

Garden Oaks Elementary News from Principal Pollock

THE EAGLE'S NEST

March 1, 2010

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MAGNET STATUS!

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the exciting news of Garden Oaks' inclusion in the magnet assistance grant. Becoming a magnet would provide Garden Oaks Elementary with a secure future as a specialty program! As part of the ongoing dialogue with the community, HISD Representatives will be here for the Garden Oaks Civic Club meeting Tuesday evening at 7pm. We welcome the presence of Anna Eastman, District I School Board Member, Dr. Morris, Deputy Chief Academic Officer and Dr. Pola, Chief of Staff who will join for an evening of conversation.

FACTS about transition to magnet!

Will my child have to go to another school if I don't want the new program? **Students in grades 1 – 5 who are enrolled in the Garden Oaks traditional program will continue in traditional classes right here at Garden Oaks for the next few years.**

Will there be bilingual classes in the new program? **Yes, there will be bilingual Montessori classes. We will start with the early childhood classes and add to the program each year.**

Will the whole school be Montessori right away? **There will be a gradual transition to a full Montessori program, but the emphasis on Environmental Sciences school wide will be effective immediately.**

What is Environmental Science?

Environmental Sciences emphasize our interrelatedness to the Earth and ways in which we can safeguard our future through developing Science and Math based initiatives for sustainability.

4th Grade TAKS Writing Test this Wednesday, March 3!

Fourth Graders will be taking the Writing TAKS test on **March 3rd**. Remember that on TAKS test days, ***no visitors at any grade level are allowed on campus due to required security.***

ESL and Parenting Classes to continue on Saturdays!

Ms. Reescano, GCSW Social Work Intern, is teaching **free** ESL classes right here at Garden Oaks Elementary! Classes are held every Saturday from 8:00am – 11:00 followed by parenting classes from 11:30am – 1pm. Every Tuesday, she also leads Parenting classes from 8am – 9am and will cover a wide array of topics.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Committee chairs are needed for:

- Grant writing and Fundraising
- Environmental Sciences
- Technology support and implementation
- Library upgrade and remodeling
- Campus beautification projects to support student learning such as tree house, gazebo, and gardens

If you are interested, please see me right away to meet and plan for committees!

Calendar Updates!

Tuesday, March 2 – Garden Oaks Civic Club Meeting 7pm **Guest presenters**

Wednesday, March 3 – 4th grade Writing TAKS – **NO VISITORS ON CAMPUS**

Friday, March 5 - Parent Breakfast with Ms. Pollock 8:15am.

Saturday, March 6 - ESL Classes 8 -11am

from the desk of Ms. Pollock, Principal Garden Oaks Elementary
“Soaring to Exemplary!”