



WE are MEYER!



December 1, 2016

A Note from the Principal; Mrs. Misty Ptasnik

The Road to Success is ALWAYS Under Construction; isn't that so very true? I consider myself "under construction" as well. As the Proud Principal of Meyer Elementary School I must always stay in a growth mindset and continue to better my practice as I serve my students, my staff, and OUR Hondo Community. I included a photo this month as I met a delightful parent today that said, "I see you every day. I didn't know you were our principal." Many of you do see me every day on the Parent Lane in the morning. I have made it a priority to be there to greet your children (and you all) each day I am on campus. I enjoy the smiles, waves, and occasional (polite) honks! ☺ It also warms my heart as I walk and greet others around campus; as I have become "Mrs. P" to so many... that has been my "nickname" for many years among students and staff who know me. So when we see each other next, whether you like Mrs. Ptasnik or Mrs. P better, just be sure and share a smile and know **I appreciate you sharing your beautiful children with us every day.**

Attendance: Just Say It!

Attendance Counts. I shared in my last newsletter that Applied Survey Research published findings that students who arrived at school academically ready to learn, but missed 10% of their kindergarten and first grade years, on average scored 60 points below students with good attendance (on 3rd grade assessments). This is an opportunity gap, and that is what we cannot afford to have; for our kids' sake.

As we care for your kids and find ways to encourage daily attendance we know students may be absent and have been mindful of the feedback received about our incentives. I want to take a moment to share some data and updates with you all.

October 2016 our average attendance (school wide) was 95.78%.

November 2016 our average attendance (school wide) was 95.49%.

November 30th – We had 96.77% as our daily attendance rate, which is close to our goal!

Our goal to achieve is 97%, and we are unfortunately not yet there. However, we looked to see where our "excessive absences" are coming from. Would it surprise you to know that out of 518 students at Meyer Elementary School we have 23 students with excessive absences (9+)? That is a full classroom of students if we were to combine them together. Are we visiting with these students and these parents to see what we can do with and for them? Absolutely. And are we taking this data to committee as we continue to tweak and design incentives? Yes, we are. Be reminded this is just the data from the "official attendance taking time" of the district, so it does not include data to show how many tardies and early outs we have daily; which are lost instructional opportunities for our children; we are working to gather that information.

November Incentive Update: Scheduled for December 16th

- Students who have no tardies or early outs and have been in school every day (or when they were out they provided a doctor's note) will receive the Santa + Polar Express Activity and can wear their PJ's to school if they choose to.
- Students who have "perfect, as defined above" attendance and have only 1 tardy or 1 absence excused by a parent note will receive an opportunity to see Santa and have a photo (individual OR group depending on amount of students) taken.

- ALL students will SEE Santa and he will greet the group. **(See attached letter from Santa.)** We are working on our schedule to include an opportunity for Santa to give greetings to ALL Meyer students. It likely will be during their lunch or rotation time; the committee is still working to design a schedule.

December Incentive Update

- With only 12 days in December, we are looking for “true” perfect attendance to choose a small toy from the bag.
- December 16th will have many activities going on for ALL students throughout the day and this allows for a simple recognition of those who went above and beyond. The “toy” will be something like what is seen in the “Hoot Loot” store which students may very well be visiting this same week.

Ongoing Class Incentive

- Each class has a PERFECT ATTENDANCE sign outside their classroom that allows them to celebrate when everyone is there at attendance reporting time.
- Once they color in each letter, the whole class is rewarded with an ice pop.
- *We are working with classes that have the “excessively absent” students to ensure we have a “net” in place so the class can achieve the reward when working together.

We listened to the feedback and appreciate that you brought it to us; as communication is KEY. We always strive to be helpful to all students and we will continue to tweak our monthly incentives as we move forward. We understand how important SANTA is to our children...as he is a treasured part of many traditions. We would NEVER want someone to go home not having an opportunity to receive greetings and see Santa.

December will be a time to celebrate; but we will continue to be *little drummer girls and boys* as we work on the curriculum that must be mastered by our beautiful children. Please know it is with great JOY that we serve your children; but with that comes great responsibility to have them socially, emotionally, and academically ready for Intermediate School and beyond. TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED!

I started the year with “tell me something good” and I continue to weave it in when I can. I am loving when my staff share their “something goods” with me, and appreciate the emails from parents that let us know what we are doing “good” ... our door is always open to you, as it takes partnership to raise successful children. 830.426.3161 is our phone number at school and my email is: mptasnik@hondoisd.net.

*Reminder: Head Start has their own direct line at 1.830.426.7632. Thank you! 😊



An official THANK YOU to our PTO for sponsoring the Fall Festival as well as our staff who volunteered their time and efforts to make it an evening to remember. I had so much FUN and hope we can do it again next year. **Abby Wilson, Jennifer Wiemers, Ashley Lowe, and Missy Braden... again thank you ladies!**

December 5 – Happy Birthday Walt Disney! Wear a Disney shirt.

December 7 – Remember Pearl Harbor; wear red, white and blue.

December 12 – Wear your PJ’s – Christmas Theme if you have it.

December 13 – “Ugly” Christmas Sweater Contest – Or just wear a holiday shirt/sweater.

December 14 – Christmas is a “head” ... - Wear an elf hat, Santa hat, reindeer antlers...

December 15 – Fuzzy Christmas socks.

December 14 – Season of Caring; Participate in a random act of kindness today!

December 16 – Lots going on at Meyer! 😊 Class celebrations after 2:00pm.

WINTER BREAK = December 19th Classes resume January 3rd.