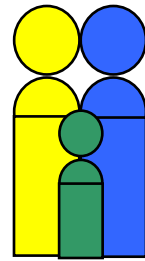


The Harris School, Inc.

900 Lovett Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77006

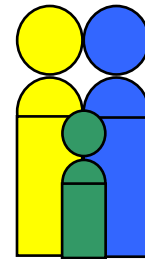
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The mission of The Harris School, Inc. is to support the educational and emotional development of children and their families. We use psychoanalytic and psychodynamic principles to carry out our mission. Our program is accredited by SACS/CASI.

We use a team approach to help our students learn to work collaboratively with others, to communicate effectively his/her feelings and needs, to move on and recover when faced with challenges, and to be able to transition to more mainstreamed school settings and perform successfully.



The Harris School Happenings

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 3, 2010

We're on the Web at
www.theharrisschool.com

Happenings around the School

Dedication Plaque

Two years ago, the beautiful bronze dedication plaque that hung at the entrance of the school was stolen. It was recovered by the police, but had been cut into pieces for scrap metal. This year, the Harris family generously replaced the plaque and once again we are reminded of Hunter Harris' commitment to helping children.



Family Feast

The Harris School hosted its second annual Family Feast in November. Parents, students and staff feasted on delicious barbeque brisket, side dishes and homemade desserts. The Seahorse class, adorned in turkey feathers, entertained us with a Thanksgiving finger-play. The Starfish class read an unusual poem about the pilgrims and the aliens. We really enjoyed the performance of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" by the Dolphins class.



Beautiful Landscaping

We want to recognize Lawn Management Company for donating their services each week. They are also responsible for the beautiful flowers at the side entrance of the building.

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The Harris School received a \$25 donation from a very special person. Connor Smith, a student in the Starfish class, raised the money by selling items at a garage sale. Thank you, Connor!



It's Better to Give



At The Harris School, we teach the students the importance of giving back to the community in which they live. Therefore, we participate in a yearly community service project.

This year, the Dolphins class was responsible for the project. The students brainstormed several possible ideas and listed them on the board. They discussed each one and through the process of elimination, chose two projects.

The first project was a school wide food drive for the Houston Food Bank. The students collected donations of canned goods and non-perishable items. They were delivered to the food bank in time for the holidays. Several members of the Dolphin's class commented on the project.

"It makes me feel happy that we are helping those who are less fortunate. They deserve it," said Michael.

Serena commented, "This is going to have a big impact on other children's lives. This will give them something really good to eat."

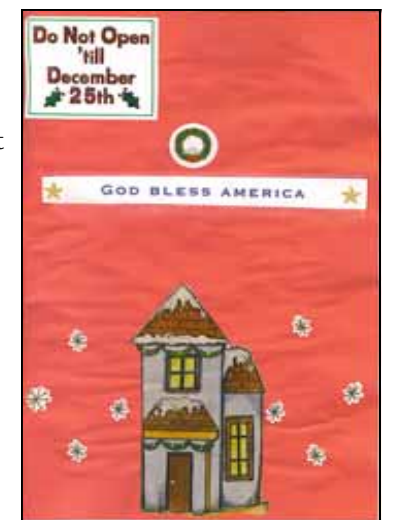
Georgia said, "I think we should do community service projects more often. This is great!"

The second project was creating holiday cards for our troops serving over seas.

Georgia responded, "I don't think that the war is right but I respect what the soldiers are doing because they think it is right."

"I think it's really cool that we're sending the letters because the soldiers don't get to go home and spend Christmas with their families. Our letters are important to help their home sickness," explained Serena.

Michael said, "Since they help fight for our freedom and help protect us, we owe a lot to them. They would really like to have special cards from people who really appreciate what they have been doing."



Fiesta de la Harris School Raises Over \$35,000

Our fall fundraiser, Fiesta de la Harris School, was held on October 4 at Scott Gertner's Sky Bar. The fiesta featured the musical group Sister Morales from San Antonio, dinner, a silent auction and gorgeous views of downtown Houston.

The evening began with socializing, drinks and a friendly competition of auction bidding. There were over 100 items to bid on this year, including an aerial tour of Galveston, a beach house in Florida, sports tickets, cookware and wine baskets. Delicious chicken and beef fajitas and mouth watering desserts were served buffet style and then Sisters Morales took the stage. Toes were tappin' and fingers were snappin' as the Sisters began playing their Texas rock music mixed with traditional Mexican ballads. The evening ended with a drawing for several special prizes.

Fiesta de la Harris School was a great success, raising approximately \$35,000.

The Harris School sends out a big thanks to the following:

- Scott Gertner and his staff for providing us with a fantastic venue
- Sister Morales for donating their time and talent
- Houston CPA Society
- the individuals and businesses that donated the fantastic auction items
- the Harris School staff and Board of Directors
- to everyone who purchased a ticket or an auction item

We especially want to thank the following parent volunteers:

- Kathryn Bodron** for her creativity and endless energy
- Judy Miller** for sharing her experience and organizational skills
- Nancy Gilbertson** for her computer skills and enthusiasm
- Tripp Marable** for his muscle and sweat
- Mary Sultan** for her energy and support
- Peggy Jones** for her cooperation and ideas

Great job everyone! These overwhelming acts of generosity made this a very successful event.



Classroom Events

Seahorses

The Seahorse class had an outstanding semester. The students have moved along nicely with their phonics and math skills. They are taking great pride and pleasure in being able to identify their sight words and learning to blend three-letter sounds. The Seahorses especially enjoyed the Ocean Unit. This included some hands-on care for The Harris School fish. The Dolphin class also took time to teach the Seahorses about their classroom aquarium and how they care for their fish.

Starfish

The Starfish opened the school year with a unit study of Charlotte's Web, focusing on the idea of friendship. The students studied communities and neighborhoods and over the course of the semester created an imaginary neighborhood map. Each student made neighborhood places such as hospitals, banks, and hotels and added them to the map.

Dolphins

The Dolphins demonstrated their ability to work as a team during the Family Feast when they pulled together an excellent performance of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving". They also worked together to construct a class fish tank. After considerable research on caring for different communities of fish, The Dolphins took a field trip to Petco to pick out the supplies needed to develop the tank. They continue to demonstrate teamwork and responsibility by alternating weekly who will feed the fish and maintain the tank.



"Where the Wild Things Are" at Barnes and Noble



The Harris School, in partnership with Barnes & Noble, hosted a book fair on November 7. The theme of this year's book fair was "Where the Wild Things Are". The students created their interpretation of a "wild thing" during art class and these pictures were displayed throughout the store.

The book fair had three goals: to provide a social event for the students and parents with special activities and goodies; to provide an opportunity for families and community to purchase books for the school; to raise money for the school.

All three of the goals were met! There was a great turnout of students

and their parents. The students participated in a scavenger hunt, the interactive display from the Houston Zoo, face painting and snacks. The parents purchased books from the teachers' wish lists and were also able to do a little of their own holiday shopping. In all, \$4,000 worth of books were purchased and the school netted \$600 in cash.

Thanks to Traci Marable for organizing this event!

