



November 2011

Eagle



Eye

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Steck/PTA Web Site
<http://steck.ipdsd.org>
New PTA link!!

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Look for the Holiday pie
promotion and see how you
can donate to a local food
bank!



November

Wed Nov 2	3:35-4:35pm	Chess Club
Wed Nov 9	4:30-8:00pm	Parent Teacher Conferences
Thu Nov 10	8:00am-3:00pm 4:30pm-8:00pm	No School-Parent Teacher Conferences No School-Parent Teacher Conferences
Fri Nov 11		No School-Veterans Day
Mon Nov 14	9:05am-1:05pm	Gr. 4 to Naper Settlement
Tue Nov 15	7:00pm-8:00pm	2 nd Grade Music Program
Wed Nov 16	9:30am-2:00pm 3:35-4:35pm	Picture Retake Day & Candid Photos Chess Club
Thu Nov 17	4:45-5:30pm	Market Day Pick-up
Fri Nov 23	8:20am-8:50am	Progress Reports Go Home Gr. 3 Multi-Cultural Book Club
Wed Nov 23		No School-Thanksgiving
Thu Nov 24		No School-Thanksgiving
Fri Nov 25		No School-Thanksgiving
Wed Nov 30	3:35-4:35pm	Chess Club

Fall Band and Orchestra Concerts usually occur in November - more details will follow





Hello Steck Families!

It's hard to believe that November is here and we are thinking about Thanksgiving and the Holidays! I feel like I keep saying this, but how quickly the school year is going by...



Thank you to all the folks that donated and participated in the Costume "Free-cycle" program. I think we ended up with a great selection, and hopefully were able to provide costumes to everyone that needed or wanted one! Thank you to Lisa Craff for heading up the initiative!

I would like to thank all the families that are participating in our Manna Card program, and encourage you all to look into how it could work for you. As this program is our "fall fundraiser" this year, I am hopeful that we will be able to get into a groove with orders each week and month. If you have any questions at all about how it works, please don't hesitate to ask Heather Sheppard, any of us on the PTA executive board. We are happy to help in any way we can!

The PTA Reflections program deadline has now passed, and we had many students submit their artwork for judging. Thank you to all those that participated!! Also thank you to Beth Tukker for taking on that program for us! We will continue to hear more about the contest as the artwork continues to be judged and moved on to the district and eventually state level.

I look forward to the Annual Pancake Breakfast, Winter Wonderland and Season of Sharing at the school this December. We hope that everyone will be able to join in the fun and come down to the school for some delicious pancakes and family activities! Save the date of Saturday, December 3rd. The fun starts at 8:30 am.

I hope everyone enjoys the end of Fall as we begin to get into the cold and snow season.....and as always, thank you for continuing to support the Steck PTA!

Kimberly Mitchell
PTA President



Accelerated Reader Q & A

What is the Accelerated Reader program?

Accelerated Reader is a computerized reading program geared to all grades 1 through 5. First graders begin as they become readers, and grades 2-5 participate after an introduction at the beginning of each school year. The procedure begins with the selection of a book from the Accelerated Reader book list. When the student completes the book, a computerized comprehension test is taken either in the LMC or the classroom. After taking the test, the student is able to see the correct answers to any questions answered incorrectly. If the child passes the test, the student receives points based on the difficulty of the book.

Are students able to take an Accelerated Reader test on a book their teacher reads to them, or a book I read to my child?

Since the purpose of the test is to check for reading comprehension, a student may take a test on a book that has been read to them by the teacher. Children may take tests on books they have heard at home, providing the words in the story are words the child can read almost independently. Success depends on each child's ability to read the questions.

Are students able to take Accelerated Reader tests from home?

The software for this program is loaded only on the computers at Steck, so students can only take tests at school.

What's the purpose of Accelerated Reader?

This program is designed to increase leisure reading, expose students to a wide range of literature choices, and help to establish a lifelong love of reading. More time spent reading makes children better readers.

What books are included on the Accelerated Reader list? Are they only books my child can find at school?

Your child can find AR books in the Steck LMC, at the public library, or even on a bookshelf at home. The complete book list is available online at <http://destiny.ipisd.org>. (Go to Steck School, then to the "AR Quiz Interactive" link.)

How many Accelerated Reader tests are available at Steck?

Thanks to the PTA, Steck has been able to purchase over 3700 tests, with additional tests added each year.



Continued from page 4

Can students take tests on fiction books only?

No, there are many nonfiction books that are included on the AR list as well.

Is Accelerated Reader only for those students who are exceptional readers?

The varied reading levels and subjects of the books in the program are designed to benefit students of all reading abilities. The students enjoy accumulating the points, and receive recognition after earning different point levels. Results are reported to each classroom teacher at regular intervals.

How will I know if my child has taken AR tests at school and will I know how he/she is doing?

Teachers receive a report on the progress of their students at least twice a month. Please contact your child's teacher with questions regarding your child's AR progress.

Do points accumulate year to year, or do students start over earning points each year?

Total points accumulate from 1st through 5th grade.

If my child does poorly on a test can he/she take the same test again?

No, a child can only take a test on a specific title once. The program will block your child from retaking a test he's already taken.

Are any rewards offered to children who participate?

Depending upon grade level, there is a series of point levels, each of which carries a different reward, which can be anything from a bookmark to a gift certificate from a local book store. Children earn a new reward as they reach each point level. Children receive their new rewards, typically, on Friday mornings in the LMC.

Haven't I seen an Accelerated Reader wall of names and pictures?

Actually there are 3 different places at Steck where you will find AR recognition. In the first grade wing all 1st graders who have earned 9 points are recognized; 2nd grade AR readers who reach 25 points are on display at the back of the building as well, and photos and names of 3rd through 5th graders who have earned 50 points (3rd grade), 100 points (4th grade), or 150 points (5th grade) line the hallway near the YMCA entrance.

Do all classes participate in the program?

Though some children from all classes participate, this is an optional program, so the degree of participation by class and grade level varies.

Our hope is that the amount of time children spend reading will increase and lead to a habit of reading for fun. If you have any further questions about the program please feel free to contact Mrs. Hatcher in the LMC at 375-3520. Happy reading to all!



Something new from the LMC....

Students in grades 2 through 5 can now log in to our computerized library catalog and make their own lists of books they would like to check out...and they can even do this from home! Here's how:

- Go to destiny.ipisd.org
- Click on "Steck Elementary"
- Go to the "Catalog" tab at the top of the page
- Click on "Destiny Quest" at the left side under Library Search.
- Click on "Login" at the top right.
- Students can log in using the user name (login) and password they used at school [from the back side of their library card – they will need to have this information copied down at school]



Family Literacy Day is November 1!



Your used printer cartridges
and cell phones can

Make a Difference

We are helping keep the earth clean
while earning new equipment and cash.

You can help us earn even MORE by
saving used cartridges and cell phones!

A message from our coordinator

The LMC collects used ink cartridges of all kinds
and old cell phones all year. Please help us
with this earth-friendly project!

Drop Off Locations

Students may drop off ink cartridges and old
phones in the green and black container on the
table near the front door of the school.



November 2011

From the Steck Office pg. 8

**Thank you to all our Steck Families and staff who made the
Maggie Moo Celebrity Scoop Night a big success!!**

We raised \$203 for the Steck PTA!



We have the best teachers at Steck and who knew they could scoop?

Please join us for the next Dinner Out at Sweet Tomatoes on November 7th!

Picture Retake Day and Candid Photos on November 16, 2011



**Thank you from the Office –*

to our Picture Day Volunteers, Sharon Canty, Lillian Lucas, Lisa Newman, Nafisa Husain. Thanks to our volunteers, Picture Day ran smoothly—and finished in record time!



Time to renew!!

Please take the time to renew your Dominick's card #. Every November all Dominick's cards are purged from the Escrip website and must be re-entered to continue receiving the funds for Steck PTA. Last year, the PTA raised over \$1500 from the Escrip program. Log on to www.escrip.com and follow the prompts.

Steck ID#:50014251

Manna Card Program Update

Three weeks into the program and things are starting to move!! With over \$2300 in Manna Cards ordered so far, one knows that this program is going to be successful.



Is your family on a budget? A good way to keep track of spending is to purchase Manna Cards!

Do you have a lot of people to buy for? We have hundreds of vendors to choose from.



Get ready for the Holidays!! Buy all your gift cards through Manna, finish your list and earn money for Steck! Look for Promos in November!

Questions about Manna? Contact Heather Sheppard: 630-818-6608



Box Tops Results Rock!!!



Congratulations to all students who clipped and brought in almost 14,000 Box Tops, Tyson labels, and Campbell's labels!! Because of the efforts,

Steck PTA will receive \$1300 from the Fall contest. If one adds the \$790 from the Spring Contest, students will have brought in over \$2180 for educational programming at Steck in 2011!!

The winning classroom was 3G! Enjoy your pizza party and pajama day!

Congratulations to everyone! Job well done!

Market Day Promotion and Food Donation



Time to order for the holidays! For Market Day this month order your Holiday pies and order an extra for Loaves & Fishes. This is a way for you to give something sweet to a local food bank and enjoy your holiday! Order today!



November Market Day

This month bonus days are back! Market day is offering a chance to give back to your community as well as to our school. In addition to purchasing pies for yourself you can also order pies to be donated to Loaves and Fishes. For your convenience donations will be taken at November pick up. The more desserts you purchase, the more Steck earns. The holidays are right around the corner so place your order for pies now!!



NEW THIS MONTH!

Turkey Sausage Links and Fully Cooked Prime Rib Slices

Also, this month get a FREE 4-pack of ChicNSteakes with a \$90 online purchase. Use promo code: NOVBONUS.



November Sale Pickup: **Thursday, November 17**
Internet Order cutoff: **Monday, November 14 @ 11PM**
Order online at: www.marketday.com, code #6470

Market Day Co-Chairs:

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