


# December



Dear Y.E.S. Parents,

December 2, 2009

The Yorktown Elementary School staff wishes each of our students and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Our first semester drive, determination, and hard work to be an "Exemplary" campus continues as Y.E.S. students and staff prepare for the Christmas holidays which will begin with an Early Release Day on Friday, December 18. This December parent newsletter will provide reminders of the various Y.E.S. routines, and also a calendar update for this busy time of year.

## UIL Information

- Thank you UIL Writers for working hard to complete the Writing Contest events held at Y.E.S. yesterday, Tuesday, December 1 and thanks go to our UIL speakers and Art contestants who are preparing for the Speaking Preliminary events and Art events to be held at Y.E.S. on Tuesday, December 8! Our students and staff are continuing to work hard as they prepare for the upcoming UIL Meet to be held on Friday, December 11 at Falls City Elementary School.
- In honor of our students' and parents' commitment we would like to extend an invitation to all 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade UIL team members and their parents to be recognized at the Yorktown I.S.D. school board meeting. This meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the junior high library. The UIL recognition will be held early in the meeting, and students and parents may leave after the U.I.L. recognition portion of the meeting. This is an opportunity to highlight the accomplishments our students have made in the area of academics. Each team member will receive their participant ribbon and the 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place winners will receive their winners' medals and/or ribbons at the school board meeting.

## Attendance Reminder

To obtain credit for the school year, a student must attend at least 90% of the total school days for the year. ***Please note that excused or unexcused is not part of the ruling.*** Attendance letters are mailed home from Y.E.S. to parents at the following intervals: 6 absences, 10 absences, 15 absences, and 18 absences. If an absence is necessary, a parent or medical excuse must be sent with your child for each absence immediately upon their return to school. **Only eight (8) parent excuse notes will be allowed for the school year. After eight parent notes, Y.E.S. will only accept medical notes to excuse an absence.**

## Y.E.S. Christmas Program and Classroom Parties

Y.E.S. students and staff invite all of you to our annual Christmas Program to be held on Thursday, December 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Please plan to stay for the entire program to support all of our Y.E.S. students and to eliminate all distractions during the program. Immediately following the Christmas Program all students, staff, and family members will enjoy our classroom Christmas parties. **All Y.E.S. students will be dismissed according to the following schedule on this day, Thursday, December 17: PK & K-3:20, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>-3:30, and 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>-3:35 to allow all students to enjoy their classroom Christmas parties.**

### **Calendar Date changes**

Please make note of the following date changes for events at Y.E.S.:

- GT Field Trip has moved from May 7 to January 8
- Y.E.S. Field Days have moved from May 13 and 14 to May 6 and 7
- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade's Reading Benchmark has moved from May 6 and 7 to May 11 and 12
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Splashway trip has moved from May 21 to May 14

### **Field Trip Chaperones**

Y.E.S. encourages and welcomes parents as field trip chaperones. In a budget-saving effort parents may be asked to provide their own transportation to and from field trips. Parents may follow the bus or meet the students and staff at the field trip destination.

### **Y.E.S. Canned Food Drive for Y.A.M.**

For the holiday season, Y.E.S. is once again sponsoring our annual canned food drive collection to be donated to the Y.A.M. Organization. The collection will continue through Tuesday, December 15. Please take part in this special opportunity to share with others during this festive time of year by sending a canned good to school with your child by December 15.

**Student Christmas Gift Exchange for Christmas, 2009:** All Y.E.S. students are to bring an inexpensive new or **GENTLY** used children's book for their gift exchange item. Each Y.E.S. homeroom teacher periodically sends book orders home for children's books which would make a perfect place to purchase an inexpensive book for the Christmas exchange. If you have questions about this year's student Christmas gift exchange, please visit with your child's homeroom teacher.

Y.E.S. is collecting Box Tops for Education labels, Campbell's Soup labels, and Tyson A+ labels. When sending Box Tops to school please print your child's first and last name on the back of the label in order to have your child's name entered into a drawing for one of the prizes to be given away. Two Box Tops drawing will be held this year, one on Friday, December 18 and another on February 12.

### **YORKTOWN ISD PARENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

In an effort to keep our YISD parents informed of upcoming parent training opportunities the following is a list of training sessions available through December 2008. Please contact your child's campus at 564-2252 (Extension 2-YHS; Extension 3-YJHS; Extension 4-Y.E.S.) if you are interested in further details.

<b>SESSION TITLE</b>	<b>SESSION #</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
Preschoolers: Social & Emotional Development Ages 3 to 5-RTI	30518	12/8/09	6:00pm - 7:30pm	Region 3
Regional Tools for Life	30240	12/10/09	10:00am – 3:00pm	Districts in ESC 3
Parent Awareness: Discipline and Your Child—An Opportunity to Teach	30254	12/14/09	6:00pm - 7:30pm	NET 3

### **PARENT TRAINING SESSIONS HOSTED BY YISD**

Yorktown ISD is excited to inform you of the following dates and topics of our upcoming parent training sessions presented by Region 3 consultants. All sessions, with the exception of the May 3 training, will be held at the auditorium. The May 3 session will be held at the cafeteria in conjunction with the Y.E.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> semester ABC meeting. Y.E.S. encourages all parents to take advantage of these wonderful training opportunities being held here in Yorktown.

Date	Topic/Presenter/Site
December 14, 2009	ADHD, Audience: PK-12 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
January 11, 2010	Getting Your Child Ready for TAKS, Audience: 3 <sup>rd</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
February 8, 2010	Academic Supports for your High School Child, Audience: 9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
March 8, 2010	Math and Science Strategies, Audience: PK-12 <sup>th</sup> grade parents
May 3, 2010	Cool Summer Fun, Audience: PK-5 <sup>th</sup> grade parents, Cafeteria

### **TAKS NEWS**

As Y.E.S. students and staff prepare to earn the Texas Education Agency's **EXEMPLARY** status, we would like to share very important facts and dates with you.

**Y.E.S. fifth graders are required to pass the TAKS Reading AND Math tests as one of the criteria to be promoted to the next grade.**

**In addition, in an effort to consistently ensure that all Y.E.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics and to further encourage all students to give their 100% best effort on the TAKS reading and mathematics tests, this year Y.E.S. is requiring all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who do not pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS reading and/or mathematics tests to attend summer school.**

**All parents of students who do not pass the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS reading and/or mathematics tests will be notified of the details for the mandatory Y.E.S. summer school which will be held for approximately three weeks in June and early July.**

### **Y.E.S. 2009-2010 Assessment Reminders**

**Congratulations to our Y.E.S. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students and staff who are working extremely hard to complete our first TAKS Benchmark tests! Y.E.S. staff will continue to review benchmark results and make adjustments to the current schedule and curriculum in order to accentuate our strengths and intervene for our areas needing improvement so that our Y.E.S. students master the upcoming TAKS tests.**

As Y.E.S. students, staff, parents, and the community are **“Teaming Up for Success...In the Game for Kids”** for **EXEMPLARY** achievement, we are all dedicated to academic excellence. Benchmark tests that are administered with conditions as close to the actual TAKS tests will be given to strengthen student objective mastery according to the following schedule:

<b>2009-2010 TAKS Benchmark Tests</b>				
Date/Subject	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade
12/3 Science		X	X	X
12/9 Reading Bundle Day 2- 12/10		X	X	X
1/26 Writing			X	
2/23 Reading Bundle Day 2-2/24				X
3/2 Reading Bundle Day 2-3/3		X		

3/9 Math		X	X	X
3/10 Reading Bundle Day 2-3/11			X	
3/10 Science				X
3/11 Writing	X			
4/29 Science	X			
5/5 Math	X			
5/11 Reading Bundle Day 2-5/12	X			

### 2009-2010 TAKS PARENT MEETINGS

Date	Grade/Subject	Type of Parent Contact
Week of 2/1/10	4W	Telephone conferences for parents of students who scored 80% and above on their benchmark
	4W	Individual conferences for parents and students (students who scored below 80% on their benchmark)
Week of 3/1/09	5M, 5R	Telephone conferences for parents of students who scored 80% and above on their benchmark
		Individual conferences for parents and students (students who scored below 80% on their benchmark)
Week of 3/22/10	3M, 3R, 4R & 4M & 5S	Telephone conferences for parents of students who scored 80% and above on their benchmark
	3M, 3R, 4R & 4M & 5S	Individual conferences for parents and students (students who scored below 80% on their benchmark)
Week of 5/10/10	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Individual conferences for parents to give a general TAKS overview and to share students' benchmark results

### 2009-2010 TAKS Test Schedule

DATE	GRADE/SUBJECT
March 3, 2010	4 <sup>th</sup> grade Writing TAKS
April 6, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS (1 <sup>st</sup> administration)
April 7, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade TAKS Reading (1 <sup>st</sup> administration)
April 27, 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS
April 28, 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> grade Reading TAKS
April 29, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Science TAKS
May 18, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS (2 <sup>nd</sup> administration)
May 19, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Reading TAKS (2 <sup>nd</sup> administration)
June 29, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Math TAKS (3 <sup>rd</sup> administration)
June 30, 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Reading TAKS (3 <sup>rd</sup> administration)

### "Team Y.E.S." Calendar Dates

- 12/3 Grades 3-5 TAKS Science Benchmark #1  
1<sup>st</sup> grade field trip to the San Antonio Zoo  
1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade after school tutorial
- 12/4 Y.E.S. Fundraiser Reward Assembly and field trip
- 12/8 UIL Speaking Preliminary Contests & 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Art Contests,  
12:30 p.m. at Y.E.S.  
1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade after school tutorial
- 12/9 Grades 3-5 TAKS Reading Benchmark #1  
3<sup>rd</sup> Six Weeks Progress Reports mailed and notices sent

- 12/10 Grades 3-5 Reading Benchmark, Day 2 Dyslexia Bundle  
1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade after school tutorial
- 12/11 UIL Meet at Falls City at 1:00 p.m.
- 12/14 **ADHD Parent Training Session**, 6:00 p.m., Audience: PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade parents, Auditorium  
Y.E.S. UIL teams introduced at YISD school board meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 12/15 Last day of our Y.E.S. 1<sup>st</sup> semester 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade after school tutorial
- 12/17 Y.E.S. Christmas Program, 1:00 p.m. and Y.E.S. Christmas Parties, after Christmas Program
- 12/18 Happy Birthday Becky Sprinkle!  
1<sup>st</sup> semester Box Tops drawing  
Early Release Day: PK @ 12:15, K @ 12:20, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade @ 12:25, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades @ 12:30

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM Y.E.S.!**  
**ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS!**  
**December 21-January 4**

- 12/20 Happy Birthday LaNell Hay!
- 12/23 Happy Birthday Mary Garcia!
- 12/24 Happy Birthday Leslie Preslar!
- 1/5 School resumes at regular time
- 1/6 Happy Birthday Christine Blaschke!
- 1/8 GT Field Trip to San Antonio
- 1/11 Middle of Year TPRI administered to all K-3rd grade students this week
- 1/14 Class group pictures taken by Pat Mercer
- 1/15 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> six weeks and 1<sup>st</sup> semester  
Early Release Day: PK @ 12:15, K @ 12:20, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade @ 12:25, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades @ 12:30
- 1/18 School Holiday
- 1/19 Begin 4<sup>th</sup> six weeks and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester
- 1/20 Happy Birthday Dee-Dee McAda!  
Y.E.S. Spelling Bee, 9:00 a.m. in Y.E.S. Library
- 1/25 "Pennies for Patients" begins  
YISD school board meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the YJHS Library
- 1/26 4<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS Writing Benchmark  
4<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS Tutorial letters sent home
- 1/29 4<sup>th</sup> grade TAKS Tutorial letters due back

**"Team Y.E.S." Comments always welcome:**

Parents, please use this section to communicate your points of view, suggestions, compliments, or concerns. You may send it back to school with your child to be sent the office.

**To: Patty Strieber**

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Here is my concern:**

**Concern:**

**Question:**

**Compliment:**

**Would you get back to me?**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

Patty Strieber  
Y.E.S. Principal