



## TUESDAY E-FOLDER – May 19, 2020

**INSIDE THIS EDITION:** End-of-Year Checkout/Check-in; Teachers Saying Goodbye; Honoring Mr. Arena; Family Field Day; Travis Shakespeare Players; Social & Emotional Supports and Family Needs

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### End-of-Year Checkout/Check-in Windows

Over the next two weeks, Travis is conducting **end-of-year Checkout/Check-in windows** for families to pick up student belongings still at school and other items like student work, notebooks/journals, textbook consumables, etc. We ask that families participating also use these times for returning library books or any other items checked out from the school.

These windows will also provide an opportunity for final face-to-face connection and goodbyes for students, teachers, and staff – following social-distancing requirements, of course.

Your child's teacher will communicate classroom and/or grade level options for socially distant walkup and/or drive-thru options for this process. Student items will be packed into pre-made take-home bags for easy pickup. Families of 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to pick up student take-home bags during scheduled Memory Walk times next week.

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### Teachers Saying Goodbye and/or Taking on New Challenges

**Lynnette Tello**, a 25-year teaching veteran who has served the Travis community the last 11 years (seven in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade following four years in Pre-K), will take on a new role next year supporting our students as a campus interventionist. We look forward to her continuing to serve our students in a new way.

**Ron Arena** (Art) is retiring after 17 years of service to the Travis community. (See more info below.)

**Abby Schultz** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and **Nicole Spangler** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) will begin new journeys next year, with Abby staying home with baby Peyton and Nicole with baby Emilia.

With two babies on the way, **Samantha Flecker** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and her husband have relocated back to their home state of Indiana to be closer to family next year.

**Lacey Capps** (Special Education Resource) has relocated to Dallas, TX with her husband on his job transfer and **Holly Franz** (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) will accompany her fiancée on his job transfer to Addison, TX (in the Dallas area).

Each of these special people have made a huge impact on our school and community and we are grateful to them for their dedication and service. We are very happy for each of them, but very sad for our school family. They will be missed.

Over these last couple of weeks, please join us in thanking them and bidding them a fond farewell and/or congratulations on these big life events.

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### Honoring Mr. Arena

While we will not be able to say goodbye to Mr. Arena in person for the time being, we invite the Travis community to honor him for his 17 years of service as our art teacher and say goodbye as he heads into retirement.

Families are invited to share memories and/or messages of gratitude and congratulations in the form of videos, photos, audio, and/or text from any device by uploading to the **Group Greets** website using this link:

<https://groupgreets1.com/AO552020a/add>. (Please note that you may have to type this address manually in your web browser as the link may not work from this email.) Submissions will be compiled into a community tribute video and keepsake for him. **The deadline to upload messages is Wednesday, May 20.**

Cards and letters can be sent to the school mailing address and will be delivered to Mr. Arena.

Families can also show their love for Mr. Arena by contributing to a Go Fund Me account set up in his honor. To access, click [HERE](#).

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### **Family Field Day**

Travis has long had the tradition of celebrating a year of learning by having a fun day of games and activities outside. And this year, it is particularly important that Field Day still happens! So, I want you and your family to plan on having a fun Family Field Day. Just follow Coach Dodd's easy, 1-2-3 Planning Guide Found [HERE](#) and get going!

Having a Family Field Day will help our Travis Community feel a sense of consistency and give everyone an opportunity to connect through a fun, positive event that we can all look forward to. Having a Family Field Day is a great way to relieve stress and commemorate this wacky year of learning.

Plan on having your Family Field Day within the next couple of weeks and then send Family Field Day pictures to Coach Dodd at [ssipps@houstonisd.org](mailto:ssipps@houstonisd.org). Also, consider posting your photos to the Travis Community Facebook page.

You can view Coach Dodd's recent Family Field Day pictures, as well as the easy Planning Guide, on the PE page of The Travis Learning Center website (<https://bit.ly/TravisLearningCenter>) and on the Travis Community Facebook page.

Have fun!  
Coach Dodd

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### **Travis Shakespeare Players**

The Travis Shakespeare Players are two troupes of third, fourth, and fifth graders who meet after school each Tuesday or Thursday for two hours on the Travis Stage. The young actors read, study, and perform plays by William Shakespeare and absorb the history of the period in which he lived and wrote.

**Applications are now being accepted from incoming 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2020 fall semester.** Auditions are not held, but students must be fluent readers and be able to focus and take directions. They should also be ready to savor the poetry of the language and to learn the stories Shakespeare told through theatre. Students learn stage terms and acting skills and find joy in working together to create scenes and perform plays. **The enrollment in each troupe is limited to 18 students.**

Click [HERE](#) for more information, including an application and instructions. The application deadline is **Tuesday, May 26, 2020.**

Sincerely,  
Carole Fairfield  
Director, The Travis Shakespeare Players  
[carolefairfield5@att.net](mailto:carolefairfield5@att.net)

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## Social and Emotional Supports and Family Needs

Social and emotional learning involves creating positive relationships and emotional connections as part of learning to help children develop the skills they need to be successful in life. During this time, it is important to incorporate social and emotional learning into your daily routine. For resources, activities, and lessons please visit the Social and Emotional Resources page on the Travis Learning Center website (<https://bit.ly/TravisLearningCenter>).

Visit Houston ISD's Social and Emotional Learning Department (<https://www.houstonisd.org/sel>) for parent and family resources, which include lessons, mindfulness practices, webinars, and more. HISD will also continue operating food distribution sites. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The Travis PTA has also created opportunities to connect with fellow Tigers and their families:

- **Tiger Chat Line:** If you would like to be added to a small group phone or text chain, or if you would like to lead a small group phone/text chain to help support your fellow Travis parents, reach out to us at [TigerChat@travispta.org](mailto:TigerChat@travispta.org).
- **Tigers Teaching Tigers:** Share a video of your children reading, creating art, explaining something, doing a science experiment, or teaching us about their favorite hobby. Email the video to [communications@travispta.org](mailto:communications@travispta.org), and we will share it in our weekly Tigers Teaching Tigers feature in Tiger Beat and on Facebook. (You are granting us permission to share the video and your child's image if you send it to us.)
- **Pen Pals for Kids:** If your child is feeling lonely and would like to be paired up as a pen pal with another Travis student, send us a note at [PenPals@travispta.org](mailto:PenPals@travispta.org).

We continue to cope with big changes in our lives. If your child(ren) or your family is struggling and needing support, please email me ([lsmith37@houstonisd.org](mailto:lsmith37@houstonisd.org)). You are not alone.

Leslie Smith, M.Ed., NCC, LPC  
School Counselor

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Please note that next **Monday, May 25** is an HISD **holiday** in recognition of **Memorial Day**. The last day of school for students is Monday, June 1.

Wishing you a great week!

Sincerely,  
Tom Day, Principal