



TRAILBLAZER

February 9, 2017

Principally Speaking

PADDLES UP!

There is a strong possibility that your child has come home and reported they have been coding robots, designing mazes, building structures or using time lapse photography. I can confirm it is all true and it's highly encouraged. We've indeed got robots roaming our halls and it's all part of our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) Initiative. STEAM in education looks to find creative ways to interact with existing curriculum and we're off and running with this at The Trail.

As a part of their animal research project, first graders in Mrs. Harvey's classroom planned and created habitats for various animals. A rich and engaging conversation began the work as the class discussed which students should work together as rabbits would not be safe with the big cats, for example. After ensuring they had safely provided for their animals, they placed their model animal within the appropriate habitat and took pictures to include in their animal project. Each group of students had to collaborate to ensure they provided everything their animal needed in their new environment. It also provided our first graders opportunities to practice keeping their balance as they navigated the busy classroom space complete with all of the different animal structures, and they could demonstrate their resilience when, inevitably, a building was knocked over.

Always a challenge at any age, several second and fourth grade classrooms have explored the materials through process writing. Using a limited number of pieces from the various STEAMcart materials, students had to create a structure before writing explicit directions on how to re-construct it. The students swapped desks and attempted to recreate the original structure using only the written instructions provided. Students provided feedback on their peers' writing based on how successful they were with their creations. Students then edited their instructions and swapped them again in order to receive even more peer feedback. The students were highly motivated to improve their written expression while working with the STEAM materials.

These are just two of the many examples of classroom applications. FTE currently has 6 semi-stocked STEAMcarts. That's one per grade level which must be shared among the team. This is a nice "problem" to have, but sharing one cart results in 3 to 4 other classes in a grade level missing opportunities while they wait their turn. While my long term goal is for every teacher to have a fully functioning STEAMcart in their classroom, I hope our Paddles Up portion of Falcon City Limits will bring in enough to fund three additional carts and increase our numbers by 50%. The impact of these carts is immediate, tangible and cross-curricular. Skills including collaboration, communication, team building and problem solving are bi-products from access to STEAM activities. Forest Trail strives to build these soft skills in our students as they are the same skills they will need in their future academic endeavors and beyond.

I'm looking forward to a great evening. Thank you for your continued support of FTE and happy bidding!

And The Winner Is...

I am happy to share the news that Karen Linder was selected the 2016 Westlake Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year! Mrs. Linder's name was announced last Friday at Hotel Granduca during a luncheon honoring all of the nominees. FTE 3rd Grade teacher, and last year's winner, Lori Brandenburg presented Mrs. Linder with her award. Please be sure to congratulate Mrs. Linder when you see her.



Counselor's Corner



Dear Parents, the FTE counseling staff has set up an Instagram (counselors_FTE) and Twitter (FTEcounselors) page to help keep everyone up to date on SEL and counseling related topics happening on our campus. Follow us!

Attention 4th Grade Parents & Students

WE NEED SAFETY PATROLS!

February is the month when the new 4th grade patrols take over the carpool duty at FTE and that duty carries through January next year. The hard copy sign-up forms

recently went home in 4th grader backpacks, **however we are still needing more 4th graders to sign up for this fun, essential duty!**

If your child is willing to join the patrol team, please print the attached form and turn it in to the FTE front office. The forms will be given to Cheryl Saucier, the current patrol coordinator, and she will be in contact right away with more specific information.

We are also looking for one 4th grade parent to take on the roll as patrol coordinator. The patrol leader position is a fairly easy job and doesn't require a lot of time. Training will be provided.

Please consider encouraging your child to sign up to be a safety patrol and/or signing yourself on to be patrol coordinator. These are both important FTE jobs and you can't imagine how much the FTE staff appreciates both.

For questions please contact Cheryl Saucier at csaucier1@austin.rr.com
Thank you so much!

Library Links by Bonnie Seelig

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Bluebonnet Readers: Logan Cui, Atalie Dukes, Sophia Finke, Romey Hodes, Davis Jackson, Caroline Leath, Kelly Ma, Sabrina Rossie, Gaby Terrazas, Annie Thomas, Beau Torian, John - David Torian, Ava Trull and Iris Yu.

Forest Trail's 3rd, 4th and 5th graders voted for their favorite book on the Bluebonnet Reading List. CHICKEN SQUAD by Doreen Cronin was the winner. The statewide winner will be announced soon.

Just a reminder: BookPeople's BookKids Bookmark Contest submission deadline is Monday, February 27th. Students should take their entry to the library no later than the February 27th. The entries will be mailed to BookPeople after school to meet BookPeople's end of week deadline. If you have questions, please contact the librarian.



Booster Club Corner

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club>

FTE Booster Club Volunteer Spotlights

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/volunteer-spotlights>

This week's Volunteer Spotlight is on **Karis Fagerberg**, our 2016-17 Auction & Party Campus Treasures Chair and our Campus Treasures Fulfilment Coordinator. Find out why FTE is so grateful for Karis' generosity of her talents and time! Click on the Volunteer Spotlight page!

FTE Food & Diaper Drive was a Huge Success!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/community-service>

FTE ended up collecting 3,376 items for the Food & Diaper drive! Awesome! The winner of the raffle is Josephine Fagerberg from Ms. Goralski's class! She will get her picture

taken with Forest anywhere she chooses in the school. Kindergarten won with the most donations at 822 items!

The Booster Club is deeply grateful for Community Service Chairperson **Allison Johnson** and **FTE PE Teacher Jane Lewis** for their tireless efforts to make this campaign a success and to make a difference for many families around us.

****Falcon City Limits Tickets: FTE Auction & Party 2017 News****

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/auction>

It's almost here! Falcon City Limits takes place on Saturday, February 11th! Full event details, a guide for guests, and auction item previews will be posted at 4pm on Thursday, February 9th on the FCL webpage (above).

Falcon City Limits Volunteers Needed!

FCL needs a few more volunteers for easy “to bring” items as well as a few “to do” items for our eagerly-anticipated *Centex Tickets Wine & Liquor Toss* game! [Visit the FCL site](#) to sign up for a short shift or to commit to bringing a bottle!

“Raise the Paddle” Challenge for 2017: STEAM Carts!

This year’s auction will feature a special challenge to parents and supporters to “Raise the Paddle” for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) mobile carts for classroom use.

A message from our Educational Technology Specialist, Jennifer Flood:

This year's "Raise the Paddles" challenge will support STEAM Carts for every Forest Trail Classroom. Currently, Forest Trail enjoys just six carts that are shared by at each grade level. The STEAM Carts hold a wide variety of exploratory materials that support open ended play and problem solving such as marble runs and roller coasters, Dash robots and LEGOs, an assortment of building materials, and more! The carts selected have been field tested by Forest Trail teachers and got a BIG thumbs up!

These are incredible assets to a progressive learning environment, and we hope you will join us in the challenge to outfit FTE with STEAM Carts! [Visit the FCL site for more info.](#)

Online Bidding Underway for Teacher Treasures and Class Art Projects!

Our amazing Class Art Projects and Teacher Treasures were the first auction items to become available for bidding. [Visit the FCL site](#) for full details on obtaining a bidder number and how to bid on your favorite items!

Huge thanks to the dozens of class art project volunteers whose talents and time commitment have been outstanding! You have wowed us and we are proud to show off your beautiful offerings for this year's **Falcon City Limits** auction and party!

Three Cheers for our AWESOME Falcon City Limits Sponsors!

Headlining Sponsor

[Centex Tickets](#)

Spotlight Sponsor

[Lost Creek Country Club](#)

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Counterpose Wellness
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Diamonds in the Rough
Discover Texas Wine Tours
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Hiatus Spa
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Kidventure
Kittleman Photography
Life Kido
Debbie Lopez - Independent Ambassador for India Hicks
Muse Med Spa
One World Theatre
PureSpoon
Rebecca Creek Distillery
Rosse & James
The Sneaky Apron

Strangeland Brewery
Sullivan's Steakhouse
The Thinkery
Westlake Youth Soccer
Yeti Coolers
Z Tequila

Last But Certainly Not Least, Raise the Roof for the *Falcon City Limits* Team!

Make no mistake; the best party of the year doesn't just plan itself. Over a dozen amazing team members are pouring in hundreds of man and (woman!) hours to pull off this night to remember! We are so grateful for the incredible talent and time these folks are dedicating:

Sara Barney, Amy Brady, Kara Brown, Mary Catherine Campbell, Amberlee Cantrell, Amy Clark, Karis Fagerberg, Elizabeth Hooks, Kelley Inmon, Victoria Lavi, Debbie Lopez, Erin Ludwig, Kate McGrath, Leslie Odom, Christine Parker, Ashley Quinones, Christie Schultz, Heather Sheffield, Mary Katherine Stout, Amy Sweeney, and Tim Toomey

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

FTE No-Cook Spirit Nights Coming Up

<http://fte.eanesid.net/booster-club/community-partners>

Join us for the following upcoming Spirit Nights!

- No-Cook Spirit Night at Hat Creek Burger Company on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 5-10pm
- No-Cook Spirit Day with Kona Ice at Forest Trail Elementary near the field on Thursday, April 19, 2017 (weather-pending) from 1:30pm-2:30pm (early release day)

Box Tops News!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/box-tops-for-education>

Bonus Box Tops Time at HEB!: Get 60 BONUS BOX TOPS at HEB when you buy any 10 Box Tops for Education products, in one trip, between now and

February 21st. Certificate is delivered instantly at checkout. If you don't receive your certificate go to customer service.

Want to earn even more Bonus Box Tops? Just use your HEB Box Tops receipt with these Lysol Bonus Box Tops opportunities. Kelley earned 180 Bonus Box Tops with just one receipt!

- Get 100 eBoxTops when you buy 5 Lysol products. Go to www.boxtops4education.com/earn/receiptscan/lysolbuy5 for details on how to redeem by 3/31/17.
- Get 20 eBoxTops when you buy 2 Lysol products. Go to www.boxtops4education.com/earn/receiptscan/2016-lysol for details on how to redeem by 5/31/17.

February Box Tops Contest:

- **The Class Prize for February:** The class that turns in the most Box Tops by Friday, February 24th will win an EXTRA RECESS!
- **Teacher Prize for February:** Pedicure for 2 from Embellish and Brunch for 2 to Moonshine Patio Bar and Grill
- **Student Prizes for February:**
 - 1st - 4 Tickets to Alamo Draft House Theater
 - 2nd - \$25 Gift Certificate to Austin's Pizza
 - 3rd - Turn in 50 Box Tops and receive a Gift Certificate to the School Store and the chance to win 1 of 2 Gift Certificates to Amy's Ice Cream.

Look for your Box Tops Collection Sheet and Participating Products List attached to the newsletter or on the Box Tops web page. Expired Box Tops will not be counted. Thank you for supporting FTE through Box Tops. If you have any questions contact Kelley Edwards at kelley.a.edwards@gmail.com.

Parent Socials on the Hub!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/parent-socials>

Parent Socials tickets are available on the Hub! Visit the Parent Socials page for more information.

FTEBC Organizational Chart

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/organizational-chart>

Need to find a chairperson to ask a question or learn how to get involved? Check out the Organizational Chart!

Mark Your Calendars!

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/events-and-calendar>

Below is an abridged list of upcoming dates. Please visit the calendar for a comprehensive list.

- Saturday, February 11, 2017 - FTE Auction & Party: *Falcon City Limits* Event

Helpful Links

- FTEBC website - fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club
- FTEBC Facebook page - [facebook.com/FTEBC](https://www.facebook.com/FTEBC)
- FTE Parents group - a social forum for FTE parents (not managed by the FTEBC) [facebook.com/groups/FTEparents](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FTEparents)

FTEBC Organizational Chart - find out chairpersons for committees
<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/organizational-chart>

Register Your Team for Charlie's Challenge

Charlie's Challenge is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. It is fun filled event for 2nd through 5th graders that involves ten different "Minute -To-Win-It" type challenges. The Challenge takes place after school on Monday, Feb. 13th, from 3:30 to 4:45pm in the FTE gym.

Registration Suggestions:

1. Form a team. (6 members per team. 2nd- 5th grade FTE students.)
2. Each member fills out their own form. (We need liability releases for each member.)
3. Select a "Team Leader" who will gather the 6 completed team registration forms and payment.
4. The "Team Leader" will be responsible for delivering the teams' registration forms and payments to Mrs. Lewis on Wednesday, February 1st.
5. Registration is closed when we have ten teams.

*If someone is paying for a friend, please note that on the registration form. Additional donations should also be clearly noted.

*Checks are made out to the American Cancer Society.

See the attached registration form.

Order Your FTE Yearbook Today

Order your 2016-2017 yearbook. Reserve your copy of the ALL COLOR yearbook. Personalize your yearbook with your name on the front cover for

an additional \$5.00 until March 1st. Yearbooks will only be sold online this year! Order at www.balfour.com

5th grade pridelines this year will only be available online to order and design online this year. See the attached for the 5th grade Prideline information.

EEF's 25th Anniversary Silver Celebration

The 2017 EEF Gala, presented by Lexus of Austin, will be a special night honoring EEF's 25-year legacy of service and support for Eanes ISD and the surrounding community. Cocktails, dinner, dancing, auctions, games, cake & champagne – it's a party 25 years in the making! Don't miss out!

Go to <https://eaneseducationfoundation.org/2017eef-gala/> for more information.

NO RESERVATIONS?

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Valentine's Day Raffle

February 3rd - 13th

Tickets: One for \$100 | Three for \$250



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“The Well Balanced Student” – Feb. 28th

Presented by Margaret Dunlap, Challenge Success – Stanford University

Feb. 28th, 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Westlake Performing Arts Complex

Today's high-pressure, fast-paced culture can interfere with healthy child development. When we are too focused on test scores, performance, and grades, we may deny kids the time and energy they need to effectively tackle the demanding work of growing up. This workshop examines the tensions that can occur between students, parents, and educators over issues such as homework, grades, and the culture of competition. We'll

offer parents research-based strategies to create healthier home and school environments.

In this presentation, parents will learn:

- How students today are coping- or not- with the academic pressure they face
- Ways they can reduce academic stress without sacrificing achievement or engagement in school
- Strategies to increase resilience, creativity, and well-being for their child

All Parents are encouraged to attend.

Questions? kbryant@eanesisd.net

10th Annual Spring Baseball Players Clinic

Western Hills Little League, in cooperation with Westlake's varsity head coach J.T. Blair, and the Westlake baseball coaching staff, announces the Spring Baseball Player Clinic on Saturday, Feb. 18th. See attached for details.

Westlake Youth Soccer Registration

Registration for Spring 2017 is here! The Spring season begins on Feb. 26th and runs through May 7th. Two programs are available, one for the casual player and one for the competitive player. For questions please contact:

Recreational Questions: Graham Smurthwaite gsmurthwaite@westlakesoccer.com

Academy Questions: Adam Huff ahuff@westlakesoccer.com

www.westlakesoccer.com 512-291-3176

Lady Chap Basketball Camp

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!! Lady Chap Basketball Camp

June 5th-8th 2017

1st-6th Grade: 9:30am-12pm \$125

7th-9th Grade: 1-4:00pm \$150

See the attached for more information.

Reminder...

Remember to "Like" us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ftfalcons/> and "Follow" us on Twitter https://twitter.com/fte_principal and Instagram https://instagram.com/fte_principal/.

