaurs, Fossils, and Meteorites. Each child then dug in sand to collect their own treasures which included sharks teeth, gems and fossilized sea creatures. Please be sure to go to the Dinosaursrock.com website to learn more about your findings.



You will not want to miss the return of Science and Math night coming up the evening of February 9th from 5:30-7:30. We have an incredible night of fun, free food, and fantastic door prizes planned. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please contact June Alper at 310-560-6812 or juneholtorf@yahoo.com - 3rd VP PTA Programs

Ferguson's MATH *and* Science Night



Thursday, February 9th 5:30–7:30 p.m.

The Ferguson teachers and staff, along with the PTA, will host a night of hands-on activities for your entire family. This is a night not to be missed! Here are **just a few examples** of what's in store:

- π Science & Math related activities, experiments, and games led by all grade level teachers
- π Family puzzle game
- π Special guest exhibit from Camp Einstein
- π "Yuck! Slime" Show at 6:15PM in the cafeteria
- π FREE HOT DOGS & COOKIES
- π Passport stamp game-prizes awarded at school for completed passports
- π Drawing for prizes including Kemah Boardwalk Passes

Please volunteer to help make this evening a success! Visit the Ferguson PTA website to sign up. www.fergusonpta.org

Environmental Committee

The holidays are over and a new year has begun. Most of us vow to change our bad habits, by creating "New Year's Resolutions." Some may be easier to adopt while others may get pushed aside only to be saved for next year. I hope one of the resolutions is the three "R", not writing Arithmetic and reading. But Re-cycling, Re-ducing and Re-using. We all know we should, but do we really do it? Resolve to try one or all of the three "R's" in 2012. Together we can all make a difference.

Recycling is easy



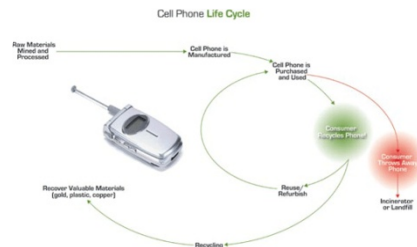
Did you know? Recycling one million cell phones saves enough energy to power more than 185 US households with electricity for a year.

So did you just get a new cell phone? Are you wondering what to do with the old one? Rather than adding it to your growing collection of unwanted mobile phones, recycle it!

In 2007, approximately 14 million Americans recycled their used cell phones. Today, donating or recycling cell phones, PDAs, chargers, and batteries has never been easier.

Donating your working cell phone or PDA can benefit your community. When cell phones and accessories are in good working order, some programs donate them to worthy charities or sell them at a discount to those in need.

Recycling cell phones helps the environment by saving energy and keeping usable materials out of landfills. Cell phones and PDAs are made of precious metals, copper, and plastics—all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Recycling conserves these materials so they can be turned into new products.



Where Can I Turn in My Cell Phone for Donation or Recycling?

Drop It Off

Drop off your old cell phone, PDA, cell phone batteries, chargers, or other accessories at one of the retailers or service providers below. Visit the links for detailed drop-off and collection event information.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| AT&T | Sony Ericsson | T-Mobile |
| Best Buy | Sprint | LG Electronics |
| Office Depot | Staples | Verizon Wireless |

Mail It In

Mail in your old cell phone, PDA, cell phone batteries, chargers, or other accessories at one of the retailers or service providers below. Visit the links for detailed drop-off and collection event information.

- | | |
|----------|------------------|
| Nokia | Motorola |
| Sprint | LG Electronics |
| Samsung | Verizon Wireless |
| T-Mobile | Sony Ericsson |

Craft Corner:

“Recycled” Crafts for Valentine’s Day – Seeded Paper

Millions of Valentine's Day cards are bought and sent each year. That is a ton of trees being cut down to accommodate the demand of cards and envelopes.

With great focus being put on going "green," you may be looking for your own way to save the environment this Valentine's Day. What better way to start then by making your own Valentines cards.

Blooming Valentine's Day cards saves the environment in two different ways. First, you are recycling and using your own paper. Second, the cards will have something special ingrained in them so that they can be planted by the recipient to grow into greenery.

For this project, you will need:

- Paper
- A blender
- Water
- Fine mesh screen (an old window screen works fine)
- Seeds of your choice

To start this project, go around the house and collect old and unused paper. This can be printer paper, newspaper, tissue paper or whatever types of paper that you would just throw away anyway. This is an excellent way to recycle some old cards that are crowding up your junk closet.

Cut or shred the paper into small pieces. If you have a shredder at home, this is a prime opportunity to empty it out. Place the cut paper into the blender with water. Blend it until it is a slushy lump. Pour the contents of the blender out onto the mesh screen.

Using the palms of your hands, press the paper to push out as much water as possible. You can also use a rolling pin for this. Sit it to the side so that it can begin drying. Check on it regularly since you don't want it to be completely dry before adding the seeds.

When the paper is semi-moist, add the seeds, (maybe, use Forget-me-not seeds). Use your fingers to push the seeds into the paper. Place the still moist paper in between two towels or paper towels and roll again with the rolling pin. This will squeeze out the last of the water.

Decorate your recycled paper any way you want and write your Valentine a message. On the back of it, inform the recipient that they are to plant the card after the holiday season. Also, inform them of the type of plant that will grow from planting the card.



Fun Project:

Environmental Awareness Program, **sponsored by** the Texas PTA

The Texas PTA encourages students to look at Environmental Issues by promoting environmental awareness initiatives that unite parents, students, teachers and campus administrators in an effort to protect children and their environment. Environmental awareness is often associated with term sustainability, which means the capacity to endure. Many of the habits and systems we have created are unsustainable, and developing sustainable use of natural resources will require collaboration and education. Sustainable systems apply to living conditions, economies, technology and individual behaviors that conserve natural resources. It is important for our children to understand their role in environmental stewardship because a sustainable and clean environment contributes directly to student success and well being.



Water is absolutely essential to the survival of our society; however, choices are made every day, by both individuals and businesses alike, that could potentially harm or deplete our most precious resource.

While almost 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water, only .003% is fresh and unpolluted. With our rapid population increase, along with the current effects of an extreme drought, it is important to identify and implement new strategies that will help ensure our water supply is clean and plentiful for generations to come.

Students are invited to step up to the One World Challenge, and create a solution to address the protection and conservation of our water resources. If your child has not received one yet, applications will be available by the front door or on the Texas PTA website.

This will be a fun project to see what our kiddo's present.

From the Garden

We planted many new plants in the fall. Hopefully, we will be pleasantly rewarded with our garden bursting with spring blooms. Stop by and enjoy the view. Our Butterfly Garden is unique and something we can all be proud of so continue to do your part by keeping it clean and inviting for humans and creatures alike. Challenge yourself and your friends to pick up one bit of trash on your way in from recess every day.

If you have any questions or comments, Please call me, Rena Griffin, Environmental Committee Chair @ renagriffin@yahoo.com.

Do you have a passion for taking care of Planet Earth?

Then join us and become an Environmental Committee volunteer. We are a fun group that enjoys teaching and inspiring young minds to think green. Come be a part of a **GOOD & GREEN** cause.

Working parents welcome!

"Together **WE CAN** make a difference!"

The Environmental Committee



Ferguson Faculty Focus

Whether or not we realize it, we all serve others in some form or fashion. If you are a parent, you serve your children on a daily basis. If you are a child of aging parents, you may serve them by doing chores for them that they can no longer do. If you are a friend, you probably go above and beyond to help a friend in need.

Hand in hand with serving others is volunteering, both our time and resources. This month's *Faculty Focus* deals with community service, volunteering, or otherwise donating time or resources to a worthy cause. Read on to find out how some of our Ferguson faculty members volunteer their time and resources.

Faculty Philanthropies

"My husband and I give monetary donations to St. Jude's as our hearts go out to children with medical needs and would never want lack of finances to stand in their way. They deserve every chance!" **Lauren Ambeau**

"I signed up a couple of years ago to be on the bone marrow donor registry in the event someone needs bone marrow and has a match. I am still on the registry." **Joyce Alderman**

"I support ASPCA, the Humane Society, sponsor 2 children through World Vision, and give blood whenever I can." **Diane G. Fletcher**

"I'm a registered Girl Scout! I love helping out with my daughters' (Kendall and Logan) troops. Although I may not agree 100% with some of the liberal slanted programs, most of the organization supports a strong foundation; helping to build independence, character and compassion in future female leaders." **Kathy Baker**

"I donate to Alzheimer's Disease Research, Paralyzed Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Heart

Association and sponsor a child in Indonesia through Compassion International. **Sharon Niccum**

"Locally, we support the booster club of Clear Creek Jaguar Choir program, the Clear Creek High School Choral program and the Clear Creek High School Aquatics programs (swim, dive and waterpolo). My husband is the president of the Aquatics Booters and I am their webmaster.

I work the media/technical art (up on the big screens in adult church) for Clear Creek Community Church, where we also tithe and support the other ministries monetarily.

Nationally and internationally, we sponsor a child through Compassion International.

We support Lowell Ballew and his family (our friends from CCCC) who are missionaries in Bolivia and Kristi and Darwin Akin (my friends from college) and their family who are missionaries in Costa Rica. We subscribe to publications supporting **The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ)** and its globally affiliated organizations who committed to ensuring the ongoing viability of freedom and liberty in the United States and around the world, and to **The Voice of the Martyrs**, a non-profit, interdenominational Christian organization dedicated to assisting the persecuted church worldwide. Some day, I would love to go on a mission trip to work with either Fimiam Baptist Church in Lutsk, Ukraine or Trinity Church in L'viv, Ukraine." **Cindy Austin**

"*Ferguson* is my number one cause where I give most my time and money. After that, my husband and I support several animal related causes such as the *Lone Star Shih Tzu Rescue* (we currently have two rescue dogs) and the *Humane Society*. We also support *FIRST* whose mission is to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology." **Jane Propst**

Thank you to our teachers and staff for their willingness to share this information!

Ferguson Volunteers in Action

Our Ferguson volunteers rock! With a smile on their face, they gladly sign up to volunteer their time to make sure the school and PTA events run seamlessly.



Pastries with Parents Volunteers



Grandparent's Breakfast

Our volunteers also serve their time on a routine basis in the library, the cafeteria, the school store, and the nurse's office. Each classroom has a room rep that organizes the class parties and leads the carnival efforts for their class. Each PTA committee has their own group of volunteers to help them get things accomplished during the course of the school year.



School Store



Library



Cafeteria

To all of our volunteers, please accept these heartfelt thanks!! We couldn't do what we do if it wasn't for you.

Ferguson PTA Needs Board Members for Next Year!

The Ferguson PTA is currently in the process of nominating members for the 2012-13 executive board. The board meets the first Tuesday of each month from 8:30-10:00 am. Time requirements outside of the meetings vary depending on the board position, but we can find a role to fit your schedule. If you are interested in serving on the board and helping Ferguson remain an outstanding school, or have any questions, contact Jackie Herzfeld at 281-538-0823 or mjherzfeld@verizon.net. Also watch your student's backpack for an information form coming home soon!



Reflections



Congratulations to our Ferguson Sailors who have advanced to state in musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Way to go!!

- Musical Composition - David Hoover
- Photography - Karina Nereng
- Visual Arts - Michaela Clark

The Clear Creek Community Council of PTAs will be hosting a Reflections Reception on Thursday, February 16th from 4-7pm at the Tad Akers Center in League City.

Nominations for 2012-2013 Ferguson PTA Board

Nominations for the 2012-13 PTA Board are now being accepted for the 8 elected positions listed below. The committee positions, which are appointed by the PTA president, are also listed. If you are interested in any elected or appointed positions, please indicate your top 3 preferences by numbering the positions 1, 2 and 3. The Ferguson PTA Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am at the school.

Please return this form to your child's teacher by Friday, February 10th.

Elected Positions

- ___ President
- ___ 1st VP- Aide to the President- Responsible for leadership training and assists as needed
- ___ 2nd VP- Membership- Responsible for enrolling parents, teachers & interested community members into PTA via a fall & spring membership drive
- ___ 3rd VP- Programs- Responsible for providing PTA programs for children and parents
- ___ 4th VP- Ways and Means- Responsible for acquisition of funds (carnival)
- ___ 5th VP- School Services- Coordinates the school store and the sale of pre-packaged school supplies
- ___ Treasurer- Responsible for the maintenance of PTA funds and records per state PTA guidelines
- ___ Secretary- Records minutes of all meetings as well as keeps records of attendance and PTA membership, thank you notes and feedback

Appointed Positions

- ___ 5th Grade Picnic - Coordinate and plan 5th Grade Picnic with other 5th grade parent volunteers
- ___ Arts in Education- Coordinates various forms of fine art programs for the enrichment of the students' education including the Reflections Program
- ___ Carnival Support - supports Ways and Means Chairman
- ___ Community Partner Involvement - promotes the collection of Box Tops, Campbell's Soup labels and other community programs that help raise funds for the school
- ___ Environmental- Provides awareness of environmental issues, coordinates EPA contest and maintains the butterfly garden
- ___ Faculty Recognition- Responsible for planning & coordinating programs to show appreciation to the staff
- ___ Family Fun Events- Coordinates events for family fellowship
- ___ Fun and Fit- Coordinate activities to promote exercise and healthy choices for the students
- ___ Historian- Custodian of records and materials pertinent to the history of the school
- ___ Hospitality- Host and supply food & refreshments for several events
- ___ Legislative- Liaison to the local, state & national government about issues concerning children
- ___ Newsletter- Publishes a monthly newsletter to parents about school activities
- ___ Parliamentarian- Advises the President on questions of parliamentary law and bylaw interpretation
- ___ PTA News Board - Responsible for creating and maintaining up to date information on PTA News Board in Atrium
- ___ Publicity- Provides articles and news to local newspapers about school activities
- ___ Reading Club - planning, coordinating and running the Reading Club
- ___ Room Rep Chair- Organizes room representatives at each grade level and special teachers
- ___ Student Directory - Responsible for compiling contact information, getting ads, and creating Student Directory
- ___ Volunteers- coordinates parent volunteers in various school programs and functions
- ___ Website- continue to update and run the Ferguson PTA website
- ___ Yearbook- Responsible for the design, obtaining and organizing photos for the yearbook
- ___ Youth Protection - -Involved in health and safety programs including Red Ribbon Week

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____
(Please print)

E-Mail: _____


Questions? Contact:

Jackie Herzfeld, 281-538-0823 or mjherzfeld@verizon.net

Trish Froemming, 281-538-8990 or tfroemming@verizon.net

Melodie Parker, 832-365-4671 or melodieparker@me.com

Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
February						
			1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4	4
5	6 Day 5	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 3 General Body/Coffee Talk (8:45am) Math & Science Night (5:30-7:30pm)	10 Day 4 Early Dismissal	11
12	13 Day 5	14 Day 1  Valentine's Parties	15 Day 2	16 Day 3 Skate Night	17 Day 4 Diane Spurr Author visit	18
19	20 Holiday – No School	21 Day 5	22 Day 1	23 Day 2	24 Day 3	25
26	27 Day 4	28 Day 5	29	1	2	3

CLASS	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
PE	RED ORANGE YELLOW	GREEN BLUE YELLOW	RED ORANGE BLUE	GREEN BLUE YELLOW	RED ORANGE GREEN
MUSIC	GREEN	RED	YELLOW	ORANGE	BLUE
ART	BLUE	ORANGE	GREEN	RED	YELLOW

GRADE LEVEL	5 th	3 rd	4 th	1 st	K	2 nd
TIME	8:25 – 9:15	9:15 – 10:05	10:05 – 10:55	12:15 – 1:05	1:05 – 1:55	1:55 – 2:45
RED	BEINLICH	FLETCHER LYDE	SUTTON	JUNCO	NICCUM	GADSBY
ORANGE	McRAITH	SIMON LYDE	BELANGER	HERRING		MCKAY
YELLOW	TEMPLETON	CONKLIN LYDE	HERRING	PITTMAN	WILKINS	FRENCH
GREEN	ADAMS	PUGH LYDE	LEE	WEEMS	PENDERGAST	PEARSON
BLUE	BAKER	NUNGESSER LYDE	PROBST		PARROTT	ALDERMAN