

**Settlers Way  
Elementary**

# Explorer News

**Volume 32, Issue 3**

**January 2017**

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## From The Principal

### *Happy New Year, Explorers!*

What a great fall semester we've had! It's been so impressive to see our students progress and to watch them go above and beyond to help the less fortunate and their community.

To recap their efforts, in November our Student Council organized a food drive for area families. Canned and nonperishable food items were generously donated to the East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry. Our students also participated in a coat drive to collect coats to give to charity. Our students and families then gave generously to the Exchange Club's Toys for Kids Program in December by providing new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to children throughout Fort Bend County. I'm so proud of their compassion shown to others and ask that you join me in encouraging them to seek other ways to help their community for the rest of the year.



As we begin this spring semester, I also want to pass on a few gentle reminders:

- Students should not be dropped off to campus before 7:30 a.m. as there is no supervision on campus grounds.
- Please use caution and drive slowly when pulling through the carpool lane.
- All students should have an established, routine way to go home every day. Changes should only be made in the event of an emergency and should not be required on a frequent basis.
- Calls to change your child's way home will not be accepted after 3:00 p.m.
- Make sure your child knows his/her severe weather dismissal plan. Students noted as walkers and bikers must have a "Severe Weather/Rainy Day Plan" on file with the homeroom teacher in the event our usual dismissal routine cannot be followed.

I'm looking forward to this next semester and thank you for all you do for the students and staff of Settlers Way Elementary.

Rachel Rosier

## Highlights

- Explorer Fest/Roundup Help Needed
- Playground Update
- Leading Ladies and Gentlemen of SWE
- Yearbook Order Form

## PTA Press Release

The Membership Committee appreciates everyone who joined the Settlers Way PTA during our 2016-2017 Membership Campaign. We had 249 families, including faculty members, to become PTA members. We have 100% of our staff joining PTA! The funds will be used for student field trips, materials, activities and much more. Help us, help our kids....YES, our campaign continues! So spread the word!



Families and faculty, your participation is essential. Pick up a form in the front office or have one emailed to you.

**REMEMBER:** The classroom with the most memberships will receive a Popsicle party. Support your PTA by joining TODAY.

## Letter From The President

Hello SWE Parents!

Thank you to all the students, teachers, parents, friends and family that pledged their money and time to Boosterthon this year. The students had a great time. And thanks to everyone's generosity, it was a huge success! SWE has collected approximately 94% of the pledges for a total over \$14,000. I also want to thank all the volunteers who spent many hours before, after and during the event! Without the volunteers, fundraisers like Boosterthon could never happen. So THANK YOU volunteers very much!

We have exciting things happening at SWE:

- **Explorer Fest/Round-Up** – On **Saturday February 25, 2017** we'll host our annual Explorer Fest/Round-Up! This will be a fun-filled family event with food, games, bounce houses, silent auction and lots of other activities! This is a great event but takes many volunteer hours to coordinate. Please consider volunteering! If you would like to volunteer or donate auction items for Explorer Fest/Round-Up, you can email Monique Crowley @ [moniquecrowley22@gmail.com](mailto:moniquecrowley22@gmail.com).
- **Playground** - Plans are still underway for building a new playground structure for our school. Playground plans are now in the final approval stages at FBISD administration. Our goal is to break ground this year and the PTA is very excited and ready to get this project finished for our SWE students!

Many thanks to our students and families that support our school and community service projects. Whether you've helped with supporting food drives, donation drives for our troops and veterans, you make a difference and make us all proud.

Finally, thank you to our PTA Board and Committee Members who have worked so hard for us all and to our new parents who have been quick to step up to volunteering! If anyone else might be interested in volunteering, we would love to have you help out!

Jeff Gricar  
SWE PTA President



## Greetings from the VIPS Coordinator

Welcome back from winter break everyone!

Hopefully it was nice and relaxing and you are ready for the next half of the school year and all the volunteering opportunities that are available at SWE. Please feel free to ask your teachers at any time if they need help on a project or stop by the VIPS room and see if there is a job in the teacher boxes that might need completing. I know our teachers love any and all help they can get!



Speaking of winter break, thank you to all who helped with the Winter Class Parties. Thank you to our grade coordinators, room parents and all of our visiting parents who provided a helping hand.

Our October VIPS of the Month is Monique Crowley. Monique is the first grade coordinator, serves on our PTA Ways and Means committee and is also our "T-shirt Lady." Thank you Monique for your time and dedication to SWE.

The November VIPS of the Month is Veronica Najera. Veronica is a room parent in second grade and is always willing to help. You can find her helping in the classroom or coordinating projects like door decorating for Red Ribbon Week and planning Winter Party activities. Thank you very much, Veronica!

Then to close out our first semester, our December VIPS of the Month is Raheleh Rahimzad. Raheleh is also a room parent in second grade and is very willing to help out. Thank you so much Raheleh for all your help and hard work!

Congratulations for our VIPS of the Month winners!

Kristie Crandall  
SWE VIPS Coordinator

# Without YOUR HELP for *Explorer Round-Up*, we're up a creek without a paddle...

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER  
YOUR TIME SO WE  
CAN MAKE  
*ROUND-UP*  
HAPPEN!!**

# 2016-2017 SWE Teacher of the Year

## Congratulations Kate Faulkner!

Mrs. Kate Faulkner is our 2016-2017 Settlers Way Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Faulkner grew up in Sugar Land and is a graduate of Fort Bend ISD schools. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Texas in Denton. She began her teaching career in 2010 in Fort Bend ISD as a fourth grade teacher at Jordan Elementary and came to Settlers Way in 2012. In 2015, Mrs. Faulkner obtained a Master's in Education Administration. Mrs. Faulkner currently teaches fourth grade math and science. We are very lucky to have such an outstanding teacher represent us in the district competition.



There were three other finalists for the title of 2016-2017 Settlers Way Elementary Teacher of the Year. These wonderful teachers are:

- Ms. Johannessen grew up in Sugar Land, attended Texas A & M and has taught first grade at Settlers Way for three years.
- Mrs. Dawson was raised in Coppel, Texas and attended Baylor University. She has taught second grade at SWE for three years.
- Mr. Blasdell has taught fourth and fifth grades at SWE during the last eight years. He received his undergraduate degree from Franciscan University in Ohio and his Master's in Education from the University of Houston, Victoria.

There are many wonderful teachers at Settlers Way making the Teacher of the Year selection process very difficult! I'm so proud and very fortunate to work with such a professional group of teachers.

Rachel Rosier





## News From The Library

The SWE library is a very busy place. We had a very successful November book fair, and our success is largely due to wonderful parent and student volunteers. Although book fair only runs for one week, it takes several weeks to prepare, and I want to thank all those who helped make our fair so successful especially our book fair volunteers and the 5<sup>th</sup> grade VISA student helpers! Our 2<sup>nd</sup> book fair this school year will be the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> with set-up on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

The different grade levels are also busy learning in the library. Here is just a small look at some of the things we are learning during library classes.

- Kindergarten students are learning how to choose books, and they are also listening to quality literature.
- First grade students are accessing Tumblebooks, one of the District's digital resources, where they are listening to and reading books on the computer. They are also learning about the features of non-fiction books and comparing fiction and non-fiction.
- Second grade students are learning how a library works and are learning how to search and read an on-line database using the library catalog.
- Third-Fifth grade students have been listening to book talks, using the on-line catalog, and learning about the Internet. Additionally, all of the students have been learning about Internet safety.

In addition to preparing for and having a successful book fair, learning about databases, and the Internet, over 10,000 books have been circulated in our library this year. Wow...we have great readers!!

We have a lot to look forward to over the next few months. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are busy reading Bluebonnet nominated books and the students in those grades who read five or more of the 20 nominated books will be eligible to vote for the state's winner at the end of January. Voting will take place in the library and we will announce the winner as soon as we know!

As a reminder, your child participates in one of the following 55 minute outclasses everyday: **PE, Art, Library, or Music**. Students are on a four-day rotation which means they go to a different outclass every 4 days. Since students do not have an assigned day for library, it is important to have a system in place so that their library books are at school on library day. One way to help remember the outclass order is to learn the acronym: **P.A.L.M.** (**P**E, **A**RT, **L**ibrary, **M**usic). Another suggestion is to have students keep library books in their backpack when they are not reading them so that they will always have them at school to read or return. SWE students should be checking-out books every time they come to library and returning them on time so others can enjoy them too.

**P**.E.

**A**rt

**L**ibrary

**M**usic

Thanks for everything you do to encourage reading at home and school!

Happy Reading!  
Mrs. Sackllah



# News From The Counselor's Corner

## Explorers Let's SOAR!

We are focusing on building character, maintaining a supportive and safe learning/working environment, and developing a college and career readiness mindset on our campus.

The Gentlemen and Leading Ladies of SWE are going strong! We will continue to focus on leadership, self-image, and community service.

### Gentlemen of SWE Schedule

- Tuesday, January 10, 2017
- Tuesday, January 17, 2017
- Tuesday, January 24, 2017
- Tuesday, February 7, 2017
- Tuesday, March 7, 2017
- Tuesday, April 4, 2017
- Possibly Friday, May 5, 2017

### Leading Ladies of SWE Schedule

- Thursday, January 12, 2017
- Thursday, January 19, 2017
- Thursday, January 26, 2017
- Thursday, February 9, 2017
- Thursday, March 9, 2017
- Thursday, April 6, 2017
- Possibly Friday, May 5, 2017

### Dates to Remember

- GT Test Results will be mailed home 02/03/17
- Credit by Exam
- Session 2 Registration 01/05/17 – 01/13/17
- Session 3 Registration 02/20/17 – 03/03/17

**No Place for Hate Activities** SWE will continue to participate in activities that encourage tolerance and unity.



**Anetria D. Woodard M.Ed.**

School Counselor  
 Phone: (281) 634-5321  
 Email: Anetria.Woodard@FortBendISD.com



# First Nine Weeks Award Winners

## PRO Award Winners

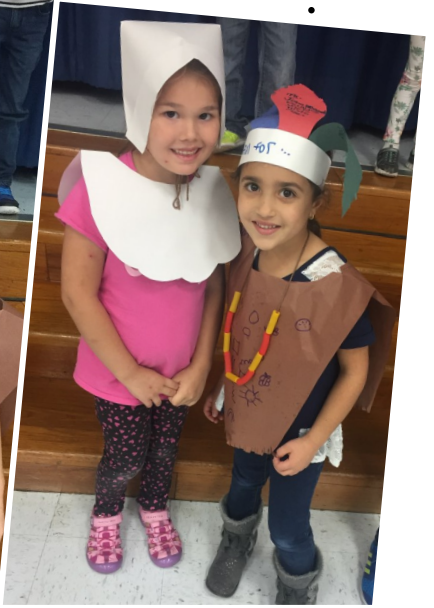
Milstead am	Marcus Y.	Annie N.
Milstead pm	Abdurrahman K.	Eliana T.
Coffman	Ethan M.	
McGee	Ahmad B.	
Kirby	Carlos S.	Amna S.
Nommensen		Erika M.
Williams		Deonc B.
Jaggi	Preston M.	Zimal B.
Crowley	Ephraim B.	Phoebe K.
Maler	Elaina B.	Maggie F.
Johannessen	Miguel G.	Tian hui Z.
Taylor	Arnav C.	Anika C.
Mani	Alex T.	Amy F.
Fanian	Keigen N.	Sofia G.
Dawson	Jeremiah B.	Cameron S.
Elson	Aryan G.	Raina S.
Lott	Hector B.	Shia G.
Bergerson	Rayan P.	Meagan S.
Honsberger	John E.	Elizabeth H.
Borque	Zachary K.	Kamryn H.
Vest	Azeem K.	Zaineb M.
Ellefson	Ethan M.	Trisha V.
Baker	Gavin V.	Karla Z.
O'Brien	Manan P.	Keira S.
Yee	Razin M.	Sophia M.
Guest	Ayan K.	Lilia D.
Faulkner	Jason G.	Keyla U.
DeMont	Issac M.	Caroline (Gracie) W.
Guzman	Nathan L.	Shalini M.
Blasdell	Gregory C.	Mizuki (Gracie) F.
Robichau	Ivan D.	Nikhita S.

## Writers Club Winners

McGee	Ernesto R.
Kirby	Josue S.
Nommensen	Deinon L.
Williams	Noor Q.
Jaggi	James C.
Crowley	Rishita K.
Maler	Dylan V.
Johannessen	Hammad H.
Taylor	Vyann H.
Mani	Violet M.
Fanian	Sophia A.
Dawson	Boya P.
Elson	Zayna W.
Lott	Imani C.
Bergerson	Sidharath S.
Honsberger	Tiya E.
Borque	Brandon G.
Vest	Adrian C.
Ellefson	Rachel L.
Baker	Harsha S.
O'Brien	Marche T.
Yee	Shruthi A.
Guest	Jasmine H.
Faulkner	Valerie H.
DeMont	Kaiden K.
Guzman	Laura W.
Blasdell	Hanyi W.
Robichau	Joshua W.



Fall is for feathers, feasts, finding the gingerbread man, fairy tales and....





# fire houses, friends and field trips that are FUN!



**Battleship Texas (BB-35)**  
America's Oldest Surviving Battleship





# Winning Explorers



## Spelling Bee Winners

**Back Row left to right:** Mrs. Melissa Richard, Mrs. Jennifer Wright, first place winner Joshua Wan (center), Mrs. Nan Zimmerman, and Mrs. Maggie Fuchs.  
**Front Row left to right:** Mrs. Lindsey Kielman, second place winner Crystal Fu, third place winner Alexander Jun, and Mrs. Rachel Rosier.



**Library Book Fair Give Away Winner**  
Gregory Chance



# YEARBOOK

**CELEBRATING MOMENTS THAT MATTER**

**Settlers Way Elementary School**

**ORDER BY 2/24/2017**

There are 2 easy ways to pay!

- 1. Pay online at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) with credit card, echeck or paypal
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**ICON 2**

**ICON 3**

**ICON 4**

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5236	5278	5011	9050	5001	5005	5010	5591	5589	5583	5255	5366	5021
5379	5076	5238	5015	5002	5006	5130	5258	5363	9042	5256	5587	5582
5480	5177	5586	5240	5003	5008	5980	5241	5364	5588	5257	5018	9037
5581	5682	5019	5982	5004	5009	9007	5242	FFA 5590	5023	5012	5584	5585

See more icon options at [www.jostens.com/ybicons](http://www.jostens.com/ybicons)

**4**

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_



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Personalization	\$5.00
Icon(s) ea.	\$3.00 x QTY
Autograph Section	\$2.60
Clear Protective Cover	\$2.60
Photo Pockets	\$2.60
HANDLING FEE	N/A
SUBTOTAL	
Tax	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	



3015 Settlers Way Blvd.  
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Phone: (281) 634-4360

Fax: (281) 634-4376

## SETTLERS WAY ELEMENTARY

*Shoots for the Stars*

## Settlers Way PTA Board

President	Jeff Gricar
Vice President	Veronica Lorine
Treasurer	Jamie Rodriguez
Secretary	Melissa Squires
Parliamentarian	Colleen Martin

## Calendar of Events

January 10th - Geography Bee, 2:00 pm

January 16th - MLK Holiday

January 18th - Pepperoni's Spirit Day

February 3rd - 100th Day of School

February 7th - PTA Board Meeting, 2:00 pm

February 9th - Chick-fil-A Spirit Day in Sugar Land

February 14th - Valentines Day and Valentines Class Parties, last 45 minutes of the day

February 17th - **EARLY RELEASE AT 12:10 PM** for parent conferences

February 20th - Student Holiday

February 21st - PTA Meeting and Math Night, 6:30 pm

February 25th - Explorer Fest/Round-Up

March 1st - PTA Meeting and Spring Open House

March 3rd - Multicultural Day Parade

March 7th - PTA Board Meeting, 2:00 pm

March 8th - First and Second Grade Hoedown

March 10th - End of 3rd nine weeks

March 12th - Time Change, spring ahead 1 hour

March 13th - 17th - Spring Break Holidays

March 23rd - Chuys Spirit Night

March 28th - 29th - STAAR Testing for 4th/5th Grades

