



# TRAILBLAZER

**December 1, 2016**

## ***Principally Speaking***

I would like to welcome everyone back from the long weekend and hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday as it allows for reflection and appreciation for all that we have. Among my many blessings is being back at Forest Trail and being surrounded by the students, staff and families that contribute to this special place. The staff and I would like give our thanks to Alison Bogle, Melissa Howitt and Karyn Reiber for leading the Staff Appreciation Committee. Additional thanks go out to Melissa for ensuring that every staff member received a pie to take home last Tuesday. One teacher summed it up best by stating: "Surprise desserts are my love language."

As we enter December, we also enter the time of year filled with celebrations and departures from normal schedules. A change from the usual routines combined with the anticipation of a two week break can manifest itself in different ways with many students. I've always experienced this in the educational setting, but now I'm seeing this on my home front as well. My daughter is showing signs of frustration and excitement. Her social dynamics are changing and understanding that a good friend can also have other friends is proving to be challenging. Additionally, she turned four on Monday and amidst all of our party planning and gift buying, my wife and I are thanked by boundary pushing and a new sense of very selective hearing. I wanted to share a resource I came across in my attempts to teach my daughter about unintentional exclusion and the seeking out of others who might need a friend. This is not unique to my four year old as this is an issue many of our students across all grade levels are currently working through as well.

[http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2016/06/be-an-includer/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=pbsparentspaid&utm\\_campaign=parents\\_expert](http://www.pbs.org/parents/expert-tips-advice/2016/06/be-an-includer/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=pbsparentspaid&utm_campaign=parents_expert)

## ***Sign Up for the 2017 Science Fair...***

The FTE Science Fair sign-up link and informational packet is posted on the front page of our Forest Trail website. **Interested participants must sign up on-line by December 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest.** The Forest Trail Science Fair will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup> for grades K-5. The top projects in grades 3-5 will be eligible to compete in the Austin Energy Regional Science Fair on February 18, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Buthe at [mbuthe@eanesisd.net](mailto:mbuthe@eanesisd.net).

## ***EEF Teacher Fund Drive Challenge Winners***

Congratulations to first grade for winning the EEF Teacher Fund Drive grade level participation challenge! The children had so much fun putting a small 'cake' in Mr. Spraberry's face. A big 'thank you' to all of the families who donated this year! Your donations will help us reach our goal of funding 50 teachers in 2017. If you were not able to donate in October and would still like to help us reach our goal, please visit [EEF](#) to make your donation today.

## ***Library Links by Bonnie Seelig***

Don't forget to come to the Scholastic Book Fair in the library at 1:30 Early Release Day. The opening hours of the book fair are always the best opportunity to find the perfect book!

If you plan to attend the Choir program on Friday or the Percussion Ensemble Tuesday, be sure to stop by the book fair.

If you want that perfect teaching moment with your children, plan on counting their coins for the book fair. We have instructed the students to bring their money in zip- lock bags with the \$ amount, Student Name and Teacher Name written on the clear plastic ziplock bag.

Looking forward to seeing you at the book fair!

The **Library's Holiday Book Fair dates and hours** are as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 1st from 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Friday, Dec. 2nd from 7:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Monday, Dec. 5th from 7:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Tuesday, Dec. 6th from 7:30 am - 5:00 pm.

## ***Booster Club Corner***

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

***The FTE Booster Club will abbreviate now the length of the copy for the Booster Club Corner in the Trailblazer. We will highlight the relevant news items, and will include a URL to find more information about that news item on the Booster Club website.***

***Thank you for reading the Booster Club Corner!***

### **FTE Booster Club Volunteer Spotlights**

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

This week's Volunteer Spotlight is on **Allison Johnson**, our 2016-17 Community Service Chairperson. We have had challenges in publishing to a few of our FTEBC webpages, including the Volunteer Spotlight page, but it should be cleared up soon! Check back to learn about Allison and her dedication to serving our community on Forest Trail's behalf on the Volunteer Spotlight page!

### **No Popcorn Delivery Today - Thursday December 1st**

Popcorn delivery for this week was moved to yesterday, Wednesday, November 30th. There will not be popcorn delivery today due to early release.

### **FTE Free Family Movie Postponed**

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

We were so sad to have to postpone our FTE Free Family Movie Night before Thanksgiving due to the weather, but we are working hard to find a new date! Please stay tuned, and thank you for your understanding!

***We are so grateful to our generous FTE Free Family Movie sponsor, [Kidventure!](#)*** Kidventure's contribution to FTE has long and deep roots! Check out Kidventure's [latest video here](#) and learn more about Kidventure and its character-building camps for youth at [Kidventure.com](http://Kidventure.com)!

**Don't Miss This Important Talk on Friday December 9th @ 9:30am: FTE Booster Club Meeting with Guest Speaker Laura Santos-Farry: "Keeping Eanes Schools Safe"** <http://fte.eanesisd.net/booster-club/about-the-forest-trail-booster-club>

Laura Santos-Farry, EISD Director of Safety & Risk Management, will share insight on how EISD keeps our campuses safe. She will share natural disaster and terrorism contingency plans, lockdown procedures, emergency communication protocols, and will answer questions from the parent audience. Come for this important and informative presentation which will follow the general Booster Club meeting.

**You + Holiday Shopping = \$ for FTE! Link Your Amazon Account to AmazonSmile for FTE Today!**

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

Statistics show that most of us will use Amazon.com for at least some of our holiday purchases. Why not benefit FTE while you're at it? Linking your Amazon purchases to FTE Booster Club's AmazonSmile account is one of the best ways you can help! 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! Every purchase earns money for FTE! Find out how on the AmazonSmile page!

**Box Tops**

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

**Box Tops** – December Box Tops Contest: The class that turns in the most Box Tops by December 16th will win an EXTRA RECESS! The teacher of the winning class will win 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.

Clip those Box Tops and download our latest collection sheet on the Box Tops webpage. Expired Box Tops will not be counted. Thank you for supporting FTE through Box Tops! Please email Kelley Edwards with any questions.

**Parent Socials Hit the Hub!**

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

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

**Have a Business or Manage a Brand? FTE Auction & Party Is Seeking Sponsors & Auction Donations!**

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

The FTE Auction & Party Committee has distributed letters inviting businesses and to sponsor or donate items for our Auction & Party. We anticipate a sellout for this year's *Falcon City Limits: FTE Auction & Party 2017* at One World Theatre. Affectionately known as the "best party of the year" here at FTE, the annual Auction & Party will draw hundreds of guests from the FTE parent and staff community. This is an excellent opportunity for businesses to reach an amazing and loyal demographic, while

benefitting our school! It's a win-win! If your business, brand, or family is interested in becoming a sponsor or donor, please visit the FTE Auction & Party page.

### **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.

- Thursday, December 1st @ 1:30pm - Student Early Release
- Friday, December 2nd @ 6:00pm - 1st & 2nd Grade FTE Falcon Singers Performance
- Friday, December 9th @ 9:30am - FTE Booster Club Meeting & Guest Speaker Laura Santos-Farry: "Keeping Eanes Schools Safe"
- Tuesday, December 13th @ 8:30am - FTE Show Choir Performance
- Tuesday, December 13th @ 6:00pm - FTE Show Choir Performance
- Thursday, December 15th - Friday December 16th - Class Holiday Parties
- Monday, December 19th - Monday January 2nd - Student Holiday/ Winter Break
- Friday, January 6th - FTE Booster Club Meeting & Guest Speaker Kendall Still, Principal of West Ridge Middle School: "*Transition to Middle School*"
- Saturday, February 11th - FTE Auction & Party

### **Helpful Links**

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

FTEBC Organizational Chart - find out chairpersons for committees

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

## ***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](http://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 5<sup>th</sup> grade Prideline information.

## ***WHS Project Graduation***

Support Westlake High School's Project Graduation on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>! See the attachment for details.

## ***Reminder...***

Remember to "Like" us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ftfalcons/> and "Follow" us on Twitter [https://twitter.com/fte\\_principal](https://twitter.com/fte_principal) and Instagram [https://instagram.com/fte\\_principal/](https://instagram.com/fte_principal/).

