

HASSLER HERALD

"Hassler Ponies Have Horsepower"

September 1, 2009



The Hassler Herald is a monthly newsletter that is sent home on the first Tuesday of each month to provide information about school events and information that will enhance the working relationships between school and home.



Teacher Websites

Check out the teacher websites. Go to <http://www.kleinisd.net>. All classroom teachers have a website where parents and children can visit to find out information about the teacher, class work, homework and other information. It is a great communication tool.



Welcome Back Ponies

We are glad that you are back and hopefully everyone had a great summer. We are settling in and preparing for another wonderful year.

Exemplary Rating

For the sixth year in a row we are pleased to report that Hassler has attained an "Exemplary" rating due to our TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test results administered last spring to our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. The "Exemplary" status is the highest campus rating a Texas School can receive. We are extremely proud of our students and teachers. We could not have accomplished these awards without the help of our parents and community. Thank you!

	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3rd Grade	100 %	99 %		
4th Grade	99%	100%	100%	
5th Grade	100%	99 %		98%

Congratulations to our students, staff and parents! What an accomplishment!

Tuesday Take Home Folders

Your child will bring a folder home every Tuesday. It is our hope that you and your child will take this opportunity to go over the papers together before you sign and return the folder on the following day. Your child will appreciate your praise for accomplishments and progress, as well as your encouragement and understanding in those areas where improvement is needed.

Registration Cards

Please proof and sign your child's pre-printed registration card. It is encouraged that both parents sign the card. Please return this card as soon as possible. Remember to put your drivers license number and date of birth by your signature for security verification when you pick up your student early from school.

Remember if you used an earnest money contract to enroll your child, 30 days after moving into your home, you will need to provide a utility bill.

Attendance Procedures



Your child's attendance is important to his/her education. Many skills are taught upon arrival at school to set the tone for the day.

When your child is late, they miss this teaching time which affects their academics. When a child is tardy more than five times, "Opportunity Time" will be assigned. Tardy in this instance is considered 8:30. Doctor's excuses are accepted. The child can come in from 7:15 - 8:00 to make up the tardy days, or stay from 3:15 - 4:00 in the afternoon. This will be discussed with the parent prior to assignment.

Student Arrival

School hours for our students are from 8:15 am to 3:15 pm. The tardy bell will ring at 8:20. For safety reasons we are asking that all walkers and bike riders from Gleannloch Farms enter the school grounds via the bike path. Bike riders are expected to walk their bicycles as soon as they come on campus. The bicycle racks are located at the north end of the building. The bus circle is reserved for buses and day care only. Cars may enter via the inbound side of Lochlea Ridge Drive, drop the children at the front entrance (by the flagpole), and exit using the outbound side of Lochlea Ridge. Children will wait on the porch until the 8:05 bell except in inclement weather when they will wait inside. Those eating breakfast will enter the building at 7:50. Supervision will be provided beginning at 7:50.

Visitors

We are very proud of Hassler and your children. You are encouraged to visit with us. However, in order to ensure maximum protection for your child, we ask that you sign in at the front office and receive a visitor tag. Always contact the teacher to arrange a time to visit since unannounced visits are disruptive to class instruction.

Afternoon Dismissal

Carpools will pick up their riders at the front porch. We use numbers for carpools. If you need a carpool number, please fill out the form that was in the first day packet and return it to the school. Your number sign should be displayed so that it is clearly visible to the teachers on duty. Please do not remove the sign until your child is in the car. Also we ask that parents are not on their cell phones. We have had some very scary near misses involving children, teachers and crossing guards due to parents talking on cell phones. **It is the law that the use of cell phones is now prohibited in school zones.** We ask that drivers remain in cars and the children will be escorted to you. This is much safer than having many pedestrians walking through the carpool line. If you feel you must come to the building, you will need to meet your child at the exit on the side of the building by the bike racks. Adults cannot wait on the porch for students as this blocks the view of the carpool riders. Students not riding in cars will not be allowed to wait on the front porch. After the first few weeks of school, the carpool procedures work smoothly and quickly. We appreciate your patience and cooperation in following these guidelines.



Early Dismissal

If you need to take your child out early from school for any reason, please send a note to your child's teacher, so that the office can write an early dismissal. In the case of a last minute emergency, please call the office ahead of time so we can get your child ready to leave. Please do not call the teacher, as they will be teaching and may not check their messages. Students must check out through the office. You are not allowed to take your child from the classroom.



The Counselor's Corner

Adria Stacha



Hello! My name is Adria Stacha and I am excited to be here for our eleventh year at Hassler. Throughout the year I will be using this column to share information and ideas that might be helpful to you regarding your children.

For those of you who are new to our school, I'd like to give you a brief overview of my role. As a school counselor, I serve as a support person for students, staff members, and parents. I will be working with students individually, in small groups, and with entire classes on topics such as self-esteem, problem solving, and study skills. I am available to confer with you should you have a question or concern regarding your child. I also have a large collection of books and videos on a variety of topics that you are welcome to check out for a two-week period.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your children. Please contact me at 832-484-7088 if you have any questions, concerns, or information that you feel would help me better meet the needs of your child.

The Reading Corner

Marilyn Nehls
Reading Specialist



Parents,

In order for children to enjoy reading and make it a significant part of their lives, they must be motivated to explore new books and stories. We know that children who are motivated to read are children who will want to read. One way that children become motivated to read is when they are provided with opportunities to become more involved in the reading process. When children feel that they are a part of the action or can relate the action to their own personal experiences, they will develop a very positive attitude toward their own

reading development. Here are some motivators you can try.

1. Help your child set up his or her own home library system. Ask your child for possible categories of books (i.e. scary books, fun books, action books). Make up signs and post them over the family bookcase.
2. Ask your child to make up "reviews" of some of his or her books. Write these on separate index cards and keep them in a file box. When your child is unsure of a book to read, a quick check through the box may locate an old favorite.
3. Help your child write letters to some prominent people in your community. Ask them about their favorite books and why they enjoyed them. This may be a stimulus for your child to read them, too.
4. Take photographs of your child reading either alone or with someone else. Paste these on sheets of paper and ask your child to suggest titles for each one. Then display them.
5. After you and your child finish reading a book together, create a puppet or model of one of the characters. These can be displayed on top of a bookcase.
6. Another fun activity to do with your child after you and your child have finished reading a book together: encourage your child to draw a few illustrations on separate sheets of paper. He or she may wish to include family members in the drawings in place of the regular characters. Use these illustrations the next time you read the actual book with your child. Older children may wish to locate illustrations from old children's classics and develop a brand-new story that can be recorded or written.

Enjoy this special time you spend with your child, knowing that you are creating and fostering a lifelong reader!





Helping Your Child Learn Science Kay Kay Schulte TAKS Specialist

As a parent, you are preparing your child for a world vastly different from the one in which you grew up. Even children who don't want to become physicists, chemists, engineers or computer technicians will need some knowledge of science and technology just to conduct their everyday lives. Our children need our help and guidance to prepare for the world that awaits them.

Scientific knowledge is cumulative: To learn new things, you must build on what you already know. So, it's important that your child start learning early—and at home. A good way for you to begin the learning process is by sharing science in every day life.

In everyday interactions with your child, you can do many things—and do them without lecturing or applying pressure—to help your child learn science. Here are a few ideas:

- See how long it takes for a dandelion or a rose to burst into full bloom.
- Watch the moon as it appears to change shape over the course of a month and record the changes.
- Look for constellations in the night sky.
- Bake a cake.
- Solve the problem of a drooping plant.
- Figure out how the spin cycle of the washing machine gets the water out of the clothes.
- Take apart an old clock or mechanical toy—you don't need to put it back together!
- Observe pigeons, squirrels, butterflies, ants or spider webs.
- Go for a walk and talk about how the dogs (or birds or cats) that you see are alike and different.

- Discover what materials the buildings in your community are made of. Wood? Concrete? Adobe? Brick? Granite? Sandstone? Steel? Glass? Talk about the reasons for using these materials.

Learning to observe carefully is an important step leading to scientific explanations. Experiencing the world with your child and exchanging information with him about what you see are important, too.

Finally, encourage your child to ask questions. If you can't answer all of her questions, that's all right—no one has all the answers, not even scientists. For example, point out that there's no known cure for a cold, but that we do know how diseases are passed from person to person—through germs. Some of the best answers you can give are, "What do you think?" and "Let's find out together."

Science is all around us! So, take time with your child to make observations and instill a sense of curiosity about our wonderful world of science.

Source: U.S. Department of Education



Welcome back to school! Deborah Wilson GT Specialist

I am excited to be at Hassler and helping the teachers! The district now has six GT curriculum specialists serving the elementary schools in Klein. I will assist with screening of students, staff development, and parent communication, as well as support teachers and students with curriculum. The goal of the gifted and talented program is to meet the needs of all students, focusing on our advanced learners.

I have been teaching in Klein for 20 years and have taught 1st-4th grades, most recently at Frank Elementary. I will serve Hassler and Frank with Hassler being my home campus. You can reach me at dwilson1@kleinisd.net. I look forward to meeting you!



First Responders Day

On September 11th we will celebrate First Responders Day at Hassler. If you have a policeman, fireman, an EMS individual or some other first responder in your family, we invite them to attend. These people are important in our community and we would like to honor them. The parade will begin on the PE hardtop at 1:45 and spectators are welcome. Wear your red, white and blue and come out to support our school as we march together to show support for our First Responders.

Check Out the Hassler Library!

The Hassler library collection has 13,000 books and Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Krueger are ready to share them with you! Students in Grades PreK, K, 1st and 2nd visit the library with their classes once a week for twenty minutes. 3rd, 4th and 5th graders come to the library every other week for thirty minutes. State mandated TEKS are imbedded in lessons including library skills, research, technology, Internet safety, and literature.

Students who finish reading their library books before their class's assigned library day may come to "early morning check out" from 8:00-8:30 at the discretion of their classroom teacher.

We are excited to bring author/illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka to Hassler on December 2 for K, 1st and 2nd, and author James Howe on March 24 for 3rd, 4th and 5th. More information will be posted on the library webpage, and will be sent home in Tuesday folders a few weeks before each author visit.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Scholastic Book Fair, October 19th-23rd!

Please see the library webpage (easily accessed from the Hassler website) for information on Birthday Books, Bluebonnet Program, Author Visits and our fabulous Online Resources.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year in the library!



Hassler Welcomes New Star Staff Members



We would like you to join us in welcoming all of the new staff members joining the Hassler family this year. They are a wonderful addition to our Hassler family and we know that you will enjoy getting to know them just as we have.

Hassler welcomes:

- Jennifer Steele, fifth grade teacher, who is joining us from Aldine.
- Lisa Woody, part time Music teacher, joining us from Muncie, IN.
- Heather Camp, school nurse, joining our team from Methodist Willowbrook Hospital.
- Judy Allwin, Diagnostician, whom we are sharing with Mittelstadt Elementary.
- Debi Rothenberg, Case Manager, whom we are sharing with Ehrhardt Elementary.
- Mary Helen Craft, LSSP (School Psychologist), who is part time with us.
- Chris Trombatore, Developmental Assistant.
- Linda Nedderman, Developmental Assistant.

We are excited to have the new additions!

Dates to Remember



September 7	Labor Day Holiday
September 9	Boy Scout Night Out
September 11	First Responders Day Parade
September 15	Fall Fundraiser Kickoff Open House 6:00—8:00
September 30	Fall Pictures

