



# Armadillo News

Anderson Mill Elementary, an IB World School

*Where Knowledge Leads to Caring and Caring Leads to Action*



May 2010

## Anderson Mill PTA Together, We Made A World Of Difference For Our Kids!

Dear AME Families,

Wow! I can hardly believe it's May already and we're getting ready for summer. It's been a great year for our PTA and for our school. We have had more parent involvement than in recent years. I truly hope that the trend continues!

We have had several very fun and well-attended PTA-sponsored events: the Magic Show last September, our fall recycling themed Family Night, Catfish Parlour night, the IB Olympic Family Fun Family Night in February, and the Fun Run & Cowboy Carnival in April.

We also coordinated our students' participation in the Reflections arts context, conducted our first ever No-Fuss Fundraiser, had two teacher appreciation lunches, gave scholarships to two former Anderson Mill Elementary students and the list goes on.



We even had a parent volunteer her time to give chair massages to our teachers during teacher appreciation week.

As I see it, our PTA does some special things for our school. We sponsor the events that make our school feel like a community --the events that create lasting hardly think of a better way to spend my time and energy.

When we spend our time at our school with our kids and families, it improves our school and brightens our children's futures. A big heart-felt thank you to all of you parents who have answered the PTA's call and volunteered your time this year, whether for just one event or in many ways.

Thanks for a great year. I'm looking forward to an even better year next year – with your help and involvement!

*~ Kirstin Seale, President, AME PTA  
2009-10 & 2010-11*

### Mrs. Eads and Mrs. Shanley

On behalf of the 100's of Anderson Mill Elementary students and families over the last 26+ years, thank you for teaching and caring for our kids.

You both will be missed and remembered as examples of Anderson Mill's best!

Happy Retirement & Enjoy Your New Lifestyle!

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# Volunteers Are Our Most Important Resource

## AME PTA Volunteers 2009 - 2010

The Anderson Mill Elementary PTA is very grateful for the tremendous amount of support we had this year from our volunteers. Thanks to our volunteer support, we were able to support many school and PTA events and activities. Below we list some of this year's volunteers, but please pardon us if we inadvertently omit someone. Should that be the case, you may rest assured that your work was noticed and appreciated; it is simply our volunteer records that need a little attention.

It has been an honor to serve as PTA Volunteer Coordinator this year and work with you all. Parent involvement in volunteering expands the PTA's ability to do more to help our AME students, and build our sense of community. We hope you'll consider volunteering for a school or PTA event next year.

~Laura Jourdan, Volunteer Coordinator AME PTA 2009-2010

### Teachers and Staff:

Allison Wolney, Amy Ruhl, Andrea Solitro, Angela Stillman, Ann Birrell, Allison Standlee, Belma Gonzalez, Carolyn Wyatt, Celine Kolencherry, Coach West, Courtney Brown, Courtney Wilganowski, Diane Shofner, Erin Olson, Erin Lundie, Gwen Thompson, Jan Zimmern, Juan Aranda, Judy McKinney, Karen Bray, Karen Praxis, Kelly McBride, Leah Ionnotti, Leah Ionnotti, Lisa Adams, Lisa Henson, Lisa Pittman, Liz Canby, Maria Lara, Mary Scrudder, Mary Weir, MaryAnn McNeilly, Melissa Lewis, Michon Eads, Nicole Raven-McFerren, Nora Salazar, Qi Yang, Pam Roberts, Raquel de Leon, Rebecca Kunkel, Rebecca Lavender, Rosie Beattie, Sharon Luedecke, Solange Silva, Sue Howard, Sue Shanley, Tammi Carter, and Teyan Heard.



### Hall of Honor Volunteers

*Volunteers whose extraordinary volunteer work has made a world of difference for the AME community.*

Carly Barnes, Carol Saucedo, Ellen Elley, Kirstin Seale, Laura Jourdan, Laurie Monroe, Lynne Clopton, Michele Martin, Terri Locke, Philip Urias, Michelle Smoot, Ellen Elley, Scott Ganske, Shannon Lewis, Sue Desai Williams and Terri Locke.

### Room Parents:

Jeri Stephens, Kirstin Seale, Jennifer Manning, Melanie Hillin, Rebecca LeMond, Laura Jordan, Selina. Wilson, Darlene Hello, Xochitl Fiscal, Shannon Lewis, Jennifer Dingler, Lucretia Butler, Rick & Blossom Lawrence, Desiree Sturdevant, Abel Escobedo, Candace Loza, Rebecca Capo, Janet Schmerber and Kelsey & Matt Klein.

### Community Partners:

UT's APO, North Hills Community Church, from Westwood HS: National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, PROS, ROTC

### Parents & Other Volunteers:

Alexis Rubio, Amanda Ondrey, Amanda Polston, Amy & Michael Montgomery, Anabel Hernandez, Ashley Bundy, Avrel Seale, Brandy Credeur, Beth Frizzell, Bret Martin, Brinda Roy, Carla Seifert, Christine McCourt, Claudia Lopez, Danielle Thompson, Darlene Hello, David Lewis, Desiree Sturdevant, Diana Goza, Gerry McKee, Gloria Hayden, James Hudgens (MVP for bringing in the most items for auction), Jennifer Flores, Jennifer Manning, Jenny Dingler, Joanne Fleming, Kathryn Zentner, Kelly Halm, Kim Rea, Leslee Walker, Lisa Dozier, Lupe Saucedo, Mary McClintock, Mary McKee, Megan Maldonado, Melanie Hillin, Melinda VanTress, Melissa Godina, Michele Litz, Norma Ahumada, Pete Nieto, Philip Flores, Rachael Marak, Samantha Frizzell, Sara O'Donnell, Sara Ramirez, Shana Alazzawi, Tammy Ray, Terry Coppinger, Tim & Susan Green, Tim Hensley, Tina Wilburn, Vickie Robinson and William Cook.

### Corporate Sponsors:

HEB, Walmart, Sprinkles, Chick-Fil-A, Catfish Parlour

**Cow Costume Dads:** Avrel Seale, Darrell Jourdan, David Lewis

## Principal Matters

~ Kelly McBride, Principal

# First Impressions

My first partial week at Anderson Mill has been a great joy -- and also a very busy time! I am spending these last few weeks of school watching the procedures that are already in place through Ms. Lavender and our interim principal. I am getting to know the teachers, students and as many parents as possible. No major changes will be made in these last three weeks of school unless I see something that does not match district policy, or results in a safety concern for students. Having been through some safety issues in other schools, this is an area I will be watching carefully -- arrival, dismissal, etc. I've enjoyed seeing so many of you with your children each morning.

I also want to thank those of you who were able to attend last week's PTA meeting. We had a very large crowd and, like last month, the students made it such a wonderful evening. This was also a great time to start because it was Teacher Appreciation Week nationally. Anderson Mill is extremely fortunate to have the very qualified and dedicated staff and I know you join me in thanking them for all that they do for the children here each day.

These last three weeks are filled with many events. Please look for things to come home letting you know about these special activities.!



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Anderson Mill Elementary will be getting a "face-lift" over the summer! You may recall that a few years ago, voters approved a bond package that included updates to our campus. The school's office will be relocated to the area immediately inside the front door. This change will mean persons entering the building will go immediately to the office window, instead of the current design that could allow visitors access to the school without checking-in with the office first. This change makes good sense and is so much safer for our students! There will also be some minor renovations to student restrooms in order to bring them up to the current code.

Construction will begin immediately after Memorial Day weekend. During construction, persons entering the building will be directed down the hall to the right, away from the current office area. Office personnel be temporarily relocated to Literacy Center office. Dates this summer that the building will be open will be posted on the exterior doors and on the marquee. We think the school's new look will be a great way to start fresh with a new school year on August 24th. See you then!



## A Variety of Volunteer Opportunities

Thinking about becoming more involved with your child's school? How about volunteering for a specific task as a member of a PTA Committee or by serving in a leadership role? Whether it be *2 hours a year* or *2 hours a month*, you can make a difference for our kids.

- ★ Most tasks can be broken into mini-tasks or shared with another person.
- ★ Give as much or as little time as you want.
- ★ Volunteers are welcomed year-round.

### ARTS IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Encourages students in the area of fine arts and conducts the National PTA Reflections contest.

**Positions:** Chair & Committee Members.

### FOCUS ON FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Produces activities and programs for parents.

**Positions:** Chair, Dads' Advocate, Diversity Advocate, Parent Education Advocate & Committee Members.

### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Responsible for internal & external PTA communications, including translations.

**Positions:** Chair, Marquee Maker, Bulletin Board Maker, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, Student Directory Editor & Language Services Coordinator.

### GREEN & HEALTHY LIFESTYLES COMMITTEE

Conducts programs to promote green-living and healthy lifestyles for students and their families.

**Positions:** Chair, Healthy Lifestyles Champion, Sharing the Planet Champion & Committee Members.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Coordinates PTA's community service programs and develops partnerships with community businesses and groups.

**Positions:** Chair, Clothes Closet Coordinator, Community Partnership Coordinator, Community Services Coordinator & Committee Members.

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Provides refreshments at PTA-sponsored events coordinates teacher appreciation events.

Also extends expressions of gratitude and condolences on behalf of the PTA.

**Positions:** Chair, Gratitude Crew & Committee Members.

### EVENTS COMMITTEE

Produces large-scale events to support PTA goals and raise funds.

**Positions:** Chair, Fall Event Coordinator, Spring Event Coordinator & Committee Members.

**AME PTA begins its planning for the new school year in the summer.**

**Please join us to share your talents and ideas.**

Contact Kirstin Seale at:  
ksthebaker@gmail.com

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Raises funds for PTA activities and programs.

**Positions:** Chair, BoxTops Coordinator & Committee Members.

Information about AME's PTA be found on the school's website at [WWW.ROUNDROCKISD.ORG/ANDERSON MILL](http://WWW.ROUNDROCKISD.ORG/ANDERSON MILL)  
Then go to PARENT RESOURCES and then click on PTA

# RECORD AMOUNT OF FUN AND FUNDS RAISED FOR AME!

Community involvement and family fun was easy to see at this year's Fun Run and Cowboy Carnival. It was a huge success not only in terms of funds raised, but also in terms of bringing together the AME community and hopefully fostering a spirit of involvement with the school that will continue to grow next year.

- ▶ 80+ Runners with 10 Trophy Winners
- ▶ 18 Carnival Booths with 3000 Tickets Sold
- ▶ 65+ Volunteers
- ▶ 75+ Silent Auction Items Donated (Value = \$3300+)
- ▶ Total Funds Raised (less approx. \$650 in expenses) = \$3,400
- ▶ (For reference, last year we netted about \$1015 with 45 runners and only six silent auction items.)



We send a huge thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped make this event such a good time!



## A Letter From the Editor:

For the last four years, I've enjoyed producing this newsletter and recently, the PTA's website. However, this will be my last newsletter since our son, Jesse, will be moving on to Grisham. (Yeah Jesse!) The PTA newsletter and website do take time, but the work has been a great experience and has allowed me to get to know AME, its teachers, its administration and its families, in ways I would not otherwise have had because I'm not able to be at the school very often.

People have asked why do all this volunteer work? I explain that it is because it gives me an opportunity to exercise and learn skills that I don't necessarily get to perform in my daytime job as a paralegal. I've learned new computer programs, had opportunities to be creative, played with graphic and web design, and have written articles. It has also been a way for me to volunteer as a working parent since most of the work has been done from home, after my son is asleep. People also ask how I do it? My response is always, "you should see my kitchen!"

So, the work is do-able, I like it and it's better than housework, but it's more than that. The power of education, the importance of volunteering, and the duty to be engaged in one's community, are beliefs that my mom taught me by her example. Despite being a single, working mom with ten kids, she managed to be active in our community, served on boards, voiced her opinion and made a difference for our town. Really, if she could do it with the demands that were made on her time, I can do this with just one kid! My hope is that Jesse will adopt these same beliefs and give back to his community. I also hope that you will find a way to make volunteering at Anderson Mill meaningful and do-able for you too.

Best regards,  
Carol Saucedo, Jesse's Mom



# UPCOMING EVENTS

★ Denotes a Volunteer Opportunity  
 Laura Jourdan, Volunteer Chair, AME PTA  
 LJourdan@austin.rr.com

★ May 24th at 1:15 p.m.  
 Global Fest Kicks Off

★ May 25th and 26th  
 Global Fest Workshops

May 26th at 2:15 p.m.  
 Global Fest Dance Company

May 27th—1:15—Walk and 2:00 Reception  
 5th Grade Recognition

May 28th  
**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!**

## 2010 Vintage Dillo Awards

Anderson Mill PTA's Vintage Dillo Awards, in the amount of \$500 each, were recently awarded to two of Anderson Mill's former students. To be considered, students must have attended Anderson Mill Elementary School from Kindergarten through 5th grade, Grisham Middle School from 6th through 8th grade, and Westwood High School from 8th through 12th grade.

Heather Lorenzen lead the PTA's Scholarship Committee that worked with Westwood to identify qualifying students. Michon Eads and Sue Howard also served on the committee. The committee based their final selection on a showing of great academic achievement. We're honored to announce that the 2010 Vintage Dillo Scholarship winners are:

**MEGAN TWOMEY and ALEXANDRIA DIAZ-TELLO**

Congratulations for hard work and academic achievement. You rock!



## The 5th Grade Walk of Honor

A new Anderson Mill tradition begins this year with a Walk of Honor for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are moving on to middle school. Led by the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team, 5<sup>th</sup> graders will walk the halls of the school to the cheers of students and teachers from the lower grade levels lining the halls. Proud parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will follow behind in recognition of their support of their child's education.

The 2010 Walk of Honor will begin at 1:15 p.m. on May 27th and will be followed by a reception at 2:00 p.m. for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents in the cafeteria courtesy of the AME PTA.

