

# Rusk Elementary School

## Home of the Patriots



January 2017

Greetings Parents & Guardians,  
Happy New Year and welcome back to the second semester of teaching and learning! The holiday season may be over but the winter weather seems to be casting a spell upon us.



### Rusk Expectations

As we return to school for a triumphant second semester, please remember to abide by the expectations outlined below to ensure student safety:



- Student supervision begins at 7:30 a.m. when our doors are unlocked and staff is on duty.
- Students may be dropped off using the pull-through lanes on Neely.
- Two moving traffic lanes are offered to quickly unload students and prevent congestion.
- All students must be dropped off on the **CURB!** Please do not let students out in the traffic lane.
- CHOOSE YOUR LANE CAREFULLY so that your child is on the curb.
- PLEASE follow the cross-guard directions and WATCH for children crossing.
- **ALL parents and students MUST use the cross-walk to ensure the safety of our walkers.**
- Drop your child off by 7:45 a.m. so that he/she has ample time to eat breakfast in the classroom.
- Students MUST be in the classroom by 8:00 a.m. to avoid being counted tardy.
- **Students arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. must be accompanied to office by a parent — NO EXCEPTIONS.**

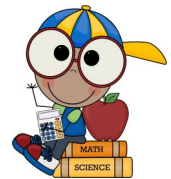


- Any changes in after school transportation **must be made to the office by 2:15 p.m.** to allow office personnel time to deliver the message to the student.



### Academic Progress

The 4th six weeks grading period begins January 9th and closes February 23rd. Students will spend a combined 15,200 minutes of learning during this six weeks. Please encourage your child to unlock his greatest potential and find the success in his learning. Please use txconnect parent portal to monitor your child's grades: <http://www.midlandisd.net/grades>



### SCHOOL ATTIRE

Rusk is a uniform campus and uniform attire is expected. Students may wear the following:



- \*Mondays: wear a college shirt with navy or khaki bottoms
- \*Tuesday through Thursday: Uniform attire
- \*Fridays: Rusk spirit shirt and jeans

The winter weather appears to be in its prime so please dress your child appropriately according to the weather. If you are in need of a coat, please contact the counselor for assistance at 240-7815.

### PTA Literacy Night

Rusk will be hosting our annual PTA Literacy Night on Thursday, January 26th at 6:00 pm. We will have guest readers, special make-and-take projects, and hot chocolate. Students who attend will receive a free book to add to their home reading collection. In addition, students will earn a NUT (No Uniform Today) pass!





## Perfect Attendance Field Trip

Students who earned perfect attendance during the first semester will be going on a special field trip to the Petroleum Museum on Thursday, January 12th. Students who reached this goal, will receive a permission slip to be signed and returned to school. A special field trip will be arranged for students earning perfect attendance the 2nd semester.

### Cafeteria Lunch Accounts

Lunch accounts are monitored daily by the cafeteria. Negative balance letters are sent home for parents to either pay balances online or send lunch money. Students with a \$10 balance or more on their account will receive a cheese sandwich. Please avoid putting your child in this situation by either paying the balance or filling out a free and reduced lunch application which can be found on the following website:  
<http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com>



### New Staff Member

Rusk welcomes 1st grade teacher Alicia Robledo. Miss Robledo student taught in both 1st grade and special ed. on our campus this school year. She's a graduate of Angelo State University. Miss Robledo is a great asset to our Rusk family.

## School-Home Connections

If you have internet access at home, you may wish to explore the following websites with your child:

[www.wonderopolis.org](http://www.wonderopolis.org)

free online educational topics that fascinate kids

<http://www.kerpoof.com>

free online interactive resource with stimulating sites and activities

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The following are important dates on the January calendar:



- **January 9th:**  
\*PTA Board Meeting in Library at 6:00 pm
- **January 12th:**  
\*Perfect Attendance field trip
- **January 13th:**  
\*Awards Assembly  
\*8:30—PK/K  
\*9:30—1st / 2nd  
\*1:30—5th/6th  
\*2:30—3rd / 4th → note this change  
\*Snack Day—3rd Grade Parents in Charge
- **January 16th:**  
**Martin Luther King, Jr**  
**\*HOLIDAY — NO SCHOOL**
- **January 18th:**  
\*4th Grade field trip
- **January 20th:**  
\*Spelling Bee: 3rd—6th at 8:30 am
- **January 25th:**  
\*Character Luncheon by invitation
- **January 26th:**  
\*PTA Literacy Night at 6:00 pm
- **February 1st: Early Dismissal at 12:00pm**

One of the major events taking place this spring is the administration of our state assessment — STAAR. While this assessment does not define a child's success in school or in life nor is it a destination, it is a tool used to measure the progress students and schools reach in an academic year. Please refrain from scheduling student appointments on STAAR dates. Fourth grade will take Writing STAAR March 28th; 5th grade will take Math March 28th and Reading March 29th. The remainder of STAAR will be administered May 8th—12th.

As we embark on this journey and approach the highly anticipated assessment, we ask that you encourage your children to discover their potential. Let's help students seize the eureka moment. Student punctuality, daily attendance, turning in daily homework, and completing in-class assignments will be crucial in determining areas in which students need additional practice. Your partnership will be greatly valued and appreciated as we inspire and motivate students to the path of success.

Leslie Goodrum  
Principal

Dora Flores  
Assistant Principal