

The Mitchell Report

September 2009

Principal: Rob Dyer

Assistant Principal: Kristina Davis-Troutman



James E. Mitchell
Elementary

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From the principal...

Dear Families,

Welcome back! Thank you for a great opening of the new school year! We have had a wonderful couple of weeks and are really enjoying being back with our kids! School opened very smoothly! The kids and staff were all excited to start the new year (even if there were a few groans about having to start getting up early again....me included!).

We also want to welcome all of our new students and their families to Mitchell! If you are new to Mitchell or new to the community, please let our office know. We will get you connected with our awesome PTA reps as well as with any other community resources or information you might be looking for. Our PTA and our office staff are always happy to help new families transition to Georgetown by providing information about the school, community, and by making a personal connection with you! Please let us know how we can help make you feel more welcome and comfortable in our outstanding community!

We also would like to welcome our new staff members to TEAM Mitchell! We added additional Bilingual staff in Kinder (Chantall Pena-Sosa), 1st (Jorge Figueroa) and 3rd (Rebecca Lambert), as well as a new regular ed 4th grade (Scott Huffman). We added three staff members to replace outgoing staff (Gabi Gustafson - Bil PK, Alesandro Romano - Bil 2nd, Jessica Burks - Special Ed, and Candie Mills who switched from 4th to Special Ed. We have a new bilingual PK aid (Nancy Morales), and a new special ed aid (Georgie Duke). We also added an additional special ed resource class, a reading interventionist (MaryEllen Krueger), a math interventionist (Susan Kruger), and a bilingual interventionist (Iza Stern). We're definitely growing! We are also excited to welcome Abigail Howell as our new Music teacher and Lesa Gurley as our second Art/Music teacher and Curriculum Coordinator and Integration Coach!

Mitchell students started the year off with a bang. You've probably seen the newspaper articles about the opening of school, the Mitchell staff rolling out the red

carpet for the students, the celebrations and other events. However, you may not have heard about GISD honoring former Music teacher Trish Douglas and the Mitchell Choir with the opportunity to perform in front of nearly two thousand GISD employees at the GISD back to school staff convocation. Our kids really shined! We will continue our grand tradition of doing things at a "World Class" level to benefit and spotlight our kids! Lots more excitement to come!

If you haven't visited Mitchell in a while, you'll find there are some new additions around the building, and some changes that are being made.

Last Spring and over the summer, we made various improvements to our campus. We were able to complete the first phase of the Fitness course that extends behind the school and around the track, which was also added around one of the soccer fields! The track is 1/8th of a mile long (which is standard for other elementary schools). We will continue adding more track "material" over time in order to connect the track to the various fitness stations. We also would like to add more fitness and playground equipment as funds are raised. Our parents and students are welcome to come and use the equipment after school hours and any time during the day on weekends/holidays.

We would like to thank our business partners for donating materials and other items to help continue the fitness course and also enhance other areas as well.

Texas Disposal Systems / Gardenville has donated mulch for flower beds and trees, Kiddie Mulch for the playground areas, brand new recycle bins for all classrooms, and materials for the new Fitness Course.

FT Woods donated the concrete used to install various types of the fitness equipment. McCoys and 84 Lumber donated lumber and materials for the fitness course fall zones. Affordable Signs provided signage for the course. Hill Country Tumble and Cheer & the City of Georgetown Parks and Rec provided technical assistance. Charles and Sheila Carter connected various volunteers, including Jesse Howell and his family with the project. Jesse coordi-

nated other scouts and families to provide the labor as part of his Eagle Scout project.

GISD Maintenance staff assisted with and completed parts of the course.

Lisa Dyer, of the Brown, Graham Company, CPA donated the additional materials and concrete needed to finish the projects. And, of course, Janet Mitchell (wife of Jim Mitchell), along with the Mitchell family, Partners in Ed and the Education Foundation provided the majority of the funding for the course.

We also want to thank our partners for taking care of our teachers and students during back to school events. Down the Alley Bistro, Mama Fu's, First Baptist Church and the Mitchell PTA provided breakfast and lunches for the Mitchell staff during staff development before school started back.

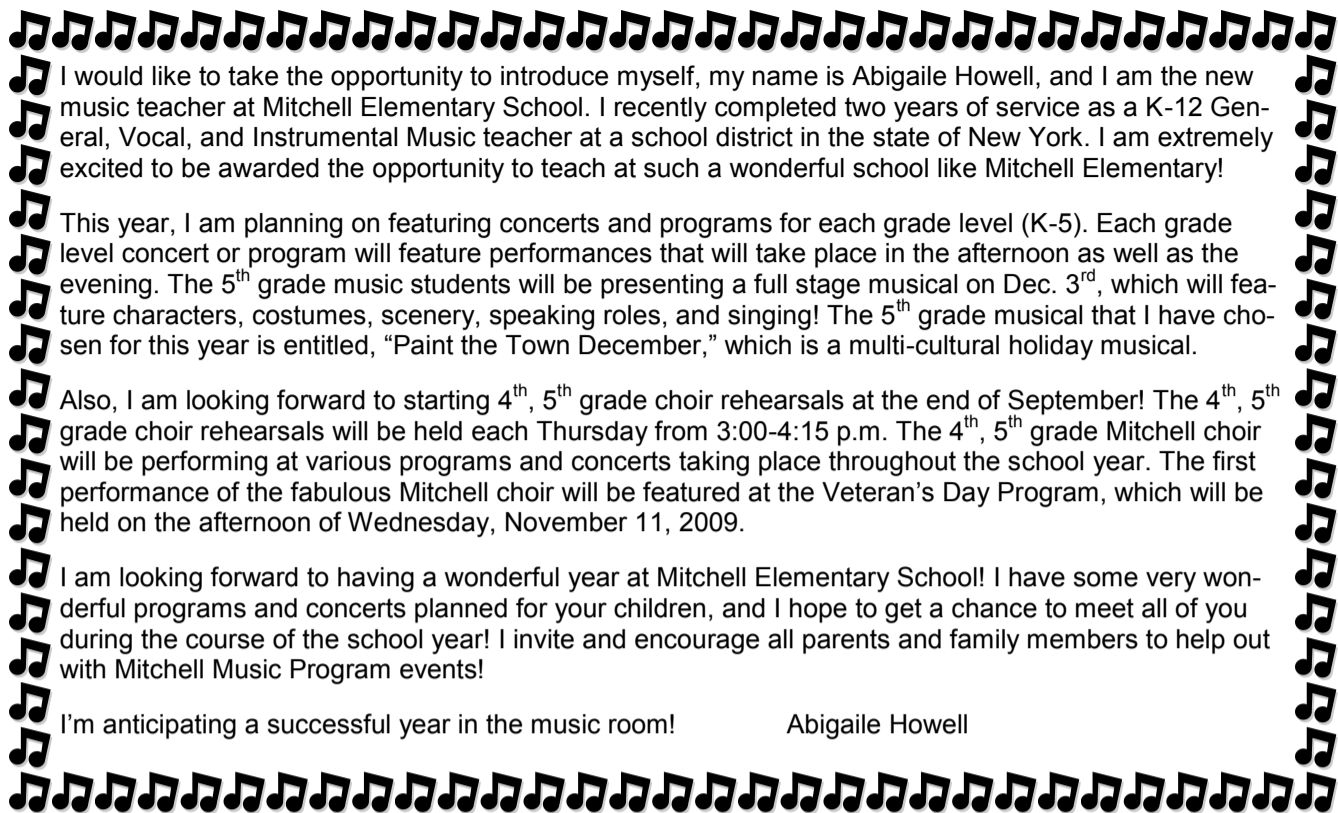
Of course, two of the most exciting additions are the new "EXEMPLARY" rated Texas Education Agency school banners that are hanging in the front Atrium and in the main hall. Based on our first day celebration, I'm sure you can see that we are pretty excited about the upcoming possibilities!

Due to our growing need for space, GISD's Board of Trustees voted to expand Mitchell with eight additional classrooms! This will give us adequate space for our additional homerooms and specials / intervention / special education classes. We are very grateful to our Superintendent and to our School Board for their support. They are committed to finding permanent and long term solutions to our growth, and their vote to expand Mitchell with was a show of confidence and support in the Mitchell staff and community. We'll be cramped for this year, and of course there will be construction that students, parents and staff will have to work around. However, we are all committed to making sure quality instruction continues and school safety needs are met at all costs.

Again, thank you for your support! Lots of exciting things to come!

Thanks, Rob Dyer

Please return completed student directory forms to school by Tues., Sept. 15th



I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself, my name is Abigaile Howell, and I am the new music teacher at Mitchell Elementary School. I recently completed two years of service as a K-12 General, Vocal, and Instrumental Music teacher at a school district in the state of New York. I am extremely excited to be awarded the opportunity to teach at such a wonderful school like Mitchell Elementary!

This year, I am planning on featuring concerts and programs for each grade level (K-5). Each grade level concert or program will feature performances that will take place in the afternoon as well as the evening. The 5th grade music students will be presenting a full stage musical on Dec. 3rd, which will feature characters, costumes, scenery, speaking roles, and singing! The 5th grade musical that I have chosen for this year is entitled, "Paint the Town December," which is a multi-cultural holiday musical.

Also, I am looking forward to starting 4th, 5th grade choir rehearsals at the end of September! The 4th, 5th grade choir rehearsals will be held each Thursday from 3:00-4:15 p.m. The 4th, 5th grade Mitchell choir will be performing at various programs and concerts taking place throughout the school year. The first performance of the fabulous Mitchell choir will be featured at the Veteran's Day Program, which will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 11, 2009.

I am looking forward to having a wonderful year at Mitchell Elementary School! I have some very wonderful programs and concerts planned for your children, and I hope to get a chance to meet all of you during the course of the school year! I invite and encourage all parents and family members to help out with Mitchell Music Program events!

I'm anticipating a successful year in the music room! Abigaile Howell

Upcoming Mitchell Events:	
Th. Sept . 10	Open House 6:30-7:00pm and 7:15pm - 7:45pm
Th. Sept . 10	Watch DOGS Pizza Night 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Sept. 11 - 18	Mitchell PTA Fund Drive
Sept. 22	Picture Day
Mo. Sept. 28	Book Fair Begins
Th. Oct. 1	Literacy Night/Book Fair Fundraising Drive Award Drawing 6:30pm-7:30pm
Fr. Oct. 2	Book Fair Ends Fall Cookout
Oct. 9 and Oct. 12	NO SCHOOL!!
Tu. Oct. 9	CiCi's Pizza Night 3:00pm - 9:00pm

Physical Education and Health

This year our coaches are Lori Corse, Lori Esch and Marla Shell. Coach Corse returns to Mitchell with 20 years of teaching experience. Coach Esch comes to us from Williams Elem. with 16 years of experience. Coach Shell comes to us from Frost Elem. with 16 years of experience. We are so excited to have both of them!

We look forward to helping your children learn about the importance of and practice physical fitness and good nutrition! Students in grades K-5 have P.E. everyday and, Pre-K students come twice each week. Grades will be based on participation and behavior.

Please send a note if your child needs to be excused from activity for any reason. Also, please help us insure your student's safety and success by:

- making sure that they wear tennis shoes or rubber soled shoes with a strap or closed back---no flip flops please
- making certain that shorts are worn under dresses
- making certain that students dress appropriately for the weather

Please contact us if you have any questions! We hope you all have a great school year! The Coaches

Our Book Fair is Coming!!

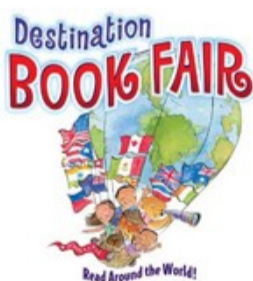
The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way!

At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as book s of interest to parents.

Mark your calendar for our Family Event where the whole family can join in the fun. And, you can contribute books to your child's classroom library.

The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading. See you there!

If you would like to volunteer to help at the book fair, please contact our librarian, Amy Heil at 512-943-1823 or email her at heila@georgetownisd.org. You can decorate and set up, help kids select books, or help pack up.



Schedule:

- Mon, Sept 28 8:00am-4:00pm
- Tues, Sept 29 8:00am-4:00pm
- Wed, Sept 30 8:00am-4:00pm
- Thurs, Oct 1 8:00am-7:30pm Family Night
- Fri, Oct 2 8:00am-2:00pm

WATCH D.O.G.S.

(Dads of Great Students) are fathers, grandfathers, uncles and other father figures who volunteer at least one day each year assisting with security, traffic flow, mentoring students, playing at recess and other activities where they actively engage with not only their own children, but other students as well.



Join us Thurs. Sept 10 from 7:00 - 8:00 in the cafeteria to learn more information about this program. Contact Philip Gutierrez at watchdogs@mitchellpta.com or call (512) 591-7044 if you are interested in volunteering for the program.

FALL COOKOUT!



The fall cookout will take place during school lunchtimes on Fri. Oct. 2nd. If you are free to help us serve students and their families, please contact us. You can volunteer for a short time or for the entire lunch period.

Please email volunteers@mitchellpta.com or call Veronica Zermeno at 512-630-5514.