



John J. Pershing Middle School

Pandamonium

Pershing Middle School Monthly Newsletter



April 2010

Pandas Can Celebrate Their 2009-2010 Successes

Pershing Pandas Earn Their Pride

By Principal Lowe

FRONT OFFICE Our incredible yearbook staff put together several pages for the 09-10 yearbook that highlights some Panda achievements. I thought I would share those with you, while reminding you that the year is not over and we expect many more!!

- Students at Pershing have / will travel this year to: New York City, Boston, France and Spain, Hawaii, and Disneyworld.
- Pershing has new athletic fields for football, baseball, softball, soccer, & lacrosse, thanks to our PTO and our partnership with Tri-Sports.
- 7th Grade Boys' Cross Country team won first place at zone.
- Drama students have taken home numerous medals at area festivals.
- The 8th grade football team was undefeated.
- The Pershing Chess Club continues our great partnership with the Bellaire High School chess team.
- Pershing has its first ever 6th grade softball team – the only middle school with a 6th grade team.
- Pershing's music production program is the largest Ableton program in the world.

- Pershing has its first ever Step Team.
 - The 7th grade girls, 8th grade girls, & 7th grade boys' swim teams were zone champions.
 - Pershing Jazz Ensemble won 1st place at Blinn and HISD Jazz Festival plus best in class for middle school; four students won solo awards for being outstanding musicians.
 - Pershing added Chinese as a foreign language this year.
 - The undefeated /never scored upon 7th grade football team was zone champ.
 - Ten students from our orchestra were named to the All Region Orchestra, while three more were alternates. Nineteen students received outstanding scores at UIL Solo / Ensemble competition.
 - Mr. Kimble was named Pershing Teacher of the Year AND the Texas Middle School Teacher of the Year.
 - Art had three students win the TAEA Art Contest, four students win the Regional YAM Art Contest, two Scholastic Gold Key winners, one Scholastic Silver Key winner, three TAEA / TASB Superintendent State-wide winners, and five Regional Peace Poster contest winners. Whew!
 - Mr. Abbott's computer power classes are participating in the Katy/Prairie Conservancy Great Grow Out 2010 to restore native prairie plants at Warren Lake.
 - In volleyball, our 7th grade girls were zone champs while our 8th grade girls came in second.
 - Math Counts students placed in area competitions.
 - Both boys and girls 7th grade basketball teams were zone champs.
- As you can see, there is a lot going on and lots of things to take great pride in.
- ...Robin Lowe



Pershing Mission Statement

The mission of Pershing Middle School is to educate all students in a safe, enriched, learning environment, to become responsible, productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

School Vision Statements

Pershing has a safe, diverse learner centered environment that focuses on the "whole child". All students practice responsibility and respect while maintaining high achievement through challenging and relevant curriculum.

Pershing is committed to building strong, positive relationships among students, parents, staff, and other community members by establishing a supportive and safe school environment.

Mark Your Calendars

- Apr 7:** **Full Day** – Early dismissal is cancelled
- Apr 9:** Cheerleaders perform at Rockets Game – 7:30pm.
- Apr 13:** PTO Meeting @ 7pm
- Apr 16:** Pershing Book Fair
- Apr 20:** Choir Concert - 7pm
- Apr 21:** Report Cards go Home
- May 27:** Last day of School

Check our Website for the complete Pershing Calendar

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John J. Pershing Middle School
 3838 Blue Bonnet Blvd.
 Houston, TX 77025

Pershing PTO News

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PTO News

By Nancy Loncarich

PTO BOARD ROOM – Wow! Where did the year go? We are in the final stretch of another busy year. Here are some of the upcoming activities:

Book Fair : Friday, April 16th at Barnes and Noble on Holcombe from 4 – 8pm. Students get a free dress pass just for attending! Our Fine Arts Department will be performing as well. This is a fun event ~ if you are able to volunteer please contact Dena Robinson: denarobinson@comcast.net.

8th Grade Dance: The 8th graders have been waiting a long time for this year end event! The dance will be held on Saturday, May 15th, 8 - 11pm. Many volunteers are needed at this event: Please contact Georgia Graham and she will put you to work ~ georgia-graham@sbcglobal.net. Also, 8th grade parents; packets regarding the dance and the promotion ceremony will be mailed to your home the first part of May; this packet contains important information regarding the year end events for 8th graders.

Text Book Collection: The happiest day of school for some! Please watch our Yahoo PTO email for a call for volunteers. This is a fun and easy job. We don't have the exact dates but will send out the request for volunteers

when it is finalized.

Early-Bird Uniform Sales: We are trying something new! Look for an order form to come home with your child in early May. You can order uniform shirts now and pick them up in August! Plan ahead and avoid the long lines those first couple days of uniform sales; you can also ensure that the size you order will be available! If you have any questions, please email me: nancyloncarich@yahoo.com

The PTO formed a grant committee that was chaired by Dena Robinson. Teachers were able to submit requests to fund things that they thought would benefit the students. I am happy to report that we were able to grant 10 requests.

Our last PTO meeting of the year will be Tuesday, May 11th. At that time we will vote for our new board members. Please plan on attending!

Interested in chairing a committee, or maybe just helping out? We have the following committees open:

- Student Directory
- Volunteer Data Entry
- Book Fair
- Gift Wrap
- Pandamonium
- Science Fair

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

PTO Volunteer Opportunities

There are several open Positions for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Pandamonium
- Gift Wrap
- Science Fair
- Book Fair
- Student Directory
- Volunteer Data Entry

If you are interested, please contact Nancy Loncarich at nancyloncarich@yahoo.com

Carl D. Bloom, DMD, PA



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From the Panda Halls

Art News

By Brandy Watkins

The Advanced Art Classes had the opportunity to travel to New York to visit the museums of that city. Students had a wonderful time even though the weather was windy and wet a couple of days. They saw many wonderful works of art that we had studied in art class and created a work of art at the MOMA. They enjoyed 2 Broadway shows and visited an animation studio.

Art classes have been working on a Google Doodle. Google is having a contest where students finish the sentence "If I could do anything, I would..." and express their idea in a doodle incorporating the Google Logo. Schools are allowed to submit 6 entries. The winners of our Pershing contest are: Aliah Montazeri, Kira Ratliff, Xiao Ran Xu, Diane Sun, Sarah Gerlich, and Vanessa Olvera. Congratulations to these students and good luck to them in the regional contest!



Pandas Return from Paris and Barcelona

By Raquel Aguilar

Twenty one students and several parents and adults returned from an educational tour to Paris, southern France, Catalunya and Barcelona during Spring Break. Students and adults took in the sights and learned about history while enjoying the culture and food of these European gems.

Students enjoyed the experience of getting pictures sketched in Montmartre (a famous area in Paris) finding paintings and sculptures in a treasure hunt at the Louvre Museum and practicing their Spanish in Barcelona while discovering Antoni Gaudi's architectural masterpieces. A grand time was had by all!!!

For information on 2011 tours, please contact Ms. Raquel Aguilar at atmaguila2@houstonisd.org or at 713-295-5240 extension 356



Natalie & Kate in front of Sagrada Familia



Enjoying the Bikes in Paris

From the Panda Halls (cont'd)

Library News

By Mary Burgert, Librarian

Gary Paulsen to Speak at Pershing Sunday, April 18 at 3:00 PM



Pershing is thrilled to be the site of a visit by popular author, Gary Paulsen, sponsored by Inprint. The event will be held in the Pershing Auditorium on April 18, at 3:00 P.M. and is free to the public.

Born May 17, 1939, Gary Paulsen is one of America's most popular and prolific writers for young people. Although he was not a dedicated student, he became a passionate reader at an early age after a librarian gave him a book to read and his own library card.



Running away from home at the age of 14 and traveling with a carnival, Paulsen acquired a taste for adventure. He realized he would become a writer when suddenly, after working as a satellite technician for an aerospace firm in California, he walked off the job. He eventually left California to live in northern Minnesota in a rented cabin by a lake; by the end of

the winter, he had completed his first novel.

Living in remote Minnesota woods, Paulsen turned to the sport of dog racing, and entered the 1983 Iditarod. In 1985, after running the Iditarod for the second time, he suffered a heart attack and was forced to give up his dogs. "I started to focus on writing the same energies and efforts I was using with the dogs."

Paulsen has written more than 175 books, including Newbery honor books, Hatchet, Dogsong, and The Winter Room. His books frequently appear on the best books lists of the American Library Association.



Annual Lone Star Luncheon to be held May 13

The annual Pershing Lone Star Luncheon will be held in the library on Thursday, May 13. This popular event, hosted by the librarians, is part of a reading incentive program. It is held as a reward for sixth graders who have read books from the current Lone Star list and passed the associated AR quizzes.

To attend the luncheon, sixth graders in Advanced classes must read at least three books from the 2009-2010 Lone Star List. Honors students are required to read a minimum of four books, while GT students must read at least five to qualify.

The Luncheon will feature a meal of chicken quesadillas, rice, beans, a drink, and a cookie. Sixth grade reading teachers and Mrs. Lowe will all be invited to attend.

Lucky 7 Math T²

TAKS Tutorials

Any 7th grade student may attend any tutorial they wish

Monday 3:50-4:45 Miss Vasquez Room 115	Tuesdays 3:50-4:45 Miss Ruddy Room 216
Wednesdays 3:50-4:45 Miss Olinde Room 121	Thursdays 3:50-4:45 Miss Lewis Room 211
Friday 8:00-8:40 am Mr. Kimble Room 214	
Saturday 9:00am-12:00pm	

From the Panda Halls (cont'd)

**ATTENTION PERSHING TEACHERS
AND PARENTS**

**MEET IN THE MIDDLE IS BACK WITH MORE
EXCITEMENT THAN EVER!!**

WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO SUPPORT OUR "ERASE THE R WORD" CAMPAIGN

About the R-Word Campaign - Sometimes people don't think about the impact their words have on other people, but words do hurt. Using the R-word to describe people with intellectual disabilities, or even using the R-word in ANY manner, is hurtful and disrespectful.

In an ideal world, labels would not exist, but unfortunately they do and language choices can have a powerful impact on impressions and attitudes. As language has evolved, in 2004, Special Olympics changed its official terminology from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disabilities" for two reasons: First, as an athlete-led movement, Special Olympics responded to a call for a change from its athletes, who felt deeply the negative connotations and perceptions of the term mental retardation. Second, updating our terminology brings the Special Olympics movement more in line with the international community, which has used various terms (including intellectual disabilities) rather than mental retardation for many years.

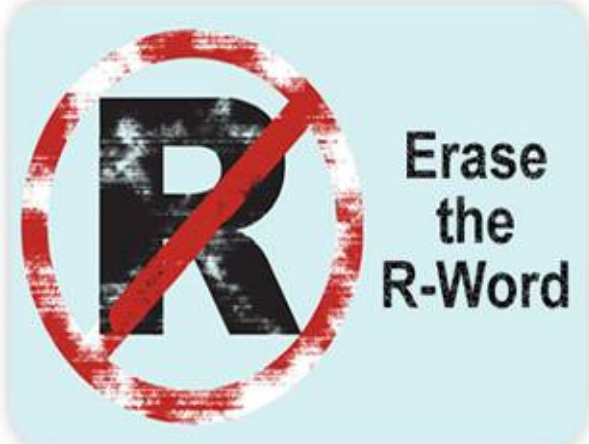
As a global organization, Special Olympics recognizes intellectual disabilities as the most widely accepted and least objectionable term that is synonymous with mental retardation, and wants other organizations and people to do the same. This shift is not the first time the Special Olympics movement updated its terminology. When Special Olympics was founded in 1968, it was common for our population to be referred to as "mentally retarded" or simply "retarded." As language and sensitivities evolved, the movement made a change – still in effect today – to "people-first" language, referring to people with intellectual disabilities.

In 2006, Special Olympics Texas assembled a group of experts from different fields to work together so that people statewide would recognize this new terminology and also embrace it.

The MR/ID Committee shares a common goal of banning the "R-word" from use and educating people about proper terminology.

The group discussed numerous steps for doing so, namely, changing references from "mental retardation" to "intellectual disabilities" and educating people not to use the R-word.

The Committee decided they could make a great impact by changing society's perception of and increasing their understanding of how words hurt. They then formed a more focused Sub-Committee to begin planning a public awareness campaign to ban the "R-word" and influence usage of proper terminology when speaking about people with intellectual disabilities.



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From the Panda Halls (cont'd)

Houston Chronicle Blog depicting Bayou City

History:

March 04, 2010

John J. Pershing Middle School

Well, looking back over Monday's blog post just reaffirmed my belief that it's the commenters who make this blog what it is. I just post the picture. It's the readers who provide the real content!

So, based on the reactions from Monday's blog post, I thought it would be good to focus on another school and see who else might chime in. It will be interesting to see the different experiences Houstonians have growing up in different parts of town. For example, someone who went to Austin or Wheatley or Dow might have a different experience growing up here compared to a former Aldine, Spring Branch or Bellaire student.

Anyway, today we're dropping by the southwest side, to **John J. Pershing Middle School**.

According to HISD, Pershing Middle was built in 1928 and was originally located next to West University Elementary off University. In 1949, the school was moved to a new facility at 7000 Braes, which is what you see in these pictures.

A Houston Chronicle caption from 1950 said the \$2 million school "greatly relieved the crowded conditions at West University Elementary School." The principal at the time was Clarence Orman.

Not everyone, apparently, was a fan of the school. In August 1958 someone set fire to a classroom annex. Houston fire officials told the Chronicle that there didn't appear to be a link between that and an arson earlier in the month at Spring Branch High School.



Pershing Middle in July 1954. Perhaps someone can clear up why the school is referred to as a high school in this picture. Chronicle file



Tom Colburn : Chronicle file
Jurst pipes led to a break down of Pershing's heating system, giving students the day off on Jan. 19, 1970.

The article concluded: A sign painted, "I hate this school" was found by firemen on one side of the Pershing building, but principal John A. Ratliff said the sign was an old one.

Over the years Farrah Fawcett, and Randy and Dennis Quaid attended school in the 1949 building.

In 2007, the school building was replaced by a new one next door at 3838 Bluebonnet Blvd.



Tom Colburn : Chronicle file
From the Aug. 16, 1958, Houston Chronicle: "Reading, writing and arson: Viewing damage at Pershing Junior High, 7000 Braes Blvd., are, left to right, Marsha McReynolds, 14, Marsha Bagwell, 14, and Elaine Lewis, 14.



Closeup of above photo. Note girl on right holding a cat.

From the Panda Halls (cont'd)



"Meet-in-the Middle" club members enjoy time with their "buddies"

The club matches students with intellectual disabilities to other students

Please join in! Sign the Campaign Sheet or Contact a "Meet in the Middle Member (Listed below) or Contact one of the Sponsors to Find out More!

1. Andrea Bruzal
2. Yacenia Lopez
3. Albert Simmons
4. Deon McCalep
5. Leila Draper
6. Mirella Segura
7. Araceli Herrera
8. Patrick Shelvin
9. Ravynn Sample
10. William Hayes
11. Diana Rodriguez
12. Maia Harvey
13. Christian Ellis
14. Jessica Mejia
15. Angelica Nino
16. Catlyn Randle
17. Tia Randle
18. Tia Henderson
19. Luna Burns
20. Ravynn Williams
21. Lanessia Mack
22. Chasate King
23. Clarke Allen
24. Makayla Teal
25. Shaniya Green
26. Ella Torey
27. Ayllen Barriov
28. Amber Truitt

29. Ana Garcia
30. Anntonio Ortega
31. Ardonnay Johnson
32. Armant Richardson
33. Azhia Gantz
34. Brianna Robinson
35. Brook Taylor
36. Bryson Hartley
37. Carolyn Ortiz
38. Caitlyn Randle
39. David Levy
40. David Le
41. Devan Smith
42. Eleanor Cordiner
43. Elijah Jackson
44. Erin Jones
45. Floyd Arceneaux
46. Gabby Molina
47. Jackline Canales
48. Jamol Simon
49. Jennifer Perez
50. Jonay Green
51. Kiarra Momon
52. Kenia Nichols
53. Keylin Tellez
54. Kiara Ellis
55. Korey Albert
56. Lauren Bogany

57. Lenzi Johnson
58. Lydia Hudson
59. Maria Pacheco
60. Megan Harris
61. Melanie Torres-Diaz
62. Melissa Valetierra
63. Merrick Needham
64. Mikala Ambres
65. Monica Mitchell
66. Morganne O Hemeng
67. Pamela Brown
68. Paige Moore
69. Quiarra Stafford
70. Todd Maxwell
71. Rachel Felder
72. Rosa Rodriguez
73. Sharunn Egiebor
74. Shelly Breout
75. Stephanie Benitez
76. Stephanie Martinez
77. Tayler Johnson
78. Taylor O'Neal
79. Tess Olson
80. Tianna Kelly
81. Todd Maxwell
82. Tori Briggs
83. Travis Bibbs
84. Travisha Matthew

85. Yolanda Decker
86. William Boyd
87. Ashley Lewis
88. Quiarre Stafford
89. Taylor Edwards

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- **Head of the Class** - Organizational & Study Skills for Teens
- **The Write Stuff** - Writing Essentials for Teens
- **¿Se Habla?** - Spanish camp for kids between Spanish I and II
- **CSI Houston** - Forensic Science Camp
- **And more!...**








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From the Panda Halls (cont'd)

2010 8th Grade Dance

Saturday, May 15, 2010

8 pm – 11 pm

Pershing Cafeteria

Tickets for the dance will be on sale the week before the dance – May 10-14 during lunch. Tickets are \$5.00 each, cash only. Tickets WILL NOT be sold at the dance.

***Dress:** The dance is not a formal affair; tuxedos and evening gowns are not appropriate. Girls should wear party dresses that are comfortable for dancing. The dress code is:*

***Girls:** Dressy dresses; spaghetti straps are allowed*

NO strapless or low-cut dresses

Dress hem must reach bottom of finger tips when arms are straight down at sides.

Comfortable shoes

***Boys:** Dress pants and button down shirt*

Tie, suit coat or sports jacket is optional

NO blue jeans

***Note to parents and students:** If the chaperones or principal's designee deems your attire "inappropriate" or your behavior "unacceptable," you will not be permitted to enter the dance or will be asked to leave. The school reserves the right to make this decision.*

***Transportation:** NO limousines please. Students must be picked up by 11:15 pm or they will not be allowed to attend the 8th grade promotion ceremony.*

Special Notes:** ONLY Pershing 8th grade students are invited to the dance. This is your celebration. If you are leaving early only your parent can sign you out and he/she needs to show a photo ID. **NO EXCEPTIONS.

***WARNING:** Any student who has been suspended (in-school and/or out of school) from April 19 to May 14 may not attend the dance. Pershing administration will make the final determination on students that will be allowed to attend.*

Volunteers are needed! You do not need to have an 8th grader to volunteer! Please contact the following people if you are able to help:

Check-in/Chaperones: Jo Beth Hawkins - jobethhawkins@att.net

Shoe/Purse Check-in: Kathy Lopez - klopez4613@aol.com

Refreshments: Wendy Schiller - waschiller@sbcglobal.net

Ticket Sales: Amy Rasmussen - ambl44@flash.net

Decorations: Angie Kaitson - akaitson@aol.com

Please contact me if you have any questions: Georgia Graham – georgia-graham@sbcglobal.net

From the Panda Halls (cont'd)

Be Thankful

By Houston ISD Police Officer P. Graveline

I hope that everyone had a "great" spring break. Our days went by too fast.. Counting our days, as of April 1st, there are 40 school days left in this school year.

The month of April is celebrating Easter and admiring the beautiful bluebonnets along the highways toward Brenham.

Quotations about Attitude

- Attitudes are contagious. Are yours worth catching?
- Where ever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine.
- If you don't think every day is a good day, just try missing one.
- Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.
- Every day may not be good, but there's something good in every day.
- Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.
- So often time it happens, we all live our life in chains, and we never even know we have the key.
- Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.

Have a Great Day, every day.....Officer Graveline

NFL Player Visits Pershing MS

New England Patriots Tight End, Rob Myers joined a group of Pershing Students for lunch. The group included Abdul Ahmad, Anthony Ayala, Johnathon Landrum, Daniel Melendez, Xavier Harper, Mark Rodriguez and Darious Durall.

Rob discussed the importance of keeping up their grades and establishing goals. He encouraged them to persevere through difficult times and the consequences of making poor choices. Rob played ball at Bellaire and upon graduation he "walked on" at Utah State. He was red shirted as a freshman, and through hard work earned a 4 year athletic scholarship.

Rob joined the Patriots organization last year as a free agent. His road to the NFL is not without detours, and he is still working to earn a spot on the 52 man roster.

Rob sees the need to visit with young athletics and empower them to follow their dreams.



New England Patriots Tight End, Rob Myers visits Pershing

SEND A BIRTHDAY GREETING!

See your child's name in lights on their birthday!

Child's Name: _____

Birthday: _____ (Day and Month - Example: 1/15) _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone No. _____

E-mail _____

Check (payable to Pershing PTO) or cash enclosed in the amount of \$25 _____

Questions? nancytoncarich@yahoo.com

Please leave in PTO box in the front office OR mail to
PTO ~ Birthday sign / 3838 Blue Bonnet Blvd / Houston, TX 77025

THIS REQUEST MUST BE RECEIVED 3 CALENDAR DAYS BEFORE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY!!

Cluster News

Cluster 6-1

Hello fellow Pandas!

Cluster 6-1 is busy with TAKS prep in all classes...especially **Goodson & Johnson's** ELA and **Moore & Clifton's** Math classes.

Reader/Writer workshops continue and math classes are also graphing personal information. **Midyett's** science classes are finishing Ecosystems and looking at Health, Nutrition and Food Pyramids. **O'Connor's** World Cultures classes will be studying E. Asia by the time you read this.

It is spring and we are all excited by the change in weather and light at the end of the tunnel. BUT – stay focused and remember TAKS is not the end of school, just the end of the pressure to do well on that particular test. We still have things to accomplish and learn, so don't give up!

We'd like to recognize our stars for the last grading cycle: **Leandra Dewitt** in Ms. Goodson's class; **Rand Green** in Ms. Midyett's class; **Chelsea Wang** in Mr. Clifton's class; **Armando Mejia** in Ms. Moore's class, **Alex Coronis** in Ms. O'Connor's class; and **Blane Zewdie** in Ms. Johnson's class. Congratulations to these students! Hope to see your name here next time? Make that extra effort to do well in your studies, habits and behavior.

We are looking for you & know you can do it!
Gooooooooooooo 6-1 Pandas!!!

Cluster 6-2

We would first like to congratulate our students for doing an awesome job on the Stanford 10 test. Way to go 6-2! Our students have been extremely busy achieving new levels of learning with special projects, Pi Day (whew), the Russian Time Line Project, writing persuasive letters and TAKS Preparation. Our expectations are ever increasing as seventh grade approaches.

The first two auctions were very successful, but our students are excited about the big, end of the year blow out auction! If you have any additional items that you would like to donate, please do so.

We would like to make our students first year at Pershing the best year ever.....6-2 Teachers

Cluster 6-3

Mrs. Ford-Castille and **Ms. Frankovich's** classes are finishing up Figurative Language and starting on their TAKS Unit. The students will be bringing home a homework packet each night to practice skills to prepare them for the assessment coming up on April 27th and 28th.

Mrs. Johnson's classes have been studying the immense and fascinating country of Russia! They have also been exploring the diverse cultures of the Eurasian Republics.

In **Ms. Pipes** and **Mrs. Hart's** classes, students have been learning that pi, Greek letter (π), is the symbol for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Students learned about Pi Day and how it is celebrated by math enthusiasts around the world on March 14th. $\pi = 3.1415926535\dots$ Cluster 6-3 math classes celebrated this holiday on Thursday and Friday, March 11th and 12th. Students did fun activities to celebrate the fascinating number 3.141592... Students performed measurement activities using round foods, such as donuts, cookies, and pizza; sang songs about circles and Pi; and competed to see who could recite the most digits of π from memory.



6-3 Students Celebrate "Pi Day"



"Pi" cake by Stephen Burrows, Cluster 6-1 Math Class

Cluster News (cont'd)

Cluster 6-4

This month, we will be focusing on Ms. Waxler's World Cultures class. She reports that "to end our '180 days Around the World', the last 45 days will be spent in East Asia and Oceania."

What and where is Oceania exactly? Generally, Oceania is considered to include the countries of Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea as well as 25,000 islands that make up the Malay Archipelago. The Malay Archipelago includes the countries of Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, East Malaysia, and East

Timor. A study of this tropical region of the world will be a great way to usher in Houston's own tropical season!

Parents, spend some time exploring these countries and their history and culture with your children. Take a trip to the Houston Museum of Natural Science to check their great exhibits on various world cultures. Visit your local library to check out interesting and informative books on these amazing places.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress as we approach TAKS testing at the end of this month.

Cluster 7-2

We would like to celebrate our cluster students for March: **Andrew Hardee** and **Sandra Juarez**.

In science students learned about adaptation and natural selection by doing a lab experiment either about the Peppered Moth or a Woolly Booger. To practice what they learned about secondary succession, students predicted what the Pershing Middle School Field would look like if it were abandoned for 50 years. Very interesting! Next Subject-Genetics.

In Reading/Writing Workshop, we are beginning our TAKS Reading Preparation Unit. The students are learning many strategies that will build their endurance and enhance comprehension. In addition to working TAKS passages, we are also reading books of our choice on a daily basis. Cluster 7-2 would like to encourage you to bring your books to class daily, continue practicing those reading passages and believe in yourself. We have a long month ahead of us, but with hard work and focus, we are sure to reach our 100% goal.

Math tutorials are Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8am in Ms. Olinde's classroom. TAKS tutorials are in Ms. Olinde's room Wednesdays after school until 5pm. Students are also encouraged to attend TAKS tutorials on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with different 7th grade math teachers.

Students will be learning all about probability, analyzing data, volume and surface area, as well as preparing for TAKS testing. The mathematics TAKS test will be administered on April 27th.

In Texas history we have just been annexed to the United States! With the Texas Annexation Treaty of 1845, it was stated that Texas had the option of being divided into five states. Students are busy showing off just how creative they can be by taking on this important and monumental task. They are working in groups to divide Texas into five states. In addition, they are coming up with names for these "new" states, as well as other key highlights such as: state song, state animal, state food, state motto, etc. Students will be compiling this information into a brochure format and sharing their creations with their classmates. Soon, we will be moving into our mini-unit on the Texas Rangers. Students will research and pinpoint key Texas Ranger figures throughout history. It is because of Texas Rangers that famous criminals Bonnie and Clyde were captured!



7-2 Students participate in Peppered Moth Lab



7-2 Students participate in Woolly Booger Lab

Cluster News (cont'd)

Cluster 7-3

Cluster 7-3 is hard at work as Spring Fever is hitting us all. Love is in the air, as well as the state-mandated TAKS test.

We are working on partnership readings and book reports in **Mister Darden's** class, as well as preparing for the Reading TAKS test on April 28th. In **Mrs. Jones's** class, we are studying the New Republic of Texas and working on an in-class project. In **Ms. Lewis's** class, we are hard at work preparing for the Math TAKS on April 27th.

Cluster 7-3 would like to congratulate the members of the girl's lacrosse team: **Katie Baker, Kylar Rider, Tyra Saverson, Amber Jones, Alexandra Galtney, Kirby Clarke, and Lucero Ceballos.** Good luck, ladies!

Cluster 7-4

This update from 7-4 was created by Natalia Kian:

Science! History! Reading! Math!

All different ways of delight!
Everyone chooses a different path,
For so many ways to learn are in sight.

In science we learn of ecological succession,
Biomes! Habitats! Nature!

In reading we learn of reading TAKS,
Fantasy! Fiction! Adventure!

In history we learn so many things,
About Texas, the independent nation!

In math we add and we subtract,
And solve our permutations!

How do we learn so many things?
We know it seems a bit funny.
You'll have to ask our teachers,
Mr. Burrell, Ms. Chili, Mr. Mustachio, and Ms. Ruddy!
English/Language Arts

Cluster 7-1

Students did a great job preparing for the Writing TAKS, and now it's on to the Reading TAKS scheduled for April 28. Parents, remember that students should be reading at home in a novel for at least 30 minutes per night. They have a goal of at least 100 pages per week in their novels. It really helps if you ask them about what they are reading, or even ask them to read aloud to you sometime. If you take an interest in reading, so will your child!

We are always in need of gently used books appropriate for middle schoolers. Even picture books are nice to have. The kids really love them! If you have unwanted books cluttering up your home, send them to school. We love books!

Science/Field Trip News: Our cluster will visit the Museum of Natural Science on April 29. We need parent chaperones—at least nine. Students will do a scavenger hunt in the main hall of the museum, visit the butterfly habitat, and see an exciting new Imax movie. Cost will be \$15, plus students will need to pack a sack lunch for a picnic at Hermann Park. Parents interested in being a chaperone should call **Mr. Kimball** or email **Ms. Harper**. Chaperones must be approved through the VIPS program, which can take up to three weeks. Parents who are already approved from last year are encouraged to volunteer.

Student Rewards: Students who earned good grades and excellent conduct were rewarded recently with a special treat from the cluster. About 85 students earned grades of 80 or better and all E's in conduct for the 4th six weeks. They were treated to ice cream and other snacks at a special recognition time. We are extremely proud of our students who work hard and help create a very positive learning environment. In addition, students with E's in **Mrs. Cook's** classes (57) got cookies recently.

Reminder: All students must have an agenda and materials to work with at all times. This includes notebooks, paper, pen, pencil, and any other required supplies for each class. School is not over until May 27, and every day is a work/learning day!

Social Studies: **Mrs. Faulk's** students are identifying and analyzing the issues and problems that the new Republic of Texas faced. Students are describing how each president addressed these issues by completing written, oral, and visual tasks. As a culminating project, students will divide Texas into five states.

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Instructors

<p>Kumon Pearland 9330 Broadway Suite 224 Pearland, TX 77584 (281) 997-8117 Tue 1-7 PM, Sat 8-1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1-800-ABC-MATH WWW.KUMON.COM</p> <p>Kumon West-U 4009-J, Ballaira Blvd Houston, TX 77025 (713) 662-2115 Mon, Th. 1-7 PM <small>pearland_web@kumon.com</small></p>
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Cluster News (cont'd)

Cluster 8-2

Greetings from Cluster 8-2 –

We are in full TAKS TEST PREP mode and we are so proud of the students' Stanford scores. Now our focus is on TAKS. The Math and Reading tests are April 6 and 7. Science and Social Studies are at the end of the month on April 29 and 30. Cluster 8-2 teachers and students want 100% passing! We have included some tips to help your student be successful. Please ask their teachers if you have any questions.

Test Preparation Tips

- ✓ Make sure you come to school on the days right before the test; it's another prime time for the instructor to give out more hints or the format of the test.
- ✓ Eat before a test. Having food in your stomach will give you energy and help you focus but avoid heavy foods which can make you groggy.
- ✓ Get at least 8 hours of sleep before the test.
- ✓ Try to show up at least 5 minutes before the test will start.
- ✓ Set your alarm and have a backup alarm set as well.
- ✓ Go to the bathroom before walking into the exam room. You don't want to waste anytime worrying about your bodily needs during the test.


General Test Taking Tips

- ✓ Bring at least two pens/pencils with good erasers, a calculator with enough batteries and any other resources that your instructor allows you to.
- ✓ Keep a positive attitude throughout the whole test and try to stay relaxed. If you start to feel nervous take a few deep breaths to relax.
- ✓ Keep your eyes on your own paper, you don't want to appear to be cheating and cause unnecessary trouble for yourself.
- ✓ When you first receive your test, do a quick survey of the entire test so that you know how to efficiently budget your time.
- ✓ Do the easiest problems first. Don't stay on a problem that you are stuck on especially when time is a factor.
- ✓ Do the problems that have the greatest point values first.
- ✓ Don't rush but pace yourself. Read the entire question and look for keywords.
- ✓ Erase completely any answers you want to change.
- ✓ Always read the whole question carefully. Don't make assumptions about what the question might be.
- ✓ If you don't know an answer, skip it. Go on with the rest of the test and come back to it later. Other parts of the test may have some information that will help you out with that question.
- ✓ Don't worry if others finish before you. Focus on the test in front of you.
- ✓ If you have time left when you are finished, look over your test. Make sure that you have answered all the questions, only change an answer if you misread or misinterpreted the question because the first answer that you put is usually the correct one. Watch out for careless mistakes and proofread your essay and/or short answer questions.
- ✓ Double check to make sure that you put your first and last name on the test.

All of the students are prepared and ready to take the test. Please feel free to ask Cluster 8-2 teachers if you have any questions.

Good Luck to You!...from all your Cluster 8-2 Teachers:

- **Mrs. G. English**, Reading-Writing Workshop
- **Mrs. Y. Epps-Stubbins**, Reading-Writing Workshop
- **Mr. C. Scott**, Science
- **Mr. Sobhi & Mrs. Walker**, Associate Math Teachers
- **Mrs. C. Vaclavik**, History, Cluster Leader



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Houston, Texas 77030
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Fax: 713-218-0533

Parent Information

Pershing Book Fair

The Pershing Book Fair has now been rescheduled for April 16, 2010. It will be held at Barnes & Noble at 3003 Holcombe.

How it works:

Vouchers will be available at the checkout counter. Complete the voucher for a purchase to be credited to Pershing book fair fundraiser. Any purchases made at Barnes & Noble during our Book Fair that is accompanied by a Pershing voucher will be counted as a "Pershing Sale". Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of our total sales to our school. Please note that **a voucher must be presented to the cashier at the time of purchase.**

We encourage all Pershing families to attend the event, but ANYONE can purchase items during the book fair and submit a voucher to help our school. PLEASE spread the word to your friends and family! The Panda students will get a FREE DRESS PASS just for showing up...

What's included:

All books, music CDs, DVDs, calendars, cards and gift items sold at Barnes & Noble can be purchased as a part of this fundraiser. In addition, purchases at the Barnes & Noble Café will be included. Purchases of gift cards, textbooks, and magazine subscriptions will not count toward our goal.



Come to the
Pershing Bookfair
& Fine Arts Showcase

along with Chick-fil-a Pershing night out!

Friday, April 16th ★ Barnes & Noble

4 - 8 p.m. ★ 3003 Holcombe

★ Free dress pass just for attending! ★

Parent Information (cont'd)



2010–2011 Academic Calendar

Houston Independent School District

Visit www.houstonisd.org for more calendars, including testing.

JULY 2010						
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MAY 2011						
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JUNE 2011						
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<p>KEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holidays Teacher Service Days Teacher Preparation Days Make-up Days (if needed) 	<p>Holidays</p> <p>September 6, 2010 September 17, 2010 November 24–26, 2010 December 20, 2010–January 3, 2011 January 17, 2011 March 14–18, 2011 April 22, 2011 May 30, 2011</p>	<p>Labor Day Fall Holiday Thanksgiving Winter Break Martin Luther King Jr. Day Spring Break Spring Holiday Memorial Day</p>
<p>Significant Dates</p> <p>August 4–6, 2010 August 9, 2010 August 23, 2010 December 17, 2010 January 4, 2011 June 2, 2011 June 3, 2011 January 3 and May 30, 2011 are make-up days</p>	<p>New teacher inservice Teacher report to duty First day of school Last day of first semester First day of second semester Last day of school Last day for teachers</p>	<p>Grading Periods 8 Cycles to be determined</p> <p>4 Cycles to be determined</p>
<p>Prekindergarten Grading Periods to be determined</p>	<p>Report Card Dates</p>	

The Pershing Way

INTEGRITY - TO ACT ACCORDING TO A SENSE OF WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG

INITIATIVE - TO DO SOMETHING BECAUSE IT NEEDS TO BE DONE

FLEXIBILITY - TO BE WILLING TO ALTER PLANS WHEN NECESSARY

PERSEVERANCE - TO KEEP AT IT

ORGANIZATION - TO PLAN, ARRANGE, AND IMPLEMENT IN AN ORDERLY WAY, TO KEEP THINGS ORDERLY AND READY TO USE

SENSE OF HUMOR - TO LAUGH AND BE PLAYFUL WITHOUT HARMING OTHERS

EFFORT - TO DO YOUR BEST

COMMON SENSE - TO USE GOOD JUDGEMENT

PROBLEM SOLVING - TO CREATE SOLUTIONS IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND EVERYDAY PROBLEMS

RESPONSIBILITY - TO RESPOND WHEN APPROPRIATE, TO BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS

PATIENCE - TO WAIT CALMLY FOR SOMEONE OR SOMETHING

FRIENDSHIP - TO MAKE AND KEEP A FRIEND THROUGH MUTUAL TRUST AND CARING

CURIOSITY - A DESIRE TO INVESTIGATE AND SEEK UNDERSTANDING OF ONE'S WORLD

CARING - TO FEEL AND SHOW CONCERN FOR OTHERS

PRIDE - TO FEEL SATISFACTION BY DOING YOUR PERSONAL BEST

COOPERATION - TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARD A COMMON GOAL OR PURPOSE

LEADERSHIP - A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SCHOOL AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH HIS OR HER EFFORT

Go Pandas!

It is the policy of the Houston Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status or political affiliation in its education or employment programs and activities, as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.