

JANUARY



Dear Y.E.S. Parents,

January 6, 2010

Happy New Year from Yorktown Elementary School, a “bucket filling” campus!

Y.E.S. staff members, students, parents, families, and community members are encouraged to continue encompassing this year’s Yorktown Elementary School theme, “Teaming Up for Success...In the Game for Kids” in an effort to move Y.E.S. in the direction of becoming a TEA “EXEMPLARY” campus. As we diligently strive to be an exemplary campus we are reminded that it takes 110% effort by EVERYONE in the area of teamwork in order to be successful. At Y.E.S. we remain committed to building strong partnerships with each of our students and their parents as well as with the community of Yorktown.

At Y.E.S. we view parents and guardians as our partners in the educational process and encourage you to become involved in many of our school activities. We would also like to encourage you to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns during this New Year. Our telephone number is 361-564-2252, extension 4. Each Y.E.S. staff member can also be contacted by their e-mail address which is printed in the Student and Parent Handbook.

To continue to keep you informed of events and activities, a monthly newsletter for parents will be sent home with each of the students at the beginning of each month and will also be posted on our district website at <http://www.yisd.org/>.

Again we send our new year’s wishes and assure you that our number one goal is to make your child’s experience at Yorktown Elementary School rewarding and fulfilling. Many 2009 successes were celebrated and with continued parental support and teamwork, Y.E.S. looks forward to countless opportunities for increased student achievement in 2010!

UIL News

Congratulations go to our Yorktown Elementary School UIL teams, coaches, coordinators, and parents! Y.E.S. earned 2nd place overall at the December UIL Meet held in Falls City! The time and effort involved in U.I.L. is a commitment made by everyone involved: students, parents, coaches, and coordinators. Way to go Team Y.E.S.!

Y.A.M. Food Drive

Many thanks to our Y.E.S. students and parents for their generous donations made to the annual Y.A.M. Organization food drive collection during the month of December.

Keep Yorktown Beautiful

Please take time to view the beautification of the flower garden area in front of the Post Office. Our ABC officers chose this area as part of the *Keep Yorktown Beautiful* project. Our sincere thanks go to the Don Garrison family for volunteering their time to get the project underway for Y.E.S. Stay tuned for further details.

Y.E.S. Spelling Bee

Yorktown Elementary School invites you to our campus Spelling Bee on Wednesday, January 20. The Spelling Bee will be held in the Y.E.S. Library beginning at 9:00 a.m. Do make plans to see our 2nd-5th grade classroom Spelling Bee winners vie for the opportunity to advance to the DeWitt County Spelling Bee.

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

Congratulations to our Y.E.S. 3rd-5th grade students and staff who worked 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 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	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
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 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!

- 38 instruction days until the 4th grade Writing TAKS Test
- 56 instruction days until the 5th grade Math TAKS Test
- 57 instruction days until the 5th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 71 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Math TAKS Test
- 72 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 73 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.

Pennies for Patients

It's time to start saving those pennies! 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 will begin 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.

Label Collections

Y.E.S. is continuing their year round collection of 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 Box Tops label in order to have your child's name entered into a drawing for one of prizes to be given away in the near future. Our next Box Tops drawing will be held on Friday, February 12.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Daily morning announcements begin promptly at 7:50 a.m. for all students. Please see to it that your child is on time for our announcements.
- The tardy bell rings at 7:50 a.m.; it is imperative that all students are seated in their classrooms and ready to learn before the tardy bell rings.
- Please call the school office (564-2252, extension 4) by 8:00 a.m. when your child is going to be absent from school. Please leave a voice mail message if you call before school hours. Also, when they return to school from an absence, they must bring an excuse note for each absence.
- It is very important that your child's name is placed on any coats or jackets worn to school. At this time there are NUMEROUS unclaimed jackets, etc. without names in the lost and found area that need to be identified and claimed. Please stop by the lost and found area ASAP so that your child has their jackets for the cold weather. All unclaimed items are boxed up and given to the Y.A.M. Organization.

ABC Fundraiser

Y.E.S. asks for your support in making our upcoming ABC Spring Fundraiser a GREAT success. Our fundraiser will begin on February 8 and will end on February 22. We will be selling delicious food items from Kolodziej's—just in time for Easter! Proceeds for this fundraiser will be used for Y.E.S. field trips and miscellaneous school supplies and items. All students selling 12 items or more are invited to the **Mega Bounce Party**, students selling 15 items or more are invited to the **Mega Bounce Party** and will be a part of the **Cash Prize Machine** fun, and students selling 25 items or more are invited to the **Mega Bounce Party**, will be a part of the **Cash Prize Machine** fun, and get to participate in the **Lunch Limo Ride**. Happy Selling!

In an effort to keep our YISD parents informed of upcoming parent training opportunities please refer to the *Parent Training Opportunities* link posted on the Y.E.S. website at www.yisd.org for a list of Region 3 training sessions available through May 2010. Please contact your child's campus at 564-2252, Extension 4, if you are interested in further details or would like a printed copy of the list of sessions.

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
January 11, 2010	Getting Your Child Ready for TAKS , Audience: 3 rd -12 th grade parents
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

- 1/6 Happy Birthday Christine Blaschke!
- 1/9 YHS Power lifting Meet
- 1/11 "Helping Your Child with TAKS" parent session, high school auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
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 3rd six weeks and 1st semester
Early Release Day: PK @ 12:15, K @ 12:20, 1st Grade @ 12:25, 2nd-5th Grades @ 12:30
- 1/18 School Holiday
- 1/19 Begin 4th six weeks and 2nd 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
RTI Tier III parent letters sent home
YISD school board meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the YJHS Library
- 1/26 4th grade TAKS Writing Benchmark
4th grade TAKS Tutorial letters sent home
- 1/29 4th grade TAKS Tutorial letters due back
- 1/30 Happy Birthday Diana Gonzales!
- 2/1 100th day of school!
RTI Tier III parent meetings
RTI Tier III intervention begins
- 2/8 ABC Fundraiser begins
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/9 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/10 4th Six Weeks Progress Reports mailed and Notices sent home
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 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/17 **4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 2/18 Happy Birthday Judy Sullivan!
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 2/22 ABC Fundraiser ends
4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
YISD school board meeting, 7:30 p.m., junior high library
- 2/23 Happy Birthday Dawn Gips!
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.

“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