Having completed the first six months of school, our staff and students stand ready to finish the remaining few months with confidence and continue building on all the accomplishments and progress!

Spring brings a very hectic school schedule, so be sure and keep an eye on our web site, newsletters, emails, etc. for information. March includes picture day, spring break, Kindergarten PTA program, and the beginning of the State testing season for our upper grades.

Please continue to reinforce good attendance habits with your child. Good attendance is extremely important in school and also builds a strong foundation for future learning. Corbell has always had a great attendance rate, and this year is no exception so far...so thank you!
March Dates to Remember
March 7  PTA Interest Forms due in office
March 7  Picture Day
March 8  Open House & Spirit Store 6-7 pm
March 9  Applebee’s Spirit Night
March 12 - 16  ***Spring Break***
March 20 PTA Mtg-Kinder performs 6:30 pm
March 21  Mooyah Spirit Night
March 22 STAAR-4th-Writing (1)
March 27 STAAR-4th-Writing (1)
March 28 STAAR-4th-Writing (2)
March 28  Chick-fil-A Spirit Night

Calling All Photographers!!
The PTA Historian is looking for volunteers
to take pictures at High Touch/High Tech
on March 6th for inclusion in the annual
PTA scrapbook. If interested, please
email historian@corbellpta.org for more
information. Teachers, if any of you
have pictures from Valentine’s Day parties
or Dennis Lee’s performance, please forward
them as well. Mahalo!

Don’t Wipeout...
Surf In & See
....Mrs. Conner, Nurse

If your child tends to have
accidents at school that
require a change of clothing,
please keep a spare set
of clothing in your child’s
backpack.

Also, if your child has come
home in clothing borrowed
from the nurse, would you
please send back the clean
clothes to school.

All clothes in the nurse’s office
are donated and are greatly
missed when they don’t return!

SWEATSHIRTS, T-SHIRTS
& YARD SIGNS ARE STILL
AVAILABLE (while supplies last)

Order forms are available in the
front office and on the website!
Orders will be picked up each
Friday and delivered the following
Friday.

Spirit Store open March 8 during
Open House 6-7 pm T-shirts and
Yard Signs will be 1/2 off!

Next Spirit Store May 10-11 during lunch

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

Howard Gardner, a Harvard Professor tells us that there are seven learning styles. Some people are predominantly one style while others can be a combination of styles.

1. **Spatial/Visual:** You learn best from pictures, images, and sight.
2. **Kinesthetic:** You learn best by moving around and doing the activity.
3. **Musical/Auditory:** You learn best from information in the form of music.
4. **Logical/Mathematical:** You learn best with numbers and patterns; logical thinking is your friend.
5. **Linguistic:** You have a gift for writing, listening, speaking, and/or reading. You learn best in those forms.
6. **Interpersonal:** You have the knack to understand how people feel. You are able to use that information to help you be a good leader.
7. **Intrapersonal:** You want to understand yourself better. You tend to be independent and thoughtful.

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**STAAR Is Coming**

**STARR testing is coming for our 4th and 5th grade students. On testing days, parents and visitors will not be allowed to work in the workroom, eat lunch with their students, or be volunteers in the classroom. We are required to maintain testing security and confidentiality. We welcome you back after testing.**

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**Frisco ISD is committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students! We are pleased to introduce a new, free reading service. This service will provide digital books through OverDrive.**

**What is OverDrive?**

The new Frisco ISD OverDrive collection of audiobooks and ebooks is available for download at your convenience. These books can be downloaded to mobile devices, iDevices, PC’s, and MacBooks. It’s easy for students to check out books anytime or anywhere. Your child will have two weeks to enjoy his or her book, and it will be returned automatically at the end of the checkout period.

**How does it work?**

To get started, you will need to begin at the Frisco ISD OverDrive Website. Look for the Digital Library Overview located on the left side of the webpage. Simply hover over this section to see the necessary steps you will follow. By completing steps one and two you have given your child the opportunity to browse and check out books to enjoy. Step three will instruct you and your child on the checkout process. We hope you will enjoy using this new service.

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**Say “Aloha” to a Great Book with Mrs. Thompson, Librarian**

Frisco ISD is committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students! We are pleased to introduce a new, free reading service. This service will provide digital books through OverDrive.

**What is OverDrive?**

The new Frisco ISD OverDrive collection of audiobooks and ebooks is available for download at your convenience. These books can be downloaded to mobile devices, iDevices, PC’s, and MacBooks. It’s easy for students to check out books anytime or anywhere. Your child will have two weeks to enjoy his or her book, and it will be returned automatically at the end of the checkout period.

**How does it work?**

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This year seems like it has flown by! We are already in the month of March and have accomplished so much this year. March is National Youth Art Month where schools celebrate the artwork created by our amazing students. One way that Frisco celebrates these students is by hosting an annual art show. Corbell Elementary had about sixty featured artists at our district art show located at the CATE Center this past week. The artwork looked amazing and I am so proud of all the hard work put forth by our students so far this year. What a great accomplishment! If you were unable to attend the art show, the work from our Corbell students will be adorning our hallways for open house on March 8th!!

Over the past few months each grade has created a variety of art. In Kindergarten we have been working on an art book. Each student created all the pages in their individual book. Students created everything from paintings to self-portraits. I think you will be surprised at how much the portraits resemble the artist. It was a blast working with these students on creating their first art book and they are very excited to bring them home! We only have a few more finishing touches until they are ready, so stay tuned.

In first grade we have had so much fun learning about different artists! We have studied Mondrian, Picasso, Matisse, and my personal favorite Georgia O’Keeffe. What can I say, I am kind of partial to an artist who loved to teach children art just like O’Keeffe did!

I was very impressed when I saw the second graders create their self-portraits in art class this year! The work that came from these students was amazing! We have also focused on the artist Claude Monet and they will be creating their own recycled city project after Spring Break.

Our third graders recently studied the artist Jim Dine. We looked at his use of hearts in his paintings and sculptures. We experimented with many different painting techniques! We had so much fun! We spent an entire day painting with unusual things like salt, straws, and even q-tips! I can’t wait to display their wonderful creations.

The most recent addition to the Corbell hall is the grid drawings created by fourth grade. In class we studied the artist Roy Lichtenstein and then created huge grid drawings based on his paintings. They turned out amazing. It was so exciting to see the drawings come together, as well as watching our students work together on this project.

In fifth grade we really focus on techniques more than anything. We have practiced our use of shading, drawing in proportion, as well as our overall composition techniques. But, the projects that all my fifth graders look forward to the most are the projects working with paper mache’. When we return from Spring Break our fifth graders will be studying pop art and creating candy that looks good enough to eat out of Paper Mache’. They are studying the pop artist Clause Oldenburg and are making larger than life candy sculptures! I can hardly wait to see what they look like when they are complete!!

It is so much fun teaching such enthusiastic and talented students. Every student in this school possesses a very special gift and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to see these students grow! I can’t wait to see what these talented students create the remainder of the school year!

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**SAVE THE DATE**
Volunteers needed for Field Day on May 18, 9am-2pm
If you would like to help, contact fieldday@corbellpta.org
Here in Texas, there are many tell-tale signs that we’ve turned the corner from the “halfway” point of winter break to feeling like summer is right around the corner. For me those indicators include those big, nasty weeds that have popped up all over my dormant lawn, the daylight hours that now linger into the evening, the chatter about spring break plans and what to expect on the STAAR exams, and the 6th grade course card that my 5th grader has already had to turn in for middle school (yikes).

But one of the most exciting and important signs that the end of the school year looms ahead is PTA board elections! Six officers will be elected by our membership at the March 20th PTA meeting. Please plan to attend and cast your vote!

If you are interested in being considered for any of the officer positions, it’s not too late. Please contact the Nominating Committee at nomcomm@corbellpta.org. Job descriptions for all positions can be found at www.corbellpta.org. There are many other board positions available to parent volunteers which will be appointed after the officers are elected. Stay tuned for more information about these opportunities.

When it comes to getting involved in PTA, I often cite the following statistic because it is so true and powerful:

More than 30 years of research shows that children do better when their parents and families are involved both at home and at school. Grades are higher. Test scores rise. Self-esteem grows. Schools improve. Here is a chance to get involved for your kids!

As always, you can check out all PTA news on our website: www.corbellpta.org.

Riding the Wave,

Kathy Mecom
Corbell PTA President

The Nominating Committee has been elected to slate the PTA Officer positions for the 2012-2013 school year. If you are interested in any of the following positions, please fill out an interest form and return it to the office by March 7th. Forms are available online or in the office. You may also contact Angela Mason, Toinette Miller or Cindy Peek at nomcomm@corbellpta.org

PRESIDENT
1ST VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBERSHIP
2ND VICE PRESIDENT
PROGRAMS
3RD VICE PRESIDENT
WAYS AND MEANS
TREASURER
SECRETARY

For more information on any of these positions click here.
More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide switched off their lights for Earth Hour 2011. This year, join thousands of other families, businesses and organizations around the globe by switching off your lights and other electronics for Earth Hour on Saturday, March 31st from 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

Destination Imagination Team Wins Regionals.....State Bound!

Six of our own 5th grade students competed in the Regional Tournament February 25th for Destination Imagination. They worked together for almost six months to create ideas, design and build structures to fit the specifications, and develop a clever skit to integrate into their project. Their hard work and dedication paid off when they performed, then later took the stage to receive their first place medals and trophy. We are so proud of our Angry Nirdz: Out of the Xbox team! Congratulations Bailey Smith, Josh Foskey, Hank Halverson, Chloe Schroeder, Caden Tilton and Tyler Stuckey! Many thanks to their team managers, Megan and Josh Tilton who spent countless hours directing the team. Good Job and Good Luck at State!

You’re Invited to Our Book Fair!

It’s a Reading Celebration!
Friday, April 13 - Thursday, April 19, 2012
7:20 am - 3:30 pm
Family Night - Tuesday, April 17, 6 - 8 pm
To volunteer contact Sara Fortenberry at bookfair@corbellpta.org
Corbell Elementary 3rd, 4th and 5th graders were treated to an interactive, high-energy performance featuring William Shakespeare's greatest hits. On January 31st, Corbell PTA invited Dallas-based Shakespeare on the Go! to provide a unique opportunity for students to experience Shakespeare on their level.

The program - entitled "What Fools These Mortals Be" - is a compilation of works from many of Shakespeare's plays. A lively, talented ensemble of four actors demonstrated how a Shakespearean play is created from audition to performance, including stage combat, clowning and even romance.

For many Corbell students, this was their first exposure to Shakespeare, and teachers weren't sure if it would be too much for their 8 to 11 year-olds to understand.

Fifth grade teacher Shannon Smith said, "When I first learned that Shakespeare on the Go! was coming to perform for our students, while I was personally very excited, I was a bit uncertain how the kids would respond to it. In class we did some of the suggested pre-performance activities to help students better understand the language and content of the plays. I was amazed by how enthusiastic they were about Shakespeare! The production was top-notch, and the pre- and post- activities really helped my classes relate to and appreciate Shakespeare's works."

The performers held the students' attention by using lots of slapstick humor and modern day references.

"I really learned a lot about Shakespeare this week," reported 5th grader Sterling Sampson. "I had a lot of fun watching the performance. I thought the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe was funny with the human wall and how the guys would run around with a wobbly sword in their armpits. It was also my favorite part."