



Schimelpfenig Middle School

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Olga Sanchez
Principal

Brendan Hayes
PTA President
President@smspta.org

Newsletter Editor:

Cristina Martin
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Dear Schimelpfenig Parents,

- We are fast approaching the end of school. We still have many activities left before school is out: Cross Country, TAKs testing, Presidential Awards program, fine arts programs, our meeting for parents of our Incoming 6th graders, and the 8th grade social.
- Please remember to inform the school if your address or phone number changes. Sometimes we need to reach parents and are unable to do so because we do not have current numbers. We also send out summer mailings, and we want to be sure all of our information is current.
- As a reminder, parents, please check our Lost and Found. We have many items of clothing that have been found, and they are sitting in our closet.
- As the end of the year approaches, we will also be having a very special celebration for our Teacher of the Year – We honor Laura Mullen, this year's nominee for Experienced Teacher of the Year & Brittany Neely, this year's Beginning Teacher of the Year. In addition, we will also honor Liz Sessions, this year's Paraprofessional of the Year.
- Thank you to all our students, staff, and volunteers for the wonderful job they do.

Dates to Remember:

- May 16---Presidential Awards for qualifying 8th graders
- May 20---8th Grade Party

Exam Schedule

- June 1-----1st and 6th
- June 2-----3rd and 7th
- June 3-----4th and 8th
- June 6-----5th **On this day only we will have early dismissal at 12:40. The buses will run at 12:40.**

Lunch Schedule-----Lunch will be served every day.

- 7th grade 11:15-11:45
- 6th grade 11:45-12:15
- 8th grade 12:15-12:45

Olga Sanchez, Principal

PTA President : Brendan Hayes

Your PTA has been hard at work:

- We continue to work hard to provide exceptional volunteering to our library, school store, front office, and copy room.
- We are providing great programs for our students and parents with cutting edge programs to keep us tuned in and knowledgeable.
- We had a successful spring social and fun was had by all!
- We honored four individuals with PTA Life Member Awards – Claire Duke, Susan Edwards, Helen Howell, and Ted Smith.
- Our Reflections entrants did very well, and we had some advance to State!

I “virtually attended” the White House Conference on Bullying on March 10th. President Obama kicked the session off. He talked about how we viewed bullying in the past as an unavoidable part of growing up. Now it is becoming more and more harmful. Bullying is now following kids home from the classroom on their phones and computer screens. There were many examples of the growing movement of young people in our country who no longer accept that bullying is part of life. These students are becoming “empowered bystanders” who step in and help their fellow students in a variety of ways.

Studies show that bullies are 24% more likely to be part of violent crimes. The victims of bullying are less likely to do well in school, bring weapons to school to protect themselves, and have a higher incidence of depression, anxiety and harming themselves. Forty five states, including Texas, have passed some form of anti bullying legislation. The White House launched a new website – www.stopbullying.gov. This site has lots of information and resources for families.

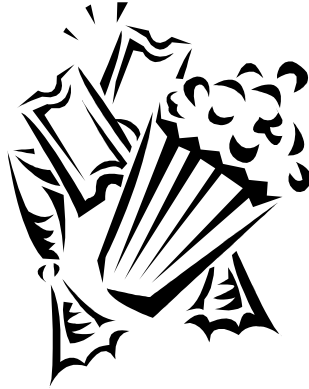
I attended the Schimelpfenig SBIC meeting on February 24th. We learned about the SAIL Program – Students Actively Involved in Learning. The program consists of about 50 individuals where high risk students are matched up with a mentor teacher to guide them over the school year. We discussed Power Walk Throughs which are part of teacher evaluations, learned that Bullying is taken very seriously at SMS, and we viewed the You Tube video “RSA Animate – Changing Educational Paradigms” which highlights the need for change in the US education system.

As a community we have been faced with significant state education budget reductions that have had a direct impact to our school. As voters and community members we need to continue to be vigilant in our efforts to let our legislators know that we won’t settle for anything less than the best for our students. Please get involved and contact your legislators – the kids need you!

The SMS Nominating Committee is working on filling our board for next year. If you are interested in being on next year’s board please send me an email at president@smspta.org and the committee will contact you.

Thanks!

Brendan Hayes, President SMS PTA



Theme: Schimelpfenig 8th Grade Walk of Fame

May 20, 2011

SMS Gym

3:30 to 6:00 PM

The time is coming for your young one to move on, and we would like to send them off with a Great End of Year Party!

Donations and Volunteers needed:

- **Raffle prizes: movie baskets, event tickets, restaurant gift cards, IPAD, Itouch, TV etc, anything you can donate**
- **Red, White and black decorations**
- **Cash donations for prizes**
- **Food donations: Movie theme candy, popcorn, hotdogs, etc, cakes, cupcakes, drinks, condiments**
- **Chaperones needed on the day of the event**

If you are able to donate anything please contact Nanci Kistler at 972-529-8132 or email at Nanci@kistler.org.

**Thank you very much for your time,
8th Grade Party Planning Committee**



6th Social Studies

Wow! What a year. Our students were wonderful! We are looking forward to the last unit of study. This is the time that students will choose their favorite country. The Global Interactions unit concludes the 6th grade study of modern cultures. Cultural borrowing has blurred the differences between cultures as many have adopted ideas from other groups. Modern communication technologies have transmitted cultural traits around the world. McDonald's, American clothes and music, etc. are all over the world. Cultural diffusion has made it a "small world after all". The regions for study in this unit include China and Japan along with other countries of the Pacific Rim.

6th Grade Science

Schimelpfenig sixth grade scientists have journeyed through the human digestive system, exploring with indicators, discovering the basics of pH, and making a quick stop for some Beano®! Our next adventure will include trips through the respiratory and circulatory systems. We'll exchange gases and pump it (the heart) up! During our final unit this school year we set out for the stars. Sir Isaac Newton and Johannes Kepler will help us explore the force of gravity, the laws of motion, and the movement of celestial objects. After we discover the keys to surviving in space, we will design and launch our very own water-bottle rockets. Get ready to blast off!

6th Grade Math

Since Spring Break, we have transitioned into our last unit, *Stretching and Shrinking*, which deals with the geometric concept of similarity. In this unit we are applying our understanding of proportions as we solve for unknown values in mathematically similar shapes. In April, we turned our thoughts to TAKS testing and brushed up on a number of different math concepts (just to refresh our memories) in the days leading up to testing. We spent time in the computer lab working on interactive study guides to prepare for TAKS. Now, with TAKS just a memory and summer in sight, we have jumped back into *Stretching and Shrinking*. Once we complete *Stretching and Shrinking* we'll spend about a week preparing for the semester exam.

6th Grade Honors Math

Since Spring Break, we have transitioned into our last unit, *Stretching and Shrinking*, which deals with the geometric concept of similarity. In this unit we are applying our understanding of proportions as we solve for unknown values in mathematically similar shapes. In April, we turned our thoughts to TAKS testing and brushed up on a number of different math concepts (just to refresh our memories) in the days leading up to testing. We spent time in the computer lab working on interactive study guides to prepare for TAKS. Now, with TAKS just a memory and summer in sight, we have jumped back into *Stretching and Shrinking*. In May, we will be finishing up the challenging Enrichment Day problems by creating presentations of logic problems. Once we complete *Stretching and Shrinking* we'll have about a week to prepare for the semester exam.



7th Grade Math & 7th Grade Honors Math

With *Moving Straight Ahead* behind us, we've completed one of the more abstract units we'll have this year. We learned all about linear relationships, got familiar with graphing in four quadrants, practiced solving one- and two - step equations and now know what "rise over run" means. From this fundamental aspect of algebra, we went right into the book *Filling and Wrapping*. As the title suggests, it's about surface area and volume of three-dimensional objects and it builds quite naturally on the last geometry unit our students had on two-dimensional shapes. We spent a good bit of time trying to display 3-D shapes in 2-D form (nets) and vice versa. From there we focused on what goes into these 3-D shapes and how to figure how much of it (whatever "it" might be) various vessels could hold. We discovered formulas to find volume of cylinders and prisms, cones and pyramids, cubes and spheres and gained an understanding about why those formulas work. Once this unit is complete, all that's left for the year is a unit on probability and then the semester exams.

7th Grade Texas History

This spring, Texas history students began the Growth and Development Unit of Texas history learning about the traditional economies of our state in the lesson entitled: Cattle, Cotton and Crude. This lesson focused on the ranching industry in Texas and provided a great segue into the study of the historic cattle trails of the late 1800's. As part of this lesson, students planned their own cattle drive to railheads leading to Eastern markets and took part in the financial planning as young ranching entrepreneurs. In learning of the Galveston Hurricane, Texas City disaster and Dust Bowl, students were instructed of the importance of our municipal and state government services and their efforts to plan for economic, political and social solutions when disaster strikes. Texas' role in the global economy is exemplified in Think Global, Act Local. A large part of this unit is devoted to the study of iconic figures in modern Texas history including the contributions of: Sam Rayburn, Barbara Jordan, Lyndon B. Johnson, Ann Richards, H. Ross Perot, Henry B. Gonzales, Audie Murphy and Doris Miller just to name a few. The culmination of Growth and Development ends with a project in which students assume roles in a marketing campaign to bring individuals and businesses to Texas promoting the Lone Star state's demographics, cultural identity, economy and geography. All in all, this year in Texas History has been an enjoyable learning experience and has provided important academics skills and a background of knowledge for students as they prepare to learn about U.S. History next fall.

7th Grade English

Regular

The students are continuing their journey through, *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech. The unit will have a review of non-fiction reading strategies with passages based on background information for the novel. The students also had the Reading TAKS in April so we will did some review to help them feel prepared for the test.

Honors

We are still on our exploration in *The Hobbit*. The students should be busy working on their map and their Hobbits Alive project. The students also reviewed reading strategies during this unit to help them prepare for the Reading TAKS.



8th Grade U.S. History

What a fantastic year it has been! Students have taken an amazing journey through our past. They encountered the founding fathers, participated in the Constitution Convention while discovering our process of government and even learned how the Industrial Revolution changed the course of America forever.

As we are approaching the end of the school year, students are continuing their passage through US History by investigating the causes and key events of the Civil War. Students are getting a fresh perspective on this infamous time in our American History and will even get an opportunity to create their own historic reenactments.

CMP Algebra 8 and CMP Honors Algebra 1

We have started our final unit "*Shapes of Algebra*". Students will explore the relationship between geometry and algebra. Through this exploration, students will work with equations for lines and curves, and will develop an understanding of how systems of equations and inequalities can help solve problems. They will apply their knowledge of the Pythagorean Theorem, linear equations, slope, symmetry, equations and inequalities. This unit also incorporates equations of circles, as well as parallel and perpendicular lines. Students will be working on problems involving flight paths and limiting CO₂ emissions.

Looking ahead, the 8th grade EOC or End of Year Exam will be administered during the **week of May 23rd**. More specific times and dates will be provided later. Please avoid scheduling any appointments that week.

English 8 and Honors English 8

We are on the final stretch on our way to high school. Can you believe it has gone this fast? Our final unit of exploration is a study of non-fiction literature and the historical epoch of the Holocaust. We will look at survivor's stories, plays made from actual historical facts, analyze the events leading up to this atrocity and look at genocide in our world today. We will begin by evaluating discrimination and hatred and the role of the bystander.

English 8 will be reading the play, Diary of Anne Frank while Honors will be reading the book by Simon Weisenthal called The Sunflower. In addition we will look at the actual diary of Anne Frank and a broad selection of works from this time period.



NJHS

National Junior Honor Society has had a busy spring so far! February, March and April's themes of service focused on Animals, Kindness and Health/Fitness.

We collected 400 items for Operation Kindness --- cat and dog food, towels, toys, treats, and office supplies they needed, and 555 toothbrushes for African children to be distributed by Water for Africa, an organization that builds wells for families and then teaches them basic hygiene. We invited the school to bring a stuffed animal to class on a Friday to raise awareness for the animals with which we share our world. We helped at a 5K race, guided parents and performed at Open House. We sponsored the Random Acts of Kindness Chain for Schimelpfenig in February and March --- awarding links in the chain to students and teachers who were "caught" showing kindness. As a school, 847 acts of kindness were "caught" during the month long event. Wow! We have some incredible kids with huge hearts at Schimelpfenig!

April brought the "Walk to Remember" in honor of Alzheimer's disease --- 100 students, teachers and community members participated in a walk to raise awareness for this deadly disease. In addition, we raised \$2,500 in donations for the Alzheimer's Association and their research. The event was organized completely by five of the NJHS officers and carried out with all of the officers' leadership. It involved contacting city organizations, businesses and government and these kids showed finesse beyond their years.

We are not through yet.... We will be conducting a school supply drive at the end of April/early May, and we will be honoring our teachers during Teacher Appreciation week. We also have our end of the year awards and 7th Grade Induction. Then, onward to summer!

ESL News

The Beginning Language Arts class is beginning their last novel of the year, *Stone Fox*. We are working with reading comprehension strategies, building vocabulary, and varied forms of writing. Our grammar lessons are connected to the novel and will cover such skills as comparative language, tag questions, and modals. We recently covered persuasive techniques, so if your student has become more effective in presenting arguments, I apologize. ☺

The Intermediate Language Arts class is into their final novel of the year, *Esperanza Rising*. As a historical fiction novel, it has taught us about the Great Depression and migrant farm workers. We continue to build our vocabulary and analyze literary elements from the book. Grammar skills will involve modals, various clauses and the perfect tenses. We will be exploring some varied forms of writing such as poetry.

The Advanced Language Arts class is also getting into their last novel of the year, *The Conch Bearer*. We analyze literary elements, explore the meaning and purpose of literary devices, and identify archetypes. The students work with grammar, writing and building vocabulary and comprehension skills through the context of the novel. Grammar topics will include various types of clauses, infinitives and gerunds. It is wonderful to see how their abilities have grown since the beginning of the year!

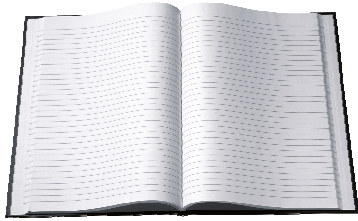
ESL Reading classes

In 1st period reading, we have 3 novels going on, digging deeper into the underlying themes and meanings presented by the authors. Vocabulary is growing by working with word parts.

The 4th period reading class recently finished a novel together and is now into a novel of choice at independent reading levels. They work with skills to build fluency, practice with poetry and read a nonfiction news article regularly to expand knowledge and skills.

International Club News

We recently sponsored a drive to collect "Change for Japan" for disaster relief. We were able to send \$654.45 to the Japanese Red Cross. Many thanks to all of our world citizens who participated in this event.



Librarian's Corner

Thank you to all our volunteers for helping with the Scholastic Book Fair this year. It was a huge success. Our Friend's House received \$240.00 in books due to the generous contributions from students. We duct taped our principal to the gym wall, because we met our goal of \$10,000. Everyone had a great time.

Library inventory is complete. It went well. Thank you to the volunteers who helped us complete this important, but tedious aspect of the Library.

The final due date for all Library books is Friday, May 20, 2011. We are working on recovering overdue books from students. Thanks to the help of Ms. Davis, the students are finding and returning their overdue books or paying for them. All student library accounts are required to be clear before the end of the school year.



Destination Imagination

Our 6TH GRADE SMS Destination Imagination Team went to Lubbock on April 1 - 3 for the Destination Imagination State Competition. They won 2nd place in their challenge, "Unidentified Moving Object", and now will be representing Texas at the Destination Imagination Global Competition in May. Please congratulate these awesome 6th grade students for their clever creativity and teamwork!

Team Managers: Melanie Ford and Robert Rossato

Jake Ford

Aaron Rossato

Brynn Pergantis

Freya Jardine

Zoe Jardine

Kyle Williams

Blake Adams



Playcrafters News

The Middle School One Act Play Contest was held on Saturday, February 26 at Shepton High School. The following students won awards:

Reagan Gallagher---Top Technician
Shannon Fager---Honorable Mention
Lydia Buffington---Honorable Mention
Payton Mayfield—All Star Cast
Suraiya Ali-----All Star Cast

The “25th Annual Star Search” was held on Friday, April 1. The following Advanced Theatre students were MCs:

Shabee Ali, Noah Cantrell, Stacey Cohn, Kaitlin Dlott, Brittany Ferris, John Knowles, Bethany Lamastus, Payton Mayfield, Jessica Schnitzer and Isaiah Winn.

The Vines Speech Tournament was held on Saturday, April 16th. Results will be posted in the next newsletter. The last speech tournament of the year will be at Guyer High School in Denton on Saturday, May 21st. The different events are: Dramatic Interpretation, Readers’ Theatre, Impromptu, Humorous Interpretation, TV Commercial, Lip Sync, Prose, Pantomime, Storytelling, Vocal, Poetry, Duet Acting, Group Improvisation and Poster Design. Students may pick up a form from Ms. Parker.

The Playcrafters will be going to Six Flags on Saturday, May 28th.



Computer Applications, 7th& 8th grade:

Coaster Craziess! Just in time for the opening of Six Flags Season. Students are busy designing and building roller coaster simulation. I have slipped in lessons in physics, but don't tell the kids. Actually, we are using acceleration, force, gravitational forces, along with problem solving and creative design. Sounds daunting, but the students love this unit, and I usually can't get them off the computers. Who says science, math, and technology have to be boring?

Project Lead the Way – Gateway to Technology, 8th Grade/high school elective credit:

The curriculum, written by professional engineers, is a pleasure to teach. The students have learned how to use a professional 3D CAD program, Adobe Inventor, to design a chair, a toy, and build a fence, while improving their visual skills. Some of the skills they have learned will help them next year in geometry. We are currently taking a look at mechanisms, gear trains, and robotic programming. When the class has been difficult, my students have continued to impress me with their problem solving skills and ability to persevere. Gateway to Technology does a great job giving the students a small insight into engineering. High school is just around the corner; it is my hope some will continue to investigate career and technical classes to better prepare them for their futures.

My students have been awesome this year. Thank you for you support at home.

Terri Richards



LOTE Newsletter

French and Spanish 7

As the unit on weather and clothing comes to a close, students wrap up with a fun project. Their favorite past vacations or ideal vacations will be expressed in our annual Suitcase Project. Everyone loves to do this project as it has a real life application that is nice to think about. Also incorporated into this unit are colors, which the kids like.

We will end the year with a preview of food vocabulary. They will discuss some of their favorite things to eat and drink in the target language. Additionally, they will apply this vocabulary to a reading project.

Students will explore the geography and culture of a target language country in their first novella. By looking at the world through the eyes of a fictitious peer, they will be able to apply this school year's vocabulary while learning new ways to comprehend information in the target language.

French and Spanish 8

Students have been learning vocabulary about the house. After much discussion of household responsibilities, activities done in the home for fun, and visual descriptions of the house, the unit comes to a close. It has been fun describing our homes in class. Eighth graders will apply what they have learned in this unit as well as all of 8th grade to their first video drama in the target language. They will learn the culture of the country featured in the video while learning new ways to comprehend the target language audio-visually.

As middle school comes to a close, students will read a novella that discusses pertinent issues that teenagers face: driving, relationships, and working for what they want. They will also explore the culture of a different target language country during this reading.



Counselor's Corner

The Middle School Summer School Program is designed for students in grades 6 to 8 who have not mastered the essential elements of the required courses of English, Math, Social Studies or Science. This program is streamlined to concentrate on academic mastery.

Current 6th and 7th graders will take courses offered for four weeks beginning June 9 through June 30, 2011 (Students taking three courses will take the third course July 5 through July 8, 2011). There will be no afternoon sessions. Middle School Summer School for 6th and 7th graders is located at Bowman Middle School, 2501 Jupiter Road. The tuition is \$195 for one course, \$250 for two courses, and \$300 for three courses and may be paid with cash, money order, cashier's check, Master Card, Visa, Discover or American Express card. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

Current 8th graders will take courses offered for four weeks beginning June 9 through June 30, 2011 (Students taking three courses will take the third course July 5 through July 8, 2011). There will be no afternoon sessions. Middle School Summer School for 8th graders is located at Vines High School, 1401 Highedge. The tuition is \$195 for one course, \$250 for two courses, and \$300 for three courses and may be paid with cash, money order, cashier's check, Master Card, Visa, Discover or American Express card. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

The Student Registration Handbook is now available and may be obtained from the home school counselor. **All applications must have the counselor's signature.**

Students may pre-enroll through May 20. Mailed applications must be postmarked no later than May 20 in order to pre-enroll a student. After May 20 students must enroll June 8 at Bowman Middle School between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Out of district students **cannot** enroll in this program.

Transportation will be provided from the student's home campus. The bus schedule will be available the last week of the 2010-11 school year. For more information contact your student's counselor.

Summer Institute for Gifted and Talented Students (SIGS)

The Summer Institute for Gifted and Talented Students challenges students currently in the PACE program grades 1-7. The middle school program (grades 5-7) includes courses such as humanities, science, mathematics, social sciences, and/or computer training. The program is located at Robinson Middle School, 6701 Preston Meadow Drive, Jasper High School, 6800 Archgate, and Murphy Middle School, 620 N. Murphy Road in Murphy. The dates are June 13 through July 8 from 7:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. Tuition is \$300 and may be paid with cash, money order, cashier's check, Master Card, Visa, Discover, or American Express card. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

The Student Registration Form has been sent home with the student or may be obtained from the home school PACE teacher. The deadline for registration is May 6.

Transportation is provided from the student's home campus. Bus schedules will be sent home with the students the last week of the 2010-11 school year. For more information contact your child's PACE teacher.

High School Summer School Information

The purpose of the extended summer program for grades 9-12 is to provide high school students with the opportunity to master the essential elements of incomplete/failed courses, to accelerate their high school programs, and to enrich their experiences with non-credit courses.

Pre-registration

Students may enroll beginning in March through May 20, 2011. After May 20 students must register June 9 at Plano West Senior High School. Your school counselor is the best resource for summer school questions. The Student Registration Form should be obtained from the home school counselor. The counselor must indicate which course the student will be taking and must sign the application. No registration form will be accepted without a counselor's signature.

Student Registration	June 9	Plano West Senior High for those students who did not pre-register
First Session	June 13 - June 30	8:00 am - 1:30 pm
Second Session	July 5 - July 22	8:00 am - 1:30 pm

Session Break	July 1, 4	
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Note: On the last day of each session students will be released at 10:00 am.

Locations

Plano West Senior High School, 5601 W. Parker Road, Plano TX 75093
Plano East Senior High School, 3000 Los Rios Blvd, Plano TX 75074

Tuition

Tuition is \$220 per session. Tuition for out of district students (those students not residing in the Plano ISD attendance zone) is \$440 per session. The tuition may be paid by cash, money order, cashier's check, Master Card, Visa, or Discover Card. **No personal checks will be accepted.**

Intent to Withdraw

If your child will NOT attend Plano ISD during the 2011-2012 school year, please complete the INTENT TO WITHDRAW form available in the counseling office. Please contact Helen Howell, the registrar, if you have any questions at 469-752-6415.

Address Changes

If you move over the summer, please contact Helen Howell, Registrar, to change your address. This will ensure you will receive PISD mails. Her direct number is 469-752-6415. Thanks!

Report Cards

If you do not receive your student's report card, please contact Schimelpfenig's front office. The report cards will be mailed out mid June.

FALL SCHEDULE PICK-UP

New students should contact their schools beginning July 25 to schedule registration appointments. Appointments will be scheduled August 4, 5, and 8 during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Middle school counselors will return August 3rd.

New Students (6th, 7th, 8th grades)

August 12 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Grade 8

August 12 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Grade 7

August 11 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Grade 6

August 11 – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon



Nurse's Corner

PARENTS OF 6TH GRADE STUDENTS:

Students who have NOT met the immunization requirement for 7th grade received a copy of their PISD immunization record to take home on April 7.

- Tetanus booster with Pertussis (TDAP) within the last 5 years
- Varicella booster (chickenpox) if student has not had disease; 2 doses required
- Meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine

Please contact your child's doctor to make sure that he/she has had these immunizations. If he/she has, send the documents to the school nurse by May 31, 2011. Our school nurse will be here until June 6, 2011 and then return on Schedule Pick-Up day in August. We are requesting that you complete the required immunizations and turn in the documentation by the end of the school year in order to make Schedule Pick-Up Day more pleasant for everyone involved. More than 50% of 6th grade students have not turned in updated immunization records at this time.

Please contact Nurse Nancy at 469-752-6409 or Nancy.Lusby@pisd.edu if you have questions. Thank you for your cooperation!