



March 9, 2017

Principally Speaking

I hope everyone is looking forward to the week ahead. Hopefully, you'll get to finish that book, binge watch that show, enjoy some music, or most importantly keep that bracket intact! Whatever it is that you find yourself doing this Spring Break, my hope is that you and yours are safe and come back recharged and ready for the final sprint to May. This is the time of year where we like to get ahead of the game and begin planning for next school year. With that in mind, I would like to make you aware of an opportunity for you to share your expertise as a parent.

At Forest Trail, we believe that each teacher offers a unique set of strengths to his/her students. When students experience a variety of teaching styles during their educational career, it helps develop them into well-rounded adults who are comfortable working in any environment and competent in all academic areas. Sometimes, this process can be difficult for students. However, we believe that there is value in the struggle. Though it is never easy to watch your child struggle, it does give you an opportunity to parent (as in the verb), and it gives your child an opportunity to develop confidence, perseverance and resilience. At the same time, there are occasionally circumstances that you, as the parent, believe should be taken into consideration before we place your child into a class for the upcoming school year. In that case, I would like to hear from you. Beginning the Monday we return from Spring Break, a green information sheet will be available for pick up in the office for you to complete and return. This sheet is an opportunity for you to provide any insights into your child and is due back to the office by April 21, 2017. In order to allocate our full attention and time to the planning of best placement of every student at Forest Trail, we are really holding to April 21st as the final day for submission of these forms. This will give us an appropriate amount of planning time with all the busy activities that occur

as the year begins to wind down. While other forms of communication have served as requests in previous years, we would like to adhere to this information form as the standard for all of the Forest Trail family as opposed to individual emailed requests. Your comments will be viewed by myself, your child's current teacher, and the school counselors as we finalize class lists. All comments will be read and considered, **however specific teacher requests will NOT be granted.** Thank you for trusting us to find the best fit for your child.

Have a great Spring Break!

Forest Trail 2017-2018 Kindergarten Registration

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Do your friends and/or neighbors have a child that will be five years old by the first of September? Please help us spread the word! "Official" kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 school year will be conducted on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 from 9:00–10:00 A.M. in the Forest Trail cafeteria.

At 9:00 on April 12th, all incoming kindergartners and their parents will meet in the cafeteria. At that time the children will be divided into small groups and taken to the kindergarten classrooms with one of the kindergarten teachers. Parents will remain in the cafeteria for a question and answer session hosted by one of the kindergarten teachers, the counselor, and the principal. After approximately 30 minutes, the children will rejoin their parents in the cafeteria where they may enjoy a morning snack. The morning will conclude with an official EISD school bus ride. For your convenience, the rear doors to the school will be unlocked that morning to allow for parking in both the front and rear of the school.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2017. **Beginning March 20th, Kindergarten Packets are available for pick up in the front office. On March 29th, parents may access and complete the on-line required forms.** We request parents of next year's kindergarten students make every effort to complete the on-line registration by the morning of April 12th. On-line registration can be completed at <http://www.eanesisd.net/parents/enrollment>. The registration information is essential to determine the staff needed and the number of classrooms required.

After completing the on-line enrollment forms, parents will need to bring the following documents to the FTE front office. We encourage parents to turn these in any time prior to Kinder Roundup on April 12th. Our receiving these items in advance gives us additional time to review the materials and will reduce your waiting time on registration day.

- ❖ an **original copy** of child's **birth certificate**, preferably with a photocopy

- ❖ a **photocopy** of child's **social security card**
- ❖ a **photocopy** of child's **completed immunization record** (*This is required before school starts.)
- ❖ a **photocopy** of guardian's **valid driver's license**
- ❖ **(2) proofs of residency in EISD** (current utility bill **and** copy of lease agreement, deed contract or recent tax receipt.

If it is not possible to obtain a photocopy of these materials before registration, a copier will be available in the front office. Parents may bring originals with them, and a member of our staff will help make any copies needed.

- ❖ **Miscellaneous forms** will be found in Kinder Packets (i.e. FTE Directory Form, Bus Buddy form, School Supply information, Kindergarten Day information, etc.) and will be available for pickup in our school office beginning **Monday, March 20th**.

Parent Volunteers Still Needed!

FTE parent volunteers are needed to serve as hall/restroom monitors during our STAAR testing days on May 9th & 10th. Monitoring is very easy and we actually suggest that you bring a book or magazine to read. We are using SignUp.com to organize our upcoming activity. Please help by signing up for one or more volunteer spots. We ask that each of our volunteers report to the FTE office 5 to 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time slot. If you should have any questions please contact Bonnie Rosson at 512-732-9160 or brosson@eanesisd.net. We appreciate your support!

Please sign up for STAAR BATHROOM MONITORS SPRING 2017!

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/go/5oJndk>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp.com)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp.com will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If

you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Handbags for Hope

The PE Department is participating in Handbags for Hope for the Texas Advocacy Project. We are collecting gently used purses which will be cleaned and prepared for distribution. Children living in domestic violence shelters will be allowed to “go shopping” for a purse to give to their mother for Mother’s Day. The purse will have pamphlets and a phone number stitched inside for the legal hotline for the Texas Advocacy Project which can assist them in their transition from the shelter to living on their own again.

Please read the information below from the TEXAS ADVOCACY PROJECT.

Handbags for Hope is an essential means for the Texas Advocacy Project (The Project) to place life-saving legal information in the hands of victims as they transition out of domestic violence shelters and begin the process of rebuilding their lives. The Project, along with the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, needs your donations of new or gently used handbags to support this community outreach effort. The Project has collected more than 35,000 bags via Handbags for Hope since it first launched 10 years ago.

At any time between now and March 31st, feel free to drop off purses at the FTE PE Office! We will get the purses over to the Travis County Sheriff’s office. Forest Trail is having a friendly competition with Bridgepoint to see which school will collect the most purses. We won the contest two years ago and plan on continuing the tradition!

Booster Club Corner

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

March Booster Club Meeting is Tomorrow, Friday, March 10th at 9:30am!:

Tips on Trending Topics: STAAR Test Tips & Guidance on Tips on Choosing and Preparing for the Right Summer Camp(s) for Your Family

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

The March Booster Club Meeting is Friday, March 10th, at 9:30am in the Library. Join us as we explore two hot and trending topics for March: testing and summer camp decisions and preparation.

Join us for expert tips from FTE Counselor **Monica Etter** on the testing periods that are coming up - from the best nutrition for focus, to managing stress, to why we take the STAAR tests.

Then we will welcome **Mike McDonnell**, Founder and President of Kidventure, who will lean on his 23 years of experience in running camps for kids to guide parents on choosing the best camp(s) for their children based on age, personality, goals for camp, and family values. He'll share tidbits and life hacks along with a few do's and don'ts involved with summer camp.

FTE Booster Club Accepting Nominations for the 2017-18 FTEBC Executive Board

<http://fte.eanesisd.net/a/eanesisd.net/fte/booster-club/about-the-forest-trail-booster-club>

The FTEBC is now accepting nominations (for yourself or someone else) for the 2017-18 FTEBC Executive Board. If you interested in serving on the FTEBC Executive Board, or are interested in chairing one of the many committees for the Booster Club, please [click here](#) to submit your interest. **The FTEBC Executive Board nominations are due by Friday, March 24, 2017.** Chairperson interest submissions are encouraged to be completed as soon as possible as positions will be determined shortly.

The final 2017-18 FTE Booster Club Executive Board slate will be presented at the April 7th Booster Club meeting and will be voted upon at the May 5th meeting.

Buy Your Parent Socials Tickets Now!

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

Calling all 2nd-5th grade parents! Hurry to purchase your Parent Socials tickets now! Tickets are limited and will close prior to each event on account of capacity limitations as well as hosting needs to solidify catering.

Parent Social Dates Remaining for the 2016-17 school year:

- 5th grade: Saturday, March 25, 2017
- 4th grade: Saturday, April 1, 2017
- **3rd grade: Saturday, April 22, 2017 - please note that the 3rd grade Parent Social date has changed from Saturday April 8th to Saturday April 22nd**
- 2nd grade: Friday, April 21, 2017

Don't miss these great opportunities to have a blast with parents from your child's grade level! Tickets for this adults-only evening are available for purchase on the FTE Hub for \$45 per person.

Volunteer Spotlights Return After Spring Break

We had some publishing challenges to our Volunteer Spotlight page and are migrating those profiles to a new page. Watch for the new Volunteer Spotlights page after Spring Break!

Exciting No-Hassle Fundraiser Fulfillments!

We are thrilled to report that the fleet of new **water fountains with bottle filling stations** has been installed at FTE! Next time you are on campus please watch for these great improvements to our school that keep our staff and students hydrated while reducing waste!

We are also thrilled to have our **two new communication panels** installed after Spring Break! Look for one in the FTE foyer above the fish tank, as well as one in the cafeteria to the right side of the stage. These panels will display important and helpful information about upcoming FTE and EISD events, brag photos for awards won by students, and so much more. We are so excited to see this vision come to fruition after several years of working to bring these communication panels here!

Updates to the **FTE foyer** and **staff lounge** are in the works, as are the **courtyard** functionality renovations.

We are so, so grateful to our amazing FTE Booster Club supporters whose contributions made these initiatives possible!

FTE No-Cook Spirit Events Coming Up!

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

Join us for a No-Cook Spirit Day with Kona Ice at Forest Trail Elementary near the field on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 (weather-pending) from 1:30pm-2:30pm (early release day).

Exciting Dates & Event Details Coming Soon!

Dates and details for exciting new and familiar events at FTE in April and May:

- **FTE Booster Club Open House** - Learn more about what the Booster Club funds, and opportunities to serve in the Booster Club.
 - **Muffins for Moms** - A morning to celebrate moms!
 - **Donuts for Dads** - A morning to celebrate dads!
 - **Spring Family Movie Night** - Family fun watching a movie at FTE under the stars!
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FTEBC Organizational Chart

<http://fte.eanesid.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!

Helpful Links

- FTEBC website - fte.eanesid.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.eanesid.net/booster-club/organizational-chart>

FTE Lost & Found

The Forest Trail office has several expensive items that have been found on campus and have not yet been claimed. These items consist of student eye

glasses, fit bits and women's watches. A picture of these items is posted on our FTE website. Please claim them if they are yours.



Join Us for Eanes ISD Summer Camps!

Summer Blast: Camp Read S'more

Held at Cedar Creek Elementary

May 30th-June30th

(NO CAMP July 4th-8th)

July 11th-28th

Main Camp Hours 9:00am-3:30pm Additional Camp Hours 7:30am-5:30pm

Registration March 1st

Summer Splash: Story Stretchers

Held at Cedar Creek CDC

May 30th-June30th

(NO CAMP July 4th-8th)

July 11th-28th

Camp Hours 7:30am-5:30pm

Registration March 6th

Community Education Enrichment Classes

Held at Cedar Creek Elementary

Engineering, Math, Language, Music, Art, Chess, Culinary Arts,

Athletics and much more!

Held at Westlake High School
Athletic Camps, College Essay, Writing Camps
Registration April 1st

Save The Date!

Forest Trail's Annual Mother Daughter Retreat-ROADTRIP!

When: April 28-30th

Where: T Bar M, New Braunfels, TX

Registration opens Monday, March 20th!

Order Your FTE 2016-2017 Yearbook Today

Reserve your copy of the ALL COLOR yearbook. Yearbooks will only be sold online this year until they are sold out! The price of the yearbooks will increase to \$35 effective May 1st. Order your yearbook now at: www.balfour.com

Westlake Girls Lacrosse Spring Season is Starting

Let us introduce your daughter to lacrosse - the fastest growing sport in America! We will teach your girls basic skills in a safe and fun environment! Both new and experienced players are welcome. Scoopers Program - K-2 - practices on Sundays 11AM - 12:15AM at Barton Creek Elementary. Register your daughter and invite a friend! www.westlakegirlslacrosse.com

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/.

