

# Rice Ranger Review

*Inquire \* Inspire \* Impact*

September 2009

## Welcome Back Rice Rangers!

The beginning of a new school year is my favorite time of year. You can feel the excitement as everyone prepares for the start of school. We are no different. This summer in preparation for your arrival, we have attended many wonderful staff development sessions, cleaned, organized, and planned. We are eager to start and anxious to see you!

Our theme for the year is *Inquire! Inspire! Impact!*

*Inquire:* We strive to know our students...their strengths and challenges in order to better serve them.

*Inspire:* We believe in our students and we will help them to believe in their abilities.

*Impact:* We will make a difference in the lives of every child.

It is our joy and privilege to work with you to help your child be successful! It is our passion in life! If we can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to ask. Our door is always open!

Working together for excellence,

***Jennifer Sturm***

**1st 6 Weeks**

**August 24-October 2**

## UPCOMING EVENTS at RICE

*September 1 Cookie Dough Fundraiser  
Kick-Off*

*September 8 General PTA Meeting and  
Open House*

*K-2nd: 6-6:45*

*3rd-5th: 6:45-7:30*

*September 14-October 16 Reflections  
contest begins. "Beauty is..."*

*September 21 PTA Board Meeting-  
Papacitas-11:30*

*October 2 Custodian, Crossing Guard &  
Food Services Appreciation Day*

*October 5-9-Lunch with Grand-friends  
week*

*October 5-9 Fall Library Book Fair*

## ***Rice Rangers are EXEMPLARY!!!***

Every year, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take a state assessment called the TAKS test or the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. The state uses the results of the test to rate each campus. Our Rice Rangers achieved the highest rating making our campus an Exemplary campus. We are one of 3 campuses in the district to achieve this rating. Way to go Rice Rangers! Be sure to thank a teacher for this accomplishment. They worked very hard to ensure the success of every child!

## **WELCOME NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF!**

**Let's give a WARM (*it IS Texas*) welcome to all of our wonderful new teachers and staff joining the Rice family!**

**Carolyn Ortega-3rd grade teacher**

**Jennifer Thrasher-Music**

**Brandy Lopez-Spanish**

**Kristin Reinert-Attendance**

**Coreen Renshaw-Receptionist**

**Melissa Reynolds-PTC**

**Jessie Mays-Aide**

# **AND**

## **Let's meet some of them.....**

### **Carolyn Ortega-3rd Grade**

We recently moved to Texas from Danville, CA. Although we've owned our house here for three years, my husband, Mario, and I decided it was finally time to move when our youngest daughter graduated from high school. We're looking forward to having

some quiet time without children as she heads off to college in September.

I have taught for 22 years grades K-3 and enjoyed each age. Rice is a wonderful school to continue my career. You have all been so welcoming and helpful and I am so grateful to be at such an outstanding school.

During my free time (is there any such thing?), I enjoy activities at our church, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.

### **Brandy Lopez-SPANISH**

Hola! Bienvenidos. I would like to start off by saying how excited I am to be at Rice this year. My name is Brandy Lopez and I am the new Spanish teacher. I am new to Rice as a teacher, however, I did attend third, fourth, and fifth grade here. Spanish is not my first language, but, I fell in love with the many South American cultures in college upon taking Anthropology classes at Southwestern University. I decided the best way to learn more of the culture was to travel and attend university in Chile. I have also lived and traveled throughout Mexico.

My husband and I have recently moved back to the piney woods of East Texas from Austin. We will miss our Longhorns, yet we are super excited for our kids to grow up in Tyler, close to grandparents. I have a fifth grader here at Rice, as well as, a two year old who stays home with his papa. I

I love working with kids and sharing the wonderful aspects of the various Spanish cultures. Please feel free to come by my room any time. I always want parents to know they are certainly welcome and appreciated. I look forward to meeting all your students.

## Jennifer Thrasher-Music

Welcome Back! I am thrilled to join the Rice Ranger Team! My family and I have just moved to Tyler from Moorhead, Minnesota! (That is about 1100 miles north from here and yes it snows...a lot!) My family and I have begun to adjust to the heat, love the swimming pool and have had a blast with our new puppy "Maggie."

As far as music goes...hold on tight and get ready! We have a lot of music making to do and we are going to have fun every step of the way! I look forward to sharing new songs and singing games with all of you, so get ready!

This year there will be a Ranger Choir and a Hand Chime Ensemble that will rehearse after school. The Rice Ranger Choir is open to all fourth and fifth grade students and will meet each Monday from 3:15-4:00 in the music room. This group is open to any fourth or fifth grade student that is interested in choir. The hand chime ensemble is a much smaller group and will only be open to 11 players that are in fifth grade. The hand chime group will meet on Tuesday's after school from 3:15-4:00. There will be more information coming home in the next two weeks.

My goal for this year is to have two grade level performances. I have several ideas and programs selected and may need some help in putting these together. If you are interested in assisting in any aspect of a grade level program please contact me through email. These programs will include all classes of a grade level and some will be more involved than others. I love the support I have already received here at Rice!

Thank you all for the warm welcome! I am excited to be here and can't wait to meet all 740 Rice Ranger Stars!

Mrs. Thrasher

**Need more information  
about Rice Elementary?**

**Go to:**

**[www.tisd.org/schools/rice](http://www.tisd.org/schools/rice)**

**There you will find  
calendars, the latest  
lunch menu, teacher and  
staff contact information  
and much more. Check it  
out!**

**IMPORTANT!**

**\*NEW SEATBELT LAW\***

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 1st, all children  
younger than 8 years of age must  
be restrained in an approved child  
passenger safety seat unless the  
child is at least 4 ft 9 inches in  
height.**

*Mrs. Musselwhite*

*Rice's New Assistant Principal*

*Having grown up in the East Texas area, my husband, Kevin, and I were thrilled to move back to Tyler in 2007. I joined the Rice faculty in 2007 as a 5th grade teacher. The following year I was named Instructional Specialist. I look forward to the opportunity to serve as an Assistant Principal at Rice!*

## ***COUNSELOR'S CORNER***

Greetings Rice Rangers!

Welcome to all and especially our new Rice Rangers! I look forward to meeting our new Rangers and seeing our returning Rangers. I hope you all have had a fantastic start and are getting adjusted to the new routine.

Let me introduce myself if you are new to Rice. My name is Diane Carnes and I am beginning my 8<sup>th</sup> year here. Rice is *the* best! I just completed 20 years in education and enjoy seeing some of my former REL students with their children at Rice. The counseling program is a comprehensive program based on the needs of all students academically, personally and socially. My job as a counselor involves a variety of responsibilities such as classroom guidance and individual/group counseling to name a few. More information and helpful tips will be posted on the Rice Website under "counselor".

I look forward to working with you and please feel free to call me if you have any concerns about your child.

Working together,

Diane Carnes

Counselor

[Diane.carnes@tylerisd.org](mailto:Diane.carnes@tylerisd.org) or 262-2555

## ***Grade Level NEWS***

### **KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten is on the way to a great year! We are having so much fun with all the new experiences. Our unit of inquiry is "All About Me". Your child may be asking for your help on some of the projects.

Please review with your child the high frequency words: I, can, and, to, it. Also review recognizing numbers 1-20 and the days of the week. Practice correct handwriting skills, especially their first name.

### **A few important reminders:**

Please remember to label all clothing such as sweaters and jackets with your child's name. Please send a written note to your child's teacher if he/she will be going home a different way. We want to make certain the children are dismissed correctly. You may use their agenda to write such notes to the teachers. Your signature is needed in the agenda daily. The agenda is an excellent means of parent/teacher communication.

We would like to say thank you for sharing your precious child with us. We know that your little Rice Ranger will amaze you with the academic progress that will be achieved this Kindergarten year. The Kindergarten teachers are very excited and looking forward to a terrific 2009-10 school year!

### ***Your Kindergarten Teachers***

#### **FIRST GRADE**

Welcome back First Graders!! We are so excited about the wonderful start we have had to our new year! Thank you for sharing your precious children with us and we are looking forward to all of the fun adventures that First Grade has to offer. We would like to extend a huge Rice Ranger welcome to Jennifer Alden and Rebecca King, our two new, awesome, First Grade teachers. We are so blessed to have them on our team!!

Our annual PTA Open House is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th and we are so looking forward to seeing you there. This is a vitally important date to put on your calendar because we will be visiting with all the First Grade parents in the cafeteria to explain procedures that will affect you throughout this year.

Our first unit of inquiry will be A Star Is Born. It will introduce and explore our PYP attitudes: independence, empathy, cooperation, tolerance, integrity, confidence, commitment, appreciation, respect, creativity, curiosity, and enthusiasm. Our goal is that each child will know and truly understand each attitude and be able to apply these attitudes to his or her own personal life. You will be amazed at how quickly they will begin reflecting these attitudes on a daily basis as their understanding becomes clearer. Each of our units

will also include family projects, so be on the look-out for information that will be heading your way soon after we begin this unit!

Reading book bags will begin coming home on a daily basis as well. It is very important that your child reads at least 15 minutes each night. There will be a "bookworm" sheet in the bookbag that will need to be signed and returned daily. We will be happy to help you with any ideas or variations in your daily homework routine to help hold your child's interest as their commitment to reading grows. In addition to reading daily, practicing with sight words through the use of flash cards, is another important part of the reading process. We will also be sending home a weekly list of words that you will find helpful in our journey to reading fluency.

In Math, we have been learning about the calendar as a helpful tool to track time. It would be helpful to begin practicing addition and subtraction facts at home. We suggest working on facts to 10 until the winter holiday and then introduce facts to 20 after the first of the new year. If you feel your child is ready for them all, GO FOR IT!! Our objective is not only for them to memorize these facts, but to truly understand them by showing us with manipulatives.

Thank you in advance for all of your hard work and support during the coming year. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child better with each day that passes. See you at Open House!!

*Your First Grade Teachers*

## Second Grade

Welcome to Second Grade! We are so excited to begin a new year with such wonderful students! Plus, Mrs. Klinger and Mrs. Mosley are equally excited to welcome Mr. Simms, Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs. Ellis and Mrs. Litzenger to Second Grade. All of our "new" teachers come to us with experience in other grade levels on campus. To get the year off to a great start, we have information below on how you can help your student succeed in Second Grade.

Skills to Work on at Home: Memorizing math facts to twenty.

Practicing counting on and counting back. (When adding two numbers they start with the largest number and count on to find the sum. When subtracting, they count back to find the difference.)

When solving problems around the house, talk out loud so that your child can hear your thought processes. Involve him/her in finding solutions to problems at home.

Spelling and vocabulary – practice every day. One day have child write the words. Another day have him/her spell the words aloud to you. Use the spelling and vocabulary words around the house each week. You can even practice in the car. You can spell the word, and they have to tell you what it is. Then they spell it back to you.

Reading – Try to read with your child for 20-30 minutes a day. Sometimes you read a page, sometimes they read a page. Have them read aloud to you while you are cooking supper. The more your child reads, the more fluent he/she will become and the better comprehension will be. Ask questions after your child reads to you.

Ex: Who were the main characters? Where does the story take place? In what order did things happen? Would you have done what the characters did, or would you have done something differently?

*Your Second Grade Teachers*

## THIRD GRADE

**Welcome to third grade!!**

**Third grade is off to an awesome start. We are pleased to have Mrs. Ortega on our team this year. She comes to us from California with 23 years of experience in education. We are also pleased to now have Mrs. Sanchez (aka Miss Robinson).**

**This six weeks the children will learn about place value, the solar system, communities, and writing terrific sentences. They learn about expectations and being good citizens. Our learner profile words are " knowledgeable" and "principled". Please help us by extending these actions to their behaviors at home. Let them know when you see them being knowledgeable and principled.**

**You can help your child by drilling math facts at home and making sure they read on a regular basis.**

**Your Third Grade Teachers**

### **Fourth Grade**

The fourth grade team is excited about all that's new for the 2009-2010 school year. We are happy to announce three new team members! Please join us in welcoming Robin Hunt, Robbi McCarter, and Holly McCarty to our team. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and we are looking forward to working with them to make this the best year ever.

We're also excited about getting to know a new group of students and guiding them through fourth grade. The journey will begin with "Write to Be Heard" our first unit of inquiry. Students will discover the various genres and how they are used to convey messages and express feelings.

Finally, you should also be hearing about lots of hands on activities in math and science as we continue to utilize C Scope. In addition to C Scope, we will also be introducing Making Meaning and Lessons in Literacy. These new materials will add lots of fun to our reading and language programs. As you can see, there truly is a lot to look forward to, and we can't wait to get started!

**Your Fourth Grade Teachers**

### **Fifth Grade**

We are so excited to have Mrs. Stella Jones on our 5<sup>th</sup> grade team. We are looking forward to her expertise and super personality to help us lead our kiddoes onto bigger and better things!

Parents, we want to thank you in advance for helping your child be responsible with their agendas, all assigned papers, notes and papers to be signed, permission slips, homework, school supplies and behavior. We are looking forward to helping each of our students become the best they can be and guiding them towards being top notch 5<sup>th</sup> graders. We want all of our students to be successful when entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

We hope your child faces many new challenges this year and continues to grow in their desire to become better readers, stronger math students,

more inquiring scientists, more creative writers, and delighted history enthusiasts. We will do our best to keep our students on task and we will continually encourage them to dig deeper into all subject matters.

As we are inquiring, inspiring, and impacting our students, we will strive to do all we can to enlighten their learning. Please help us by encouraging your child to strive for their best in all educational experiences.

We will be letting you know when we go to Camp Tyler and other important events!

**Your Fifth Grade Teachers**

## **Library Lines**

Welcome Back Rice Readers. I hope you had a fantastic summer and read many wonderful books. I am so excited to see each of you and can't wait to hear about all the new books you have read.

Great News! Susan Dickey will be our new library assistant this year. She is wonderful and you will love her!

**Fall Book Fair** Our fall book fair is scheduled for the week of October 5<sup>th</sup> through October the 9<sup>th</sup>. Lacey Idrogo is our new P.T.A. Library Representative and will be contacting you in regard to volunteering for this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at [angie.hicks@tylerisd.org](mailto:angie.hicks@tylerisd.org). We love and appreciate our library volunteers. Book Fair is a great way to raise money for new books and we always have a lot of fun!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me or let me know!

[Angie.hicks@tylerisd.org](mailto:Angie.hicks@tylerisd.org)

903-262-2571.

Happy Reading!

**Angie Hicks**

# Precision Teaching Units

Many things are happening in our class. All the students are excited to be back in school and learning. We are still learning our schedules. We will continue with the We Can and Read Well curriculums. They are so much fun, and the kids learned so much last year from them! We get to dance and sing every day. We are currently learning about self-awareness and the letter A. In September, we will learn about the five senses, homes and families. Our September letters are E and H. We are also getting ready to start adding pictures to our "Making Memories" bulletin board. This will be a place for us to display photos of the exciting things going on in our classroom. We are looking forward to a fun and successful school year!

**Mrs. Womack**

## FROM THE GYM.....

Welcome back! We are excited to see all our returning students and meet those who are new to our school! Our primary goal in P.E. is to guide children into being physically active for a lifetime and participate in activities that will make them healthier physically and emotionally. We love to have fun in the gym and look forward to this school year.

Students please remember to wear appropriate shoes and clothing for physical activity. Shoes should be lace-up or Velcro (no flip flops), we prefer tennis shoes or non slip type soles. If girls choose to wear skirts or dresses to P. E. you need to wear shorts underneath. If girls forget and wear inappropriate shoes or clothing they are still expected to participate in class. It is very important for everyone to dress appropriately for your comfort and safety.

Please remember to label all coats, jackets, and personal belongings with your name. Our goal is for you not to have a lost coat this year!

**Upcoming PE Event** Please mark your calendars for a skating party at the Tyler Skateplex on September 28<sup>th</sup> (6-8pm). The cost is \$3.00 per person at the door and you may bring a friend. This fundraiser supports our Rice Physical Education Department and allows us to purchase new or replace needed items.

## *YOUR COACHES*

### **The Wonderful World of ESL**

The wonderful world of ESL is growing by leaps and bounds, both in students and teachers! This year many teachers here at Rice are not only classroom teachers but are also ESL teachers! We congratulate them all. I have just started to meet many of our new students and am excited to have met several who have lived in America for just a few weeks. We welcome them and hope we can make them at home with English as quickly as possible. They're eager to learn and I to teach them. Teaching English Language Learners is my passion. It's going to be a great year. I hope yours is off to a good start too.

Mrs. Shepard

### *Quotable (Rice) Kids*

"Do we get paid money to play soccer?"

**1<sup>st</sup> Grader**

"Coach I don't look so good, a ball hit me in my brain. It ain't supposed to hit you up there!"

**Kindergartener**

# Primary Years Programme

Welcome Back! I hope you all had a great summer! I am so excited to be the new PYP Coordinator! We are going to have a fantastic year! For our new parents, PYP stands for Primary Years Programme. This is our third year to be an authorized IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) World School. PYP focuses on the whole child, addressing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs while giving students in all cultures a strong foundation in all of the other major areas of knowledge. The staff at Rice Elementary strive to help each student develop an international perspective-to become aware of the points of view of other people. To develop internationalism, we help model attitudes and learner profiles. We are working on the following attitudes throughout the entire school. Please emphasize these attitudes at home.

**Knowledgeable**-I know/I am learning.

**Principled**- I show that I know!

**Caring**-I value myself and others!

*Ashley Rowe*

PYP Coordinator

## READING CONNECTION

Welcome back! I hope that many of you relaxed and enjoyed a great book over the summer! As we get back into the swing of school, remember how important it is that your child reads or is read to every night. Some of the best times with your child could be when you share a story. Get the most out of reading with these tips.

1. Choose a comfortable place to read.
2. Let your child choose the story.
3. Hold the book so your child can see the pictures while you're reading. Be

sure to interesting things in the illustrations.

4. Take your time and don't rush the story. Reading slowly will help you read clearly and give you more time together.
5. Make sure you are modeling reading. Sit with your child and discuss what you have been reading. It could be out of a book or even the newspaper.

Rice is committed to having every child love reading. Be on the look out for our exciting Literacy Nights this year. Keep reading at home. Thank you so much for your support. Together, we will help your children succeed.

For the children,

Susan Soward

Literacy Facilitator

[susan.soward@tylerisd.org](mailto:susan.soward@tylerisd.org)

### *Front Office Folks and Principal Players*

**Principal-Jennifer Sturm**  
**Assistant Principal-Dot Corbyn**  
**Assistant Principal-Mandy Musselwhite**  
**Counselor-Diane Carnes**  
**School Nurse-Mrs. Alexander**  
**Secretary-Leslie Wood**  
**Attendance Clerk-Kristen Reinert**  
**Receptionist-Coreen Renshaw**

## *A Message from the Presidents.....*

Welcome back Rice Rangers!! We would like to welcome all of our new and returning Rice Ranger families. We are glad you are with us this year.

Our PTA board has hit the ground running. Great thanks to those who have helped with registration in the office, helped put information packets together for the kids, attended our first board meeting, helped the kindergartener's and first graders with lunch during the first week of school, sold and distributed school supplies, helped with Meet the Teacher, kicked off the fund raiser – and oh so much more!

Our school year is off to great start. We are looking forward to our first general PTA meeting and open house that will be held September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 6:45 for grades K-2, and from 6:45 – 7:30 for grades 3-5. Please mark this important date on your calendar. This is a great time to come and see what your children are doing in school.

Please become a member of the Rice PTA. Your membership helps support the many programs available at Rice. We also have many volunteer opportunities for you to be involved in your child's school life. Our volunteers make it possible to provide your children with enrichment and extra curricular activities. And we have a lot of fun as we work together too!

Our fundraiser this year will be Fresh Country cookie dough. If you came to Meet the Teacher, you may have been fortunate enough to have had a free sample. The cookies are delicious and EASY to make for that after school snack! Please purchase some cookie dough and help make this fundraiser a huge success.

Please take some time to look through the PTA packet of information that your child brought home last week. Be sure to fill out the forms and return them to school with your child. Show your support for our children and staff by joining PTA, filling out the volunteer form, ordering spirit gear and saving those Box Tops and aluminum cans.

We are also increasing our communications and keeping up with the internet age. Please check out our new Rice PTA website, become a fan of Rice PTA on Facebook and Twitter with us too. Our Facebook and Twitter sites can be reached by going to [www.riceelementarypta.com](http://www.riceelementarypta.com)

We will be posting meeting and event notices on these sites as well as having information on membership, spirit gear and much more on our web site. Please join us and keep informed of all the PTA is doing for your kids.

We are excited about what our year holds and all of the activities that PTA has to offer. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Deen ([jgdeen@suddenlink.net](mailto:jgdeen@suddenlink.net) 903-592-2806) or Ruth

Davis ([richnruth@suddenlink.net](mailto:richnruth@suddenlink.net) 903-509-2909) if you have any questions or comments. We are sharing the responsibility of PTA president this year and we are looking forward to working with you and your children this year. Thanks for making Rice a wonderful place to be.

Jennifer Deen and Ruth Davis

PTA Co-Presidents

## **Attn Shutterbugs!**

**We would love to have your pictures submitted for use in the Rice Yearbook**

Just a note to all the picture takers out there, please turn in pictures, preferably on CD, to the office or you can e-mail them as an attachment to [ronsheff@yahoo.com](mailto:ronsheff@yahoo.com).

Thanks!

Shawn Sheffield

# WE WANT YOU!

## TO JOIN PTA AT RICE

For only \$6, you can play a part in enhancing your child's education at Rice. Your monetary contribution helps with teacher, child and campus needs. We welcome all parents/guardians and grandparents to join. You are not obligated to volunteer and we will not call you unless you have indicated your desire for us to contact you.

The deadline for membership is October 1, and more information and an envelope for dues has been sent home with your child. Please contact Julie McDaniel at 903-581-7278 or julieandcrew@aol.com if you have any questions.

THANK YOU!!

*A Special Thanks*

*To Fresh Country for donating all the delicious fresh cookies for "Meet the Teacher" on August 20.*

*It was a great way to try our Fall fundraiser. YUM!*

“Spirit Gear” Order Form Deadline:

Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

Check out our new logo & t-shirt designs!



## *REFLECTIONS ~ "Beauty is..."*

This year's PTA Reflections theme is "Beauty is..." Students are encouraged to create and submit original works of art depicting this theme in six areas: Literature, Visual Arts, Photography, Musical Composition, Dance Choreography and Film Production.

PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in this annual arts program. The Texas Reflections program has the most participation of any PTA program with entries totaling over 75,000 across the state. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition.

In its more than 30-year history, the program has encouraged millions of students to create works of art. Each year, the Reflections Program challenges students to create art that interprets a specific theme and submit it to their local PTA. At Rice Elementary entries will be judged and awards will be presented in each category.

Twenty percent of Rice's winning entries will then advance to the TISD Council PTA level, with those winners advancing to the Texas PTA State Competition with those winners advancing to the National PTA Competition level.

Please watch for more information coming home soon! After-school art workshops will be offered requiring advance permission. General participation dates at Rice will be September 14 -- October 16. All entries must be turned in by October 16 and must comply completely with the Texas PTA rules as posted on their website at [www.txpta.org/programs/reflections](http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections).

If your child is interested in participating in Rice Elementary's Reflections contest please watch for and carefully review information in the upcoming handout and access the necessary forms and rules at [www.txpta.org/programs/reflections](http://www.txpta.org/programs/reflections). You may also contact Vickie Williams at [vwilliams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vwilliams@sbcglobal.net) or 903.539.0000 to receive more information. Entry forms will be available in the front office.

We look forward to receiving many wonderful entries from our talented Rice Rangers!

Vickie Williams

Reflections Chair



"There is a harmony  
In autumn, and a lustre in its sky,  
Which through the summer is not  
heard or seen,  
As if it could not be, as if it had not  
been!"

- Percy Bysshe Shelley

## Playground Update

PTA is thrilled about the funds being raised for Rice's new intensity play structure. It will replace the fourth and fifth grade playground in front of the school and promises to hold the attention of our older students while allowing true accessibility for our special needs students. But, we need your help.

September 8-11 Rice will be holding its first "Climbing for Change" coin drive competition-- boys vs. girls. On these dates please allow your children to take ownership and have them clean out the coin jar, rummage thru their pockets or do extra chores to earn money to be placed in the respective girl or boy bucket attached to a weight scale in the Rice Café. All funds collected will be put toward the cost of the new and improved play structure that we hope to have in place by the end of the school year.

Also, anyone wanting to make a private donation can send a check to the school made payable to "Rice PTA" and designated "Play Structure" or contact someone on the play structure committee who will gladly apply any amount to the cost of the structure. Not only is your gift tax deductible, but of benefit to many Rice students for years to come.

Rice PTA Play Structure Committee

Carol Foley

Virginia Hodges

Lynette Maynard

Laura Miller

**Thanks to Shawn O'Dell and The  
Diner in Tyler for providing a  
delicious lunch for our first PTA  
board meeting on August 17!**

## Cookie Dough FUNDRAISER

Our annual Fall Fundraiser is about to begin! This year we are so excited to announce that we will be selling FRESH COUNTRY cookie dough once again!! FRESH COUNTRY is a local company, with delicious bakeries and cookie dough! This cookie dough fundraiser runs from Sept. 1st - 15th. The success of this fundraiser will provide the students and teachers the tools for successful learning. In the past, Rice PTA has purchased a new marquee, soccer goals, and a computer lab along with the covered picnic pavilion. All students are urged to participate in order to help us meet our goal of 2000 boxes of cookie dough!! If we meet our goal we will earn a Big Bounce Party for our school! Trophies and prizes will be awarded to the Top Sellers in each grade. This year Rice PTA will be awarding the top seller of our school, an ACER MINI NETBOOK!!!! That's right Rice Rangers your very own personal mini laptop computer! The fall is a great time for cookie dough sales with all the classroom parties and Holiday events. So let's get ready to raise money for our school!

For any questions please contact Kristie Copeland,  
Fundraiser chair, 903-939-9566 or email me at  
[kristiecopeland@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kristiecopeland@sbcglobal.net)

Thank You!  
Kristie Copeland

### YOUR PTA BOARD

JENNIFER DEEN AND RUTH DAVIS  
CO-PRESIDENTS

CARRIE KING  
SECRETARY

JUSTIN ROWE  
TREASURER

LAURA MILLER  
PARLIAMENTARIAN

JENNIFER SMITH  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
[jen.smith1971@gmail.com](mailto:jen.smith1971@gmail.com)

AND MANY MORE WHO MAKE THINGS  
HAPPEN FOR PTA

OUR THANKS TO ALL!

## Attn Rice Students

### Mark Your Calendars and Don't Forget.....

**\*Cookie Dough Fundraiser** from September 1-15.  
YOU CAN DO IT...who doesn't like fresh cookies??

Our school can win a Bounce Party and the top seller wins an ACER mini notebook. Not to mention more money for our school.

**\*Open House** is September 8. Your family can see your school, meet your teacher and find out more about your class this year!

Also on September 8, Rice will start the "**Climbing for Change**" fundraising campaign for a new playground. This will be a boys vs girls challenge to see who can bring in the most money....look under your bed, in your car, under the couch cushions...you should be able to find lots of spare change. Bring it to school and drop it in the bucket. It will be fun to see how coins add up!

**Get your new Spirit Gear!** The deadline for ordering is September 11 and there's a really cool new logo this year. You can see it on page 10 of this newsletter.

**The REFLECTIONS contest** starts September 14. Get your creative juices flowing and submit your original work of art. More information is on page 10 and also will be sent home.

Don't forget the **SKATING PARTY** at the Tyler Skateplex on September 28 from 6-8. It's only \$3 per person and you can bring a friend. This helps raise money for the PE program at Rice and it's fun!

Mrs. Thrasher will be putting together a **Rice Ranger Choir and Hand Chime Ensemble** this year. What an exciting opportunity for Rice students!