

Dear Parents,

9/24/07

I am pleased to announce a new component to our school wide PBIS system for the elementary grades. We developed the "Passport" system to have a more concrete and developmentally appropriate way of rewarding students who follow the school wide behavior expectations. Each student will receive their Passport this week. They will keep them in school or in their assignment books. Students will be rewarded for positive behavior by receiving "stamps" in their booklets.

If a student engages in a major behavior as defined by our behavior matrix they will need to turn in their passport, develop a learning plan and earn it back. Having a "Passport" will allow student entrance into various activities and privileges throughout the elementary school. Learning Plans will be developed with the person who witnessed the behavior and be a series of developmentally appropriate activities to teach a more appropriate behavior.

PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports is a school wide initiative to support and promote positive school culture and behavior. Ellis School is in the 4th year of implementing such a program. The program consists of a systematic approach to teaching positive behaviors, using data collected on behavior tracking forms to make informed decisions about school climate, resources needed, and progress. PBIS sets forth school wide common behavior expectations, an opportunity to re-teach appropriate behaviors and even more importantly an opportunity to reward positive behavior.

In the past, students received Ellis Bucks, and Tokens. This practice will continue for targeted behavior interventions, such as walking on the right side of the hallway. Our first Passport event will be the end of October! Our first token event will be the week of October 8th.

The week of 10/1/07 Ellis will be hosting PBIS information nights. Please join us for a more complete understanding of our system, how it promotes positive behaviors and school climate, the connection to consequences and discipline and to gain an understanding of positive developmentally appropriate practices.

The first meeting will be Monday October 1 at 6:30 PM for grades Kindergarten, one and two. Grades three and four will be October 9th at 6:30 PM.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

Thank You,

Dawn Lewis
Elementary Principal

