



July 5, 2009

Dear Parents, Staff, Students, and Community Members:

This was another tremendous year for Durham Elementary. We saw large academic gains in all grade levels. We were an Academically Acceptable campus in 2007, Recognized in 2008, and preliminary results support that we will be an Exemplary campus in 2009!

This year we expanded our Gifted and Talented program under the direction of Ms. Kaminski and Ms. Welker. Our students worked on digital storytelling, PowerPoint reports, and our 4th Grade GT students went to Bayou Bend once a month to discover habitat exploration. Once again we participated in the Art Car parade with our new theme of, "Space Rocks." Our Cinco De Mayo Committee created Durham's first ever Cinco De Mayo Celebration and participated in the downtown parade.

We continued to build on our partnerships with both Urban Harvest and Bayou Bend. Urban Harvest expanded its partnership by working with all classrooms and our Young Leaders in Action. The MFA at Bayou Bend also expanded its partnership with a successful collaboration between our Science Program and the curator of their gardens. As the days of summer wind down we turn our attention to the upcoming 2009 – 2010 school year. First, join me in welcoming four new staff members who will be joining us in the fall:

Kristen Stephenson, 2nd Grade
Brenda Coats, 3rd Grade
Whitney Nicholson, Special Education Resource
Carolyn James, Art

We are also proud of all the facility improvements that have taken place this year. We have a brand new state of the art HVAC system. Our facility improvements have included a strong commitment to fine arts with the completion of our kiln installation and dance/karate studio. Recently we have finalized plans to put a sink in the art room and to create a multipurpose PE room by removing the wall between our temporary buildings and adding new flooring. Other plans include adding air conditioning to our bathrooms, and video cameras to improve security.

We are always looking for volunteers and new ideas, and together we can continue to make a difference in the lives of our children. Please feel free to call us at (713) 613-2527, email, or stop by any time. My office door is open to all of you and I hope to continue building strong relationships with students, parents, staff, and community members. I look forward to another fantastic year for Durham in 2009 – 2010!

Sincerely,

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