



From the Principal –

Dear Tippit Families:

Here we are in the month of December! It seems like we just got started with the school year. Most of the leaves have fallen (in my yard) and the holiday decorations are going up. Of course those decorations began to be displayed while Halloween items were on the shelves in the stores! We are one-third of the way through our school year. Amazing how time flies! The holiday season is upon us and it is time to celebrate in many different ways and in the essence of many different cultures. As we quickly move through December, it is hard to believe that 2012 is right around the corner. Please take some time to enjoy the season.

We have many activities planned at school to make December and January special for you and your family. Please check the important dates found in this newsletter and on our website to make sure you know about all of them. We continue to remain focused on our academic goals and we need your continued support. Please check your child's Thursday Folders for important information regarding your child's progress. You should expect regular homework assignments and frequent communication from your child's teachers and from the school. One of the many reasons that we have a great school is the way that students, teachers and parents work together to form an educational partnership. When this partnership forms, I have never found an issue that could not be solved. I appreciate the work of students, parents and staff in working together!

Gift giving is a major part of December. We give and receive gifts

more this month than any other time of the year. We are blessed to have such wonderful parents who help their children understand the joy of giving and an appreciation for items received. Your generosity is amazing! What you do as a parent speaks more loudly than what you say. Make sure what you do and say are really what you want your child to emulate. Children truly "learn what they live." You are the "book of ethics" and the "book of etiquette" for your child.

During the holiday season I hope parents remember that "things" do not bring happiness to us. This holiday season give your time to your children. Play some board (not bored) games or read a book to each other. Do an activity as a family. If you are not able to share an evening meal together daily, make sure you take time for this during the month. My 38+ year old memories are more about singing around the piano with my mother playing and my dad, three brothers, and me vocalizing. The toys are long gone, but those opportunities as a family remain as important times in my life. Family time can be simple. It does not need to include expensive trips. Some of the best times are free! Over the years I have come to realize the importance of the time we devote to our children. I look back and am grateful for the times that I said "yes" to my children when they wanted Daddy to do something. So share experiences together with love as your theme and not necessarily a theme park you love. May the joys of this holiday season be with you all!

Brian Dawson, Principal

From Mr. Dawson...

2011 Tippit Gift Card Drive

Help us thank our

Custodial & Nutrition Services Staff

this holiday season!

***What to do:** Purchase a gift card in **any amount** and send it to school with your child. We will collect the gift cards and distribute to the custodial and nutrition services staff.

***When:** Send the gift card to school by **Monday, Dec. 20th. Turn them in to the front office.**

***More ideas:** Local businesses like WalMart, HEB, Target and most restaurants offer gift cards in all amounts. Purchase one or more than one in the amount you choose and the cards will be divided equally among the hardworking, dedicated custodians and cafeteria staff.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

**Please Come Visit the School Store During
December!!**

****Many new Christmas Items!****

The Eagles Nest school store, located in the cafeteria, is open during lunch times throughout December. The new Christmas inventory includes a whole new **Bling Boutique** and a **Spirit Section**, with **bling shirts, Eagle Spirit shirts, Band Diva Tees, slap bracelets** and other items.

The store has many inexpensive holiday gift items, as well as school supplies.

Tippit Pride t-shirts will be available very soon at the store. Regular sizes are \$10; XXL and XXXL are extra. Tippit Pride shirts are great for students, siblings, parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends to wear and show their Tippit pride.

Please come by, and encourage your child to check out the store during their lunchtime. ☺

December Decadence

*Tippit PTA Hospitality is planning a Decadent Dessert party for our fabulous Tippit staff on **Monday, December 19th.** Track down your favorite sumptuous recipe and look for details via Signup Genius coming soon!*

*Christy Foster
Tippit PTA Hospitality
hospitality@tippitmspta.org*

Tippit Student Council Canned Food Drive

Please bring nonperishable food items to Tippit by **Wednesday, December 14.** Tippit Student Council members will donate these items to the Caring Place. A wonderful opportunity to share with others!

From the Library

Game Day is scheduled for **Friday, Dec. 9** for those students who successfully completed the Game On! Reading Program. Students will be given a blue wristband that will identify them as participants. There will be computer gaming, Wii, and traditional board games throughout the day. There will also be prize drawings, from free pizza to a Nook!

Barbara Walker
Tippit Librarian

Reflections**Diversity Means...**

A hearty congratulations to the following winners!

Awards of Excellence**Photography**

Jaxon Fisher

Visual Arts

Hernan Arriaga

Maylin Sanchez

Jacob Solis

Luis Cruz

Sandra Espinoza

Leo Ramirez

Brianna Bracamontez

Brandon Henry

Jace Gormley

Honorable Mentions**Visual Arts**

Moises Pioquinto

Jeraldin Ramirez

Esmeralda Gutierrez

Mario Rangel

Michael Kesler

Thank you to Mrs. Laura Ellington, the Tippit art teacher, for encouraging her students to participate in the Reflections program. Thanks also to all the volunteers who provided cookies for the Gallery Night.

Luci Whorton, Reflections Coordinator

Family Fun Night

In **April**, Tippit will be having Family Fun Night!

Family Fun Night is an evening of great, family-friendly activities! This event is the main fundraiser for the many school-related items supported by Tippit PTA. Family Fun Night is tentatively scheduled for April 20th.

We will start sending out emails for planning meetings after the new year. We need a lot of great volunteers to make this special night a success. If you're interested in helping, please contact Maureen Raleigh at familyfunnight@tippitmspta.org

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

REMEMBER!! YOU MUST COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECK TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANY ACTIVITY WITH THE SCHOOL!

The background check can be completed here: <https://www.georgetownisd.org/career/jobs/application/volunteernew.asp>

Please contact Shannon Martin at volunteers@tippitmspta.org if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events.

December 8th and 9th, 2011***Game On! Read! Rewards Day***

- On Thursday, Dec. 8th, Mrs. Walker will need assistance setting up the games that will be used for the Reward Day.
- On Friday, Dec. 9th, she will need some volunteers to help monitor the games, particularly before school and during lunch.

Thank you for any time you can donate to help with these events!!

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas!!

Healthier Christmastime Pies (from Shape magazine, Dec 2011)

Pumpkin pie (already the healthiest pie option): Substitute nonfat condensed milk for regular condensed milk.

Pecan pie: Substitute rolled oats for half the pecans; replace the 3 eggs most recipes call for with 1 egg and 4 whites.

Lemon meringue pie: Substitute cookie crumbs for the crust - Spray the pie dish with Pam, add ½ cup crushed gingersnaps; tilt pan to coat before adding filling.

Cherry pie: Make your own low-calorie cherry pie filling: Simmer 4 cups frozen cherries with 2 Tbl Splenda, 1 Tbl vanilla, and 2 Tbl cornstarch (dissolved in 3 Tbl cold water) for 15 min.

Apple pie: Instead of a top crust, sprinkle tops of the apples with a mixture of ½ cup whole wheat flour, 1 heaping cup crushed Kellogg's Special K cereal, 6 Tbl applesauce, 2 Tbl melted butter, and a pinch of brown sugar.

EPA's Ways to Reduce Waste During the Holidays

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/wycd/funfacts/holidays.htm>

If you have a live Christmas tree, after the holidays, look for ways to recycle your tree instead of sending it to a landfill.

Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.

If you're buying new greeting cards this holiday season, send recycled-content greeting cards. Another option is to tear off the fronts of old cards and use them as postcards. Also consider sending electronic cards, and recycle any paper cards you receive.

Buy items with minimal packaging and/or made with recycled content.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money. Look for items that embody the concept of reuse.

Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.

Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

Donate the older toys that your children no longer use to charities. Also check with local libraries. A number of public libraries have extended their children's section to include a lending collection of toys, games, puzzles, musical instruments, and such.

Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries can save money in the long run.

Bake cookies or other goodies for your friends and love ones and package them in reusable and/or recyclable containers as gifts.

If you host a party, set the table with cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware. Save and reuse party hats, decorations, and favors.

After holiday festivities, put leftovers in recyclable containers, and share them with family, friends, or others. Donate whole, untouched leftovers from parties to a local food bank or homeless shelter.

Leave grass clippings on your lawn.

Fill your dishwasher to capacity before running it.