



# TRAILBLAZER

**December 8, 2016**

## ***Principally Speaking***

Across the district this fall, 5th grade students at every elementary school were able to spend a few days away from the classroom at Live Oak. The students were able to spend quality time together, experiencing team building through collaborative problem solving. Harvard psychologist and Grant Study director Robert Walking shares "What Makes A Good Life? Lessons from the Longest Study on Happiness" in his TED Talks video. He states, "The clearest message that we get from this 75-year study is this: Good relationships keep us happier and healthier." This message is not singular to our 5th grade students. The staff at Forest Trail model this daily for all of our students. We hope you are able to spend quality time with family and friends over this winter holiday. Making memories and building positive relationships does matter!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KkKuTCFvzI>

## ***Annual Socktober Campaign Benefits Area Homeless Shelters***

Forest Trail Elementary and Valley View Elementary 5th graders collected more than 11,000 pairs of socks to give to local homeless shelters, as a part of the national "Socktober" campaign promoted by Kid President.

The friendly competition between the neighboring schools crowned Valley View as this year's winner, with the Cardinals bringing in 5,742 pairs of socks, while Forest Trail collected 5,459 pairs. This is the second year for the competition, the fourth year in which Forest Trail has collected socks.

"It was so much fun participating in a friendly competition with Forest Trail," said Valley View Principal Jennifer Dusek. "Socktober holds meaning for children of all ages. We cherish the rich conversations we engage in when serving other Austinites by collecting and giving in such a meaningful way. Collecting over 5,000 socks was an incredible

feeling. We also thoroughly enjoyed invading Forest Trail's turf by taking over their playground as our playful reward!"

In addition, Forest Trail students collected toiletries to pack into the socks to create "sock care packages" to donate to homeless shelters. The students made a special delivery to Caritas of Austin last Wednesday, where they learned about homelessness and toured the soup kitchen and food pantry.

"Every year the response emphasizes the importance of a giving and kind heart to those less fortunate," said FTE 5th grade teacher Laura Hitt, who organizes the campaign.

"We want our students to know they can make good things happen and to encourage and inspire them to have a positive impact in their community and their world."

## ***Sign Up for the FTE 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 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Silver Celebration Gala***

EEF's 25th Anniversary Silver Celebration Gala is February 25th. Tables are now on sale!

## ***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 **Kelley Edwards**, our 2016-17 Box Tops for Education 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 Kelley and the huge impact she's made in serving Forest Trail on the Volunteer Spotlight page!

**Don't Miss It!: 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.

**Thank you, Forest Trail! Your Holiday Shopping is Benefitting FTE with Every Purchase!**

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

Thank you to the many families who have linked their Amazon accounts to the AmazonSmile program for Forest Trail Elementary Booster Club! Linking your Amazon purchases to FTE Booster Club's AmazonSmile account is one of the best ways you can help! We invite the FTE community - families, staff, 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!

**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.

**Many Thanks to the Staff Appreciation Committee for a Successful Thanksgiving Pies-Giving!**

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

The Booster Club would like to thank our always-amazing Staff Appreciation Committee for their efforts to give a pie to all of our staff members this Thanksgiving! We know that our staff appreciates it, and we appreciate you! Thanks to Co-Chairs **Alison Bogle, Melissa Howitt, and Karyn Reiber** for their ongoing commitment to let our staff know they are loved. Photos of pies are posted on the Staff Appreciation page.

### **New FTE Free Family Movie Date Coming Soon**

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

A new date for our Family Movie will be announced shortly! ***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)!

### **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 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.

- Friday December 9th @ 9:30am - FTE Booster Club Meeting & Guest Speaker Laura Santos-Farry: "Keeping Eanes Schools Safe"
- Tuesday December 13th @ 8:30am and 6:00pm - FTE Show Choir Performances
- 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://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>

## ***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***

The raffle drawing supporting Westlake High School's Project Graduation is Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Get your tickets at: [www.westlakepg.com/raffle](http://www.westlakepg.com/raffle)  
See the attachment for details.

## ***Westlake Girls Lacrosse News***

Spring Registration is now OPEN for girls in grades K-8!

As the premier girl's lacrosse program in Central Texas, Westlake Girls Lacrosse provides a fun and positive atmosphere for youth players to learn the exciting game of girl's lacrosse!

Registration space is limited and on a *"first come, first serve"* basis so don't miss out, sign up your daughter today!

To learn more or to register, just go to [www.WestlakeGirlsLacrosse.com](http://www.WestlakeGirlsLacrosse.com).

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

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

