

The Star

Caldwell Elementary Arts Academy

www.tylerisd.org/schools/caldwell

First Six Weeks

2009-2010

Important Dates

October 9

PTA Membership
drive ends

October 12

Student Holiday
Afternoon Parent
Conferences

November 1

Day Light Savings
Time Ends

November 3

Election Day

November 11

Veterans Day

From Your PTA Presidents . . .

We want to welcome all our returning teachers, students, and staff, and extend a huge welcome to all the new students and teachers at Caldwell this year. Our new principal, Sherrill Echols, has been an asset to our wonderful Caldwell faculty. We look forward to meeting and working with, each of you. We have already been busy planning events such as the Fall Carnival on October 2nd and our fall fundraiser. Thank you for supporting your school through your participation in both of these events.

Our school store and Pizza sales are in full swing. If your child would like to visit either of these, please send money with them. The school store, open on Tuesday afternoons, has small trinkets for various costs and popcorn available for 50 cents. The pizza is available on Thursday afternoons for \$1.00 per slice.

As most parents are aware, volunteers are the most important part of our PTA and we cannot raise money nor have these special events without your help. Keep in mind virtually all the money we raise goes back into our school. So if you have not already joined, please do so. If you would like to volunteer, please give us your name and e-mail so we can get you involved in an area that will best suit your needs. Please e-mail us at caldwellpta@hotmail.com or let your child's teacher know that you want to be involved.

Special thanks go to Maureen Kaiser for chairing our carnival, Alycia Wootton for chairing our fall fundraiser, Jami Dunbar for organizing our Star Wear and Sheila Berry for running our PTA membership campaign.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers that are already working hard to make this another great year at Caldwell! Please know that we are here for you and welcome any suggestions you may have.

Stephanie Boozer and Pamela Rathbun, Co-Presidents

From the Principal's Desk

With the theme, "Team Caldwell: Making It to the Goal", teachers and staff moved into fast forward motion toward the goal of exemplary academic performance enriched with emphasis on the fine arts for the 2009-2010 school year. The halls of Caldwell buzzed with excited students, parents and teachers at the "Meet the Teacher" afternoon on August 20th and later at the PTA Open House on September 15th.

Currently, 640 students have the privilege of being Caldwell Stars. The growing student population has given the school new opportunities. This year two bilingual teachers were added, one each for the fourth and fifth grades. Dr. Horacio Chivacuan, a native of Mexico, is the new fourth grade teacher, and Miss Rocio Angulo, a teacher from Spain, is the new fifth grade teacher. In addition, Mrs. Melanie Ransome, a teacher from Arlington ISD with eight years of experience, was hired as the new Literacy Facilitator. She is working with grade level teachers on using a literacy approach to reading and writing as well as developing a campus literacy library.

Tyler ISD Administration recently approved the addition of a fifth grade teacher to ease the crowding in the fifth grade classrooms. Mrs. Suann Pullen will begin as the fourth teacher on the fifth grade team starting on October 5th. Mrs. Pullen is a veteran educator with thirteen years of teaching experience. In addition, she holds two degrees in education from Texas A & M at Commerce.

There is also a very positive development in the Fine Arts department. Mr. Faber, director of TISD Fine Arts, has secured several music teachers who will be teaching strings programs in the elementary schools. The Caldwell Strings Program should be starting again for grades 3-5 in the upcoming weeks. Information will be sent home with your children.

Parent conferences will be held the afternoon of October 12, and there are two "must see" events in November. These include the Veterans' Day program beginning with a brief PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 11th at 8:15 a.m., and the Aladdin Musical that will be performed on November 19th and 20th. Don't forget to add these events to your calendar!

It is a privilege to serve as the principal of Caldwell this year with a staff of dedicated, hard-working educators. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning the academic and fine arts programs or if you have specific questions in regards to your student. The best schools are those that form strong partnerships between parents and educators.

Sherrill Echols, Principal

Kindergarten

Our Caldwell kindergarteners have been working hard since the first day of school! The first six weeks has been filled with a variety of exciting learning experiences. In mathematics we are learning about the days of the week, patterning, counting and number formation. Our students have also been constructing many kinds of graphs. In language arts we are practicing the letters and sounds of the alphabet. We are also practicing our first group of sight words and are starting to use them in writing. Currently, we are learning about our five senses. We have performed experiments with our five senses and learned how each sense helps us every day. We have enjoyed getting to know our kindergarten stars, and with your support, we look forward to developing our students into wonderful readers and writers!

Third Grade

WOW! We have been learning so much in third grade this first six weeks. We have created our class social contracts and are well on our way to a fabulous year! We have learned place value, addition, subtraction and rounding so far in Math. We will begin working on patterns, money and so much more! Reading has involved figuring out word meanings, listening to great stories, and learning about genre. We are working on writing great sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation – complete and incomplete sentences. In science we have learned about the solar system and the sun. In Social Studies we have learned about rules and laws and why it is important to follow those. Please make sure your STAR is reading 30 minutes every night and studying math facts – addition, subtraction, and multiplication by 2, 5 and 10. Thanks for helping us have a great start to this year!

First Grade

First graders are almost finished with the beginning of the year testing and are so anxious to get started with reading groups! They have been busy making new friends, learning the rules of Caldwell and learning their fine arts schedules! Check out the things we have hanging in our hallways. You will see signs of very bright learners. They have been learning about shapes and patterns in math and how to correctly form numbers and letters. You can help us at home by encouraging our child to hold their pencil correctly, sit up in the chair and not rush through when they are practicing their writing. We have enjoyed our fine arts classes, library time and computer class. Ask your child about all the exciting things they have been working on in the classroom and around the campus. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year!

Fourth Grade

4th grade stars are shining bright...deep in the heart of Caldwell! Accelerated Reader is up and running! Be sure your child is reading every night for at least 30 minutes! In Math, we have been working on place value to the hundred millions, decimals, rounding & estimating numbers, along with basic multiplication facts up to the 12s. Multiplication facts are a **must!** We will start 2x2 digit multiplication the 2nd 6 weeks so students must have their facts memorized to be successful. In Writing we have been differentiating between fragments and complete sentences. Also, we have been learning how to transform ordinary sentences into extraordinary ones! We have been blown away in Science as we have learned about weather, wind, objects in the sky and how much our sun is responsible for doing. Students will not come to school October 12th due to district staff development and parent conferences. Your child's teacher will be in contact to set up an appointment convenient for you on that day or another day in October. Beginning the 2nd 6 weeks, all writing will be done in cursive so practice, practice, practice! Also, please be sure to sign your little Texan's planner daily so we know you have seen the completed homework. Thanks for your support!

Fifth Grade

Thank you fifth graders and parents for making the first six weeks of the 2009-2010 school years such a great success! The fifth graders are using every opportunity to learn such things as multiplication, division, using decimals and working with numbers to the BILLIONS! Students have been engaged in hands-on learning activities, practicing inquiry, and the scientific method in science. They have learned about the properties of matter, learned different laboratory tools and safety rules. In order to achieve a culture and climate that is conducive to learning for everyone, we have focused our language arts on literature and discussions about school rules and the reasons for them, as well as the consequences of good and bad choices at school. We encourage you to stay in touch, review daily schoolwork and homework and attend parent functions. The fifth grade teachers look forward to working hand-and-hand with you, the parents.

Second Grade

Our super second graders are shining brighter each and every day! We have been very busy making new friends, creating our social contracts and learning our new rules and procedures for the year. In math, we have been working on basic addition and subtraction, patterns and relationships, place value to 999, and we've really enjoyed recognizing coins and counting money. In reading, we've been learning about the different genres of books and have also had a great time working in our new reading centers! As most of you know, Accelerated Reader is up and running. Please make sure your child is reading each evening. Remember, practice makes perfect. In language arts, we have been working on becoming familiar with the Writer's Workshop. We are reading many new and interesting books that have led us to some really great writing. We are also taking ownership of the topics we are writing about. Finally, in Science we've had a blast learning to classify objects based on properties and patterns, observing, measuring and illustrating changes as they occur. We have also had the opportunity to create safety posters to help us stay safe while we perform exciting science experiments each week. Finally, parent conferences are right around the corner on October 12th. Your child's teacher will be contacting you very soon, so stay tuned! One last thing, please be sure to sign your little STAR's planner each evening so you are aware of your child's assignments. We thank you in advance!

News From The Hallways

Drama News

Caldwell drama students are busily discovering their “star” power through dynamic team exercises and activities. Becoming a team involves getting to know one another, learning names, and getting to know our drama teacher, Mr. Johnson. We are gaining confidence and self-awareness through dramatic play and expressive movement.

For younger students, activities center around our senses and emotions integrated into verbal expression and reading. Older students are using sensory and emotional recall to develop characterization which helps to make us better writers as well as actors. Drama classes are constantly exciting and active as we develop our skills of pantomime, imitating sound, body movement as well as responding to music and movement. Remember to ask us about our weekly drama activities and class time fun.

“Aladdin”

The Drama Department would like to extend special thanks to all parents who attended our first meeting and for supporting our students. The rehearsals have been strenuous but fun, and now we are on our way, preparing for this highly anticipated musical production. We would like to especially thank our parent volunteers for joining a production committee, and we look forward to working collaboratively, while preparing for the musical. Caldwell parents really know how to put the talent back into our school!

“The Broadway Stars”

I would like to personally congratulate every student and welcome you to our ever-growing Drama Department. I was extremely impressed with every student’s audition and eagerly await the start of a successful year.

Theatre will come alive for students as they examine the components of performance and discover their unique talents through reader’s theatre, storytelling, monologues, duets and improvisation. Further, the students will showcase their abilities, individually or in small groups, in live stage productions.

NOTEWORTHY MUSIC NOTES

CALDWELL STARS ARE PRESENTING A FALL MUSICAL

The auditions are over, casting has been done, rehearsals have begun with learning the music, and the choreography and blocking will start this week! Caldwell Stars are presenting this fall, a classic from Disney’s “Aladdin Jr.” This is a delightful musical starring third, fourth and fifth grade star students. The “stars” will perform at the Caldwell Auditorium on **Thursday and Friday, November 19th and 20th**. Performance times will be *1:30 pm and 6:00 pm*. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this exciting and wonderful *Broadway Junior Musical*. More details to follow.

MUSIC CLASSES

The Music classes have gotten off to a great start for 2009-2010! All students in grades K-5th are coming along just fine with getting acquainted and new classroom activities. All classes have been involved in learning new songs from the musical unit “CELEBRATE AMERICA” for the *Veteran’s Day Program on Wednesday, November 11th* beginning at 8:15 in Caldwell Auditorium.

RECORDERS

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grades have been reviewing, planning, and getting ready to learn to play the soprano recorder. We have ordered new recorders in translucent blue, red, yellow, green, and “purple!” All students will learn to read music using the *Recorder Karate Method*. Please parents allow them to practice since they will be practicing to earn white, orange, yellow, green, purple, blue, red, brown, and **BLACK** belts! It’s just like **Karate!**

Art News

We’re off to a great start this year in art. Kindergarteners and first graders have studied about shapes, colors and lines. Kinder made worms with line textures, collage pictures out of precut shapes, and school bus collages in which they cut most of their own shapes. First graders made fish that were decorated with lines and colors and the habitat for their fish by coloring the backgrounds with crayons, textures (another art element) and paint. Kinder and first graders’ next projects will be self portrait collages.

Second-fourth graders have been studying line textures in art class. Second graders each created an animal which they decorated with line textures. Each class combined all of the animals into a giant mobile (hanging sculpture). Third graders created “Linear Landscapes” with line textures. Fourth graders drew a picture and then created a line texture artwork out of the original drawing. Some of the third and fourth grade projects will be on display as soon as I can get them mounted. Second grade mobiles are hanging in their classrooms or in the art room.

Fifth graders reviewed all of the elements of art (line, color, texture, shape, space, form, value) while creating an “Element of Art Cube.” They did a great job on it and I hope that some of them will allow me to display them at Artsfest later this year.

Below is a list of recyclables that we’ll need in art class this year. Your child can drop them by the art room on the way to their class in the mornings. These include: small plastic “figure shaped” bottles (coffee cream, orange juice, dish detergent ... for papier-mâché), small wood scraps for sculptures and printmaking, old socks (for puppets), leftover yarn, buttons, beads, lace, trim ...,paper towel and toilet paper tubes.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me,
Laura Field, Art Teacher

Dancerific Dance News

DANCE CLASSES

As the first 6 weeks is coming to an end, all my students are dancing GREAT!! We have started our JAZZ unit and are busy learning jazz steps, progressions, splits, motor skills and dance combinations.

Kindergarten is learning 4 jazz steps and motor skills which include kicking, galloping, hopping, grapevine and skipping. They will be skills tested next week over all these skills. Kinder is also working on dancing with shapes. They are now beginning to learn about rhythm by clapping beats to music and by repeating rhythms I create. **First Grade** is working on 7 jazz steps and 2 progressions which include kicks and chain turns. They have also started working on a line dance called "Hoedown Throw Down" that I hope they have shared with you. This is a new dance craze that the students love. They will soon begin a routine called "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" to perform at our Veterans' Program November 11th at 8:15 a.m. **Second grade through Fifth grade** is working on reviewing and learning new jazz steps. They are also working on 3 progressions which include kicks, chain turns and free style. They have also loved learning "Hoedown Throw Down" and will continue to learn other line dances. We hope to share them with you at our Dance Soc-hop in February. These classes will also soon start learning about bones; we could not dance without our bones! Since Halloween is coming up next month, this is a fun time to learn bones by using a skeleton and bone board game, and bone bingo.

ENRICHMENTS

The auditions are over and enrichments will now begin. I am very excited to start working on wonderful things with my 3 groups. We have a lot to accomplish this year!

SOC-HOP

We will be having our annual Soc-Hop Dance Fundraiser again this year. It is scheduled for February. Details will be given out at a later time. This is a fun night for the students to dress up in costumes and enjoy dancing in the gym. Since time goes by so quickly, I need to get a head start on collecting things for this event. This is something that everybody can get involved with. **Here are the items I need donated:**

1. **Can drinks ONLY (examples....coke, Dr Pepper, Sprite, Water, diet drinks, orange/grape)**
2. **Raffle Items (we will be selling raffle tickets starting in January)**

END OF YEAR SHOW

I first want to say the "The Olympic Show" last year was a huge success. I hope everyone enjoyed it. I had so many compliments on how well the students danced. We raised \$300 for KeDarion Thomas that night which his parents were so appreciative. This year we are having a Western theme. All money raised from the Soc-hop will go to help put this program on. So get your boots polished and your hats ready for a Western good time! YeeHaw!

Physical Education News

TOT, also known as Teams of Tomorrow, is a phenomenal training program for school age kids that use basketball skills to bring music and movement together for optimal learning. The TOT classes are fun, educational, and active. Parents are amazed at all the fancy skill and educational concepts their child learns through the Teams of Tomorrow program! As of right now, we have 60 Tiny TOT members which consist of 29 Kindergarten and 31 first graders. Tiny TOT will begin at 2:00 on Monday, October 5th. All practices are closed. We are still registering Basic TOT members. Basic TOT members are second through 5th grade. Practices begin Monday, September 14th at 3:00 and end at 3:45. Advanced TOT will consist of 12-15 members. Practices for Advanced TOT begin on Tuesday, September 15th at 3:00 and end at 3:45. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Coach Kemp at dyann.kemp@tylerisd.org

Celebrate Freedom!

Our Veteran's Day Program will be Wednesday, November 11th at 8:15 a.m. in the Caldwell Gymnasium. All students will be performing in this program. All students will need to have a white t-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes for that day. Please make special plans to attend this special event to honor our Veterans!

*Please remember that your child must wear tennis shoes in Physical Education! Tennis Shoes only on the gym floor!

Punt-Pass-Kick Winners

The NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK program is a national skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 8-15 to compete separately against their peers. Girls and boys in four separate age divisions (8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15) compete against each other in punting, passing and kicking in a fun and engaging forum. Established in 1961, the PPK program is the oldest NFL Youth Football program. This year's winners are: 8/9 year old girls-Sydney Halbrook-1st place, Jessica Ramos-2nd place, Chan-Brea Dotson-3rd place, 8/9 year old boys: Raul Carrillo-1st place, Jordan Avila-2nd place, Jared Mosley-3rd place, 10/11 year old girls: Avoree Oliver-1st place, Hailey Hudson-2nd place, LaCourtney Fragoso-3rd place, 10/11 year old boys: David McCook-1st place, Marcus Tucker-2nd place, Keashun Davis-3rd place, 12/13 year old girls-Abby Halbrook-1st place

The first place winners will advance to sectionals in Longview on Saturday, October 17th at the Longview High School Football practice field. The completion will begin at noon.



Notes From the Nurse

The students and staff are excited about learning and having rewarding experiences this year, and staying healthy is important for that learning to take place.

Important Reminders:

Have you returned that yellow HEALTH RECORD? It is important that the form be returned because it stays on file in the clinic as a source of information for the school nurse to refer to regarding your child's allergies, medical conditions, medications and emergency telephone numbers. If a student becomes seriously ill or injured at school this form will accompany them to the hospital. It is VITAL to have accurate working telephone numbers that are updated when changes occur.

Does your student have food allergies? If your student has food allergies that prevent him/her from eating certain cafeteria foods, please obtain a note from his/her doctor stating what food causes an allergic reaction and what are the symptoms. With this note, our cafeteria would be happy to provide an alternative selection.

Requirements regarding medications prescribed and over the counter are as follows: Students can't personally bring medications to school of any type. The parent must bring the medication and sign a permission sheet in the clinic for the nurse to administer. Also, a doctor's order is required for any OTC medications. All medications are kept in the clinic according to TISD policy, which states, **"Students will not be allowed to attend, if immunizations are not up to date."** This is according to Texas state law and adhered to by TISD.

When should a student not come to school due to health reasons? Please keep your child at home for any fever greater than 100.0 during the flu season and 100.4 during other times of the year. The student needs to be fever free for 24 hours prior to the onset of school and without the aid of fever reducing medications. If your child has vomiting and diarrhea, he or she may be contagious, so please keep them home.

Practice good health habits! Washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing and coughing, then properly dispose of tissue. If necessary, cough and sneeze into the bend of your arm. Avoid sharing drinks and silverware.

For any questions or concerns related to your child's health issues at school, please call 903-262-2276.

Counselor's Corner

There are several things that I am very excited about this year at Caldwell. One of them is that we will be continuing our Watchdog Program this year. This program is designed to promote father involvement in our school by having fathers spend a day at Caldwell. Our students really enjoy seeing the Watchdogs on campus, and the fathers who participate get the opportunity to really see what their child experiences in coming here. This program benefits everyone involved, so I encourage all Caldwell fathers to consider signing up. If you have questions about the program or wish to get involved please email me or call me at 262-2274.

Another program we are starting this year at Caldwell is called Rachel's Challenge. Rachel Scott was a student at Columbine when the tragedy took place nearly ten years ago. She believed that by treating others with kindness you just may start a "chain reaction." This year Caldwell's staff and students will be "Challenging" one another to treat others with kindness in ALL situations. Each act of kindness will be represented by another link in the chain. It will be fun to see the students of Caldwell spread the kindness. I encourage you to build on the "chain reaction of kindness" with your child at home as well.

Finally, I look forward to a great year for all of our Caldwell Stars. If there is something I can do to help your child please feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Greg Dean

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

What is it? A year-round fundraiser for Caldwell that helps our school earn extra money by clipping the Box Top logo from products that you buy. **Where do I find Box Tops?** Box Tops can be found on hundreds of products from brands like these:

General Mills
Pillsbury
Betty Crocker

Ziploc
Kleenex
Hefty



How do I participate? Simply clip out the Box Top logo from the products you purchase and have your child turn them into his/her teacher. Ask other family members save Box Tops for you. And if you have a computer, log on to www.boxtops4education.com and sign up as a user. It's worth \$1.00 for every person who signs on. At the website, you will find coupons for box top products.

Prizes will be awarded to classrooms collecting the most Box Tops so start clipping now!

Café Rules

- *Birthday snacks cannot be served in the café.
- *Parents can sit with their children in the middle or outside.
 - *No playing on the playground.
- *Parents cannot bring food for any child except their own.
 - *Birthdays – Students may have 1 guest sit with them.
 - *Children cannot share food.
- *Students cannot leave café with opened food.

Thank you for helping with our café rules!



Library News

It has been an exciting beginning of school in the library! It was such a joy to have all the boys and girls anxiously awaiting the opening of the library! We finally got STAR levels tested and now books are literally flying off the shelves!!

This year we have a wonderful new addition to the library homepage. Visit the Caldwell homepage (www.tylerisd.org/Schools/Caldwell) and choose the library button. It will take you to the page where you can select any library in the district. Choose Caldwell Fine Arts Library and it will take you to the home page for our library. You may select the Accelerated Reader Quiz information link to find out what books have quizzes available. You may also visit any of the author sites or choose one of the safe and free research web sites available through TISD. New this year is the feature that allows a student/parent to log in and see what books the child has checked out and/or make a list of books they would like to check out in the future. Up at the top of the page click the Login button. The user name is the student's AR user name and the password is the child's birthday (mm/dd/yy). Once this information is in the student's name will appear in the top right corner. The tab at the top labeled "My Info" will hold the books checked out and the resource lists your student makes from the catalog tab. Log in... explore...it is a great tool!

This past year our library was able to purchase over \$10,000 of new books for the 600, 100 and 200's sections of our library and \$3,500 of new fiction books thanks to special TISD funding. We have some wonderful new titles, with broad AR ranges on many interesting subjects. The students have found all the new books about pets, farm animals and books about our body systems and health. With the funds raised from book fairs and the budget money allotted the library, an additional \$7000 of books were purchased for other areas of the library. We now have over 13,000 books in our library, but there is always room for more!

I am looking forward to another fabulous year helping your children become the best readers they can be and sharing the love of books with them.

Happy reading,
Mrs. Garrett

Caldwell Arts Academy PTA Fall Carnival

JOIN PTA NOW!!

There is still time to join the PTA and have it count toward the class popcorn parties. Deadline for it to count toward the parties is tomorrow, October 9th. If any class reaches 200%, they will have the opportunity to view a movie during their popcorn party! How do you reach 200%? If the class has 20 kids, they will need 40 parents, friends or community members to enroll. Membership dues are only \$5.00! Membership Forms are available at the PTA kiosk near the café. Enroll now!

Congratulations to the following
classes at or over 100%:

Bibby-K	Bowie-1 st
Blankenship-4 th	Haley-5 th
Epperson - 2 nd	Redic - 2 nd
Davis - 4 th	

This year's annual PTA Carnival was a huge success, thanks to all the families of Caldwell! The Carnival provided students an enjoyable evening and raised money for the school. Thanks go to all the parents who volunteered that evening, as well as faculty and middle school cheerleaders. Without you, the evening would not have been possible!

Extra thanks go to this year's Carnival Committee: Deanna Listenbee, Entertainment; Julie and Jerry Murphree, Food; Carmella Edwards, Games; Susan Sams and Serrena Johnson, Kiss the Donkey; Jennifer Austin and Rose Bailey, Sponsorships; Melissa and Keith Hopson, Ticket Sales; Angela Lacy and Liv Howard, Volunteer Coordinators; and Alycia Wootten, Carnival Chair Emeritus.

Thanks also to our corporate sponsors for their generous donations toward the Carnival: Brookshire's, Coca-Cola, Heartland Ham, Target, and The Tyler Morning Telegraph.

It's certainly a privilege to serve the students of Caldwell alongside such fine parents and supporters!
Maureen Kaiser,
Caldwell Carnival Chair 2009

Stay connected to the latest news from Tyler ISD by subscribing to the E-Link electronic newsletter.

You can choose to receive news on the following:

TISD Link – a district-wide newsletter highlighting campus/student news.

School Board Notes – highlights from school regular school board meetings.

Press Releases

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or go to the Tyler ISD website at www.tylerisd.org and look for the E-Link image at the left top of the webpage.

