

**Settlers Way
Elementary**

Explorer News

Volume 33, Issue 4

March 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PTA News	2
Explorer Round-Up	3
News From The Library	4
Counselors Corner	5
PRO Award and Writer's Club Winners	8
Event Pictures	9-11
Calendar of Events	12

From The Principal

Dear Parents,

Great things continue to happen at Settlers Way every day! Our students and teachers are working very hard and are tackling the last few months of school with great willingness and enthusiasm.

Our students in third, fourth and fifth grades are preparing for their first round of the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests. Please check your child's Tuesday folder and your email because we will send out more information as these test dates get closer.

As spring arrives, I also want to ask for your continued support in a few different areas. We are having children dropped off and left unsupervised before 7:30 a.m. Please do not drop off students before 7:30 a.m. as there is no supervision or staff on duty before this time. Also, if your child participates in after-school events, it is imperative that they be picked up on time. It's also very important that you continue to check your child's backpack daily for important information from school and to remind your children to turn in their homework on time. When parents are involved in their children's education at home, their children do better in school.

In addition to our parents, the Settlers Way PTA plays a very important role in our students' success. Unlike many other elementary campuses, our PTA helps us to fund two PTA-sponsored field trips per year - at no cost to each student - and they provide financial assistance to purchase added instructional items that benefit our teachers and students each day. We are very appreciative for a wonderful, very supportive PTA board and membership. Our PTA is currently looking to fill vacancies on the PTA board for the next school year too. If you would like to participate on the PTA Board for the 2018-2019 school year, please call me at (281) 634-4360 or email me at rachel.rosier@fortbendisd.com. There are positions open with a wide range of involvement needed. Whether you have a full time job or are a stay-at-home parent, we have a position for you. We would love to have you as a member of the Settlers Way PTA Board!

Thank you for all of the time, energy, and support that you give SWE. Our school's success is due in large part to your generous help and continued enthusiasm!

Rachel Rosier



PTA Press Release

Letter From the President

Parents,

We're over halfway through this school year, so we're now beginning to plan for next year. Several of our PTA volunteers are moving on to middle school, so we'll have a number of openings on the board. If you would like to become involved with the PTA, please notify me or Angela Pena, our VIPS Coordinator. Whether you are a stay-at-home parent or you work out of the home, I'm positive we'll have something that will accommodate your schedule. Your help is truly needed and appreciated!

We have some fabulous parents who organized our Explorer Round-Up this year. They worked tirelessly and with an enormous amount of dedication. Many thanks to the Round-Up Planning Committee! You're all amazing!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding our SWE PTA, please don't hesitate to ask! Thanks for your support of PTA!

Veronica Lorine
President
vlorine36@gmail.com



Letter From VIPS

Can you believe the school year is almost over? Time sure is flying!! Thank you to all the wonderful VIPS who volunteered with the Valentine's parties, Explorer Round-Up, and Book Fair. None of these events would be possible without you! April 19th is Field Day, so mark your calendars to come and join in the fun!!

VIPS of the Month for December is Parisa Ahmadi. Parisa is a fabulous room mom and also our Box Tops Chairperson. She spent countless hours preparing for and helping out at Explorer Round-Up. Thank you Parisa for everything you do!!

VIPS of the Month for January is Monica Keeling. Monica is always ready to help out where help is needed. She assists with parties, Book Fair and also spent countless hours preparing for and planning for Explorer Round-Up. Thank You Monica for everything you do!

VIPS of the Month for February is Ann Velasco. Ann is the kindergarten grade coordinator and room mom for her granddaughter's class. She also spends numerous hours taking pictures and planning the SWE yearbook and also sponsored the Photography Club this year. Ann was also the Explorer Round-Up Food Chairperson. Thank you Ann for EVERYTHING you do!

Our VIPS of the Month for March is our entire Explorer Round-Up Committee. While there were a number of volunteers that helped out for this year's Round-Up event, this key committee, made up of Vasu Santhanam, Allison Rutledge, Monica Keeling, Kim Taylor, Ann Velasco, Parisa Ahmadi and Diana Orbegoso Corcuera, were the main coordinators that pulled together each and every job or task before and after Round-Up to make this year's event fun and very successful! **Team work makes the dream work!**

Angela Pena
SWE VIPS Coordinator
Volunteers.swe@gmail.com



Explorer Round-Up Update

Explorer Round Up was a BLAST!!!

Our community came out to support SWE in a BIG Way!

We stand to raise close to \$16,000 for SWE, making it one of our top fundraisers!

The kids had a blast with the carnival and most of the silent auction items were won at major discounts making it a Win-Win for the school and the winner!!

We want to extend a BIG Thank You to our Gold and Silver Level Sponsors!

Gold: Moona Haque, MD @ SWOBGYN

Gold: Todd Harmon, MD, DDS

Silver: C2 Education

Silver: i9 Sports

Silver: LipoTuck

Silver: Goddard Schools @ Sienna Plantation

Individual Staff Shout-Outs:

- Kim Taylor, for ticket sales and help at the donation collection site
- Brenda Perkins and Lesa Wagner, for administrative support
- Dunking Booth Volunteers
- Maria Rangel, our lead custodian
- Flavia Sirrieh, for all the copies she made
- And several others!!

PTA Explorer Round-Up Team:

Vasu Santhanam - Explorer Round-Up Lead Chair, Sponsors, and Games

Allison Rutledge - Summer Camps, Sponsors, and Silent Auction

Monica Keeling - Silent Auction

Parisa Ahmadi - Sponsor and Games

Diana Valdivieso - Graphics and flyers

Ann Velasco - Food

Combined, this team put in over 300 hours to make this event possible for SWE.

Also, thank you to:

- All of the teachers that stayed after school on Friday.
 - To the parents/staff that came Saturday morning to help set up.
 - To the parents, staff, and student volunteers who helped with all the games.
 - The volunteers, teachers and staff that stayed to help with post event and clean up.
- I apologize if we accidentally left anyone off.

Your service and time contribution to SWE is what makes us successful!

Going forward - We are looking for additional PTA parent volunteers next school year!

If you are looking for a way to help your school and interact with your SWE Staff, this is a great way to get to know them.

Please email AllisonRutledge1@gmail.com and let her know if you are interested for the 2018/2019 school year.

We also have PTA Executive Board positions open if that interests you too!

ANYONE can help! Flexible hours!

On a personal note, I also have a full time job and both my husband and I travel. Our kids are in multiple sports 6 days a week and multiple events every weekend...but we chose PTA volunteering as a way to be an integral part of this school. I'd love to see you join us! :)

Allison Rutledge





News From The Library

The library has been a busy place this year, and I want to give a special thanks to all of our wonderful library volunteers who help out...Thank you! You are all amazing!!!

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have been busy reading and voting for their favorite Bluebonnet books in the library. In January, 141,141 Texas students in grades 3 – 6 who read a minimum of 5 books on the list voted for their favorite book.

There were 1,488 schools in Texas that participated and SWE was one of those schools. At SWE, we had 186 students vote. This year's winner is *The Last Kids on Earth*, by Max Brallier and Doug Holgate and it received 22,757 votes. Second place went to *The Great Pet Escape* by Victoria Jamieson, and third place to *Whoosh!* by Chris Barton and Don Tate.

Another reading activity sponsored by the SWE library is the Texas Readers Club, and it is in full swing too. Students need to keep reading and completing projects for eligibility. Please check with your child's teacher for grade level requirements. Remember all projects need to be completed and all books read (and recorded in the Texas Readers Folder) by the first Friday in May.

We had our book fair a little earlier than usual this year, due to STAAR testing in May, and it was a lot of fun. Again, I want to thank all the parents, grandparents, community members, and students who helped to make this such a great event!

As a reminder, library is part of the outclass rotation along with, art, music, and P.E. Students are on a four-day rotation. This means they will go to a different outclass every 4 days. To help learn the rotation, you can learn the acronym: P.A.L.M. The students will rotate through outclasses in this order.

Parents, please remind students that they need to return all of their library books on their scheduled library day; just check with your child to find out his/her color group. If a student is not finished reading a book, please bring it to library class, and I will re-check the book out to him/her again. In addition to checking out books in the library, students learn skills that teach them to become independent lifelong learners.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Sackllah



News From The Counselor's Corner

Upcoming Events

SWE Career Day – May 22, 2018

We are still looking for presenters. Please contact the school counselor if you are interested in presenting for SWE Career Day. Contact Anetria Woodard at 281-634-5321 or anetria.woodard@fortbendisd.com.

STAAR Season is Coming!

SWE will have “Stomp the STAAR” week May 7th – 10th.
More information will be coming home soon.

Watch Dogs

Dads, are you interested in helping out at SWE?
SWE is looking for dads that may be interested in monitoring our campus in the morning, during arrival, and in the afternoon for dismissal.
If you are interested, please contact Rachel Rosier at 281-634- 4360 or rachel.rosier@fortbendisd.com.

Character Education Focus

SWE students will continue to study good character as we implement our Core Essentials character curriculum.

April – Peace
May – Honesty

Anetria D. Woodard M.Ed.
School Counselor
Phone: (281) 634-5321

Email: Anetria.Woodard@fortbendisd.com



**SAFETY
FIRST**

Parents and drivers of students should be using the carpool line for morning drop-off and dismissal pick-ups. Due to safety concerns, the back parking lot/faculty parking lot should never be used for dropping off students in the morning.



**SAFETY
FIRST**

Parents may also park in the visitor lot or tennis court area and walk their students to campus. Pedestrian traffic should always cross streets as designated crosswalks, especially during crossing guard hours. Please refrain from crossing the street through high traffic areas as it poses a serious safety risk and teaches our students that they may also ignore traffic laws and safety procedures.

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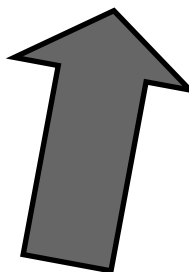
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WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)



Dear SWE Dads,

We are thinking about implementing a program on our campus modeled after the Watch D.O.G.S program many schools have in place, but would like to get your feedback first to determine if the cost and organization of the program is substantiated. Please read up on The Watch D.O.G.S to see if this is something you are interested in starting at SWE, and if you are, send me an email so I can gauge volunteer interest.

This is a very good program, but will only work if we have the volunteer base to support it.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Rachel A. Rosier

WATCH D.O.G.S. @ (Dads Of Great Students) is a family and community engagement educational initiative. There are 2 primary goals of the WATCH D.O.G.S. program.

1. To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
2. To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

WATCH D.O.G.S.@ began in 1998 in a single school in Springdale, Arkansas and has since grown into a nationally recognized program that has brought hundreds of thousands of fathers and father figures into the school classrooms and hallways across the country, creating millions of hours of "in school" volunteer time and having a tremendously positive impact on the educational process.

Program Benefits

- Students gain positive male role models.
- Schools gain an extra set of eyes and ears. The presence of a father or father figure will provide an additional deterrent to bullying, enhance a sense of security in the building, and will help to create an environment conducive to learning.
- Fathers get a glimpse of their students' everyday world and learn about the increasingly complex challenges and decisions today's youth are facing. As a result, they can learn to relate better to their student and hopefully connect with them.
- Fathers gain a greater awareness of the positive impact they can have on their student's life in three critical areas including: academic performance, self-esteem, social behavior.
- Due to budget shortfalls and cutbacks, often teachers are presented with larger classrooms each year. The WatchDOGS volunteers provide real and important help for the teachers and the students.

Who are WatchDOGS Dads Of Great Students ?

WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at an official WATCH D.O.G.S. @ school. During the day, WatchDOGS may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well. Many school principals have reported that the mere presence of a WatchDOG dramatically reduces reports of bullying. On the day of their participation, WatchDOGS are given a brief review of their involvement and they wear an official WATCH D.O.G.S. @ t-shirt with a disposable 'Dog Tag' identifying them as WatchDOGS.

Program Recognition

The WATCH D.O.G.S.@ program has been recognized by the United States Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and has been involved in the U.S. Department of Education's P.F.I.E. (Partnership For Family Involvement In Education) and the Department's Safe School Summit. The WATCH D.O.G.S. program is a founding member of National PTA's M.O.R.E. Alliance (Men Organized to Raise Engagement). The WATCH D.O.G.S. program was featured on ABC World News Tonight with Charlie Gibson in their "Spirit of America" segment on November 17, 2008, on NBC's Nightly News with Brian Williams on September 12, 2012 and on NBC's Today Show which aired February 11, 2013. Also, the program has been recognized on the floor of Congress as a program that "can be a great tool in our efforts to prevent school violence and improve student performance because it can increase parental initiative and involvement in their children's education." (Congressional Record, February 7, 2000 page S392) WATCH D.O.G.S. @ has been endorsed by the President's Advisory Council and included in the March 2010 report to the President. In June 2011, US Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan visited a local WATCH D.O.G.S. program in the DC area to encourage fathers and father figures to become more active in the educational system and to get a firsthand glimpse of the program.



Third Nine Week Award Winners

PRO Award Winners

Milstead am	Kyami C.	Mia H.
Milstead pm	Liam H.	Kierah N.
Smith	Khajae C.	Theresa K.
Zachary	Nicholas R.	
Kirby	Josue S.	
Payne/Myers	Trinh D.	Erika M.
Maler	Advik S.	Emmalyn S.
Crowley	Jacob S.	Rafaella V.
Munoz	Tarun S.	Riley V.
Mehta	Bo F.	Taylor L.
Taylor	Kenneth C.	Alizeh T.
Fanian	Renato V.	Laiyla L.
Mani	Roy D.	Elizabeth W.
Hsu	David T.	Rishita K.
Bergerson	Aaron F.	Reja E.
Honsberger	Joseph M.	Riley D.
Lott	Zayan S.	Adiella T.
Mercedes	Aaron A.	Violet M.
Borque	Juan G.	Maliya C.
Roberts	John E.	Kayley G.
Baker	Isa K.	Rebecca Z.
Gutierrez	Jaden P.	Sidney G.
Ellefson	Julen G.	Ava M.
Roberson	Chris P.	Halle J.
Guest	Manikanta K.	Savannah D.
Edwards	Shaival S.	Zaineb M.
Vest	Brandon G.	Adriana T.
Chowdhury	Jamal R.	Neda D.
Gaskamp	Masamo F.	Rachel L.
DeMont	Caesar A.	Rachel Y.
Blasdell	Nikhil A.	Melanee J.
Guzman	Eric G.	Beyza A.
Outen	Manuel A.	Zaarah H.

Writers Club Award Winners

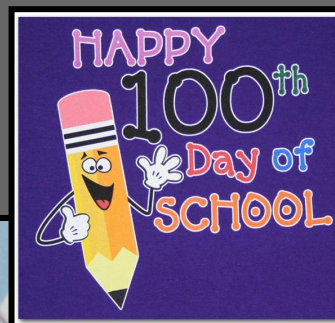
Kirby	Muen M.
Payne/Myers	Shannoy P.
Maler	Eliza M.
Crowley	Gene M.
Munoz	Scarlett T.
Mehta	Isaiah K.
Taylor	Ishita K.
Fanian	Caleb E.
Mani	Khloe C.
Hsu	Lana N.
Bergerson	Vyann H.
Honsberger	Louis L.
Lott	Zayan S.
Mercedes	Laxmi K.
Borque	Ryleigh D.
Roberts	Kayley G.
Baker	Raina S.
Gutierrez	Chikezie O.
Ellefson	Sanithila S.
Roberson	Gianna B.
Guest	Conner M.
Edwards	Azeem K.
Vest	Josie P.
Chowdhury	Zayan B.
Gaskamp	Aarush N.
DeMont	Valerie H.
Blasdell	Dylan S.
Guzman	Mauricio C.
Outen	Bailey S.



Congratulations Geography Bee Winners!



Celebrating 100: Mrs. Fanian, Mrs. Mani, Mrs. Hsu & Mrs. Taylor



Mrs. Bergerson's 2nd Grade Class





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Sugar Land, TX 77479

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SETTLERS WAY ELEMENTARY

Shoots for the Stars

Settlers Way PTA 2017-18 Board

President	Veronica Lorine
Vice President	Jamie Rodriguez
Treasurer	Veronica Najera
Secretary	
Parliamentarian	Kristie Crandall

Calendar of Events

March 29 - Deadline for the Skeeter's Reading Program
March 30 - School Holiday
April 3 - PTA Board Meeting, 9:30 am
April 9 - Pennies for Patients Drive begins
April 10 - STAAR Testing for 4th grade writing and 5th grade math
April 11 - STAAR Testing for 5th grade reading
April 12 - Second grade field trip
April 18 - Spring picture retakes
April 19 - Field Day
April 20 - Student Holiday
April 23 - 27 - VIPS Appreciation Week
April 26 - First grade field trip
April 26 - PTA/Reception
.....more to come!