



**Parent FYI
Sam Houston Elementary
October 1, 2012**



Parent Conference Week/Early Dismissal. This week, Oct. 1st – 5th is Parent Conference Week and students will be dismissed at 12:50 all week so teachers and parents can conference. If you don't have a conference set up with your child's teacher, be sure to contact them this week and set one up

Chick-fil-A Day – Today, October 1st is our October Sam Houston Chick-fil-A Day. Chick-fil-a Day runs from **6am-10pm** at the Chick-fil-A on Loop 288. Yes, you can eat **breakfast, lunch, a snack or dinner** at Chick-fil-a this year and raise money for our school. If you are able to eat at Chick-fil-A on Sam Houston Chick-fil-a Day be sure to **tell the cashier you are with Sam Houston** so 15% of your order will go back to the Sam Houston PTA. All monies earned from Chick-fil-A Day will go to buy books for our Leveled Library. We will have Sam Houston Chick-fil-A Days the **first Monday** of each month.



Sam Houston Fun Run--\$\$\$ TURN IN that MONEY \$\$\$-- Well, we gave away our Cosmic Jump passes to 3 lucky students who turned in their money this last Friday. We are still hoping to see many more envelopes appear in our box on the front desk. It is not too late to turn in your money- **THANK YOU** to all who already turned their money in! The Great Wolf Lodge Drawing and the awarding of the grand prize will occur in the next few weeks. Students will receive their leveled prizes very soon as well. (\$10 a package of mustaches, \$20 add the glow in the dark sunglasses, \$40 add the light up teeth, \$80 add a light up sword.) **Just the \$10 level mustache prize will come home this Thursday. Mrs. Andress, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Brown have been having SO much fun with them, that they want all the kids to wear them with their Sunglasses on Friday!**



Sam Houston Directory Artwork. The deadline for submitting your artwork for the School Directory is this Friday, October 5th. There will be a winner from each grade level and a grand prize winner. The grade level winners will have their artwork displayed in this year's directory and the grand prize winner will have their artwork displayed on the front cover of the directory. The theme this year is "Celebrating 30 years of Learning Adventures" with Sam Houston. So pull out your 8 1/2 x 11 pieces of paper, crayons, colored pencils, markers and join in the "Celebration of 30 years with Sam Houston!" Winners will be announced in a couple of weeks.



Sunglasses & Mustache Day. Friday, October 5th we are celebrating another successful beginning of the year at Sam Houston by having Sunglasses Day. All students are encouraged to wear sunglasses to school on Friday, Oct. 5th because our future is so bright at Sam Houston that we have to wear shades. We are adding Mustache Day to the fun so students have an opportunity to wear to school the mustaches they earn from collecting at least \$10 for the Fun Run.



Summer Reading. Summer Reading. Students who participated in the Public Library Summer Reading Program are being invited to go to Eureka this Friday, Oct. 5th for fun and snow cones, if they bring the certificate they earned from the library to the school and give it to their teacher. Permission slips for the party have been sent home with all students who have turned in a certificate. These need to be returned signed for students to participate. If your child participated but hasn't brought their certificate to school yet please do so soon. If your child is participating and you can volunteer to chaperone please call the school office.



Teacher Staff Development Day/Holiday for Students. Students do not have school Monday, Oct. 8th. Teachers will be involved in training all day. School will resume on Tuesday, Oct. 9th.



. (over for more important information)

Friends of Krystee Lawson Benefit Spaghetti Dinner, Thursday, October 18th at Sam Houston.

Beloved long time Sam Houston teacher, Mrs. Krystee Lawson, has had an extended illness and subsequent lengthy rehabilitation. During this difficult experience, Krystee's family has incurred extensive medical costs. To help with expenses some of her friends have gotten together and planned a **Lawson Benefit Spaghetti Dinner**. Tickets for the 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00 Spaghetti Dinner serving times are available in the Sam Houston office. Tickets are \$8.00 for 14 yrs and up, \$5.00 for 13 yrs. and younger.

We hope you will support Krystee Lawson and her family by attending the Spaghetti Dinner with your family or by making a donation to the **Lawson Family Benefit Fund**. Donations can be made directly to the family's fund at all Denton area DATCU locations. Checks can be sent to the school for dinner tickets. Make checks out to Lawson Family Benefit Fund and designate which serving time your family would like to attend.

Breakfast. Having a good breakfast is such an important beginning to a student's day I wanted to remind everyone that the Sam Houston Child Nutrition Staff offers breakfast for all our students beginning at 7:20 each morning. The cost of breakfast is \$1.10 and students who qualify for free or reduced lunch also qualify for free or reduced (.30) breakfast. All students are welcome to go to the cafeteria before school to get a hot breakfast each morning.

Box Tops Reminder: Keep collecting your Box Tops! Our Fall 2012 drive ends Wednesday October 17. **Turn in your box tops in a zip lock bag labeled with the number of box tops, student's name & teacher's name to your teacher. Limit the number to 50 box tops per zip lock bag. Please send in your box tops beginning Monday October 15.** The class with the most will win a pizza party! Questions: contact Melissa Rishel at Melissa@rishelgroup.com

Sam Houston 's Fall Festival is Friday, October 26th from 5:30 – 8:00pm. This year we are proud to offer food from Sam Houston family owned businesses, Sonic, Artic Shaved Ice and Fire in the Hole Pizza. We will also have nachos, funnel cakes and fried oreos. And of course there will be bounce houses, gerbil balls, balloon animals, the silent auction, and games, including the cake walk! We would greatly appreciate donated items, gift cards, or gift certificates for our silent auction. And please help us out with the cake walk by baking or purchasing cakes, cookies, or cupcakes and bringing them to school the day of the Festival. Order forms for tickets and food will be sent out in the coming weeks. Thank you for your support and don't forget to wear your costume!

Power PLC Week. The week (Oct. 22 – 26) is our next Power PLC Week. On Power PLC Weeks participating grades have all of their special areas for the week in one day. The change in schedule is so that teachers can have an extended period of time to meet as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to plan lessons and assessments for the upcoming six weeks, to go over prior common assessments to determine trends and needs, and to discuss intervention plans for students. The important thing for students to remember is to wear tennis shoes on their Power PLC Day because they will have PE twice on that day. K – 4th grades will participate in this Power PLC Week. The schedule for this Power PLC Week will be Mon.-K, Tues.-4th Wed.-2nd, Thurs. 3rd & Fri.-1st. 5th graders will be on their normal special area schedule all week. We will have 3 more Power PLC Weeks this school year, Dec. 10– 14, Feb. 11– 15 and April 8 – 12.

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Parent Connection. Parent Connection will be available to 3rd – 5th grade parents this year beginning the 2nd Six Weeks of school. Parent Connection allows parents to view their student's grades and attendance via the internet. More information will be given when it is available.



Volunteer Opportunities. Whether you're a 1st year or a 6th year parent at Sam Houston, there are many ways to get involved in events and activities coming up! Be a part of the action and get plugged in by: participating in class parties, school fund raisers and field trips, helping out your child's teacher in some way, or merely providing goodies for an event. Many volunteer opportunities require very little time and effort and are so appreciated by our children, the teachers, and staff. Plus, it's a great way to make new friends! To get started, fill out the required **Volunteer Application** (available in the front office) and turn it in right away so you can start receiving notices about what's coming up and how you can help. Contact **Emer Chapman** emerchampan@hotmail.co.uk or **Johanna Iaia** johannaiaia@verizon.net for more information.

Walkers and Bike Riders. For student safety walkers and bike riders should go to and from school with a partner and should always travel at the times when other students are going back and forth. It is also important that students cross Teasley using the crosswalk at Indian Ridge and never try to cross Teasley at Pennsylvania. Students should also never cross at CVS or the South Branch Library. **Crossing guards arrive at their posts each morning at 7:20am and stay until 7:50am. In the afternoons they leave their posts at 3:20pm.**

Students should never try to cross without a crossing guard. It is too dangerous.



Morning Drop Off. Things are going very well with morning drop off. Most parents are letting their children out of the car at the stop signs in the front of the three lines. I have seen a few children trying to get out of their car in the middle or far lane before the stop signs. Parents please keep your kids in your cars until you get to the stop signs, unless you are in the curb lane.



Afternoon Pick-up. Afternoon pick up is also running pretty smoothly. Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Smith are working hard to learn everyone's cars and get the kids loaded as fast as possible. The kids are doing a good job of not crossing traffic to load into their cars without an adult, which is a very safe thing. We do have a few parents who are leaving their cars to come to the sidewalk to get their kids, which can slow things down, if you will, please wait for us to bring them to you. If you can also remind your children to please keep an eye on the driveway, while they visit with their friends, it will help the process move more quickly.



Houston Email Group. If you want to be part of the Sam Houston email group and receive FYIs and other important notes from me via email please send me an email, from the email address that you want to receive your message at, and ask me to add you to the group. My email address is tadress@dentonisd.org. Even if you were part of the group last year email me again this year if you want to continue getting FYI's via email.



Construction Update. As most of you know our school is undergoing renovations and expansion. The good news is that from the construction project our school will add four new classrooms, two new computer labs, a secured reception area and a science lab. The downside is that students and teachers have had to deal with some noise and other distractions from the construction process. Even though the construction will not be completed until sometime during the summer the construction team has let us know that the worst of the noise distractions are over. They have also said that if noise will be an issue in the future they will let us know which areas will be affected so we can plan accordingly. To help keep learning at its best we have come up with several locations around the building that teachers can take their students to have class if the construction team lets us know that there will be excessive noise in their area on that day. Thank you for your patience and let me know if you have any questions.

