



TRAILBLAZER

October 20, 2016

Principally Speaking

“Your EYES not only see everything around you AS IS, but also PROJECT what you wish [it to] look [like] in this world!”

— Ramana Pemmaraju

Being an educator for 15 years has shaped the way I view things. I tend to examine circumstances on how they relate to the big picture; how the seemingly small contributes to the collective whole. Being a parent has provided me with the most innate motivations to want what is best for my children; to look out for those opportunities which lead to the most beneficial outcome. Occasionally, these two lenses are at odds with one another. The Eanes Educational Foundation has found a happy medium in the struggle between my “good for the collective” versus “good for my kids” back and forth exchange.

Having worked in four districts throughout my career, the impact of EEF is undeniable. The opportunities provided to students and staff is unparalleled, well known, and the reason the district is so highly lauded and sought out. Teaching at a campus that was fully staffed and ripe with exceptional personnel was a new experience. Admittedly, while always appreciative, teaching in Eanes for six years alongside staff which EEF afforded us became the norm; something we just did and something our students just had. In short an expectation of the “world as is”.

Having recently spent two years away from the district re-introduced me to commonplace problems in education that Eanes students, thankfully, do not face. Forest Trail teachers do not have to work around impossible schedules to find time for their students to receive services. Our office staff does not have to perform double duty in the nurse’s station in the afternoon. Teachers are able to spend more time in classroom instructing students as Teaching Assistants provide support. My return to Eanes has brought with it an acute awareness of the power and direct impact EEF has on students and staff alike. Thanks to the efforts of EEF, Forest Trail students receive

the benefit of teaching assistants to provide support in and out of the classroom. This year Forest Trail was able to add an additional kindergarten section which enabled us to keep our families on campus while maintaining comfortable class sizes. Our students also receive the supports from a second counselor thanks to EEF's funding. Mr. Smith not only provides guidance lessons in class, but also he has created a sportsmanship program which applies our character education to real world experiences with peers. EEF provides all of the allowances which translate to our students being productive and successful both academically and socially. This is how EEF presents itself in my "educator" lens...this is my world "as is".

Referring back to the words of Ramana Pemmaraju, EEF also "projects what I wish the world to look like". My overriding "what's in it for my kids?" line of questioning was addressed in a recent conversation with a colleague. As you may know, EEF provides a T-shirt and a yard sign for every Eanes ISD kindergarten student. The sign reads "Future Chap Class of 2029." Think about that. It is very typical for schools provide signs to current high school seniors to announce they are graduating. The sign signifies there is someone has worked hard and completed the necessary steps they get to announce they've done what the State told them what they needed to do. Through the discussion with my friend we spent some time evaluating the difference. That sign in the Kindergarten student's yard projects the future of our students. That sign is visual evidence that the Eanes Education Fund is investing in a student from day one. In essence it informs the community that there is a commitment towards a student.

In a system where graduation rates are consistently a focus and a topic of discussion, how comforting is it to know that your student is backed by a community? A community that basically says "Come to school, we'll embrace you and give you what you need." Thank you for your continued support of EEF. Your donations have created a culture of support for our community and foster the high expectations that are central within Eanes ISD. Thank you for allowing me to see my world as is, professionally, and projecting the world I wish it to be personally.

With Gratitude

Cody Spraberry
Proud Principal
Forest Trail Elementary

EEF Donation is Friday!!!

It's EEF Donation Day on Friday, CELEBRATE ALL DAY! Donate by Friday to help your child win the Cake in the Face Challenge and the School Spirit Award!

You're Invited...

Community First invites you to a house blessing for the resident of home #424. This is the tiny home that was sponsored by the Forest Trail Community. The blessing will be held at 12:00 noon at Community First Village on Saturday, Oct. 22nd. Those interested in attending can meet at the old truck located at the entrance of the Community First Village at 11:45am. We will walk as a group to the home. Please wear your FTE t-shirt if possible. We hope that you can join us on Saturday!

Order Your FTE Yearbook Today

Order your 2016-2017 yearbook. Reserve your copy of the ALL COLOR yearbook. For a limited time, the yearbooks are on sale for \$25. 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! Price will increase on December 17th. Order at www.balfour.com

5th grade pridelines this year will only be available online to order and design online this year. Look for the flier to go home with your 5th grader and from your homeroom parent.

SOCKTOBER Update!

Thank you so much Forest Trail for your generosity with sock donations! You are making such a difference in the lives of the homeless community of Austin. Remember, we are competing against Valley View to see who can collect the most socks.

If you have not had a chance to contribute, please send in your socks - and be sure to write the name of your child's teacher on the package. The class with the most collected socks wins an extra PE class AND an extra recess on the Valley View playground.

Happy Socktober!

Library Links by Bonnie Seelig

Parents, teachers and students, thank you so much for your participation in the Magazine Rally. Your efforts in support of FTE Library allow for the purchase of an additional database by Pebble Go called Pebble Go Next. This newly released

database includes information on US States and Native Americans for upper grades. Also, we will be purchasing an additional set of Mo Willems' Elephant and Piggie books for the lower grades.

On Monday Book People brought author Grace Lin to share her love of writing and books with Forest Trail and Valley View students. What an opportunity for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to hear from an author her inspiration for book creation!

To celebrate the fun and creativity of fall, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are invited to participate in a PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST. They are challenged to carve, stencil, paint or decorate a SMALL OR MEDIUM SIZE PUMPKIN.

See attachment for Pumpkin Decorating guidelines.

Bring the finished pumpkin to the FTE Library between 7:30 am and 8:30 am Thursday morning, October 27th.

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students will be VOTING ON THE MOST CREATIVE PUMPKINS beginning at 8:30 am Thursday, October 27th.

Gifted and Talented Deadline...

The Eanes I.S.D. GT program services students who exhibit both high intellectual and creative thinking abilities, and are ready to work apart from their homeroom for a portion of the day. The deadline to sign your child up for testing (online) is right after parent-teacher conferences. If you missed the meeting on Oct. 3rd, you may review the information on the GT webpage for FTE. **Please note that the form will close promptly at 5:00 PM on Monday, October 24th.**

Booster Club Corner

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

Beginning this week, the FTE Booster Club will abbreviate the length of the copy for the Booster Club Corner in the Trailblazer. We will highlight the relevant news items, and will always post the page on the Booster Club website that will contain all of the information about that news item.

Thank you for reading the Booster Club Corner!

SXSF: Science Fest General Registration Has Concluded

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

If your child was not registered during the parent registration periods, he/ she will be placed in a course series by Science Fest Chairpersons. Thank you for your participation in the parent registration periods!

October 14th “State of the District” Presentation on the FTEBC Site

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

If you missed Dr. Leonard’s talk, you can still catch the presentation slides on the page listed here.

Link to AmazonSmile for FTE!

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

We are thrilled to invite the FTE community - families and businesses alike - to link their Amazon.com accounts to benefit FTE through the AmazonSmile program! Find out how on the AmazonSmile page!

No-Cook Spirit Night at Jason’s Deli Coming Up!

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

October 25th 5-10pm is a No-Cook Spirit Night Jason’s Deli! Join other Forest Trail families at the Jason's Deli Westlake at 3300 Bee Cave Road on Tuesday, October 25th from 5-10pm (be sure to tell them you're from Forest Trail at the register or your meal won't count!). See you there!

Box Tops Are Due Friday!

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

October Box Tops Contest:

Class Prize: The class that turns in the most Box Tops by Friday, October 21st will win an EXTRA RECESS!

Teacher Prize: Brunch for 2 to Moonshine Patio Bar & Grill

Student Prizes: 1st-\$25 Gift Certificate to Austin's Pizza; 2nd-2 Tickets to Alamo Drafthouse Cinema; 3rd-Turn in 50 Box Tops and receive a Gift Certificate to the School Store and a chance to win a Gift Certificate to Amy's Ice Cream.

Save the Date!: Fall Falcon Family Friday Flick in the Field: *Finding Dory*

Join us on the FTE field on Friday, November 18th @ 6:00pm for a family-friendly evening under the stars. Free admission & fun for all! Many thanks to our sponsor Kidventure.com!

Parent Socials

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

Parent Socials ticket sales will go on sale in November on the Hub. Some grades are seeking a few more hosts. If you are interested in hosting visit the Parent Socials page.

FTE Auction & Party Team Needs You!

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

Our Solicitations & Sponsorship Committee is now looking for team members. Visit the Auction & Party site to express interest!

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>

- Thursday October 20th @ 6:30pm - FTE Booster Club Social
- Friday October 21st - Sock Hop Day
- Friday October 28th - SXSf: Science Fest
- Friday November 18th @ 6:00pm - Fall Falcon Family Friday Flick in the Field:
Finding Dory

Helpful Links

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

FTEBC Organizational Chart - find out chairpersons for committees

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

Westlake Theatre Department's Fall Carnival & Costume Contest

The Westlake Theatre department is pleased to host its first ever/annual community

See the attached flyer for details on the carnival and costume contest rules. Information can also be found at: <http://whscast.com>

WHS PROJECT GRADUATION RAFFLE

Raffle tickets are on sale before kickoff at WHS home football games and online <http://www.westlakepg.com/raffle>

- Only 2,000 tickets will be sold
- Tickets are 1 for \$25 or 5 for \$100
- Grand Prize: A one week stay at the [Caracoles Condo in Isla Mujeres Mexico](#) donated by the Valdes family [plus a \\$1,000 Visa Gift Card](#)
- Second Prize: 18 karat white [gold diamond pendant](#) donated by EZCORP valued at \$1900
- Third Prize: \$1,000 [Anna Gray gift certificate](#) to use on customized piece by Heather B. Moore

Support this community celebration for our seniors. [Purchase](#) your tickets before they sell out.

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/.

