



## Benignus November Newsletter

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I think it is a time to reflect on what gifts we have. I found a saying that inspired me to remember how fortunate we truly are to be a part of such an outstanding school district and community.

*“Having someone who understands is a great gift for ourselves.*

*Being someone who understands is a great gift to others”.*

As we move into such a busy time filled with friends, family and celebrations, it's nice to have the stability and comfort of such a caring faculty and staff at Benignus Elementary.

### November Dates

November 10	Mix It Up Lunch
November 11	Veteran's Day Celebration Breakfast for Veterans at Klein High cafeteria 8:00 – 8:45 Celebration 9:00 – 10:30 Klein Memorial Stadium
November 16	Select group of 5 <sup>th</sup> grade boys to perform at the annual Men's Choir at Christ Church off 1960
November 20	Benignus Choir performs at 4:15 pm Cypress Creek Christian Church & Community Center
November 23 - 27	Thanksgiving/Student Holidays



### Absences

As the holiday season approaches we want to remind you of Klein's attendance policy. Please remember it is very important for your child to attend school regularly. If your child is absent, it is very important that the front office is notified of the reason. Please call the attendance office at (832)484-7708. Klein does work in partnership with the Harris County's "Stay in School" program. A letter went home describing the program in the first day packet. In regards to the

program, once your child has reached the limit of unexcused absences, Harris County is notified. The program is designed to increase attendance. For more information please refer to your Klein Student Handbook pages 19 – 29.

#### Tardies/Early Dismissal

All tardies/early dismissals MUST go through the attendance office. Please do not go directly into your child's classroom. The Attendance Office must document all early dismissals and a parent or guardian must sign your child out of school. This ensures the safety of all students. Our tardies are incredibly high at this time. Punctuality is an important skill to teach your child. Please help us and your child by arriving to school on time. The phone number to the attendance office is (832)484-7708.

#### Arrivals

Only students having a Klein breakfast or attending choir practice, the runner's club or tutoring may arrive before 7:50 am. Breakfast and choir practice begin at 7:35 am. Individual teachers arrange tutoring times. These are the only students allowed in the building before 7:50 am. There are no adults on duty at this time. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. The bus parking lot is open to all cars at 8:15 am to alleviate traffic in morning car pool.

#### Dismissal

I want to thank all of you for picking up your children per our directions at the end of the day. We want to encourage an open school, yet provide the safest environment for our students. This has made such a difference in our dismissal. So again, thanks for your support. Please do not park in the bus lanes starting at 2:30 pm.



#### Criminal Background Check

If you are interested in volunteering at Benignus, please remember to turn in your background check in addition to the Klein on-line registration. Both have to be completed in order to volunteer at school. We are also making new badges for volunteers. If you have not had your picture made for a new badge, please come by the Benignus office as soon as possible. Volunteers are a vital part of our success.

#### Front Office Procedures

Anyone coming into the school building must sign in at the front office and participate in our V-Soft system by providing your driver's license to receive a visitor's badge. This is a safety precaution for your child and every child at Benignus. Please be respectful to the classroom teacher when coming to the school for any reason. If you are eating lunch with your child, please be aware that instruction time begins immediately after lunch. If you need to conference with a teacher, please set up a conference time. The teacher may not be available if you don't arrange a time. We want to encourage an open, warm school setting, yet also provide quality instruction to all students. A few minutes lost per day adds up to a lot of missed instruction time.



### Transportation

If your child needs a change of transportation, the most effective, accurate way to do this is to provide a written note to your child's teacher on the day of the change. If we do not have a note, we cannot allow your child to change his/her method of transportation. It would be advisable for you to have an alternate plan on rainy days. There are many phone calls that come to us right at dismissal time. We want to be certain that your child gets home correctly, therefore, please put your request in writing. We understand changes occur and a phone call is necessary, but to avoid last minute confusion, please have a plan in place.

Emergency phone numbers are also helpful in case you cannot be reached or are detained.

### Updated Addresses/Phone Numbers

Please contact the Attendance Office if your home address or any phone numbers have changed. It is imperative that we have current information on how to reach you in case of an emergency.



### McTeacher Night at McDonald's

We want to thank all of you for your support at Benignus McTeacher Night at McDonald's. We all had a wonderful time. It was a great opportunity to serve you, our wonderful community, and have fun with your children. We appreciate your support.



### Cookie Dough Sales

Parents once again you surpassed even our expectations with your support. Thank you so much for all of your hard work in our PTO/Benignus combined fundraiser. Your efforts provide our students with many wonderful activities. I want to give a special thanks to our PTO moms that stayed up here and worked handing out cookie dough. We would not be such an amazing school without all of you!



### Veteran's Day Celebration

Please read the attachment to this newsletter inviting you to attend a celebration at Klein Memorial Stadium Wednesday, November 11 at 9:00 am. What a wonderful way to honor the Veterans in our community.



### News from the Library

Thanks a million to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped decorate and work at the Book Fair to help make it an awesome one! Thanks to all of the parents and students who shopped at the Book Fair, which will help our library buy new books and have special author visits.

Thanks to all of our regular library volunteers who have been helping each week with shelving books and helping students locate good books! We really appreciate all of your help.

Mrs. Hollier, Librarian and Mrs. Adelman, Library Assistant

*I hope you all have a safe, happy Thanksgiving!*

