



## HELLO FALL-MESSAGE FROM MRS. ROZAS

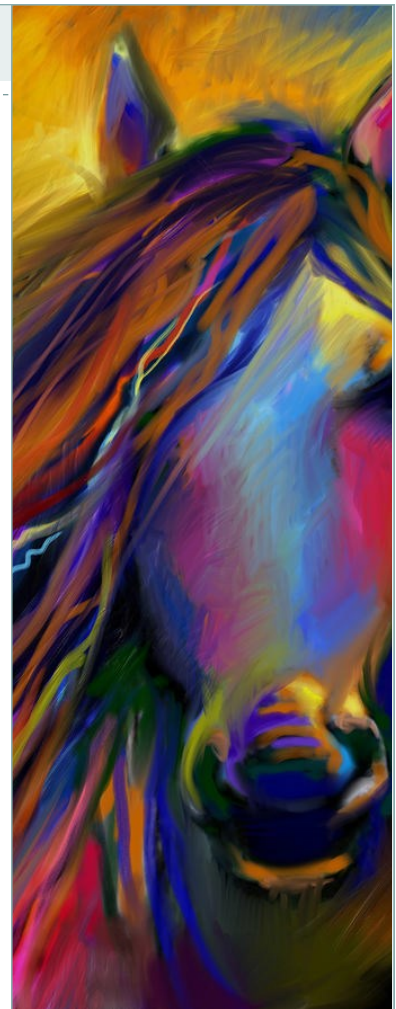
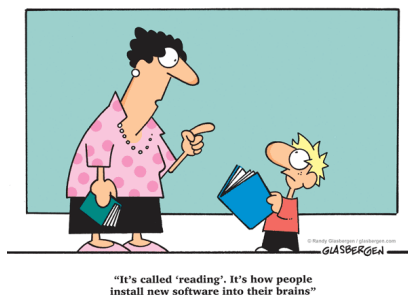
It may not feel like it, but Fall is upon us. The official first day of Fall in the US is September 23 but I always feel like it is beginning when school gets going and we start to see those holiday displays in the stores.

I know that the beginning of school can be exciting, emotional and even difficult at times. Our dismissal took longer than we anticipated but we are monitoring closely and the lines are finishing closer to last year. I am confident that as we tighten our procedures, the process will improve. I have been asking random cars how long they have been waiting and they have not said longer than 10 minutes. We begin dismissing at 3:00 unless it is raining heavily and then we will start dismissing between 2:30 and 2:45.

As a campus, there really is **nothing** we can ignore when thinking about our children's education-everything is important! That being said, **Attendance** and **literacy** are two things you will hear a lot about this year-and probably every year we are together. These two topics will determine the future of your child. When I say future, I mean middle school, high school, college and career.

I have shared on many occasions the story Dr. Grier our Superintendent shares almost every time I hear him speak. It is about two groups of students in first grade. One group was consistently early to school, the second group was consistently late or absent. Researchers followed these students for several years and found that the group who showed consistent and prompt attendance were all reading on or above grade level. Those who were chronically late and frequently absent were at least two grade levels behind. I am going to assume which you want for your child. Although class begins at 7:45, we open our doors at 7:00 and we have staff ready to welcome students. I would encourage you to try and arrive as close to 7:00 as you can. If you have to drop off to multiple locations, come here first as the middle schools and high schools open later. It may seem like a minor issue but it pays off big over the course of a child's school career.

Literacy-I could go on for years. What is most important? That your child loves to read and sees reading as something pleasurable to do. When we think about reading, think about books, magazines and even reading on the internet. If it involves words and ideas, it is reading! Think about your literacy too. Do your children see you reading? Reading magazines, recipes, newspapers or online information, it is all reading and modeling the love and need for reading is an important support you can give your child.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the principal .....	1
Art.....	2
PTO.....	2
Assessment.....	2

## IMPORTANT DATES

- September 8 International Literacy Day **Bring \$1.00 and wear your pajamas!**
- September 11 First grade parent meeting 7:30am and 5:30pm
- September 16 is Grandparents Day
- Arboretum field trips (K-1 on 9-16, 2-3 on 9-17 and 4-5 on 9-18)
- September 19 Fall Festival
- September 23 Picture Day
- September 24 Early Dismissal (12:30)
- September 25 Open House 5:30-7:00



## ART IS EVERYWHERE.. AND NOW AT MEMORIAL!

We wanted to introduce you all to Ms. Stewart, our new art teacher:

“Being an art teacher is both fun and rewarding. I am able to teach all subjects through my specialty. I have been teaching for 34 years and the passion I have for art shines through in my professional life as well as my personal life. I was honored last year to be chosen as one of the six finalists for elementary teacher of the year in the Houston ISD. It was an amazing year! I also received a Fund for Teachers Fellowship that sponsored my travel and study in Amsterdam this past summer. As a result, this year the students will be studying the Dutch artists - Rembrandt, Van Gogh, and Mondrian - as I share with

them the wonderful things I learned in my travels. I also received a fellowship for a program at the National Gallery of Art. I spent a week in Washington, D.C. at the museum studying with other educators from around the country.

This year the students will learn about the art elements and principles of design. They will also study artists, cultures, and art movements in history. While using their imaginations, students will also be creating their own masterpieces and using their trained eyes to evaluate and discuss the aesthetics of art. We will have busy and creative year. I am so happy to be at Memorial Elementary!”

*“This world is but a canvas to our imagination.”*  
*David Thoreau*

## PTO

On Thursday, September 4th, PTO held two meetings at Memorial. “We are excited to get going and make more wonderful things happen for our kids” said one PTO member.

We welcomed new members to our group and went over what PTO purpose is. Attendees were invited to join PTO and sign up for leadership opportunities as well as committee work.

The presentation focused on the idea that everyone can participate in supporting parents through PTO no matter what their time constraints.

The next meeting will be on September 11th at 8:30 when PTO will elect it's leadership team and finalize plans for Fall Festival.

## ASSESSMENT

Did you know that the word assess comes from Latin roots which mean to sit beside or assist in the office of a judge? Knowing that our students are growing each year and reaching their highest potential is what most parents want when thinking about school results.

Did you also know in Texas, we assess in many different ways? Here is a short list:

**National tests:** Stanford is a national test. It compares your child's results to the results of other children in the US to give you an idea of how they perform compared to children of the same age. This test is administered K-5 in HISD.

**State tests:** The STAAR test is a state test administered to students in grades 3-5. This is an achievement test that should indicate whether a child has all of the knowledge and skills for the grade level test they are taking. The STAAR is a little bit different from the TAKS test which came before it as it asks students to not only know the content but to be able to apply it in multiple ways. STAAR is a test of thinking.

**Local tests:** The Houston Independent School District has many assessments that are given throughout the year for many purposes. We are currently administering the beginning of the year assessments and Istation online assessments.

**Campus based:** We use the observational survey and the developmental reading assessment (DRA) Pre-K-2 to pinpoint students reading level so that we can personalize reading instruction. Teachers also administer assessments in their class as needed to inform their planning.

Questions about assessment? See our Assistant Principal, Veronica Garza