

TIGER TRAX

MARY ORR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

PTA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students:

We send warm and personal greetings from the campus of Mary Orr Intermediate "Home of the Tigers".

One of our major goals for the upcoming school year will be to continue building positive connections with our parents/guardians, students, and community. Through consistent communication, invitations to serve on school committees and excellent customer service we will build lasting relationships that will enhance the learning environment at Mary Orr Intermediate School.

We continue to improve our academic programs by providing staff development for our staff and restructuring our schedules and academic courses. Presently, we are implementing the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program during Advisory to prepare students for college. Students will learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and participate in motivational activities. Our challenging academic program is designed to adequately take the student to the next level in their career. We offer a full curriculum of Math, Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, Choir, Art, Computer Technology, Physical Education, and Science Exploration.

At Mary Orr Intermediate the staff and students embrace character education. By implementing the Six Pillars of Character, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship, students can grow to be respectful persons who will exercise leadership in building a better world. Monthly assemblies are scheduled throughout the year to recognize students who display the character trait of the month.

Student academic success at Mary Orr Intermediate is truly dependent on a cooperative triangle of student-teacher parent/guardian. We encourage and depend on you to take an active and supportive role in your son/daughter's education at Mary Orr Intermediate School. I look forward to your continued support and personal involvement in the weeks ahead.

Respectfully,
Alma Martinez
Principal

The President's Address

Hello Tiger Families,

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! Hopefully your students are settling in to a routine and enjoying Mary Orr! I want to thank all of you who have chosen to be active in the school and PTA by serving as volunteers, room reps, and by joining Mary Orr PTA. We need and appreciate your support; it is the combined efforts of an outstanding faculty and staff, and dedicated, involved parents that make Mary Orr an extraordinary school!

Your PTA Board is busy planning and preparing for another great year. The PTA fundraiser (La-Tee-Dah!™ Fundraising with Fragrance) will be sent home with students on Oct. 15th, with an expected product delivery date of Nov. 15th. There will be opportunities to volunteer with upcoming socials and teacher appreciation events. Remember to check the marquee and the PTA website (<http://www.geocities.com/maryorrptamansfield/>) for the most current information on upcoming events.

The PTA has the following positions open: Talent Show, Historian, and Council Delegate. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me for more information.

I'm honored to work with this community. Thanks for your support, and if you have any questions regarding PTA, please feel free to contact me.

Julie Peterson

Mary Orr PTA President
(817) 473-7539
juliep@gucl.com

MOIS PTA Newsletter

Mary Orr Intermediate School
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Alma Martinez – Principle
Julie Peterson – PTA President
Merlinda Johnson - Editor

5A

Social Studies (Mrs. Steele)

We are off to a great start in social studies! We have created and designed a vest to get acquainted on Team 5 A. They look fantastic!! Students have adjusted quite well and are anxious to move forward. We are currently studying geography and are dealing with locations. We have learned that the earth is divided into hemispheres and we can find any place by using latitude and longitude coordinates. Students will create an Illustrated Glossary of geographic terms that describe place. Next, we will begin to study the earliest native civilizations in America and how geography influenced where they lived, and how they lived and worked. I am thrilled to have your children in class and I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year!! Thanks for all of your support.

Science (Mrs. Cockrum)

What a great start to a busy year!! We have been discussing lab safety, tools, the metric system, the scientific method, and have started learning about life science. Remember, all 5th graders will take a science TAKS test on May 1, 2008. Team 5A will do great I am sure. I am looking forward to a great year!!!

Language Arts (Mrs. Johnson)

We have had a wonderful start to the New Year. Being in fifth grade is an exciting and challenging time for our students. Parents, we appreciate all you have done to help your children get started this year at Mary Orr. In Language Arts we have begun reading *The Pinballs* by Betsy Byars. This novel takes place during the 1970's. Carlie is far out, but needs to find peace! Harvey and Thomas J. are groovy! We will continue to read what life is like for these three children who have ended up in a foster home together. We enjoyed reading about Louis Armstrong in *Satchmo's Blues*. We heard his gravelly voice in a real life recording of him singing and playing his horn. What an incredible talent he was! Tuesday night reading passages are still coming home. Please make sure your child takes the time to show proof for every answer. I encourage you to spend time at home reading with your child since we are working towards our goals for Accelerated Reader. This grade counts as 10% of the six weeks average. Please feel free to email or call if you have any questions.

5B

Bobcat Community Service Project (Mrs. Villarreal)

The 5B Bobcats have adopted the residents from the Mansfield Nursing Center as our 2007-2008 Community Service Project. During our advisory class, we will collect items for the residents. Each month a different teacher will be in charge of delivering gifts to the Mansfield Nursing Center. For the month of October, Ms. Roachelle's advisory class will be collecting lotion for the residents at the Mansfield Nursing Center. We are CARING Bobcats; it's a Mary Orr thing.

Math (Mrs. Villarreal and Mrs. Berryhill)

Hello 5B Parents and Guardians! Welcome to Mary Orr Intermediate! We are very excited about teaching your child mathematics this year! We have been working hard already this year reviewing the basic processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. We really need your help! Please review the multiplication facts with your child at every opportunity! We expect the children to walk in knowing these facts in the fifth grade. If they have not mastered these, we really need your assistance because we cannot spend much class time working on them. The multiplication facts are essential in working long division problems, factoring numbers, and simplifying fractions. We have got to get those down! We have also learned how to factor numbers, tell if the number is prime or composite, and how to make arrays showing all of the possible factor pairs. Wow! Three weeks ago we were laying by a pool! We are now beginning place value including the decimal places of tenths, hundredths, and thousandths! We look forward to a great year working with you and your children!!!



From the Library:

Mrs. Boyett – Librarian
boyeje@mansfieldisd.org

**The Book Fair is coming!!
November 1-7**

Parent Volunteers are needed!

If you are interested in working a
shift, please call or email
Mrs. Boyett (817-473-5664).

General Library Information:

Hours: 7:35 to 3:15

Students may check out 2 books at a time
Overdue fines of 10 cents per day are charged for
books that are more than 1 day late

Accelerated Reader:

A copy of the Mary Orr Accelerated Reading List
can be found on the Mary Orr Library website. It is
called QuizList Interactive. The AR List is over
4,500 titles long so we don't have paper copies of
the list anymore. The online list is interactive;
students can enter information such as reading
levels, subjects, authors, etc. and search for AR
titles that are interesting to them. You will also find
pre-made lists on QuizList such as the Teacher's
Top Choices list and the Fifth Graders Favorites list.
You can access QuizList by going to:

http://www.mansfieldisd.org/schools/morr/school_library/library.htm

5B (cont'd)

Social Studies (Mr. Hesse)

The bells of the first day are several weeks behind us
now but the pace of the action in the halls and
classroom remains the same. We're off and running
and looking forward to a great year here with the 5B
Bobcats!

During the first 6-weeks we explored the topics of basic
geography and the different ways it affects where and
how people live and completed an illustrated glossary of
geographic terms. We also examined this by looking at
the Native Americans and the adaptations they had to
make depending on where they chose to live. The
students also created origin story "skins" (since there
was no paper back then) and made up a story about
their own origin. We went to the computer lab, worked
with partners and completed a web quest on the early
European explorers. Students also learned to use my
CPS system that we take quizzes on electronically using
remotes. These quizzes are mainly what I call "MGC's"
which is maps-graphs-n-charts. Being able to read
these are not only important for every content and
subject area, but it is an important life-long skill as well.
We closed out the 6-weeks by beginning to explore the
first three English settlements and their successes and
failures.

The second 6-weeks we will concentrate on Colonial life
and the tensions that began building which lead up to
the Colonists declaring independence from England.
We should begin the Revolutionary War towards the
end of this grading period. Speaking of
grades.....parents (and students even though you've
heard this from me a LOT) please be aware that I only
have you every other day (1/2 time) and consequently
you will only get 8-10 grades during a grading period. It
is VERY important that you take EVERY grading
opportunity seriously and do your absolute best. Every
grade has an impact. For more information on my class
and what's going on, please check out my website:
www.dhesse.com

Join the MOIS PTA today!!!!

Wow! Congratulations to all the parents and students for surviving the transition into fifth grade! We made it, despite the locks on the lockers, the additional textbooks, the "A" and "B" days, and the shorter recess periods! It looks like it's smooth sailing from here on out, knock on wood! The teachers on 5-C would like to thank all of the parents who came out to our Meet-the-Teacher Night. We enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to working with you throughout this school year.

Stay tuned for what's happening in a classroom near you.

Science (Mrs. Vickery)

In Science we are beginning with Scientific Processes, and then we will move into the study of Life Science through the use of the FOSS Kit "Environments." We will be studying plants, animals, and the interactions between/among them in various environments. Our class work will be very "hands-on," and there will be daily written responses to our experiences.

Social Studies (Mrs. Kindred)

In Social Studies we will continue to work on map skills and how geography influences our daily lives (Mrs. Fisher is hoping that some of what Mrs. Kindred is teaching will rub off on her. She still seems to get lost simply going upstairs in the building.) The students will be learning about various geographic regions, effects of geography, and geographic physical features. We will then discuss the Columbian Exchange, Native American's Cultures and encounters of some of the explorers. Please know that this is **the plan**, but that we are still working on some classroom procedures, so **the plan** is a little bit behind schedule, but we'll get there!

Mrs. Thomas

Mrs. Thomas continues to stress the importance of vocabulary, vocabulary, vocabulary! Students are improving their reading comprehension with practice reading passages. Students are encouraged to read to their parents at home. Reading for at least twenty minutes a night would be great! (Editor's note: Take a walk by her room and you will see some FANTASTIC work that her students are doing!)

Math (Miss Kelm and Miss Benson)

Miss Kelm's and Miss Benson's math classes are off to a great start! This year, we will be using *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space* as our curriculum. The main goal of this curriculum is to provide students meaningful mathematical problems, to emphasize depth in mathematical thinking, and to increase the pool of mathematically-literate students. Students will explore problems more in depth, develop many solutions to the different problems they work on, invent strategies and approaches, work in groups, and move around the room in order to explore mathematics in their environment.

Our first unit of focus is *Mathematical Thinking at Grade 5*. Students have begun to explore factors and multiples of 100, 1,000, and 10,000. They have been solving problems and puzzles that involve building numbers in various ways, such as skip counting and multiplying factor pairs. Students will begin to use their knowledge of relationships among landmark numbers up to 10,000 to develop strategies for solving computation problems. This first unit will help introduce students to a mathematics classroom in which the emphasis is on developing strategies and solving problems in more than one way. We look forward to a wonderful year!

Language Arts Mrs. Lemser

We are on our way to learning Latin and Greek roots, SAT words and their meanings, and lots of grammar. In the world of Tuck Everlasting, we are reading about two very different families that live in Treegap. We will find out if Winnie will drink from the Magic Spring Water or not. What would you do? In a different world of Reading, we are finding out about the history of words; how they came to be and maybe even create a new word of our own, just like in the book, Frindle. Did you know that you could have a "BRINKLES" on your face when you get up in the morning? "Brinkles" are those wrinkles you find on your face from the wrinkles on your bed sheets or pillow case. What is a word only your family knows? We will also be working on spelling, improving our penmanship skills, and of course, fine-tuning our TAKS TEST skills. What a great start for the new school year!

Mrs. Yancy's Language Arts

What a great start to the new school year! We have started off with a lot of enthusiasm for reading (my favorite thing, of course).

Sixth graders in block 2 are reading the novel, Joey Pigza Loses Control. It is funny, yet touching at the same time. In Block 3, my 5th graders have begun the novel, The Pinballs by Betsy Byers. Both of these books are easy for students to relate to since they deal with family relationships and problem solving. Both groups are using the skills they are learning to create a book cover for each novel.

In Block 1, both 5th and 6th graders will be reading a non-fiction article on the orphan trains of the late 1800's. We will follow up with an historical fiction book, Train to Somewhere, which deals with the same subject.

After visiting the library, students are busy doing their independent reading and trying to earn AR points. Beginning the week of September 10th, all Language Arts students will begin working on TAKS related passages. These will be sent home on Tuesdays, and are due the next day. Please remind and encourage your child to complete this homework and return it the next day. It is a great diagnostic tool for teachers to use to plan targeted lessons.

Thank you for your support. I am looking forward to meeting you during the year.



Language Arts Mrs. Fisher

Mrs. Fisher sometimes thinks it would be easier and less time-consuming to write about what we are NOT doing in Language Arts. ☐ (She challenges you to look on the TEA website for the TEKS that are taught in fifth-grade Language Arts . . . you'll see what she's talking about!) Thus far, her classes are behind her classes from last year in the number of teeth pulled during class. Come on fifth-graders, let's get wiggling! Seriously, we're performing all of the standard rituals found in a Language Arts classroom: vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and TAKS practice. You name it, we do it. Mrs. Fisher loves the kids on 5-C and says, in the words of Tony the Tiger, "They're Grreeeeaaaaaat!"

Coming attractions on 5C:

Allergy season is on its way. Will the teachers of 5C run out of tissue? Will the fifth graders scoff at blowing their noses on . . . (insert scary background movie music) . . . TOILET TISSUE? Aaaagggghhh! Stay tuned next time for the dramatic conclusion!

Support this Great School

Join The MOIS PTA Today

Contact Dana Taylor

(817) 239- 6652

danataylorcsr@hotmail.com

6A

Science (Mrs. Sibila)

During the first six weeks we've done activities about the Nature of Science, including the great importance of laboratory safety. The regular classes have done observation and measurement labs, and PreAp has done labs to understand the components of Experimental Design. I am enjoying the spirit and love of science your children have. Thank you so much if you have sent science supplies with your child, they are greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your support and great start to the school year!!!

Team News:

Please make sure your child has the supplies he/she needs for success at school, and check their Assignment Book. Initialing it on Thursday night allows them to earn Market Tickets when it is checked on Friday.

NASA Field Trip



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

6A's NASA Field Trip originally scheduled for December 5, 2007 has been postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Don't worry; all monies paid will be applied to the rescheduled trip. More information will be sent home soon.

Please direct any questions to your child's Advisory teacher.

6A

Language Arts (Mrs. Godawski)

I enjoyed meeting all the parents at meet the teacher night. Everyone was pleasant and positive! We are adjusting to the earlier schedule this year and most are enjoying going home earlier. My classes are enjoying The Cay and all of the other activities we are doing in class.

Parents please encourage your student to read independently each evening, complete the Tues. homework selections carefully, and study for all tests! I am looking forward to the best year ever!

Math (Ms. Jenny Thomas)

LET'S KEEP MOVING! The beginning of this year has seemed to take off faster than we imagined! In math, we've been given the opportunity to explore concepts by exercising our critical thinking skills to a heightened level in our first unit, "Prime Time". On 6A, the past few weeks have spent focusing on properties of whole numbers. We have recently established close relationships with factors/divisors, multiples/products, prime/composite numbers, and have lately been able to make conjectures about numerous problem solving situations. We will be completing Prime Time in the immediate future and moving on to understand the "Bits & Pieces (I)" of our world. In "Bits & Pieces I" we will begin to practice real world applications and uses of fractions, decimals, and percents. In this unit, students will gain a great understanding of rational numbers from utilizing fraction strips, number lines, grids, etc. while having the chance to write, compare, order, and estimate using fractions, decimals, and percents.

Thank you for being involved in your child's learning here at Mary Orr. Please continue to look over completed homework assignments and observe how all of these concepts are used in our surroundings. Thank you parents for all you do. We truly appreciate your participation in your child's learning. We as teachers will continue to work hard with you to help your child to continue to be a successful individual!

Go Cougars!!!!

6B

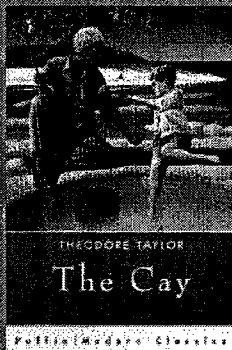
Language Arts

(Ms. Thompson and Ms. McClendon)

6B's language arts teachers, Ms. Thompson and Ms. McClendon, are happy to report that their students have been working hard and are looking forward to the year ahead. This first six weeks we have read The Cay by Theodore Taylor, a classic novel about a young boy named Phillip and an old sailor named Timothy who are stranded together on a small island in the Caribbean during World War II after the ship they are on is torpedoed. Parents, ask your students about this wonderful story if they haven't already told you about it.

We have also been exploring who we are as writers and gathering ideas in our writing portfolios through a variety of free writing and brainstorming exercises.

Students, please remember that you should be reading a minimum of thirty minutes each evening from an AR book. Also remember that you must have your reading log signed by a parent before you are allowed to take an AR quiz on the computer...happy reading, everyone!



Social Studies (Ms. Joines)

It is hard to believe that we are back in school and October is right around the corner. We are currently reviewing map skills such as absolute and relative location. Students have been writing spy stories using longitude and latitude coordinates to locate the secret places their spies have traveled. We will soon begin discussing globalization, world population issues and the many ways our world is connected.

I am very excited about having your student in my class this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time by email or phone. I am looking forward to fantastic year!!!

6B

Math (Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Windsor)

What a great beginning of school we have had!! Here in 6B Math we have been having so much fun!! This is the first year of our new math program and the kids are doing a great job with deeper level thinking skills that are involved in our program. We started off the year in our first of 8 books - Primetime. We covered the concepts of divisibility, factors, multiples, and prime factorization.

In our next book we move on to concepts with fractions and decimals. Pre-Ap classes are being introduced to pre-algebra concepts. It was so nice to meet so many of you at our Meet the Teacher Night! We look forward to a great year! If you need to contact us, feel free to email us anytime.

Science (Groseclose)

Everything has gotten off to a great start. The students are really excited and enthused. Currently we are working science process skills in preparation for the many labs that we will be doing.

The first big project we undertake this year will be the Window Cleaner Project. Students will design their own window cleaner from their own formulas and then field test these formulas around the school. Other great labs in the works are Sugar Analysis in Bubble Gum, Vitamin C Analysis in fruit drinks, The Mystery Powders, The Mystery Spill, and The Identification of Chemical Reaction challenge.

One other note, parents don't forget about the NASA trip in December. We need chaperones. It's well worth it. Also, remember to turn in the NASA commitment forms if you haven't already done so.

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Brochures go home October 11th.
Delivery in time for Thanksgiving!!!



Math (Mrs. Crose and Mrs. Lachowicz)

Welcome to Sixth Grade Math Class! We are excited about this year! As you are aware, we have a new sixth grade math curriculum. Parents should have received handouts explaining the Connected Math/2 curriculum.

Please be aware of the following: *Homework* will be assigned at the beginning of each week. Students will be advised as to what is due the next day. At the end of the week, the homework will be collected and graded. Parents, it is expected that you sign your child's homework before they turn it in on Friday. Please be advised that a child may have some class work to complete at home as well.

MOIS Planners are our way of communicating to you on a daily basis. Please check your child's MOIS planner nightly. Students are expected to write down their assignments at the beginning of all classes. The planner should be signed at the end of the week by a parent acknowledging receipt of that week's communication. Students will receive money on their Account for Success sheet each Monday for following this plan. If they do not have a signature then a withdrawal of \$20 will be taken out of their account.

We look forward to a great year with your child.

Language Arts (Ms. Baker)

Welcome! It has been a great 3 weeks so far. We will have a vocabulary and spelling test every Friday. We use the words daily so it is important that your student review the words daily. Students need to earn 15 Accelerated Reader points each six weeks. Please encourage them to read 15-20 minutes each night.

Thanks so much for you support!

Social Studies (Mr. Lindsey)

The students on team 6C are studying Southwest, South and East Asia. As they tour this region they are learning about the major religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. They are also exploring the cultures of these areas, their history and comparing their geographies and governments with our own here in the United States.

PTA UPDATE

A Note about Email Bulletins.....

I'm working on entering all of the email addresses we received in the Back to School packet. I will try to have the list up and running within the next few weeks.

We want to make sure that no one misses out on all that's going on at Mary Orr!

If you didn't fill in the form with the packet, there's still time to be added to the list.

Please email me at maryorrpta@att.net. Be sure to include your name and if you want bulletins sent to an email address other than the one you send the email from, please include that in the email as well. You can have bulletins sent to up to two addresses.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions!

Glenda Weitzel
817-453-8140



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Have you ever heard this old expression?

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink."

Getting an education is a little like that. Teachers can lead you to the Fountain of Knowledge, but you have to choose to drink. You have to choose to take in the information and make good use of it!

The Chinese say the same thing another way:

"Teachers open the door, but you must enter yourself."

Today, be aware of the choices you make every day in regard to your education. And remember, your teachers are holding the door open to a more successful future. Are you going to step through?

Think about it

PTA Dollars at Work

Thank you for your continued support of PTA! This support has provided us many opportunities to add to the educational experience at MOIS. The following is a list of expenses for which PTA dollars were spent for the 2006-07 school year.

Camp Carter: Bus expenses	\$ 2,479
6 th Grade NASA trip: Bus expenses	\$ 2,250
Teacher Appreciation Events	\$ 2,008
Perfect Attendance Awards	\$ 1,542
MISD Education Foundation Donation	\$ 1,500
Mansfield Multi-Scholarship Award	\$ 1,000
Classroom Equipment:	
Stage microphones for cafeteria	\$ 958
MISD Education Foundation Donation	\$ 750
Back to School Packets	\$ 679
Insurance: Annual premium	\$ 630
6 th Grade Market Auction Donations	\$ 600
MOIS Interactive Science Museum	\$ 531
Bluebonnet Books for the Library	\$ 500
Incentives: PE feet pendants	\$ 500
New School PTA Start-up Donations	\$ 500
Programs: Library Visiting Author	\$ 500
Historian: Supplies	\$ 195
Cultural Arts: Reflections awards	\$ 164

If you are interested in finding out more regarding your PTA's finances, budgets and treasurer reports are available at every general meeting. Additionally, you can always contact the President (Julie Peterson, juliep@gucl.com) or Treasurer (Lisa Hudgins, lisahudgins@charter.net) with questions.

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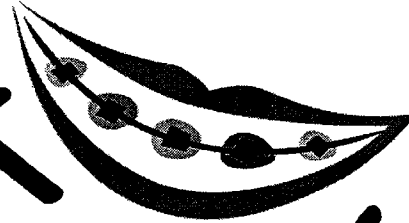
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