Greeting Travis Families,

INSIDE THIS EDITION: Supporting calmness with Present Time Kids™ routines; Gardening at Home; Travis Spring Social and Auction a success; HISD Virtual Spirit Week

Present Time Kids™ Routines

As we all continue to adapt to life altering changes, staying attuned to the social emotional welfare of our children is paramount. In the days and weeks ahead, we’ll be offering and connecting to familiar and helpful rituals that promote student calmness.

Present Time Kids™ (PTK), a researched-based program based in mindfulness, neuroscience, and social emotional learning, has been a regular part of our students’ daily routines during their years at Travis. PTK co-creators Cheryl Hensley and Heather Goodwin have told us “we are so happy to share this with parents at home during this time where we believe hope, calm and peace is accessible!” Your child(ren)’s teacher(s) will be sending you login information and directions for accessing PTK online audios at https://www.presenttimekids.com/.

Thank you, Cheryl, Heather, and Present Time Kids™!

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Gardening at Home

I hope this finds you as well as can be under these strange and trying circumstances. Although we aren’t able to work together in the Travis Garden right now, there is plenty you can do at home outside after hours online. Consider gardening!

Before that sounds like too much, I am talking about easy gardening. Here are a few things that are easy to plant now, and do not take a lot of effort.

--Plant basil seeds. You can plant in a container or in a garden. Herbs are my favorite easy gardening option. I find that I never have enough basil, so the more the merrier. Nurseries are still open, since they are considered an essential business (and I agree)! If you go to Buchanan’s, it’s best to order online first, they are trying to manage social distancing.

--Plant seeds for cucumber, okra, yardlong beans, Southern peas, and watercress. It is a lot of fun to watch these seeds sprout and grow during the summer. Best results in our garden and other local gardens for cucumbers is Suyo Long. I found seeds at Buchanan’s. May also be at Wabash Feed.

--Plant eggplants (4” containers). There are lots of eggplant varieties. The big purple ones we are used to seeing in the grocery store, do not do well here. According to Dr. Bob Randall, the guru of organic gardening in Houston, Asian varieties are good--less bitter, crisper, and good mushroom substitutes. Suggested variety is Pintung Long. I have also grown Louisiana Long very successfully. (Though Dr. Randall reports they are less nutritious). Remember to harvest eggplants when they are young. Always before they lose their sheen. You can order seeds from johhnyseeds.com or kitazawaseed.com. You can also jumpstart your garden by planting 4” containers of okra and cucumbers. I found Suyo Long cucumbers at Wabash Feed last spring.

Here's to some fun gardening in challenging times! – Christina West, Travis Elementary Garden Coordinator

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A message from the William B. Travis Foundation:

Thank you, Travis!

Once again, we are blown away by our community's spirit and generosity.

We rallied, we shifted, we shifted again (and again), we shared video stories, we ordered takeout virtually together and we gave support to our school.

Due **entirely** to your generosity, the virtual **Travis Spring Social & Auction** raised $97,791 after expenses. Of this amount, $23,445 was donated to the Outdoor Learning Matching Challenge, unlocking an additional $70,000 in matching contributions to facilitate improvements to our outdoor learning spaces. This is truly tremendous.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible through sponsorships, ticket donations, silent auction donations, auction purchases and - of course - volunteer time!

Please continue to [visit our Sponsor page](#) and make every effort to return the support for our community sponsors!

Please also extend your thanks and virtual high fives to our **AMAZING** team of volunteers who worked so hard on both the live event plans and the ultimate virtual event execution:

- Kris Sonneborn – Auction Lead
- Jordann Foreman – Site Lead + Food & Bev
- Tamara Steele – All Around Team Player & Pinch Hitter
- Jessie Sumners - Communications
- Wendy Tull – Communications
- Ryan Grant - Sponsorships
- Nazareth Tekeste – Sign-up Parties
- Joe Melugin - Entertainment
- Andrea French – Kidventure + Live Auction
- Suzanne Driskill – Sponsorships, Underwriting, Photo Booth
- Nichola Renfrow – Class Donations
- Travis Class Parents
- Travis Foundation Board
- Travis PTA Board

**JOIN US: Foundation Board Member Applications Open**

The Board of Directors of the Travis Foundation is now accepting applications for new Directors. There are **four (4) seats available** and each seat carries a two year term beginning June 1, 2020.
All Foundation donors of $50 or more are eligible to apply for consideration. The application can be found [HERE](#) and may be submitted through Friday, April 24th. Please contact Suzanne Driskill or Joe Melugin with any questions you have about the Board or the application process.

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**HISD VIRTUAL SPIRIT WEEK**

HISD has designated next week, April 13-17, as Virtual Spirit Week to celebrate our new distance learning and add a little fun to the daily curriculum. Each day will be designated with a different theme, and everyone is invited to take part in the daily challenge.

As you participate in the daily activities, take photos or short videos and share them with us on Twitter at @traviseshisd using the hashtag #HISDSpiritWeek. We’ll also be creating a photo book on the Travis website! Please send your photos to Mayte Sanchez at msanch45@houstonisd.org. The idea is to flood social media with positive learning activities to create a sense of community, school spirit, and inclusivity. Here is the schedule:

**Monday, April 13: Move-it Monday**
It’s important to keep moving while staying home. It could be dancing, yoga, walking or running or participating in a virtual fitness class. What’s your P.E. routine? Share a photo or short video of your activity.

**Tuesday, April 14: Career Day**
Think about your future and picture yourself in your dream job. Do you want to be an astronaut, a doctor, a teacher or a scientist? Dress up and share a photo of yourself dressed for your career of choice.

**Wednesday, April 15: Whatcha Reading Wednesday**
What’s on your current reading list? Share a photo of your book or a video of yourself reciting a favorite passage.

**Thursday, April 16: College Colors Day**
No matter your age, it’s important to start thinking about college. It could be a college that your brother, sister, parent or teacher attended – or a college you’ve already been accepted to attend! Dress in the colors of that school or wear a college T-shirt and share your photo.

**Friday, April 17: Fine Arts Friday**
This is your day to be creative! Draw or paint a picture, sing a song, play an instrument, or read a poem. Share with your fellow students how you are expressing your creativity at home with a photo or short video.

I hope your family will join us in showing your virtual spirit next week!

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Tom Day, Principal