



From the Principal –

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

I love our school and I love serving and learning with your children! Greeting smiling students and families before school, while welcoming happy students off of the buses in the morning, observing teachers masterfully bring about student “a-ha” learning moments during instruction, going on learning walks in classrooms, passing parent/guardian volunteer after parent/guardian volunteer in the hallways/classrooms supporting our staff with all of the little and big things that make our school great, meeting all the new babies, and visiting relatives after school during pick-up... I truly have the best job in the world. We are so very fortunate to have such a rhythmically collaborative learning community that ensures every student thrives.

Part of what helps us monitor how students thrive is our consistent analysis and review of our data and goals. This month our staff and Innovative Building Leadership Team (IBLT) continue working on data analysis (of assessment and survey data) and reviewing strategies for our School Strategic Plan. In addition to our current focus areas in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies school goals, we will be discussing strategies to increase opportunities for student voice. One student voice tool students use well at James Tippit Middle School is Incident Report forms (available in the Student Services office – with Ms. Vasquez) to request administrative help (from Principal, Assistant Principal, Support Staff) with solving a problem. The Incident Reports really help us identify the behaviors a student(s) need support with. This emphasis on behaviors is an approach from Positive Discipline, a discipline model that focuses on the positive points of behavior, based on the idea that there are no bad children, just good and bad behaviors. We are really working with all students in teaching them to self-advocate. By doing this, we are empowering them to understand and own their learning success.

I would like to take this opportunity to also thank everyone for a smooth start to the school year. I have appreciated the patience as our students and staff have become familiar with the routines during the school day as well as before and after school.

Thank you to those parents who have attended so many amazing student activities so far this school year (athletics, fine arts, academic and others). It is so important for your children to see you involved in their school activities. Middle school is truly the time when students need their parents the most, but also is the time when students try to encourage their parents that they are not needed at school. Please be active and present in your child’s middle school educational journey...they need you and so do we.

As parents, I encourage you to join our amazing PTA here at James Tippit Middle School. They work collaboratively with the school in providing our students with many wonderful opportunities. As the weather becomes cooler, please ensure that your child dresses accordingly.

Regarding family vacations - Are my child's absences excused if my family has a vacation planned or goes out-of-town for a short time? Vacations and trips are not excused when school is in session. Families should plan vacations and family travel for times when schools are not in session. Extra days before or after school holidays are not excused, including trips out-of-state or out-of-the-country. Only trips with an educational focus for the student as the purpose of the trip, i.e., attending or participating in a youth conference, visiting colleges, etc., can be excused, with the permission of the school principal or designee.

The staff and I are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have, as well student celebrations! Please help us celebrate your kiddos! Please share successes and photos with us! We also want to make you aware that Tippit has a Twitter page: [@TippitTitans](#). Please feel free to contact us through our phone extensions or e-mail accounts. Strong collaborative relationships are a key in students’ success here at James Tippit Middle School.

Best Regards,
Brian Dawson
Principal and Lead Learner

We would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to:

- **Heather Castro** and **Charity Boff** for coordinating a fabulous 6th grade social!
- The **parent volunteers** who have volunteered during the games and donated drinks for the football concession stand.
- **Melinda Salyer** for all her great hard work in coordinating the concession stand food and volunteers.

We love our volunteers!!

Football Concession Stand Needs

Donations of drinks are greatly appreciated! Coke, Dr. Pepper, Sprite and Diet Coke are always needed and can be dropped off in front office.

Volunteers are also needed at the football concession stand. Concessions need help at our last home game on Monday night, Nov. 3rd 6:30-8:00 pm. Please contact Melinda Salyer at concessions@tippitmspta.org to help.

Thank you!

HOSPITALITY

WE HAD A WONDERFUL FIRST STAFF LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, OCT. 24. THANKS SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO PROVIDED FOOD! IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING FOOD ITEMS FOR FUTURE EVENTS, AND ARE NOT ON THE E-MAIL LIST, PLEASE CONTACT DASH AT HOSPITALITY@TIPPITMSPTA.ORG

Box Tops for Education



It's time to start collecting your Box Tops for Education! Box Tops for the fall of 2014 were due Wed., Oct. 29th; there will be additional collection dates in the future. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 this year to support all Tippit students. Please ask friends, coworkers and grandparents to collect Box Tops for you! Together we can meet this goal.

If you want to help the submission process, please bundle your Box Tops in sets of 10 or 50's by putting them in envelopes or baggies. Please put your student's name and grade on each of the bundles so that the student can receive credit. OR You may visit btfe.com and download a collection sheet and attach the Box Tops with glue to tape (no staples) to the collection sheet. Add students' name and grade here too.

To see all of the Box Tops products, please visit btfe.com/products!

If you have questions about the Box Tops for education program and Tippit's participation, please contact Christine Bowman, Box Tops chair, at boxtops@tippitmspta.org

6th Grade Social Was Awesome!!

The 6th Grade Social was a success! The kids had a great time and it was a wonderful way to socialize with new friends! We had so many people help! Thank you **parents** for donations, helping decorate and chaperone! It would not have been so successful without everyone helping!

We would also like to thank the following sponsors who donated amazing door prizes and help with the Bungee-Run and inflatable Basketball hoops!

City Lights

Paint with Me

Schlotzsky's

The Escape (mani and pedi)

All Things Kids

Sonic

Cherry Berry

CiCi's

Galaxy Cupcakes

Sweet Tooth Candy

Inner Space

San Gabriel Independent Therapists

ColorSurge LLC

Volunteers Needed for Veteran's Day



Volunteers are requested for the Veteran's Day reception. The ceremony will be held on **Tues., November 11**. Volunteers are needed to set up for the reception, serve cake throughout the reception and clean up. If you are interested or available, please contact Kara Tempovich at receptions@tippitmspta.org

Please Join PTA

Why Should You Join?

- PTA is America's number one resource for family engagement. As a PTA member, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on his/her education.
- PTA helps you keep up with what's happening at Tippit. And you'll find out what you can do to make a difference for your child and to make Tippit an even better place.
- PTA has a network that supports you. PTA functions are opportunities to meet others and discuss the issues of importance at Tippit.
- PTA provides opportunities for growth. By volunteering with PTA you can put your skills to good use to benefit your child's education.

PTA also provides additional benefits. Members enjoy discounts with the following:

AARP Hertz MetLife Schwan's Cares Sharp Staples Sylvan

Get more info at www.txpta.org or 1-800-TALK-PTA

To join, please send \$6 to school in an envelope marked **PTA membership**. Please include your name, student's name, address, phone number, e-mail, and your student's homeroom teacher. Thank you!

Academic UIL

Academic UIL has begun! The competition dates are:

UIL Ready Writing - January 21st at Benold MS

Other UIL events - January 23rd at EVHS

If anyone is interested in UIL or has questions please contact Corrie Buckey at uil@tippitmspta.org