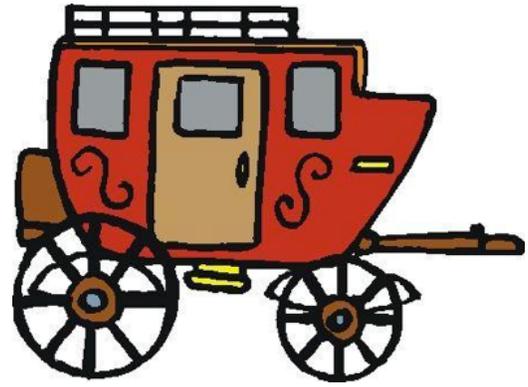


# September Parent Newsletter

Travis students are in for a record breaking year!



## Calendar of Events

- September 5
  - Holiday
- September 14
  - Student Progress Report
- September 16
  - PTO Fall Fundraiser Kick Off
- September 30
  - End of Six Weeks

## Principal's News

We had an excellent start to the new year. Thank you for your efforts to prepare your child for the start of school.

Please continue to be attentive to your child's progress as the academic year evolves. Continue your dialogue with your child about the school day. Use questions such as "How was your day?" "Do you have

homework?" "Who did you sit with at lunch?" These are just ideas for starting the conversation each day. If you can initiate the conversation as soon as you see your child each day, it will become part of a daily, "scheduled" event.

The involvement of parents in the education of their child is vital. By working together, parents and teachers can help a child acquire the skills and knowledge to the best of his or her ability.

Parents are a valuable source of information of what works best for their child and what might not work at all; therefore, making yourself known to your child's teachers is beneficial.

If you have questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers @ 940-325-7801. If necessary, schedule a time to meet with the teachers.

We look forward to an excellent year with your child!

Sincerely, Mrs. Griffin

## Meet Mrs. Murphy

Hello! I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself to all of you here at Travis. My name is Melissa Murphy, your new assistant principal, and I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with you. I am fortunate to be a part of the Travis Elementary 2016-2017 school year and want you to know I am here to serve you.

I have 15 years of experience in education and 12 of those years have been in Mineral Wells ISD. I have had the opportunity to work on every campus but the high school, and I have found many wonderful staff and students along the way. I have a wonderful and supportive husband, named Lann, and a precious 3 1/2 year old boy named Trey. As a family, we enjoy fishing, hunting, and going to the coast. I am thrilled to be here at Travis and please let me know if you have questions or concerns so I can be of help to you. Please call me at 325-7801 if I can be of assistance and thank you.

# Battling the Back-to-School Blues

Parents can make the first days of school fun rather than frustrating.

By Dr. Charles Fay

Too frequently, children begin the school year unprepared to succeed, quickly experience frustration and failure, and get turned-off to learning. However, kids can love instead of loath the first days of school; they just need a little help from mom and dad. Here's how:

## **Tip #1: Give your children the gift of chores.**

Children who regularly do chores at home find it much easier to do assignments at school. Why? Both schoolwork and chores require perseverance, delayed gratification, and attention to detail. When parents expect chores to be done without reminders and without pay, children also learn how to work independently and to enjoy the intrinsic rewards of accomplishment.

## **Tip #2: In a loving way, hold your children accountable for their chores.**

Parents who nag and remind their children to do chores raise kids who expect their teachers to nag and remind them to do assignments. These children don't do well in school. Smarter parents ask their children to do their chores, bite their tongues, and let empathy and consequences do the teaching. Why empathy? When parents deliver sincere doses of empathy or sadness before describing consequences, their children learn responsibility rather than resentment. A parent might say:

How sad... I love you so much, but you forgot to clean your bathroom today. Now I don't have the energy to take you swimming. This really stinks.

## **Tip #3: Limit television, videos, videogames, and other "entertaining" activities.**

Children who are used to being entertained during the summer by fast-paced TV shows, movies, games, and trips to the amusement park go into shock when they enter the classroom. Before long, they begin to complain about how "boring" their teachers are and how much they dislike school. Love and Logic parents help their children transition back to school by making their homes so "boring" that their kids can't wait to be back in class!

## **Tip #4: Have fun with reading and writing.**

During the first weeks of school, teachers can always tell the difference between the children who've been read to during the summer and those who have not. Spend at least 20 minutes per day reading with your kids. Experiment with reading one page, asking your child to read the next, and alternating back and forth. Writing is important too! Experiment with having your child spend the two weeks prior to the start of school making and writing cards for friends and relatives. Your child's writing skills will grow... and so will these relationships!

With these practical tips from The Love and Logic® Institute, you can give your kids an advantage in school that will last for months, years, and a lifetime! Parents around the world have benefited from the power of these four down-to-earth tips. Now it's your turn to give your kids a good start to a new school year.

# Camp Grady Spruce

Sixth grade students and parents, pay close attention to all Camp Grady Spruce deadline dates.