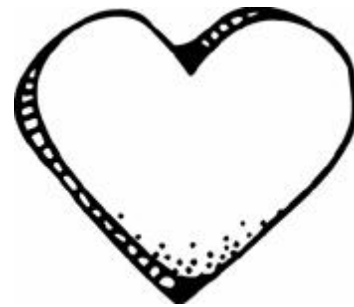


February



Dear Y.E.S. Parents,

February 1, 2010

Greetings to our Y.E.S. families! As the 2nd semester continues we send our appreciation to each of you for supporting our Y.E.S. efforts to be a Texas Education Agency "**Exemplary**" Campus. Many thanks for all you do to help your child be the best they can be. Y.E.S. looks forward to "**Teaming Up for Success...In the Game for Kids**" during the many spring activities described in this newsletter.

Y.E.S. ABSENCE EXCUSE NOTE REMINDER

As stated in the Parent and Student Handbook on page 35, "**If an absence is necessary, you must send a parent or medical excuse 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.**"

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Monday, February 15 is a school holiday. Regularly scheduled classes will resume on Tuesday, February 16.

Parents and Families,
Please plan to join us for a day of exciting literacy activities as we celebrate Read Across America on March 12!
Additional details will be sent home soon.

SPRING PICTURE SCHEDULE

Pat Mercer will take **Spring Pictures for PK thru 5th grades on Thursday, March 25.** *If parents would like to have a sibling picture, a note must be sent no later than Tuesday, March 23 stating that the parent would like a sibling picture taken.* **Sibling pictures will be taken on Wednesday, March 24th** (the day before the individual Spring Pictures) Sibling pictures will begin around 8:00 a.m. according to the list compiled from the notes received by the March 23 cut-off date. If siblings are at Yorktown Junior High School or Yorktown High School, Y.E.S. will gather them all together for their sibling picture. No group sibling pictures will be taken on Thursday. *It is very important that you send a note to Y.E.S. requesting a sibling picture no later than the Tuesday, March 23 deadline so that the necessary arrangements can be made for the sibling pictures.*

ORDER YOUR Y.E.S. YEARBOOK TODAY!

Y.E.S. will once again be producing an ALL COLOR YEARBOOK! To order a yearbook please return a check, cash, or money order to Y.E.S. with your child. The yearbook pre-sale price now is \$20. Once the completed yearbooks are delivered to Y.E.S. the price will increase to \$25. Checks are to be made payable to Y.E.S. Don't miss out on the memories from the 2009-2010 school year.

VALENTINE'S DAY 2010

A "Happy 2010 Valentine's Day" is extended to all of our students, staff, and families. ***This is just a reminder, for safety reasons, that students who ride the bus home after school will NOT be allowed to take balloons that are sent to them at school for Valentine's Day. Parents must make other transportation arrangements for students on this day.*** Also, parents, please be reminded that foods of minimal nutritional value may not be given to our students; all snacks sent to school must be of a healthy nature.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Y.E.S. is participating in The Leukemia Society's "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. The fundraiser is taking place during a three-week period that began on Monday, January 25 and will end on Friday, February 12. Please donate your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or any amount possible, as the proceeds of this fun event will support research, financial assistance for patients and other patient services.

REDUCE TEST ANXIETY

If your child worries about testing in school, you can help to calm his or her anxiety. Stay informed about when tests are scheduled, and help your child prepare for them with good study habits. Be sure your child gets to bed early the night before testing. Encourage your child to do his or her best.

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. 3rd and 4th 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 3rd and 4th graders who do not pass the 3rd and 4th grade TAKS reading and/or mathematics tests to attend summer school.

All parents of students who do not pass the 3rd or 4th 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

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 in 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:

2009-2010 TAKS Benchmark Tests				
Date/Subject	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade
2/23 Reading Bundle Day 2-2/24				X
3/3 Reading Bundle Day 2-3/4		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			

Notice that the Grade 3 TAKS Reading Benchmark date has changed from March 2 to March 3

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

Timeline leading to EXEMPLARY TAKS S U C C E S S!

- 21 instruction days until the 4th grade Writing TAKS Test
- 39 instruction days until the 5th grade Math TAKS Test
- 40 instruction days until the 5th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 54 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Math TAKS Test
- 55 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 56 instruction days until the 5th grade Science TAKS Test

We ask our parents to emphasize to your child the importance of doing well daily in class work and homework in order to do well on the TAKS tests.

DISMISSAL TIME FOR TAKS BENCHMARK AND TAKS TESTS

In order to encourage our students to give their 100% best effort and to lessen the distraction on TAKS benchmark and test days the following dismissal schedule will be followed:

Date	Grade	Benchmark/Test Subject	Dismissal Time
February 23	5 th grade	TAKS Reading Benchmark	3:35 p.m.
March 3	3 rd and 4 th grades	3 rd grade TAKS Reading Benchmark and 4 th grade TAKS Writing Test	3:35 p.m.
March 9	3 rd , 4 th , and 5 th grades	TAKS Math Benchmark	3:35 p.m.
March 10	4 th grade	TAKS Reading Benchmark	3:35 p.m.
March 11	4 th and 5 th grades	4 th grade TAKS Math Benchmark and 5 th grade TAKS Science Benchmark	3:35 p.m.
April 6	5 th grade	5 th grade TAKS Math Test	3:35 p.m.
April 7	5 th grade	5 th grade TAKS Reading Test	3:35 p.m.
April 27	3 rd and 4 th grades	3 rd and 4 th grade Math TAKS Test	3:35 p.m.
April 28	3 rd and 4 th grades	3 rd and 4 th grade Reading TAKS Test	3:35 p.m.

Y.E.S. INTENSE TAKS TUTORIAL for 4th grade TAKS Writing

The small group, intense TAKS tutoring sessions will be held for the 4th graders who qualify on **Monday-Thursday, February 8-11, Tuesday-Thursday, February 16-18, and Monday-Thursday, February 22-25** after school until 4:30 p.m. in your child's classroom under the direct instruction of their classroom teacher. Practice TAKS tests have been given to all fourth graders. This special TAKS intense tutorial program will be tailored to fit your child's individual needs according to their recent testing results.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3 TAKS TEST DAY

Wednesday, March 3 is an extremely important day for Y.E.S. On this date our fourth grade students will be taking the TAKS Writing Test. Our students, staff, and parents have all worked hard to prepare for this important test. Parents please make sure that all 4th graders get plenty of sleep on Tuesday night, March 2, and that you motivate them to work hard to do their very best on this test. The tests are untimed so please encourage your child to take their time as they proofread their work. It is their "time to shine", and we wish all of them the best as we strive to be an exemplary elementary school. Good luck Y.E.S. 4th graders!

Y.E.S. SPELLING BEE WINNERS

The Y.E.S. Spelling Bee held on Wednesday, January 20 was a wonderful success. Stephen, Y.E.S. 5th grader and Mackenzie Garrison, Y.E.S. 2nd grader, were the top two winners and will now participate in the DeWitt County Spelling Bee, which will be held in Cuero on Tuesday, February 16. Melinda Beeson, Y.E.S. 2nd grader, is the Y.E.S. Alternate. Congratulations Stephen, Mackenzie, and Melinda! Y.E.S. extends a gracious thank you to Mrs. Kathy Ford, Mrs. Lois Lister, and Ms. Joanna Suggs for helping to conduct this year's campus spelling bee and to Mrs. LaNell Hay, our Y.E.S. Spelling Bee Coordinator. Congratulations are also extended to all of this year's campus Spelling Bee contestants and alternates:

2nd grade: Kaleb Mikeska, Joshua Garcia, Tre-Veonte Green, Mackenzie Garrison, Melinda Beeson, E.J. Hernandez, Justin Schroeder, Jasmine Rodriguez, Yair Almaguer

3rd grade: Lauryn Campos, Jalen Fisher, Kaiylie Barefield, Alexa Swain, Dylan Sinast, Maylee Hosinski, Anissa Smith, Joshua Lopez, Madison Remmers

4th grade: Madison Hickman, Regan Saunders, Darrien Campbell, Austin Swain, Hunter Day, Jayden Webb, Jessica Garcia, Connor Hethcoat, Grehsen Allman

5th grade: Stephen Wagner, Maria Balderas, Stephanie Mattox, Mercedes Saunders, Annie Ochoa, Ysidro Garza, Halle Martin, Derek Naranjo, Christian Alvarez

PUBLIC SCHOOL WEEK 2010

Public School Week at Yorktown ISD will be observed the week of March 8-12. This year's theme is "**Building Leaders: Today they learn. Tomorrow they lead.**" Make plans now to attend our Y.E.S. Open House to be held on Monday, March 8, beginning at 5:30. Y.E.S. plans to highlight our grade levels Monday-Thursday during this special week as we invite our parents and special guests to have lunch with their child. The Public School Week lunch schedule is as follows:

Monday, March 8	3 rd & 4 th grade
Tuesday, March 9	PK & 2 nd grade
Wednesday, March 10	Kindergarten & 1 st grade
Thursday, March 11	5 th grade

If it is not convenient to have lunch with your child on their designated grade level day, please come on the day that is most convenient for you.

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. 2nd 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
February 8, 2010	Academic Supports for your High School Child , Audience: 9 th -12 th grade parents
March 8, 2010	Math and Science Strategies , Audience: PK-12 th grade parents
May 3, 2010	Cool Summer Fun , Audience: PK-5 th grade parents, Cafeteria

Calendar of Events

- 2/1 100th day of school!
RTI Tier III parent meetings
RTI Tier III intervention begins
Individual conferences held for 4th graders who scored below 80% on their writing benchmark
Telephone conferences held for 4th graders who scored 80% and above on their writing benchmark
- 2/4 UIL bowling trip for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers
- 2/5 UIL events: pizza lunch for all UIL team members and 12:45-2:45 movie for 4th, 5th, and 6th place finishers
- 2/8 ABC Fundraiser begins
4th grade Writing Day
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/9 UIL in the park, 12:45-2:30 for all students who tried out for UIL teams
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/10 4th Six Weeks Progress Reports mailed and Notices sent home
Dental screenings done by Dr. Frels and his staff
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/11 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/12 "Pennies for Patients" ends
Box Tops drawing
- 2/15 School Holiday/Bad Weather Day
- 2/16 DeWitt County Spelling Bee, 10:00 a.m., St. Michael's School in Cuero
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/17 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/18 Happy Birthday Judy Sullivan!
4th grade Writing Day
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/19 YHS Stock Show begins-Y.E.S. students will tour the stock show grounds; scheduled to be determined
- 2/20 Happy Birthday Tina Koehler!
- 2/22 Happy Birthday Dawn Gips!
ABC Fundraiser ends
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
YISD school board meeting, 7:30 p.m., junior high library
- 2/23 5th grade TAKS Reading Benchmark
5th grade TAKS Tutorial letters sent home
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/24 5th grade TAKS Reading Benchmark, Dyslexia Bundle, Day 2
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/25 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/26 End of 4th Six Weeks
5th grade TAKS Tutorial letters due
- 2/27 YHS Power lifting Meet

YISD will recognize Texas Public School Week during the week of March 8-12. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Y.E.S. Open House on Monday, March 8 from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- 3/1 Begin 5th Six Weeks
- 3/3 4th grade TAKS Writing Test and 3rd grade TAKS Reading Benchmark #2
- 3/4 3rd TAKS Reading Bundle Day 2 testing
Accelerated Reader pizza party during lunch

- 3/5 Y.E.S. Club "Game Day"
- 3/6 4th grade TAKS Reading Bundle Day 2 testing
- 3/8 **YISD will recognize Texas Public School Week during the week of March 8-12;**
Public School Week Open House at Y.E.S., 5:30-6:30 p.m.; 3rd & 4th grades highlighted in the cafeteria
- 3/9 **3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Math Benchmark #2;** PK and 2nd grade highlighted in the cafeteria
- 3/10 **4th grade Reading Benchmark #2 and 5th grade Science Benchmark #2;** Kindergarten and 1st grade highlighted in the cafeteria
- 3/11 5th grade highlighted in the cafeteria
- 3/12 "Read Across America Day" at Y.E.S.-stay tuned for further details

Early Release Day

12:15	PK
12:20	K
12:25	1st
12:30	2nd-5th

SPRING BREAK IS MARCH 15-19!



"Paw Print" 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