



### *From the Principal –*

The month of September has moved on and we have settled into our routines and structure. We have had plenty of time to learn and rehearse our school and classroom procedures and routines. Our rules have been taught and our high expectations for all have been communicated. I am very proud of our students and we have been off to a great start!

Our biggest focus at Tippit Middle School is to empower all of our students to become active and independent learners. We want our students to feel safe and affirmed. One of the ways that we are making this happen at Tippit is by our focus on **P.B.I.S. (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)**. What is school-wide PBIS? It is improving student academic and behavior outcomes by ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. PBIS provides an operational framework for

achieving these outcomes.

### **“What Does School-Wide PBIS**

**Emphasize?”** In general, PBIS emphasizes four integrated elements. These key elements are guided by six important principles to:

1. Develop a continuum of scientifically based behavior and academic interventions and supports.
2. Use data to make decisions and solve problems.
3. Arrange the environment to prevent the development and occurrence of problem behavior.
4. Teach and encourage pro-social skills and behaviors.
5. Implement evidence-based behavioral practices with fidelity and accountability.
6. Screen and monitor student performance and progress continuously.

As a means to encourage pro-social skills and behaviors as a part of the PBIS program, we have implemented a student recognition program, which

includes weekly drawings on the morning announcement: derived from the ‘Tippit Token’. Students receive these tokens to turn into the drawing for being recognized by their teacher or another school adult for making appropriate choices or for exhibiting pro-social behavior. This year, our focus is RISE to your personal best. **RISE stands for: Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Excellence.**

Please help us encourage your student to actively seek to RISE to their personal best. It is a pleasure and honor to work collaboratively with you in teaching your child. Please remember, we are here for you and your child. If you have questions, concerns, or celebrations, please do not hesitate to contact your student’s teacher, assistant principal, counselor or me. We want to help you. Thank you for sharing your child with us!

Respectfully,

Brian Dawson, Principal

## Reflections

The 2011-2012 Reflections Theme is



The annual Reflections program gives students the opportunity to enhance their academic learning through creative arts. Students may enter in the categories of literature, visual arts, photography, musical composition, dance choreography, and video production. Students may enter as many categories as they like with as many entries in each category as they choose. There is no cost to enter. Each entry must be the original work of only one student and must be created in 2011. This year the theme is **Diversity Means....** Interpretation of the theme is a primary consideration in the judging of the entries. Entry forms and guidelines may be picked up from the Tippit library. Entries may be turned into the office and the deadline for entries is **Wednesday, October 26.**

Forms and additional information are also available at [www.txpta.org/programs/reflections/](http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections/)

Questions? Contact Luci Whorton, Tippit Reflections Coordinator, at [reflections@tippitmspta.org](mailto:reflections@tippitmspta.org)

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## Tippit School Fundraiser!

The Tippit Middle School QSP Fundraiser will kick off on **Wednesday, October 19, 2011.**

Magazines, Latino Magazines (e-magazines are also available online) and a small gift catalog will be available for purchase. Funds will go toward making improvements around our campus!

**The goal is to raise \$10,000. If we can reach this goal Mr. Dawson will wear a Turkey suit for a whole day of school!**

If you would rather make a donation to the school, it is tax-deductible. (Please make checks payable to Tippit Middle School.)

**Please support Tippit!**

## **Academic UIL**

Information is now available at the front office. If you have questions about UIL contact Beth at [wbpurcell@msn.com](mailto:wbpurcell@msn.com)

## Volunteer Background Check

ANYONE who volunteers at Tippit must have a background check completed ahead of time. The online background check must be filled out and submitted **every school year**. You can do this as early as the beginning of August for the following school year.

The background check only takes a couple of minutes to fill out, but takes approximately 48 hours to process. Therefore, you need to submit a background check at least 2 days before you're planning to volunteer at the school.

The GISD online background check is available at <https://www.georgetownisd.org/career/jobs/application/volunteer.asp>

If you have not submitted a background check since August 2011, we encourage you to do so now, as we'd love to see you around Tippit!



PTA Membership

It's not too late to join Tippit PTA. Follow the PTA link on the Tippit website and complete the form. Submit the form along with \$5.00 dues to the front office. Enjoy the benefits of "Teaming Up" with Tippit PTA today!

Questions? Please contact Membership Chairperson Samantha Fisher at [membership@tippitmspta.org](mailto:membership@tippitmspta.org)

Tippit Book Fair

Tippit will be having a book fair the week of Oct. 31 – Nov. 4.

Great selections will be available; please make plans to visit.

Barbara Walker, school librarian, is in need of volunteers for the book fair. If you can help, please contact Barbara at 943-5043 or [walkerb@georgetownisd.org](mailto:walkerb@georgetownisd.org) or Shannon Martin at [volunteers@tippitmspta.org](mailto:volunteers@tippitmspta.org)

School Store

*If you are looking for a fun way to support the Tippit PTA and can spare 30 minutes in the morning from 8 to 8:30 am, the Eagle's Nest store could use your help!*

*We are open in the mornings before school starts and sell school supplies and miscellaneous items to the students in case they need something for class, forgot it at home, lost it, etc. We need additional volunteers, however, so if you are interested in helping, please contact Kirby Tyndall at [schoolstore@tippitmspta.org](mailto:schoolstore@tippitmspta.org)*

Tippit Veterans' Day Celebration

Volunteers will be needed to assist with the Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 11, 2011. Volunteers will assist in the reception set-up (right after drop off in the morning), serving at the reception (mid-morning) and cleaning up after the reception's end. Volunteer time can be as little or as much as one has time to give. Interested volunteers can contact Christine Bowman at [bowmanc@southwestern.edu](mailto:bowmanc@southwestern.edu) for more details.

Football Concession Stand

Want a fun way to help out and enjoy the atmosphere of a great Tippit home football game?

Consider volunteering at the concession stand! Games are on Tuesdays after school starting at 5 pm. If possible, please arrive 20 minutes before the game starts.

We welcome volunteers for the A or B game or both. Interested? Contact Kirby Tyndall at the e-mail address above.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social - A Fabulous Success!

The Sept. 16 movie-themed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social was fantastic! The kids had a great time dancing, singing karaoke, playing games, and enjoying movie theater-type foods. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the event:

Maureen Raleigh  
Luci Whorton  
Scott Banks  
Shelley Vita  
Mr. Dawson

Amy Bissonnet  
Camarie Perry  
Samantha Fisher  
Rose Atkins

Becky Smith  
Bruce Perry  
Dora Mireles  
Valerie Shelton

Sincerely,  
Christy Schaller  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade PTA Representative

**Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities**

REMEMBER!! AS DISCUSSED ABOVE, 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](mailto:volunteers@tippitmspta.org) if you are interested in volunteering for any of these events.

**October 28th, 2011**

*Halloween Themed Teacher Luncheon*

Please let us know if you would be able to bring a food item and you will be contacted by the Hospitality Committee to coordinate which items are needed.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> - November 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*Book Fair! Volunteers will be needed:*

- To help set up on Friday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup> from about 9:00 - 11:30 am
- During the week of Oct 31<sup>st</sup> - November 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 - 4:15 every day. It is preferred that this be in 2 hour shifts but any amount of time you can give would be appreciated!!
- To help with take down on Monday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> from about 9:00 - 11:30 am

**November 11th, 2011**

*Veteran's Day Reception*

As mentioned above, help will be needed for set up before the program, serving during the reception and clean up after the reception.

**December 8th and 9th, 2011**

*Game On! Read! Rewards Day*

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

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

**Newsletter and Website Info**

Please visit the PTA website at [www.tippitmspta.org](http://www.tippitmspta.org)

PTA newsletters are distributed electronically in Tippit E-News releases and are also available on the Tippit website. To sign up to receive the very informative Tippit E-News releases, go to [www.georgetownisd.org/tippit/Tippit%20Midde%20School/Newslist.html](http://www.georgetownisd.org/tippit/Tippit%20Midde%20School/Newslist.html) (The E-News link is also available on the Tippit homepage under Sign-Up for Tippit's E-mail List.) The Tippit PTA website and future newsletters can also be accessed directly at [www.tippitmspta.org](http://www.tippitmspta.org) or from the Tippit homepage, [www.georgetownisd.org/tippit](http://www.georgetownisd.org/tippit) (select the PTA tab).

If you have any suggestions for material you'd like to see in future newsletters, please contact Camarie Perry at [communications@tippitmspta.org](mailto:communications@tippitmspta.org) Thank you!

### Cash for Halloween Candy

Too much Halloween candy at your house? A Mother's Touch Children's Dentistry (Star Smiles Pediatric Dentistry) here in Georgetown will weigh any candy you bring in and will pay \$1 per pound up to \$5 per child.

What's even better about this event is that the candy A Mother's Touch Children's Dentistry collects is sent to Operation Gratitude, who will distribute it in care packages to members of the US Military.

Cash for Candy will be running Nov 3 - 8. The office will be open late on Nov 3 (4-7 pm); and during regular business hours (8 am - 5 pm) Nov 3 - 8.

A Mother's Touch Children's Dentistry  
[www.starsmilesorgeorgetown.com](http://www.starsmilesorgeorgetown.com)  
 864-9595  
 1103 Rivery Blvd, Suite 140  
 (near Wal-Mart)

Source: Georgetown View magazine, Oct. 2011

### Kids' Candy Too Good to Pass Up?

If you find the kids' Halloween candy a little too irresistible, here are Shape magazine's suggestions for keeping the calorie counts and fat grams to a reasonable amount:

- 3 mini York Peppermint Patties  
150 cal, 3 g fat
- 6 Dum Dums pops  
150 cal, 0 g fat
- 3 mini Twix  
150 cal, 8 g fat
- 5 snack-size Twizzlers Strawberry Twists  
150 cal, 1 g fat
- 3 treat-size boxes of Nerds  
150 cal, 0 g fat
- 6 rolls of Smarties  
150 cal, 0 g fat
- 6 mini Three Musketeers  
146 cal, 4 g fat
- 7 Hershey's Kisses  
156 cal, 9 g fat
- 2 fun-size packs Milk Chocolate M&Ms  
147 cal, 7 g fat

Yum!

Source: Shape magazine, Oct 2011

