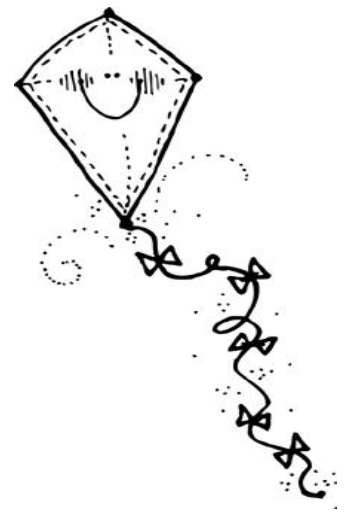


MARCH



Dear Y.E.S. Parents,

March 1, 2010

As the 5th six weeks of school continues I would like to commend our Y.E.S. students, staff, and parents for "Teaming Up for Success...In the Game for Kids". Our 4th graders are completing the TAKS Writing test this week on Wednesday, March 3 and the results will be received in mid-May and our 3rd graders are completing their TAKS Reading Benchmark #2 on March 3 as well. Thanks go to everyone for a job VERY well done!

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."** Unexcused absences will be recorded after 8 parent excuse notes have been received. As stated in the Parent and Student Handbook on page 37, **"Nonattendance may result in assessment of penalties by a court of law. A complaint against the parent may be filed in the appropriate court if the student:**

- **Is absent from school on ten or more days within a six-month period in the same school year, or**
- **Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period."**

Please contact Patty Strieber if you have questions or concerns about your child's attendance.

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:

Lunch Schedule

Grade Level	Lunch Time	Highlight Day
PK	10:40	Tuesday, March 9 th
Kindergarten	10:45	Wednesday, March 10 th
1 st Grade	10:50	Wednesday, March 10 th
2 nd Grade	10:55	Tuesday, March 9 th
3 rd Grade	11:00	Monday, March 8 th
4 th Grade	12:00	Monday, March 8 th
5 th Grade	12:05	Thursday, March 11 th

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.

Come Join Us For Open House

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010 AT 5:30PM

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.	
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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.

COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The County Spelling Bee held on Tuesday, February 16 was an exciting time for Y.E.S. Stephen Wagner, Y.E.S. 5th grader and Mackenzie Garrison, Y.E.S. second grader, participated in the DeWitt County Spelling Bee and represented Y.E.S. in fine fashion. Melinda Beeson, Y.E.S. second grader, was the Y.E.S. Alternate. Thanks Stephen, Mackenzie, and Melinda! Y.E.S. extends a gracious thank you to Mrs. LaNell Hay, our Y.E.S. campus spelling bee coordinator.

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	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
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			

2009-2010 TAKS PARENT MEETINGS		
Date	Grade/Subject	Type of Parent Contact
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
		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!

- 2 instruction days until the 4th grade Writing TAKS Test
- 20 instruction days until the 5th grade Math TAKS Test
- 21 instruction days until the 5th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 35 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Math TAKS Test
- 36 instruction days until the 3rd & 4th grade Reading TAKS Test
- 37 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
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.

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!

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
March 8, 2010	Math and Science Strategies , Audience: PK-12 th grade parents, 7:00 p.m.
May 3, 2010	Cool Summer Fun , Audience: PK-5 th grade parents, Cafeteria

Calendar of Events

- 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”
- 3/8 Public School Week Open House at Y.E.S., 5:30-6:30 p.m.
3rd & 4th grades highlighted in the cafeteria
Math & Science Strategies Parent Session, 7:00 p.m., high school auditorium
- 3/9 **3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Math Benchmark #2**
PK and 2nd grade highlighted in the cafeteria
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/10 **4th grade Reading Benchmark #2 and 5th grade Science Benchmark #2**
Kindergarten and 1st grade highlighted in the cafeteria
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/11 4th grade TAKS Reading Bundle Day 2 testing and 2nd grade TAKS Writing Benchmark
5th grade highlighted in the cafeteria
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 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

- 3/18 Happy Birthday Patti Harbers!
- 3/22 3rd - 5th grade: Telephone conferences for parents of students who scored 80% and above on their benchmark and Individual conferences for parents and students (students who scored below 80% on their benchmark)
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/23 3rd-5th grade TAKS tutorial letters due
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/24 Sibling pictures at Y.E.S.
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/25 Happy Birthday Ashleigh Davis!
Spring individual pictures at Y.E.S.
5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 3/29 **3rd-5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 3/30 **3rd-5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 3/31 5th Six Weeks Progress Reports mailed and Notices sent home
3rd-5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 4/1 Classroom Easter parties, 2:15
3rd-5th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 4/2 School Holiday
- 4/5 **3rd and 4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial**
- 4/6 5th grade TAKS Math Test
3rd and 4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial
- 4/7 5th grade TAKS Reading Test
3rd and 4th grade TAKS intense after school tutorial



“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