



TRAILBLAZER

September 8, 2016

Principally Speaking

Parents,

Forest Trail will be celebrating International Dot Day on Thursday, September 15th. Here is an excerpt from this year's Dot Day handbook giving you a little background:

September 15th marks the anniversary of the publication of best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, a "story book for all ages."

Starting in 2009, a group of educators began celebrating this date as International Dot Day — a day for classes to explore the story's powerful themes: bravery, creativity, and self-expression.

"The Dot more than anything celebrates the power of creative teaching," Reynolds explains. "Despite the test-centric world we live in, creative teachers know how to find those aha moments — much the same way that my 7th grade math teacher Mr. Matson 'connected the dots' between math and art, which changed my life." To honor that moment, Reynolds dedicated The Dot to Mr. Matson.

The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a remarkably creative way. In Reynolds' book, the teacher dares a very resistant Vashti to "make her mark." Vashti's breakthrough begins with a simple dot on a piece of paper. Encouraged by her teacher she sets off on a journey of self-discovery, letting her creativity bloom and, ultimately, inspire others.

Teacher Terry Shay believed so fully in the power of The Dot that he "made his mark" by declaring September 15th International Dot Day. He encouraged fellow teachers to read the book and then create their own dots. Dot Day caught on

quickly. Since the first Dot Day in 2009, the numbers of participating educators and students around the globe have skyrocketed. More and more schools are joining in the fun every year.

We invite students to come to school as dotty as they like on September 15th to celebrate the spirit of being brave and creative. Please limit the dots to clothing: no face painting or hair alterations.

Reminder...Newcomers Coffee is Friday!

All new parents of Forest Trail are cordially invited to attend a welcoming coffee to be held in the Forest Trail Elementary Cafeteria on Friday, September 9th starting at 8:30 A.M. The coffee, hosted by the Forest Trail Booster Club, will feature brief presentations by our school's administrative team with ample time allocated for responding to your questions about our school. Get to know the other newcomers and learn the ins and outs of being a parent of a Forest Trail student.

Library Links by Bonnie Seelig

Welcome students, teachers and library volunteers to the 2016-2017 School Year!

The year begins by celebrating the Bluebonnet Readers who completed the 5 Bluebonnet Reading challenge this summer. Students have until Friday, September 9th to submit their Reflection Questions. On Monday, September 12th, tickets to the Bluebonnet Reading Room will be distributed to those students.

All 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will have the opportunity to complete the 5 book challenge during the school year by making a 70 or above on the books' AR tests. As soon as students pass the AR tests on 5 of the 13 books, the more time they will have to enjoy reading in the Bluebonnet Reading Room.

On Wednesday, September 21st, BookPeople will bring Aaron Becker to visit 2nd and 3rd graders from Forest Trail and Valley View in the FTE cafeteria. He will share his 2014 Caldecott Honor Book JOURNEY and the following two books in the trilogy: QUEST and RETURN. Signed copies of the books will be available. The order form from BookPeople is attached. Orders must be returned to the librarian by Tuesday morning, September 20th.

Thanks for all your support of the library and student reading at Forest Trail.

Free Flu Shot Clinic...

Free Flu Shot Clinic offered by Healthy Schools LLC

For: Forest Trail K – 5th grade students only!

Date: September 23, 2016

Permission forms must be returned to your child's classroom teacher regardless of participation by Friday, September 16th. You may access a consent form at <http://healthyschoolsllc.com>

LET'S KEEP EANES HEALTHY!

Booster Club Corner

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

FTEBC Volunteer Spotlight: Sharon Rossie

We are kicking off a new weekly Volunteer Spotlight each week to introduce some of the folks to make our school great.

Our first Volunteer Spotlight is on Sharon Rossie, Chairperson of the Copy Room. Sharon's job began weeks before school started, right along with the first teachers who begin preparing for the school year. Usually with few volunteers in the first weeks of school before shifts are established, she begins the important jobs of getting billboard items die cut, worksheets printed, and names labels laminated for desks and cubbies. She then recruits and trains a team of volunteers to keep the Copy Room staffed almost every hour of each school day of the year. She puts in dozens of hours each month to keep the Copy Room chugging along efficiently and reliably. This support frees up our teachers to do what they do best: spend time teaching our kids. Thank you, Sharon, for all you do!

***Updated!* Newcomers' Coffee & Booster Club Meeting: Two Great Events on Friday, September 9th**

Don't miss a great morning to connect with FTE administrators, staff, and parent leaders on Friday, September 9th. The Newcomers' Coffee begins at 8:30am in the cafeteria, followed by the first Booster Club Meeting of the school year. Meet 2016-17 chairpersons, hear from Principal Spraberry, and enjoy guest speaker Amy Brady of the Clutter Consultants as she shares some new and old favorite life hacks in her talk "A+ Organizing: Back-to-School Organizing Tips for a Smooth Start to the School Year". Coffee and snacks provided. NOTE: NOW IN THE CAFETERIA

Support the FTEBC No-Hassle Fundraiser by September 24th!

Every family that donates to the No-Hassle Fundraiser will be entered to win one of several family-friendly gift cards. Congratulations to last week's gift card winners: Sarah & Derek DeHay, Stephanie & Logan Owens, Kate & Scott Flack, Cristen & Alan Daniel

In the friendly battle of the FTE homerooms for the highest participation in our campaign, here's how it's shaking out:

As of Tuesday afternoon, September 6th, 15% of FTE families have participated, donating \$11,865 so far!

Leading homerooms:

Kindergarten: Linder at 25% class participation

1st grade: Goralski at 19% class participation

2nd grade: Guerra at 24% class participation

3rd grade: Fromberg 20% class participation

4th grade: Ellis at 41% class participation ← Ellis is taking the overall lead!

5th grade: Hitt at 18% class participation

Each homeroom with the highest participation ranking in each grade will win a [teaser alert] SWEET SURPRISE party, with the highest ranking homeroom class receiving a PE party as well!

Money raised by the No-Hassle Fundraiser is used right here at FTE, filling in supply needs for our school, providing enriching programs for students such as fields trips and Science Fest, and affording staff appreciation opportunities.

Thank you, Forest Trail families and supporting businesses! 16 days left to hit our BIG SUPER HERO-SIZED STRETCH goal of 100% participation! See the attached flyer, or learn more and donate online by September 24th: <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/No-Hassle-Fundraiser>

Don't Miss Bingo Night on Saturday, September 24th!

Bingo is the annual family-friendly games night at FTE. Play bingo, enjoy pizza & other concessions, win prizes, buy raffle tickets, and have lots of fun! Volunteers are crucial to our success! Full event info and volunteer info here! <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/bingo>

Weekly Popcorn: Order by Friday, September 16th for First Delivery!

Order your popcorn for the 2016-17 school year by Friday, September 16th to ensure delivery to your child's homeroom on the first day of the much-anticipated, delicious afternoon popcorn snacks on Thursday, September 22nd. Click for more info & a link to purchase here: <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/popcorn>

SXSF: Last Call for Science Fest Presenters!

Friday, October 28th will be another great day for FTE students when SXSF: Science Fest returns! The SXSF team has space for a few more presenters to lead a session in

science, technology, engineering, or math. More info here!
<http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/science-fest>

Clip Those Box Tops!

It's time for the September Box Tops Contest: The class that turns in the most Box Tops by September 23rd will win an EXTRA RECESS! The teacher of the winning class will win a PEDICURE FOR 2 TO EMBELLISH!

Student Prizes:

1st - \$25 Gift Certificate to Austin's Pizza

2nd - Vinyl monogram from Kelley Edwards Design

3rd - Turn in 50 Box Tops and receive a Gift Certificate to the School Store and a chance to win a vinyl monogram from Kelley Edwards Design.

Look for your Box Tops Collection Sheet in the Thursday Folder, attached to this newsletter or online at <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club>. We earned over \$2400 through Box Tops last year. That's \$600 more than the year before! Let's see if we can earn even more this year! Expired Box Tops will not be counted. Thank you for supporting FTE through Box Tops! Please email kelley.a.edwards@gmail.com with any questions.

Lost & Found: Label, Label, Label! (please!)

Please label your child's things. Label EVERYTHING that comes to school. The FTE Booster Club has fundraisers at two label companies. Twenty percent of every purchase comes back to the FTE Booster Club.

- Name Bubbles: <http://Fundraising.NameBubbles.com/c/42340> - This takes you directly to the fundraising page. Just click "Name Bubbles gives 20%," and then click "Shop Now."
- Mabel's Labels: <http://MabelsLabels.com> – Click "Support a Fundraiser," and then choose "Forest Trail Elementary (Austin)" from the scroll menu. Please contact Jenny Sutter at jenifersutter@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in volunteering in the Lost and Found.

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

FTE Directory News

Here is the latest directory news from our FTE Directory Chair, Ann Boren.

- **Information Verification:** Thank you to everyone who verified their family's FTE directory information on Muffin Morning! We will be accepting information updates until September 16th. Please contact Ann Boren at ftedirectory@gmail.com.
- **Advertising Spaces Available:** We still have additional advertising space available as well. Contact ftedirectory@gmail.com with any questions that are not answered in the FAQs below.
- **FTE Cover Art Contest:** Back by popular demand, we will be running a cover art contest for the directory. Entry forms will be distributed in Thursday folders next

week. Additional forms can be found in the front office. All entries are due by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th. As in years past, runner-ups from each grade will be printed inside the directory with the class lists.

- **Purchase a directory:** Directories are available for purchase on the Hub.
- **FAQ's:** Full list of FAQ's on the FTE Directory webpage - <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/fte-directory>

Thank you for your support! Please email any questions to ftedirectory@gmail.com.

Bye-Bye Progressive Dinners, Hello Parent Socials!

Ever wonder why we call them Progressive Dinners? Well so did we! Progressive Dinners are now "Parent Socials". Same fun, new name, and new co-hosting process. If you're interested in co-hosting a Parent Social for your grade level, click here for more info!: <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/parent-socials>

***Updated!* FTE Auction & Party Positions Open**

The FTE Auction & Party is months away (Saturday, February 11th) but the wheels are already in motion! We have an awesome team with just a few positions needed to make it the awesome event we know it will be! We are looking for an Auction Software/ App Manager and a Silent Auction Coordinator. Full role descriptions available on the FTE Auction & Party website - <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/auction>

***Updated!* Mark Your Calendars!**

- September 9th 8:30am - Newcomers' Coffee - **now in the CAFETERIA**
- September 9th 9:30am - First Booster Club Meeting with Speaker Amy Brady of Clutter Consultants shares organizational tips for a great school year - **now in the CAFETERIA**
- September 15th - International Dot Day
- September 16th: any directory listing changes due to ftedirectory@gmail.com
- September 16th: Order your 2016-17 popcorn by this date to ensure delivery of first popcorn on September 22nd
- September 22nd 6:30pm - FTEBC Chairpersons Social
- September 24th 5:30pm - Bingo Night
- September 30th morning - Falcon Frolics
- October 28th morning - SXSf: Science Fest

Don't miss an important date! Subscribe here! <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/events-and-calendar>

***Updated!* 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/a/eanesisd.net/fte/booster-club/organizational-chart>

FTE Community Partners

Support FTE through our Community Partners at these upcoming events...

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night—Thursday, September 15th, 4-10pm. Drop off Receipts (or we lose the donations!) at the register or in the drive-thru for 20% donation to FTEBC

Hat Creek Spirit Night—Wednesday, September 28th, 5-9pm. Drop off Receipts (or we lose the donations!) at the register or in the drive-thru for 10% donation to FTEBC

Kendra Gives Back Event on Monday, October 17th, 6-8pm. Shop at Kendra Scott (early holiday purchases? Special Anniversary? Big birthdays coming up?) this evening and KS will donate 20% of total sales to FTEBC!

Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night—Thursday, November 3rd, 4-10pm. Drop off Receipts (or we lose the donations!) at the register or in the drive-thru for 20%

Join the FTE Orff Percussion Ensemble!

Open to 3th-5th Graders

What is an Orff Ensemble?

Orff Ensemble is named after Carl Orff, the man who originally brought xylophones, movement, and recorders into the elementary music classroom. In this group, students will go further in depth than our general music classes by performing ensemble pieces and creating music together.

When? Tuesdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Where? Music Room 24 (Mrs. Bishop's room)

How? Signup through Community Ed:
<http://www.eanesisd.net/communityeducation/enrich>

Preschool Aged Peer Models Needed

We are having a fall screening for the 2016-2017 school year on Wednesday, September 28th at 2:00 at Eanes Elementary.

The Eanes Independent School District Special Education Program is looking for typically-developing children who are ages 3-1/2 to 4 (between 9/1/16 and 5/31/17) to serve as Peer Models in our Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The PPCD classes provide early intervention services for children with disabilities through language-based child-centered activities.

All students are taught pre-school curriculum by certified special education teachers in the areas of literacy, numeracy, language, socialization, and independence skills through thematic units.

The Peer Models must have age appropriate verbal, behavioral, social, and self-help skills (including being toilet-trained) and will be selected based on their interactions with staff and other children.

The school day hours are Monday through Friday 7:45 – 1:45. The classes are held at Eanes Elementary, and parents will be required to provide transportation to and from school. The Peer Models Program follows the Eanes ISD school year calendar. There will be a fee of \$500/semester for children who participate in this program.

If you are interested in having your child serve as a peer model, please contact Debra Bailey in the special education office to obtain an application.

Contact information: Debra Bailey at dbailey@eanesisd.net or (512) 732-9021

2016 Youth Spirit Clinic for K-5th Grades

Join the WHS Cheerleaders for the 2016 Youth Spirit Clinic on Saturday, Sept. 24th from 1:00 to 4:30pm at the WHS Chap Court. Register at : ChapsCheer.com

See the attached flyer for more details.

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/.

