

# Raven About Rice

Volume 4 Issue 9

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Inside this issue:

Principal's Corner	3
Spirit Wear Sale	4
Charlie & Chocolate Factory	5
MathCounts	5
Class Notes	7
Exam Schedule	8



Check out the Rice Middle School PTA Website at: [www.RicePTA.org](http://www.RicePTA.org)

## PTA Youth Protection – Kathy Tinkler

As we jump right into beautiful, spring weather and then into the Summer months, this is statistically the time of year when we need to keep an extra eye on our kids. This is the time of year, that we see a surge in drug experimentation and increased interest in sexual activity. Also, this is the time when teens are left unsupervised, boredom sets in and they tend to get into trouble. As parents and as a community be aware of what our kids are doing and who they are hanging out with.

At our last PTA meeting, we were given the opportunity to hear about drugs and alcohol in our Plano/Rice community and to ask specific questions.. We are so fortunate that as a whole, our kids at Rice are great kids...they are respectful, considerate and intelligent. We have a lot to be proud of and our goal is to keep it that way. Unfortunately, drugs are a part of our society; but, we as parents need to protect our kids.

WE need to be the PARENT and not the friend. We need to make sure our messages are clear... “drugs/alcohol/pre-marital sex are NOT okay”. We want our kids to grow up healthy and continue to set high expectations in these areas. We have to stand firm and not say, “oh, so it is just weed or beer....that’s not so bad”. We need to say “All of that is illegal, it is bad and it is not okay, because those “minor” drugs DO lead to addiction.” One of the biggest drug providers to our Plano kids is our home...our very own medicine cabinets. The anti-anxiety, anti-depression, Tylenol PM, Benadryl, and cold medications are an easy way for kids to start experimenting with drugs. Clean out your medicine cabinets and keep them out of sight. If your kids start using the drugs from your medicine cabinet, it is still considered ILLEGAL!

We need to stand firm and let our kids know that once they become sexually active, not only are they at risk for teen pregnancy, but the Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) they

could contract can be deadly. They are each so incredibly special and young, that they need to understand the consequences of making these mature decisions that they aren’t ready for. Don’t be afraid to tell them your feelings on this.....OFTEN...they may seem like they are tired of hearing it, but it has the potential to help them make the choice to wait. Don’t underestimate your power as a parent to influence your teen.

Know your kids’ friends and know the parents of those kids. That is key to parenting & protecting your children. If you suspect your teen needs help, get it NOW. It won’t go away...it is not a phase...it will only get worse.

### DICTIONARY OF DRUG & DRUG TERMS

From the Plano West Narcotic Forum, February 2007

THIS LIST IS INTENDED FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE. PLEASE USE YOUR DISCRETION IF YOU CHOOSE TO SHARE IT WITH YOUR KIDS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO EDUCATE THE CHILDREN ON WHAT TO TRY. REMEMBER FOR PARENTS: KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

Adderall – A stimulant used to treat ADD/ADHD. Currently commonly abused by teens and college students who want to stay awake or study. Only those whom this medicine is prescribed for should be using it and taken as prescribed.

Bars: Xanax

Benadryl: An over-the-counter antihistamine sometimes mixed with heroin. It causes a drowsy and sleepy effect while it dries up the watery nose and eyes of heroin use.

Benzodiazepine: Prescription tranquilizers such as Valium, Librium, and Xanax.

Blunt: A small cigar hollowed out and filled with marijuana.

Continued on Page 2

Bong: Pipe use to smoke marijuana. It contain a water chamber through which the smoke passes as it is inhaled, cooling the smoke and making it less irritation. Often home-made. Aerators, the fine mesh metal screen used on faucets are often used in the bong. (By the way, if you see a pretty blown glass gadget with a hole or two; or a nice carved wooden box...it's not a nice knick-knack received from a friend...it's probably being used for drugs).

Candyflipping: Using LSD and ecstasy together.

Cheese: Heroin mixed with Tylenol PM. Considered to be a form of "STARTER Heroin".

Coricidin or Triple Cs: An over-the-counter cold and cough medication. Several types of Coricidin, but when used to treat colds with cough it contains Dextromethorphan DXM. DXM taken in large quantities to get high can cause an overdose. Typical amount taken by teens is 8-16 pills.

Drug Testing: Testing urine, blood or hair for the presence of drugs or alcohol. Most drugs are detectable in urine for 1-3 days (marijuana up to 30 days), in blood for slightly less than that and in hair for 3 months. You can buy these at pharmacies if you need to drug test your child.

Eight-ball: A large quantity of crack, generally an eighth of an ounce.

Fry or Whack: Marijuana soaked in embalming fluid (formaldehyde) and smoked.

GHB or Liquid Ecstasy or Date Rape Drug: Clear liquid often mixed with alcohol which causes sedating effect and amnesia.

Head Shop: A retail store which sells drug paraphernalia. There are head shops in Dallas ("Gas Pipe"), Plano ("Retro") and McKinney.

Ice: A smokeable form of methamphetamine. In power form, very addictive and has a long high!

Mainline: To inject a drug into a vein.

Nitrous Oxide: An analgesic gas often used in dental procedures. Found in whippets and cans of whipping cream. Currently a popular inhalant.

Primo: Cocaine sprinkled on marijuana and smoked.

Rave: A large party with music often held in a warehouse where there is dancing, drinking and drug use.

Ritalin: A psycho-stimulant used to treat ADD/ADHD, which can also produce a high if enough is taken..

Roach: Butt of a marijuana joint. Often held with a roach clip.

Rolling: High ecstasy.

Shebanging: Adding water to cocaine or methamphetamine and spraying into the nose.

Skittles: Kids bring all their colorful pills and put in a large bowl. Each person takes a handful not knowing what drugs they are taking and how they interact with one another. This is like playing Russian Roulette!!!

Special K: Ketamine.

Speedball: A combination of heroin and cocaine, usually injected.

Steroids: Sports performance or muscle enhancers: Swallowed or injected. Numerous long-term adverse effects include elevated blood pressure, severe acne, liver damage, aggression and depression.

Tab: Tablet of ecstasy.

Tracks: Hypodermic needle marks or injection sites, often on the inside elbow area or on the inside of the arm between the elbow and wrist. Can see red needle marks or bruises.

# Principal's Corner by Gail Stelter

## TAKS Time!

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills is coming up soon! I have said all year that Rice is an exemplary middle school because of the supportive community, hard working students and outstanding teachers. I will always believe this!

The state of Texas determines our school ranking based on our TAKS scores. It makes sense that with our supportive community, hard working students and outstanding teachers that the students will perform well. Please continue to support your children by noting the TAKS test dates and make sure your child gets a good nights sleep, eats a good breakfast, gets to school on time and puts forward his/her best effort like every other day!

April 17<sup>th</sup>: Math for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
April 18<sup>th</sup>: Reading for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
April 19<sup>th</sup>: Science for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
April 20<sup>th</sup>: Social Studies for 8<sup>th</sup> grade

## ATTENTION: RICE PARENTS

### YOUR TIME IS VALUABLE!

Our PTA tracks the numerous hours volunteered each year at Rice. These hours are totaled and then submitted to the district where it is used to help secure financial grants. In addition the Rice PTA can qualify for a variety of awards when we are able to substantiate the number of volunteers we have and the number of hours we accumulate. Each volunteer is asked to submit their hours spent volunteering at school or at home to Debra Effinger: [debeffinger@tx.rr.com](mailto:debeffinger@tx.rr.com). It is not too late to submit hours for this school year which is from June 2006 – May 2007. Thank you!



Rice Middle School  
Spirit Wear End of School Sale  
50% off everything – while supplies last  
E-mail: [marjie.sands@gmail.com](mailto:marjie.sands@gmail.com)  
With the style, size and contact information

T-Shirt



Was: ~~\$10.00~~

Now: \$5.00

Girls Cap Sleeve



~~\$15.00~~

\$7.50

Hooded Sweatshirt



~~\$25.00~~

\$12.50

### U.I.L. Success for Orchestras!!

The Rice Orchestra program went to U.I.L competition at the Lowery Freshman Center in Allen, TX on Mar. 29th and 30th. Rice was the only school to take 3 performing groups to contest. On the first day, the Intermediate Non-Varsity B orchestra was the first to play of the 12 groups on Thursday. They set the standard for the morning with 6 Superior ratings and a Sweepstakes win.

The Advanced Intermediate Orchestra Non-Varsity A was the first group to play after lunch. They also received 6 Superior ratings and a Sweepstakes award. The two rice groups were the only groups of the day to make straight Superior ratings.

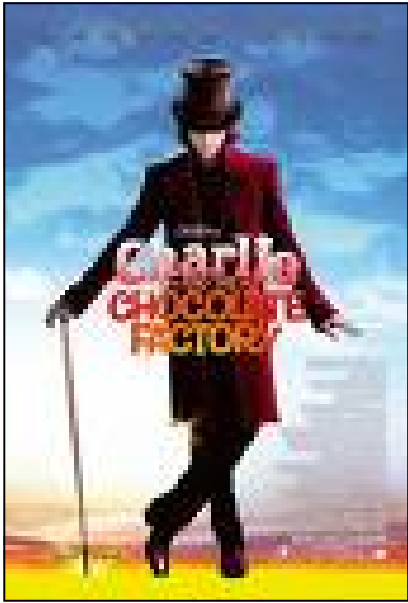
On Friday, the Chamber Orchestra, Varsity, was the last of a 15 group day. The judges said it was well worth the long day just to hear our Chamber group. They received 6 Superior ratings and many words of high praise for their performance. Several teachers from Plano and private instructors were there to hear us. All were very impressed by our groups and amazed at the maturity level of their performances.

I wish to thank our administration and supportive staff for all of the praise and help with these wonderfully talented students. Also, to all the parents of orchestra students, you and your students are the best! I am looking forward to a very successful end of the year as well as next year with many of the same talented kids as well as the new ones who will be here.

Thank you all.  
Mrs. Fox

Rice Middle School's spring play, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory will show April 25th and 27th at 7pm in the cafeteria. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children/students and will be sold at the door an hour before performances. Special concessions will be sold at intermission both nights.

## Charlie and The Chocolate Factory



On Saturday, March 24, the Rice Middle School Mathcounts team competed in the State Mathcounts competition in Austin, Texas.

We competed against over 60 other teams from around the state.

The Rice team came in 8th place overall - our best showing ever (twice previously we were 9th).

Alan Zhao came in 6th place overall, out of more than 200 students!! This is our best individual score ever (previously a 9th and twice 10th place students).

Other team members were Bhasi Nair, Jonathan Zhu, and Charles Jin.

Please congratulate these young men. They are all 7th graders competing against some 6th and 7th graders, but mainly 8th grade students.

The eighth grade students and teachers would like to thank the PTA for providing the funding needed for our field trip to the Dallas Holocaust Museum. Thanks to the generosity of the PTA, we were able to hear Holocaust survivors describe the daily life, hardships, and horrors under the authority of Hitler and the Nazis. As we toured the exhibits, we were also able to hear audio accounts of various events during this time period. This field trip was a follow up to various Holocaust readings studied in the English classes. While all appreciated the educational opportunity the Dallas Holocaust Museum provided, we thoroughly enjoyed our pizza lunch, also provided by the PTA, as we relaxed at the park.

This field trip would not have been possible without the generosity of the Rice PTA, the behind-the-scenes coordination by Amy Newell and Sue Hart, the wonderful volunteers who accompanied us to the museum and the park, and the fabulous volunteers who set up the pizza lunch. Your hard work and the gift of your time made this day special for all involved. You are awesome!

**Candy Sales every Friday at 3:30 after school in the 6th and 7th/8th pod areas! Prices \$.25-\$.75.**

**Kroger Supports Rice...let's support Kroger**

Also, Kroger partnership cards and stickers are available in the front office. If you already have a Kroger card, please make sure you have a sticker coded for Rice.



**Raven's Nest  
The Rice School Store**

**OPEN:** Tues and Thurs  
7:50 – 8:30 am in the atrium outside the office

- We have poster board, pens, pencils, pencil lead, erasers, notebook paper, markers, steno pads, floppy discs, audio tapes, graph paper, you name it!
- We apologize, but we are sold out of the ever popular maroon vinyl pencil bags. Look for them at the start of school in 2007!

# Class Notes Class Notes Class Notes

## Sixth

### Science

6th grade Science will be "blasting off" with space as our culminating unit. We will "lift off" our study by starting with Newton's laws of motion, of course! This will "fuel" our curiosity for space exploration and a look at the space program's progress over the years. We plan to "launch" our gathering of information with experiments on how mass and gravity effect the pull of an object. Of course our unit will not be complete until we end with our very own launch of homemade rockets made from 2 liter bottles!! What a "send off" we will have and what a great year we have had in Science!!!

### The Mission of the PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

## Seventh

### Reading

How do I recognize structure in things I read? How does context give me clues to word meaning? What strategies will help me read better? These are the things 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will focus on during the last few weeks of this semester. Graphic organizers matched to organizational patterns and test-taking skills will be reinforced with TAKS-formatted questions and the district semester exam. Hang in there and stay the course. The results are worth it.

### Texas History

In Texas history, students are learning about three important disasters that took place in Texas. These are the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, Dust Bowl of the 1930's, and the Texas City Explosion in 1947. The information covered in this unit will help students prepare for their final exam essay called Texas Size Disasters which they will write during the week of April 23. All students received a calendar with test dates and a schedule of units to be covered for the remainder of the year. Ask your child for his/her calendar if you have not seen it!

## Eighth

### American History

We started off this spring semester by studying the development of the new U.S. government under the Constitution and the challenges faced by the new republic during the presidencies of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. We also covered the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the War of 1812. The students produced some wonderful projects on these topics!

We recently concluded our Expanding Nation Unit, which highlighted the westward expansion of the country from "sea to shining sea," the Industrial Revolution, the Mexican War, and the reform movements of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Several excellent projects were produced in this unit as well.

Now we're in our final unit of the year, the Civil War Unit, in which we'll examine this fascinating and tragic period of American History and the events leading up to it. Included in this unit, will be the writing of a document-based essay as part of the district semester exam. We'll also be preparing the students for the TAKS Social Studies exam coming up on April 20<sup>th</sup>! It's been a busy semester so far with no signs of slowing down as the kids wrap up their last year in Middle School and prepare for the next stage of their educational adventure!

# Rice Exam Schedule Spring 2007

## Monday, May 21

1<sup>st</sup> period review 8:30-9:40  
2<sup>nd</sup> period 9:44-10:05  
6<sup>th</sup> period exam 10:09-11:40  
4<sup>th</sup> period 11:44-1:10  
    A lunch 11:40-12:10 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
    B lunch 12:10-12:40 (7<sup>th</sup> grade classes, band, all PE)  
    C lunch 12:40-1:10 (8<sup>th</sup> grade classes, 7/8<sup>th</sup> electives)  
5<sup>th</sup> period review 1:14-2:30  
3<sup>rd</sup> period 2:34-3:00  
7<sup>th</sup> period 3:04-3:30

## Tuesday, May 22

2<sup>nd</sup> period review 8:30-9:40  
1<sup>st</sup> period exam 9:44-11:15  
6<sup>th</sup> period 11:19-12:45  
    A lunch 11:15-11:45 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
    B lunch 11:45-12:15 (7<sup>th</sup> grade classes and all PE)  
    C lunch 12:15-12:45 (8<sup>th</sup> grade, choir, orchestra)  
5<sup>th</sup> period exam 12:49-2:20  
4<sup>th</sup> period review 2:24-3:30

## Wednesday, May 23

3<sup>rd</sup> period review 8:30-9:40  
2<sup>nd</sup> period exam 9:44-11:15  
1<sup>st</sup> period 11:19-12:45  
    A lunch 11:15-11:45 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
    B lunch 11:45-12:15 (7<sup>th</sup> grade, all girls athletics, speech, theatre)  
    C lunch 12:15-12:45 (8<sup>th</sup> grade, life management)  
4<sup>th</sup> period exam 12:49-2:20  
7<sup>th</sup> period review 2:24-3:30

## Thursday, May 24 (Students are released at 12:40)

3<sup>rd</sup> period exam 8:30-10:00  
7<sup>th</sup> period exam/lunch 10:04-11:34 (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade)  
    10:04-11:04 (6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
6<sup>th</sup> grade lunch 11:04-11:34  
6<sup>th</sup> grade~5<sup>th</sup> period 11:38-12:40  
7<sup>th</sup> grade lunch 11:38-12:08  
7<sup>th</sup> grade~5<sup>th</sup> period 12:12-12:40  
8<sup>th</sup> grade~5<sup>th</sup> period 11:38-12:08  
8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch 12:12-12:40