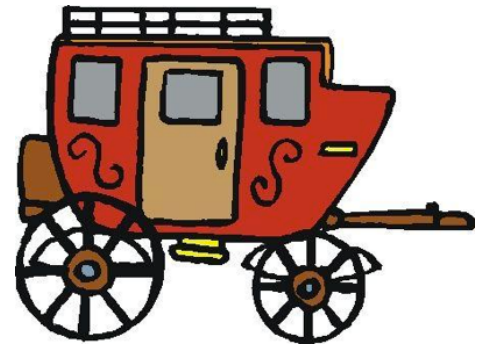


January Parent Newsletter

Travis students are blazing new trails!



Calendar of Events

January 4

- Report Cards

January 13

- Spelling Bee

January 17-19

- Awards Assemblies

January 25

- Progress Reports

Principal's News

We have many fun and exciting things planned for 2017, as well as the usual testing requirements. I hope everyone came back rested from the holidays and ready to take on the many things planned for the second semester of school at Travis.

There will be plenty of opportunities for our students to show how much they have learned.

The Spelling Bee, UIL competition, and Battle of the Books are exciting ways for our students to test their knowledge. Our students enjoy these events and learn a great deal through the preparation and practice they require. We are very proud of our students and teachers for taking on these challenges. It is a lot of extra work for both the students and teachers to prepare for these events. Thank you to all of the teachers and students that choose to go the extra mile and participate.

Another fun way that our students learn is by going to Camp Grady Spruce in sixth grade. Our sixth grade students and teachers are busy making preparations for their trip to Camp Grady Spruce the week after Spring Break. Our teachers spend many hours of their own time making preparations for this trip and planning the learning adventures for their students. I am sure this year will be as rewarding for our students and teachers as the past years have been.

As you can see, the second semester is packed with educational activities for our students. For these activities to be successful, parental support is a must. Thank you for being our partner in the education of your child.

Sincerely,
Natalie Griffin

GT Spring Nomination and Testing Window

The GT nomination window is March 1-28. Packets can be picked up during the nomination window. All packets must be received before the close of the nomination window date. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call Mr. Eastman @ 940-325-7801.

Writing

Writing is an area of self-expression in which there is no right or wrong answer. Writing requires self-reflection and is one of the last academic areas to develop.

Parents may ask how they can assist in helping their children become better writers. Here are several suggestions that can contribute to better writing and required very little time or preparation.

- ◆ Encourage your children to keep a journal. Finding the right words to express their feelings is part of the craft of writing.
- ◆ Encourage vocabulary development. Push children in conversations to improve their vocabulary. Prompt them to improve their vocabulary. Prompt them to move past overused words such as *good, bad, nice*.
- ◆ Make it a game when driving to come up with five ways to say something. Example: “I think your new coat is pretty/ravishing/exquisite/fashionable/trendy.”
- ◆ Keep lists of favorite words. Compare yours with theirs. (They will absorb yours as well as theirs.)
- ◆ Ask your child to respond to your questions in complete sentences. Example: “Did you take the trash out?” Instead of settling for, “Yeah” as an answer, strive for something such as, “Yes, I took it out earlier.”
- ◆ Ask for details. Example: If your child shares that he/she likes something, ask why. Push for more specifics.

Remember that writing is just putting well-developed thoughts on paper. Anything that helps to keep ideas flowing and expanding contributes to better writing.

Is Your Child’s Contact Information Current?

It is imperative that we have up-to-date contact information for your child, i.e. emergency names and phone numbers, home address, and parent/guardian numbers. If you have had a change in address or contact number since the submission of the initial paperwork, please send the updated information as soon as possible. Thank you for ensuring that we are able to get in touch with you regarding your child’s education and medical needs.

Awards Assemblies

January 17, 4th Grade

9:00 - Westmoreland, Benavides, Kalz, Buck, Pearre, and Kelly

9:45 - Butler, Jones, Ndungu, Bazzell, Peacock, Uptergrove

January 18, 5th Grade

8:45 - McNeil, Thompson, Alcorn, Diaz, Surratt, Cox

2:00 - Blakley, Stephenson, Nicklow, Acker, Tomlin, Barham

January 19, 6th grade and Mr. Pool’s Class

9:00 - Eagle, Vulgamore, Roberts, Buyers, Nichol, Watson

9:45 - Potts, Herring, Krynicki, Lovern, Pool