Greetings – the holiday season is upon us and I hope that everyone gets the opportunity to relax a little bit and enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It’s been a very busy fall semester and the Corbell students are continuing to work hard and make progress at school. I was so impressed with how many students have made one of our honor roll lists, as well as perfect attendance this semester. That’s a reflection of the students’ efforts and great attitude, parental support at home, and having a dedicated and hard working staff. I look forward to the spring semester being just as successful!

On a totally different topic, I want to remind parents that pets (dogs, cats, horses, snakes, orangutans, etc.) aren’t allowed on school campuses in FISD. Unfortunately there was an incident at a campus a few years back where a student was injured by a dog after school, so the district put the “no pets on school grounds” policy in place.

There are many activities and events we look forward to on the December and January calendar, so be sure and keep your eye on the newsletters and school web site.

Have a great holiday season!

David Wehmeyer, Principal

If your child is going to be absent from school:
1. Please email the school at garciam@friscoisd.org or call the office at 469-633-3550.
2. Send a handwritten note or a doctor’s note when your child returns to school.
December Dates to Remember
Dec. 3  4th grade sings @ Merry Main Street
Dec. 5  Teacher Cookie Extravaganza
Dec. 9  Multicultural Planning Mtg, 9am
Dec. 9  Corbell Sing Along @ 2:10
Dec. 16  Winter Classroom Parties
Dec. 16  WOGA Parents’ Night Out 7-9pm
   $25/child, $15/additional child
Dec. 16  Last day before Winter Break

January Dates to Remember
Jan. 2  First day back to school
Jan. 10-12  First Grade CoGat Testing
   (no outside appointments for 1st graders, please)
Jan. 12  Valentine Party Planning mtg @ 9:30
Jan. 24  PTA Mtg/Multicultural Night/4th grade performance
Jan. 31  Shakespeare Theater Performance (Grades 3-5)

Would you like to see what is for sale at the Spirit Store? Check it out online by clicking here!

SWEATSHIRTS, T-SHIRTS & YARD SIGNS, OH, MY!!
Order forms are available in the front office and on the website!
Orders will be picked up each Friday and delivered the following Friday.

Next Spirit Store is scheduled for February 16th and 17th.

Cookie Extravaganza Time
Would you like to provide sweet treats to our fantastic Corbell Staff?
We are looking for individuals who are interested in providing 4 dozen of one kind of goodie (cookies, bars, balls, etc.), brought in on a disposable tray. If your tray is not disposable please make sure it is labeled with your child’s name and teacher. Please bring them into the office on Monday, Dec. 5 by 9:30 am.

To volunteer click here!

Attention Corbell Parents & Staff
If you have taken any pictures at recent Corbell events, such as Critterman or the winter classroom parties, and are willing to have them included in the PTA scrapbook or yearbook, please email them to historian@corbellpta.org

Mahalo!
**Life’s A Beach**

**Problem Solving**

We all deal with learning how to solve problems. As kids we need the guidance of our teachers and parents. Below are some specific problem solving roadblocks you can help your child avoid.

An “I can’t” attitude instead of “I can!” If your child says, “It’s impossible,” it probably will be.

Fear of Failure. If your child is afraid of failing he/she may become too scared to try. He/she needs to be told it’s okay and normal not to get it right at first. Success comes with lots of tries.

Thinking there’s only one way to do it. Usually there is more than one way to solve homework and other problems.

Making up your mind too soon. The first idea isn’t always the best. Effective solutions take time and thought.

Tackling too much at once. Some problems are quite complex. They need to be broken down into manageable chunks.

For more Counselor news, please visit my webpage at: [http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/CounselorRamsey/](http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/CounselorRamsey/)

**Positive Self Talk Helps**

Help your child learn to say to himself/herself things like:

“I am making progress.”

“I can do it.”

“If I don’t get it right the first time, I’m going to keep trying until I do.”

Self talk can help your child maintain the healthy, positive attitude needed to solve problems.

**Angel Tree Drive**

“Thank you” for your generous donations to the Angel Tree Drive. Once again, we couldn’t be more proud of all of our parents and students who took the time to make the holidays a little more special and enjoyable for Frisco kids who otherwise, may have gone without.

**Keep that Island Beat**

with Mrs. Schettler, Music

4th Grade Performing at
21st Annual Merry Main Street
Saturday, December 3rd
Stocking Stage
(Far West side of plaza)
Call 6:25 pm – 6:50 pm Performance
ARRIVE EARLY!!!
Please wear Red 2011 Corbell Wild Walk Shirts, jeans, and any holiday items!

Annual Corbell Sing-A-Long
Friday, December 9th @ 2:10
Led by our 4th Grade Class at Corbell
Please wear Red 2011 Corbell Wild Walk Shirts, jeans, and any holiday items!

Multicultural Night
Tuesday, January 24th
Following the 6:30 pm PTA meeting
4th grade classes will perform selections on the African Drums and multicultural festivities will be set up in the gym. Come and learn about the wonderful cultures at Corbell Elementary.
Say “Aloha” to a great book
with Mrs. Thompson, Librarian

The Corbell library has a parent resource library. We have over 50 books on parenting and many topics of interest to parents.

Some of the book titles are: Raising Financially Fit Kids, Campbell’s Casseroles, The Five Love Languages, Parenting with Love and Logic, and Reading Magic. Parents can check out library books from the Corbell library. Come take a look!

The Fall Book Fair was an amazing success! We sold over $16,000 worth of books, putting books in our home libraries and our classroom libraries. What a great thing!

The book fair couldn’t have happened without our amazing volunteers. From decorating to selling books and restocking the shelves, our volunteers made this book fair happen for our kids. Thanks to all of them! We are already looking forward to our spring book fair, “The Book Fair Luau, A Reading Celebration!” See you all in April!

The PTA decided to use the Book Fair profits to benefit the library & the guided reading library, with 50% of our sales being used to purchase books from Scholastic by Ms. Thompson & Ms. Glover. That’s a LOT of books for our children to get to use every day!
Aloha
from the President

The holiday season is upon us, which means we’re already at the halfway point of the school year!

This fall, Corbell’s PTA has grown to over 540 members! Together, we have worked to provide valuable programs for our children like Family Fun Night, Watch D.O.G.S., Critterman, Reflections art program, Book Fair, Operation Be Smart anti-drug show, community partnerships with local businesses, Spirit Store, Corbell Green Zone recycling initiative, Corbell Chronicle newsletter, corbellpta.org website, and the Wild Walk. Wow, that’s a lot of activity in just three months!

Once again, Corbell families really stepped up to contribute to our Wild Walk fundraiser, surpassing our goal by more than $8,000. Parents have overwhelmingly asked for a playground shade cover to protect our kids from the harsh Texas heat, so we have established a shade cover committee to research vendors and obtain pricing estimates.

Like any large investment, the shade cover may be one that requires us to save money over the course of two school years. The alternative is to try to raise additional funds above and beyond what we’ve collected from the Wild Walk. The committee will keep the membership updated on its findings and the membership will ultimately vote on our next step. It’s a great time to be involved in your PTA and let your voice be heard!

Still to come in December and January: winter classroom parties (fully funded by your PTA!), Multicultural Night, and a Shakespeare performance for grades 3-5. As always, you can check it all out on our website: corbellpta.org.

All the best this holiday season,

Kathy Mecom
Corbell PTA President

RIDE THE WAVE WITH US

In addition to the extensive list of programs, events, and resources provided by the PTA, we will focus on four goals this school year. Please join us!

Corbell PTA 2011-2012 Goals

I. Implement mass email communication through the Corbell PTA website to better publicize PTA events and information.
II. Increase volunteerism by creating opportunities for parents to get involved from home and outside school hours.
III. Expose students to the arts by adding a theatre/Shakespeare program.
IV. Identify important item(s) for the PTA to gift to Corbell BEFORE the Wild Walk so families will be motivated to donate funds for a clear purpose.

Did you know?

-PTA members can save money thanks to National PTA’s Member Benefits Provider Program

Check it out at: http://pta.org/member_benefit_providers.asp
Multicultural Night...
Plans are underway

Multicultural Night is coming up on January 24th and we are looking for volunteers to host tables and help out on the committee.

We will be holding a planning meeting Friday December 9th at 9:00 am in the workroom.

Please come and share your ideas and sign up for various jobs to help make this event fun and successful.

For more information, contact Michele Beacom/Cultural Arts Committee at culturalarts@corbellpta.org.

Corbell PTA needs YOUR help!!

We are now accepting nominations for the Texas PTA Lifetime Membership Award!!

Texas PTA is looking for two special people, who go above and beyond for our kids and school, to honor with this award. These people can either be a teacher, a staff member or a parent.

If you'd like to nominate someone, please give as much information as you can about this person's family, accomplishments, community service, etc...and e-mail it to Janelle Griffiths @ membership@corbellpta.org by Friday, December 16, 2010.

Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and re-starting it. If you're going to be stopped for more than 10 seconds (except in traffic) its better to turn off the engine.

Every 15 minutes of idling costs you up to ¼ of a gallon in wasted fuel. This translates into more than 45 gallons during a school year.

Engine wear is greater at prolonged idle than during normal operation.

An idling vehicle emits nearly 20 times more air pollution than when traveling at 30 miles per hour.

So, when you are waiting to pick your child up from school, remember that a simple turn of your key can have a significant positive impact on our environment.

Your PTA Wants You To Have a “GREEN” Holiday

Used light sets, extension cords and both un-lit and pre-lit artificial Christmas trees can all be recycled through the Christmas Recycling Center.

To learn more about this program and to find out where to send these items, visit polygroup.com/recycling.

Your PTA encourages you to turn your car off while waiting in the carpool line. This is an easy way to cut down on air pollution and conserve fuel.

Did you know that:
REFLECTIONS UPDATE!!
GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!

Thank you to the very talented group of students who participated in this year’s Reflections program. Hopefully everyone had a chance to view all of the creations in the Reflections Gallery that was located in the main hall. Below, is a list of this year’s winners. All entries were judged blindly by two people from outside of our school. The top 20% from each category and age group were awarded:

**Category: Musical Composition**
Award of Excellence/Chloe Freeman/5th grade
Award of Merit/Nathan Barrett/4th grade

**Category: Literature**
Award of Excellence/Bailey Smith/5th grade

**Category: Photography**
Award of Excellence/Amelia Kugler/2nd grade
Award of Excellence/Reagan Craft/4th grade

**Category: Visual Arts: (Primary Age Group)**
Award of Excellence/Ashley Penny/2nd grade
Award of Merit/Carter Murphy/2nd grade
Honorable Mention/Malia Nguyen/1st grade

**Category: Visual Arts (Intermediate Age Group)**
Award of Excellence/Natalie Genato/5th grade
Award of Excellence/Christia Schultz/5th grade
Award of Merit/Jacob Beacom/5th grade
Award of Merit/Kendall Mecom/3rd grade
Honorable Mention/Camden Anderson/3rd grade
Honorable Mention/Delaney Mann/4th grade

The entries that received awards of excellence will be advanced to the next level of judging at the council level and have the chance to advance to the national level too! All Reflections participants will be recognized at the Corbell assembly scheduled after the holidays.