

GRASH TALK

A Monthly Newsletter for Educators

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February 2008
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AB/C CLEAN CAMPUS CHECKS MIDDLE SCHOOL & JR. HIGH

All Jr. High and Middle Schools will be judged during the week of March 3rd-7th. Recycling and reuse projects and programs along with hands-on student environmental efforts play a large role in the decisions. A clean and well landscaped campus is expected. A copy of the criteria is mailed to principals and made available to AB/C Campus Coordinators to prepare for the contest. The 1st place campus will receive \$200 and the AB/C Clean Campus banner. The 2nd place winner receives \$100, and 3rd place receives \$50 towards environmental projects on campus.

ARBOR DAY 2008 WRAP UP

The City of Lufkin's Arbor Day ceremony was a huge success!! The ceremony was held at Coston Elementary School and was well attended. We enjoyed the History of Arbor Day, read by Todd Nightingale with TFS, a Poem entitled "Trees," read by Joe Pase with TFS, and an Arbor Day Proclamation, read by Councilmember Lynn Torres. Most impressive was the musical and poetic presentations by the students. I huge "THANK YOU" to the 3rd grade teachers and students for a wonderful production! Coston had recently lost a big tree and the planting of a beautiful Maple tree out front was an excellent addition to their landscape!

"TAKE CARE OF AMERICA" COLORING AND ACTIVITY BOOK 1st GRADE

This little coloring/activity book promotes the awareness and prevention of litter. It has hidden pictures, a word find, and lots of pages to color. This is a great educational tool! I've had teachers use these booklets to teach an entire thematic unit! These are being distributed this week.

AB/C & TFS TREE GIVE AWAY WRAP UP

Angelina Beautiful/Clean and the Texas Forest Service once again teamed up and provided tree seedlings for our community this past Friday, February 7th. We set up in the Lufkin Mall parking lot. People were lined up at 7:30 AM to make sure they got trees! We began the give away at 9:00 and gave out over 1,000 trees with information about each variety! Burr Oak, Pecan, Sawtooth Oak, Southern Red Oak, and Bald Cypress were a few of the species we had available at the give away. Thanks to the Lufkin Mall and the Texas Forest Service for their partnership in this grand Arbor Day planting gesture!!

TEXAS TRASH-OFF COMING SOON SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

Registration for the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off begins March 1st. This is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the state where nearly 200,000 volunteers offer their time to keep our state beautiful. The top three groups with the most active participants will get their share of \$300. The event is sponsored by Keep Texas Beautiful, Angelina Beautiful Clean, and the Texas Department of Transportation. This event is also the signature litter prevention event of the Great American Cleanup! For more info contact Tony Moline @ 63CLEAN.

"AB/C CAMPUS COORDINATOR'S DOOR PRIZES & AB/C INCENTIVE DRAWING

At each AB/C meeting we will have at least two door prizes. In addition, this year we'll have an Incentive drawing. This drawing will include every AB/C Campus Coordinator's name. If that person is present at the meeting and their name is drawn, they win the prize. If that person is not present, the prize is retained and rolls over and increases for the next meeting. We'll start with \$20.

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN KAB STICKERS

These colorful sheets of stickers are a great way to introduce environmental stewardship to our youngest citizens. Keep America Beautiful "The Earth is in our Hands" stickers share ways for us all to do our part to protect the Earth.

PASS THE BAG" 10TH, 11TH, & 12TH GRADES

With Basketball season wrapping up and with Baseball season just around the corner, "Pass the Bag" continues to assist area schools in promoting proper waste management and personal responsibility! This exciting High School project has been a huge success for Lufkin High School in previous years and this year was no exception. This project focuses on litter awareness and litter prevention. "Pass the Bag" is accomplished by passing garbage sacks down the rows of the bleachers at a sporting event. A student group gathers the bags at the end of the row and disposes of the trash! For more information or assistance on this project please email me! I'd love to help!

FOREST AWARENESS TOUR May 5th – 9th

AB/C partners with the Texas Forest Service to bring this outdoor project to LMS 8th graders and the 7th graders in the county. We follow the TAKS week and everyone is ready to be outside and out of the classroom! The tour is held at the Texas Forest Service's outdoor classroom area on Hwy 94. I can't wait for you to meet our new District Forester, Todd Nightingale! He's enthusiastic and really enjoys being around the kids. Six stations will be set up around the property and each station will be lead by Forestry personnel. The students bring sack lunches and eat outdoors and AB/C provides each participant a canned drink. Hudson is scheduled to walk over Monday, Central is coming on Tuesday, Diboll on Wednesday and Lufkin wraps up the week on Thursday and Friday. This week long event usually brings over 1,000 kids to the forest.

angelinabeautifulclean.org

Check out our new website! A copy of the "Trash Talk" newsletter will also be sent via email. Please distribute the newsletter to all the teachers on your campus by email or paper copy! Hopefully less paper!

ECO CAMP 2008 JUNE 9th – 13th

AB/C has set the date for our annual ECO CAMP! The second full week of June, the 9th through the 13th has been chosen. A Texas theme is planned for this year. **AB/C is raising the pay for the 5 ECO Camp teachers to \$150 and your kids get to come for free!** I plan and provide everything. Teachers just show up at 8:45 each morning and leave at 12:00. Science, Music/Storytelling, Snack, Games, and Art are the activities. I need 5 of you that are interested in leading an ECO CAMP station to let me know ASAP!

BE COOL!!! RECYCLE AT SCHOOL

The following schedule is still in place for recycling pick up: **Thursday AM** – Brandon, Brookhollow, Dunbar, Garrett, Slack, and Trout. **Friday AM** – Lufkin High School, Lufkin Middle School, Anderson, Coston, Hackney, Herty, Kurth, St. Patrick Catholic School, and Harmony Christian School. I encourage each classroom teacher to have the kids create collection bins/boxes to collect paper in their classroom. **No bags are necessary!** Just put all your paper into the blue cart. Avoid colored paper and staples. Environmental Conservation is part of the TEKS!! This is a great way to teach those valuable lessons!!



KUDOS TO HUNTINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

HMS Student Council officers recently attended the Texas Association of Student Councils Middle Level Conference in Austin. TASC recognized HMS as being a Sweepstakes School for their Pride and Patriotism, TEED (Energy and Environment), DASH (Drugs, Alcohol, Safety, and Health), and Community Projects. In addition, HMS was recognized as one of the top three schools in the state for its energy and environmental projects. Through their efforts, HMS student council has doubled the school's recycling output and saved the school thousands of dollars in energy cost.

THIS MONTH'S PROJECTS

- PreK & Kindergarten "The Earth is in Our Hands" stickers
- 1st Grade "Take Care of America" Coloring/Activity Book
- LMS 7th Grade & County 8th Grade Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle materials