



March, 2016

# Hallsville School Parent Newsletter

Happy March, everyone! I do hope you all enjoyed the school break in some way! We have so much going on this month.

Below are the highlights; I refer you to our school website for additional and/or updated information: <http://hallsville.mansd.org>

## News of interest:

- **Charitable Committee:** Hallsville staff and students will be participating in *Pennies for Patients*, a school-based fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. A collection box was sent home with each student today for collecting change, dollars and checks [made payable to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society] during the month of March. If your family decides to participate, the boxes should be returned each Friday-when classroom collections will be tallied. Our school goal is \$700. The two classrooms with the largest donations will have a pizza party some time this spring. In 1960, the survival rate for childhood leukemia was 3%, today it is 90% thanks to the many research advances by the LLS. Thanks for helping us meet our goal for this very worthy cause.
- **Smarter Balanced Testing:** This is our state testing for Grades 3-5 only. It is taken on the computer, and a schedule is nearing finalization. We will send you the exact schedule soon. Most of the testing days will be in April.
- **2016 Healthy Lunchtime Challenge:** check out this website and see if this is something you want to enter! <http://www.letsmove.gov/blog/2016/02/22/2016-health-lunchtime-challenge-here-8>
- **City Year** is sponsoring a March “Write-On” contest. The children learned about this at an assembly Tuesday, and information will be distributed as well. This is a great opportunity for students to show their creative writing skills! We had good participation last month, and are looking for great participation this month!
- Several Read Across America activities are happening this week and next, such as Dr. Seuss-themed door decorating contest and Blizzard Bags--in conjunction with our Million Word Challenge [ask the students]. All of these activities are designed to encourage students to get hooked on reading! The Cat-in-the Hat even made an appearance at our two assemblies today! All students will be given a book to take home, thanks to book donations by Comcast.
- There is research that shows that students have difficulty retaining content when there is a lot of environmental **background noise**. Common sense indicates that background noise

can be distracting, i.e. it can take more time to get the work done. But, it goes beyond that. Providing a quieter working environment will help ensure your child's success. I am encouraging teachers to keep their doors closed during the day for this very reason. Thanks for considering this!

## **March Happenings:**

- **Wed., 3/2** PTG Meeting in the Library @ 6:30 pm
- **Wed., 3/2** The Silvergraphics art fundraiser order forms were sent home today. Items displaying your child's artwork can be ordered.
- **Thurs., 3/3** Girls' and Boys' basketball teams pizza party @ 6:00 pm. Practice and game jerseys should be returned at this event.
- **Weds., 3/9** *TIGER* bullying education program by Plymouth State - This is a well-established group of performers who do a terrific job of educating students in a K-5 assembly; the older students also have a smaller program geared specifically for their age level. The program is aligned with the Manchester Academic Standards. For further information, please check out their Facebook page at **TigerTheatreGroup**.
- **Fri., 3/11** Americorp service day at Hallsville School (a.m.) Volunteers from several Americorp groups will help with some inside projects during the day.
- **Mon., 3/14- Fri., 3/18** Scholastic Book Fair in the Library
- **Thurs. 3/17** Irish Music Assembly for students
- **Fri., 3/18** "Grand Event" This is a traditional event where students can invite a relative or caregiver to have breakfast with us in the gym and then go shopping at the Book Fair. A flyer came home with all students the Thursday before break. Additional information was sent home today. Please sign up so we can plan for all of you. We hope to see you then! Please email Ms. Damon @ [bdamon@mansd.org](mailto:bdamon@mansd.org) if you have any questions.
- **Sat., 3/19** **Hallsville/Jewett Chili Cookoff** -- entry sheets were sent home prior to break. You may enter your chili or chowder, or you may come and enjoy tasting all the entries for \$5.00. Please send in your forms as soon as possible! This will be a delectable event!
- **Tues., 3/22** Spring Pictures @ Hallsville! Bring your smile! Watch for the brochure.
- **Wed., 3/30** Second trimester report cards will be sent home.
- **Thurs., 3/31** City Year Math Night-- 6:00-7:30 in the gym! Everyone is welcome! More information will follow.

## **Coming in early April:**

- **Wed., 4/6** Second Trimester Awards Ceremony 1:30 p.m. in the gym

Have a terrific month! Spring is coming!