

HILLCREST PDS HAPPENINGS

Vol. 5 Issue 11 April 2019

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Hello there Hillcrest PDS Parents! It is hard to believe that it's already April! Our campus is BUZZING with learning and activities! We have STAAR testing next week for grades 4 and 5, Zoo Snooze, Artist Market - just to name a few campus events! We will have a closed campus on STAAR testing days, which means no visitors on campus. We are working on getting a work schedule to get our new playground started and we appreciate the volunteers that have signed up to help. Special thanks to Mr. Feight for coordinating these efforts. The Spring semester is always a busy time on campus. Following us on Facebook is an easy way to stay tuned into what is happening here and if you don't do Facebook you can always checkout our campus website. We are grateful for our families and the support they provide through kind notes, encouraging words, patience and flexibility. HPDS is the BEST! - Dr. Amy Mathews Perez

Get To Know Team Hillcrest PDS

Last week we had five 5th grade students display and present their projects for the science fair: "Egg Drop", "Magnetic Slime", and "Volcano Eruptions". "Egg Drop" and "Magnetic Slime" will advance to district and "Volcano Eruptions" received Honorable Mention.

In the classroom, we are learning about organism structures, functions, and how that affects their survival. Students have been working on individual research about a specific organism and are near the finish line.

In Reading/ELAR, we are finishing up our preparation for next week's STAAR Reading test. We have read a wide array of texts from various genres and have practiced using summarizing and inferencing skills to help us perform to the best of our abilities. Parents: If you hear your child talk about "shooting arrows through the game maker's force field," don't worry! That's their clever mantra for outwitting the writers of all high-stake assessments.

Pictured below: Katherine Weaver, Mary Davis, Alberta Villedas



In the remaining months, we will delve into novels and book reports that bring closure to our year-long focus on "The Human Family" and our nation's ongoing pursuit of "liberty and justice for all." At the end of next week, we will begin a novel by Mildred Taylor titled, The Gold Cadillac and will pair it with Carl Hoover's newspaper article about the movie, "Green Book." After that, we will do more independent reading as we write and present book reports throughout the month of May. Daily learning and growing with inquisitive, caring 5th graders is what I most enjoy doing at Hillcrest PDS.

In math, we have studied perimeter, area, and volume, as well as how to convert customary & metric measurements to and from bigger or smaller units. We've reviewed of all the major topics studied this year. After the STAAR, we'll study personal finance and do some special projects on organizing and interpreting data.

UPCOMING EVENTS

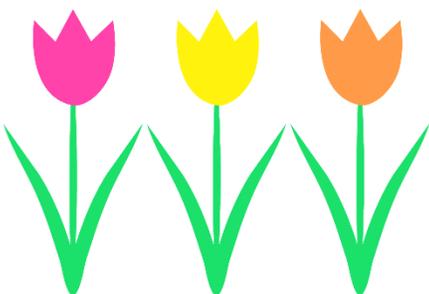
- ❖ 4/9 5th Grade STAAR Math & 4th Grade Writing- CLOSED Campus- NO visitors
- ❖ 4/10 5th Grade STAAR reading CLOSED Campus- NO visitors
- ❖ 4/11 STAAR Make-up- CLOSED Campus- NO visitors
- ❖ 4/11 Family Folk Dance Night in gym 6:00 pm
- ❖ 4/16 PTA Meeting w/ 1st grade performance 6:00 pm
- ❖ 4/17-18 3rd grade Zoo Snooze
- ❖ 4/17 PTA Teacher Luncheon hosted by Pre K-K
- ❖ 4/19 & 4/22 NO SCHOOL
- ❖ 4/23 CDMC 5:00 pm
- ❖ 4/25 Artist Market

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Ready

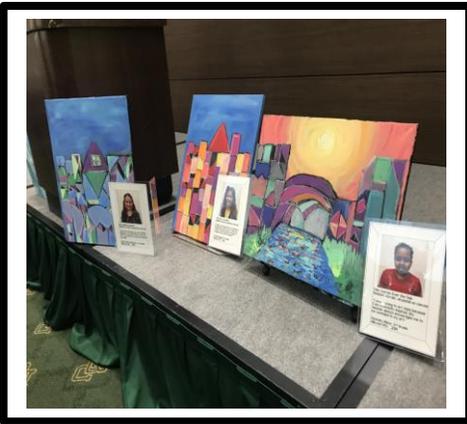
Always Do Your
HPDS Best



What's happening in the Art Studio...

Last month three of our 3rd grade Hillcrest artists got to attend a fundraiser event called **Table Toppers** put on by **the Art Center of Waco**! This event helps the Art Center raise funds to provide free and low-cost art education programs for children in our community. These students created one of a kind acrylic cityscape paintings on canvas that were inspired by Swiss artist Paul Klee. They were auctioned off in a live auction which brought in almost \$1,000 for the Art Center!! Each student was asked to speak to the audience about their piece and what art means to them. I am so proud of how they conveyed their messages and represented all of our Hillcrest artists! We were thrilled to get to give back to the Art Center, our adopt-a-school partner, who does so much for us! It was an opportunity they'll never forget!

Mark Your Calendars!!! Artist Market is Coming Up!!! Thursday April 25th!



In The Music Room



I hope you and your family are making plans to join us Thursday, April 11th at 6:00 for our first "Family Folk Dance Night." We will gather in the gym, in our closed-toed, rubber-soled shoes to dance some traditional folk dances. Students and parents will all learn and dance together. Participation in this event will NOT be safe for children younger than five. The event will end at 7:00. Be sure to bring a bottle of water for each participant!

I hope you will join us at the April PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 16th, as our 1st graders present a program filled with Disney songs. You won't want to miss it!

Those sounds coming out of the music room these days are our 4th and 5th grade students learning and improving their soprano recorder skills. The recorder is a woodwind musical instrument that has been around for hundreds of years. Our students not only learn to play the recorder, but also read the notated music. It is a great introduction to learning to play in a band or orchestra.

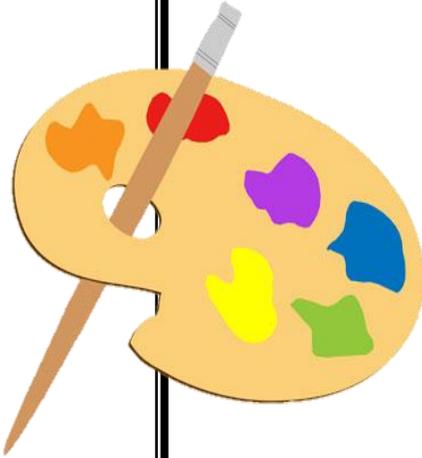
Don't forget about the upcoming program by our Kindergarten students on Tuesday, May 21st.

PTA will hold elections for the 2019-2020 Executive Board positions at our monthly meeting on April 16th @ 6 PM in the HPDS Cafeteria. Positions available include President, Vice President-Fundraising, Vice President- Membership, Treasurer and Secretary. The HPDS PTA supports the staff and students in many ways. If you are interested in becoming a board member contact vgonzaleswaco@gmail.com. Nominations need to be submitted by Friday, April 12th.



ARTIST MARKET!!! Thursday April 25th 6:00-8:00 PM

Fun for the **whole family!** Purchase student created items:



F.A.- coasters

Pre K- handmade beaded clay jewelry

Kinder-marbled rock photo holders

1st- birdhouses

2nd- pot holders

3rd- macramé wall hanging

4th- needle felting

5th- autograph memory pillow/ coloring books



Free Activities Include: easel painting, face painting, marble painting, bracelet making, tie-dying t-shirts and much more!!!!

Smokin' Hot BBQ & Kona Ice

All proceeds go to the HPDS Art Program.

EAT..... CREATE..... SHOP!!!!

Interim Superintendent Named and Superintendent Search Update

On March 28, the Waco ISD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name Dr. Hazel Rowe as the district's interim superintendent. She brings more than five decades of experience as an educational leader to the role and previously served as Waco ISD's interim superintendent during the 2000-2001 school year. Over the course of her career, Dr. Rowe has held several positions in Waco ISD, including teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and associate superintendent.

At their last meeting, the school board also selected a firm to assist with the search for a permanent superintendent. One of the first steps in that process will be a series of listening sessions for board members to hear from parents, educators, students and community members. They want to hear about what is working and what could be working better. Details for those sessions will be announced soon.