



# Tiny Tigers PTA "Paw Print"



News you can use from the ECC and Primary Campuses

Volume 3

March 2008

Issue 7

Next General Assembly Meeting - Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30pm - Primary Campus Cafeteria

## Kindergarten Art Contest

The TTPTA is sponsoring an Art Contest for the Kindergarten students. Each student will work on their "masterpiece" in school and the Tiny Tigers PTA will collect the artwork at the end of March and choose a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner from each class, as well as an overall 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade winner from the entire grade. Winners will be announced at our April general assembly meeting. Parents of the winners will be notified so they can plan to attend. Each child will receive a participant ribbon; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each class will receive medals and the overall winners will receive trophies!

## Getting Prepared...

Do you love going store to store to find all the school supplies on your child's list? Do you love fighting the back to school crowds? How about having to haul all your kid's supplies to school? Guess what? We don't! But, we are about to make your life and our lives easier!! The TTPTA is teaming up with *School Kidz* to offer you all the supplies on your child's lists in one neat little kit. The school supply kits even include items such as paper towels, wipes, tissue, and zip-lock bags. We will be taking orders for the school supply kits during the month of April, so be checking your child's Tuesday folder next month for the order form. All you have to do is fill out the order form and send it back to school with the money. You will receive your kit on orientation/meet the teacher night. Your kit will even include pre-printed labels with your child's name for all the items in the kit. It couldn't be easier!! A representative from *School Kidz* will be on hand at our March meeting to present the school supplies information and answer any questions.

## Next Meeting...

The next general assembly meeting of the Tiny Tigers PTA will be **Monday, March 10, 2008** at **6:30 pm** at the **Primary Campus Cafeteria**. Make sure you attend this meeting and see the dozens of great new books the PTA is donating to the Primary and ECC libraries. We will also be giving away some of the books as door prizes. We will have a representative from *School Kidz*, Ms. Sherrill Cockrill, at our meeting to let us know all the great things about the school supplies project. On another subject, are you looking for an after school, weekend, or summer program for your child? How about one that also offers a free health care program? Come hear all the details at the March meeting!

### Attention Teachers:

The TTPTA is in the process of fulfilling the teacher wish lists and hopes to have them all distributed before Spring Break. If you plan on submitting a wish list, please do so now, the deadline for submitting teacher wish lists is **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### ECC Beautification Project

Don't forget our landscaping/beautification project is in the works for this spring at the ECC campus. If you've got a green thumb or have a knack for landscaping we need your help. Please contact committee chair Shannon Davenport at [sdavenport@txun.net](mailto:sdavenport@txun.net) if you can volunteer your time, manpower, or materials.



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## Joining the Board

Keep thinking about the possibility of serving on the Tiny Tigers PTA Board or thinking about someone you know who might be interested. The TTPTA serves the ECC and Primary Campuses (PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grades) and most of the board members' children will be moving to a new campus next year which means the TTPTA is in need of a new board for next school year. We will be accepting nominations for board members at our April general assembly meeting and elections will be at the May general assembly meeting, which is also the last meeting of the school year.

Without your continued support, the TTPTA will not be able to exist. We ask that you please consider serving as a member of the TTPTA Board in one of the following positions that will be open for the next school year:

- ❖ President
- ❖ Vice-President of Programs
- ❖ Vice-President of Membership/Publicity
- ❖ Secretary
- ❖ Treasurer
- ❖ Volunteer Coordinator

If you have any questions about the duties of these positions or would like to nominate yourself or someone else, feel free to contact us at [tinytigerspta@gmail.com](mailto:tinytigerspta@gmail.com).

## Be a Tutor!

**Being a tutor doesn't take a lot of time, just a lot of heart!**

Ms. Deneen Winn, currently a primary parent volunteer, is looking for parent volunteers to assist with an in-school tutoring program. This program will assist mostly the Primary, but also at the ECC if needed. All volunteer time is during the school day and Ms. Winn is requesting a 30-minute commitment. If you are interested in this worthy effort, please contact Ms. Winn at 830-393-3635.

## Reading Tips for Parents of Kindergarteners

**Play with letters, words, and sounds!** Having fun with language helps your child learn to crack the code of reading.

**Say silly tongue twisters.** Sing songs, read rhyming books, and say silly tongue twisters. These help kids become sensitive to the sounds in words.

**Play with puppets.** Play language games with puppets. Have the puppet say something like, "My name is Mark. I like words that rhyme with my name. I am going to say some words and I want you to tell me if they rhyme with Mark. Ready? Does *park* rhyme with *Mark*? (Stress the words *park* and *Mark*). Does *ball* rhyme with *Mark*? Does *shark* rhyme with *Mark*?" Wait for your child to answer each question, yes or no. When your child answers yes to the word *shark*, the puppet could then pretend to be a very energetic shark who, of course, wants to tickle your child.

**Play sound games.** Give your child practice blending individual sounds into words. For example, ask, "Can you guess what this word is? *m - o - p.*" Say the sound each letter makes rather than the name of the letter. Hold each sound longer than you normally would. This will help your child recognize the different letter sounds.

**Use the sounds and letters in your child's name.** Draw your child's attention to the letters in his or her name. Point out the link between letters and sounds. Say things like, "John, the word *jump* begins with the same sound as your name does. *John, jump.* And they both begin with the same letter, *J.*"

**Trace and say letters.** One way to help your child learn letter sounds is to have him or her use a finger to trace a letter while saying the letter's sound at the same time. You can do this on paper or in a sandbox or on a plate filled with sugar. Involving touch, sight, and speech in this way has a powerful effect on learning. Another option is for you to draw the outlines of a letter using dots and then have your child connect the dots while also saying the letter sound out loud.

**Watch my lips.** This may feel odd at first, but encourage your child to watch your lips and mouth while you make certain sounds. Have your child think about how his or her own lips and tongue move. You can say something like, "Can you feel how your mouth moves the same way at the beginning of the words *mouse*, *mom*, and *man*? Watch my mouth while I say them. Now you say the words and feel your lips make the *mmm* sound." Remember to make just one *m* sound that you hold for longer than you normally would.

**Read it and experience it.** Help your child make the connection between what he or she reads in books and what happens in life. If you're reading a book about animals, for example, relate it to last month's trip to the zoo.

**Let your child choose.** Give your child the chance to pick his or her own books, even if the reading seems too easy. Easier books build confidence and letting children choose their own books nurtures independence and their own interests.

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