



HARMONY SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

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Wednesday Mail February 1, 2012

Hello Parents and Students,

Welcome to our 21st Week of school at H.S.I. For this week's Wednesday Mail, we have the following news:

100th Day of School Celebration

Kinder- 3rd grade teachers and students are excited about the 100th day of school! To show school enthusiasm and pride, **K-3rd grade students and teachers** are able to dress up as if they were 100 years old on **Friday, February 3, 2012**. If dressing to the occasion, please follow the school appropriate dress code. Do not wear short shorts, short skirts/dresses, high heels, tank/spaghetti strap clothing or anything that will interfere with safety. Please do not bring canes or any other prop. Join the fun and celebrate 100th day at Harmony School of Innovation!

HSI Interactive Panel Discussion Series First Installment Takes on Bullying

HSI will launch the first installment of its **Harmony Hot Topics Interactive Panel Discussion Series**: "*Bullying Past and Present: How its different now and the role of research, policy and parenting,*" which will be held on **Thursday, February 9, 2012** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose room at the **Harmony Public Schools Central Office**, located at **9321 W. Sam Houston Parkway South, Houston, TX 77099**. The purpose of the series is to provide a forum where relevant topics such as cultural diversity in Houston, health care, drop-out rates and child abuse/neglect are presented by leaders and/or experts in those fields, then discussed amongst those in attendance in an effort to produce solutions to those issues. The results of the panel discussion will then be compiled, published and presented to local and state leadership/politicians. **HSI** students, families and those from the community will be invited to attend and participate in discussions about these topics. *Please RSVP at rsvpinnovation@gmail.com or call 713-541-3030 x.100 by February 6, 2012.*

DISTCO Saturday Work Sessions

We will be holding sessions on January 28, February 4, and February 11 from 9am-4pm for your students to have the chance to complete their DISTCO project. A letter has been sent home for you to choose a time and a Saturday that best suits your needs. We thank you for your support in DISTCO!

Name That Book Read-In

On **Friday, February 10, 2012**, students in the 3rd - 5th Grade and 6th & 7th Grade Name That Book Clubs are invited to a READ-IN from **3:00 - 6:00pm**. Students will read with friends from 3:00 - 5:00pm and then get together for a dinner of pizza, cookies, and soda in the cafeteria. Following dinner, students will take part in mock-competitions with practice quotes. Permission slips will go home this week and *must be returned by Thursday, February 9th*. There is a \$5 (payable by check) to attend this event. You can contact Mrs. Quinilty with any questions, [sqinilty@harmonytx.org](mailto:squinilty@harmonytx.org).

Technological Advances at HSI

To uphold our promise to ensure that our students are exposed to the latest technology as much as possible, HSI recently purchased 6 Ipad-2's for our students and teachers to use in the classrooms. Teachers will be able to reserve the Ipad's and use them during their lessons, allowing students the opportunity to learn using the devices. We hope to continue to increase student exposure to these types of technology.

Help Your Child Save Lives and be a Heart Hero!

HOW: Support your child in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope For Heart program

WHAT: A life-saving and educational community service program we are launching in our physical education department

WHY: Your child will help kids with special hearts, learn about how to be heart healthy and feel good

Your child will be receiving a Jump Rope for Heart packet this week in class. The program will run through **February 10th** when all packets and donations are due.

We hope you are as excited as we are to support our students in this important experience!

** Please do not turn in cash, we ask that parents collect the funds and write one check to the American Heart Association*
Contact Coach Fry for more details*

Lunch Dues

Please make sure that your child's lunch balance is current. This can be taken care of either online (with a credit card) using your student's database sign-in information, or at the front office (using check, money order, or credit card). As there are quite a few students with large outstanding balances, HSI asks that all outstanding lunch balances be paid by **Friday, February 10, 2012**. In an effort to keep parents informed about their students' lunch balance, slips are mailed out once a month. Please inform Ms. Huma in the front office if you are not receiving your monthly balance slip. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

2012 Astros Honor Roll Program

HSI is proud to announce its inception into the Astros Honor Roll Program for 2012. Starting in January, 6-7th graders who make either the All A's Honor Roll or A&B Honor Roll will receive free Astros tickets for each six week grading period. *Note: This program is only extended to 6th-12th graders.*

PTO General Meeting

PTO will be holding their next general meeting in the HSI Cafeteria on February 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us.

UIL A+ Spring Meet

On **Saturday, March 3, 2012**, Harmony School of Innovation will host other Harmony schools for a full day of UIL A+ competition. Students that have been studying all year will participate in live events, writing contests, and academic events. Please look for communication from your student's Coach that provides specific information about the Spring Meet on March 3rd. You can contact Mrs. Quinilty with any questions, squinilty@harmonytx.org.

Absence Policy Reminder

According to pages 10-11 of the student handbook, when a student must be absent from school, parents are asked to call the school each day the student will be absent. Upon returning to school, a note must be turned into the school within 3 days of the absence or it will remain unexcused. An absence is considered excused for the following reasons: Personal illness that DO NOT exceed 3 days (beyond 3 days requires a doctor's note); family emergency/illness; death in the family; religious observation; and, doctor's appointments; applying for U.S. citizenship. A student who accrues too many unexcused absences runs the risk of not being promoted to the next grade.

Pick up after school

Please be reminded that all students who are not in tutorials or enrolled in our Zenith after school program ***MUST be picked up no later than 3:25pm***. If they are enrolled in tutoring or part of an after-school group that dismisses at 4pm, they ***must be picked up by 4:15pm at the latest***. **Students who are not picked up by this time are no longer the school's responsibility. HSI reserves the right to call local authorities such as CPS and the Houston Police Department for students left after hours.**

No Outerwear in the Classrooms

Per our student handbook (pg 14), students are not allowed to wear outerwear such as jackets and sweaters inside the classroom. They may keep these items in their locker and may retrieve them anytime they need to go outside. If students are cold, they can wear long-sleeved shirts *under* their uniform shirts, or purchase a school cardigan for \$25 from the front office.

Student IDs

Students are required to wear their IDs at all times. If they do not have their IDs they will not be allowed to check out library books or leave class. If a student loses an ID they may be purchased by check in the front office for \$5.00. If their ID holder breaks – we will replace those at no charge.

Tardy Student Policy

Any student that is dropped off or arrives at school *after 8:05am (that is, 8:06am or later)* **MUST BE SIGNED IN BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN**, otherwise that student will not be allowed to go into class and parents will be called to turn around and come back to the school to sign their student in. *Simply calling the front office to report that your child will be late or just dropping the child off and leaving is not acceptable.* Consequences for numerous tardies are as follows: 5-9 tardies will result in Saturday/after-school detention; 10-14 results in an in-school suspension; 15-19 results in one day of out-of-school suspension, and lastly; 20 or more tardies will result in up to 3 days out-of-school suspension. This policy can be found in your student's handbook. Thank you for your cooperation.