

Views Around The Lake by Cindy Klopsteck

"I want to go up, up up. I want to go away, away." --Jane from "See It Go", The World of Dick and Jane and Friends.

123 children enrolled in the Wintermann Library's summer "Sail Away with Books" have been picking up their reading logs in completion of the reading program.

Summer is over; school is starting. If they met their reading goal, they get to shop at the library's special store and pick out a prize.

In years to come, the children will grow into young adults with

hopefully continued appreciation of the written word and realization that their real "prize" that summer of '07 was in forming an early love of reading.

New and regrettable statistics from a recent Associated Press survey revealed that one in four adults had read no books last year - not one.

Just a little more than 40% of American readers absorbed between one and five books in the past year.

Book sales are down, many analysts say due mainly to the internet and other media. Maybe

we also need adult reading incentives.

I've got two that are coincidentally a very present reality. Very locally, Eagle Lake's Study Club is holding its annual fund raising benefit in September, which benefits the Wintermann Library.

The Study Club sponsors interesting and educational programs throughout the year. Area locally, the 5th annual Houston Books on the Bayou kicks off September 8th with this year's reading selection just announced - Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya.

Houston-area activities include discussion groups at libraries and bookstores and screening of a documentary on author Anaya's successful career.

I've attended various Books on the Bayou activities in the past and have found them to be both enjoyable and informative - plus you get the opportunity to meet and join in discussions with other avid readers.

In encouraging childhood interest in reading, Patti Holloway, who happens to also be the Study Club president, reads to children ages 3-school age every Tuesday morning at the Wintermann Library.

Day care centers bring their children, and the sessions are also open to any parents bringing and sitting with their appropriate-age children. A good story is shared with the little listeners and a game is usually enjoyed.

When visiting the library this week, I spoke with Ms. Patty, as she is affectionately called by many of the children, about the "Dick and Jane" reading series.

The library has two books in the series - The World of Dick and Jane and Friends and The Story Book Treasury of Dick and Jane and Friends. Learning to read with Dick and Jane is a favorite reading memory of mine.

The simple repetitive wording and pictures formed an interest in the written word for many youngsters in the 50's and early 60's.

I was very pleased when visiting my granddaughter recently to see someone had given her a copy of one of the books in the Dick and Jane series.


There are so many colorful, educational books now published for children, but how satisfying to know that good simple books from the past have come full circle in teaching young children the appreciation of storytelling.

Embracing Jane's quote at the beginning of this article, I can only hope that someone will always be around to tell her and every other child that reading a book is the fastest and most enjoyable way to be taken "up and away" to places far beyond their wildest dreams.

And, as many adults - but hopefully more - will realize, you are never too old to "sail away with books".

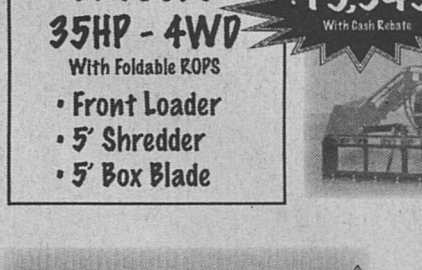
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Rice CISD Meal Plan For 2007-2008 Year

Children need healthy meals to learn. Rice Consolidated ISD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs: Pre-K thru 5 - \$1.25, Grades 6 thru 12 - \$1.50; Lunch costs: Pre-K thru 5, - \$2.00, Grades 6 thru 12 - \$2.25. Your children may qualify for free meals or reduced-price meals. Reduced price: breakfast \$.30 and lunch \$.40.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced-price meals. Use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure

to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Cafeteria Manager on campus or school office.

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

3. Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals? Please call Jennifer Korenek or Bill Hefner to see if your child(ren) qualify, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.

4. Who can get reduced price meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.

5. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced-price meals? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 979-234-3531 x 1033 if you have questions.

6. I get WIC. Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out an application.

7. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

8. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced-price meals.

9. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Mr. Michael Lanier, P. O. Box 338, Altair, TX 77412, ph: 979-234-3531.

10. May I apply if someone in

my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

11. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.

12. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get over-time, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

13. We are in the military, do we include our housing allowance as income? If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

If you have other questions or need help, call 979-234-3531 x 1033. Si necesita ayuda, por favor llame al teléfono: 979-234-3531. Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 979-234-3531.

Los niños necesitan comida nutritiva para aprender. Rice Consolidated ISD ofrece comidas nutritivas todos los días escolares. El desayuno cuesta \$1.25 para los grados Pre-K - 5 y \$1.50 para los grados 6 - 12; y lunch de medio día cuesta \$2.00 para los grados Pre-K - 5 y \$2.25 para los grados 6 - 12. Posiblemente sus hijos califican para recibir comidas gratuitas o a precio reducido. El precio reducido es de \$.30 para el desayuno y \$.40 para el almuerzo.

1. ¿Es necesario llenar una solicitud para cada niño? No. Complete la forma para solicitar comidas gratis o a precio reducido. Use una solicitud para todos los estudiantes en su hogar. Asegúrese de llenar la solicitud con toda la información requerida ya que no podemos aprobar solicitudes incompletas. Devuelva la solicitud completa a: El Director del cafeteria en el campus o educa la oficina.

2. ¿Quién puede recibir comidas gratis? Niños en hogares que reciben Cupones para Alimentos o TANF y la mayoría de los menores bajo lasupervisión de servicios sociales pueden recibir comidas gratis sin importar sus ingresos. También si su ingreso familiar está dentro de los límites de laTabla Federal de Ingresos, sus niños pueden recibir comidas gratis.

3. ¿Pueden los niños sin hogar, niños que han abandonado su hogar y niños emigrantes recibir comidas gratis? Si no le han informado quesus hijos recibirán comidas gratis, por favor comuníquese con: Jennifer Korenek or Bill Hefner para verificar si sus hijos califican.

4. ¿Quién puede recibir comidas a precio reducido? Sus hijos

pueden recibir comidas a precio reducido si su ingreso familiar está dentro de loslímites de la Tabla Federal de Ingresos mostrada en esta solicitud.

5. ¿Debo llenar una solicitud si este año escolar recibí una carta que dice que mis hijos fueron aprobados para comidas gratis o a precio

reducido? Por favor, lea la carta que recibió y siga las instrucciones. Llame a la escuela al 979-234-3531 si tiene preguntas.

6. Yo recibo WIC. ¿Pueden mis hijos recibir comidas gratis? Niños en hogares que participan en WIC podrían ser elegibles para recibir comidas

gratis o a precio reducido. Por favor llene una solicitud.

7. ¿Será verificada la información que yo provea? Sí, nosotros podríamos pedirle que envíe prueba escrita de la información provista.

8. Si yo no califico ahora ¿puedo solicitar más tarde? Sí. Usted puede solicitar en cualquier momento durante el año escolar si el tamaño de sufamilia aumenta, sus ingresos disminuyen, o si comienza a recibir Cupones para Alimentos o TANF. Si usted pierde su trabajo, sus niños podríanrecibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido durante el tiempo que usted esté sin empleo.

9. ¿Qué pasa si no estoy de acuerdo con la decisión de la escuela con respecto a mi solicitud? Usted deberá hablar con los oficiales de laescuela. También podría solicitar una audiencia ya sea llamando o escribiendo a: Mr. Michael Lanier, P. O. Box 338, Altair, TX 77412; ph: 979-234-3531.

10. ¿Puedo solicitar aunque alguien en mi hogar no sea ciudadano americano? Sí. Ni usted ni sus niños necesitan ser ciudadanos americanospara recibir comidas gratis o a precio reducido.

11. ¿A quienes tengo que incluir como miembros de mi familia? Usted debe incluir a todas las personas que vivan en su hogar aunque no seanparientes suyos (por ejemplo, abuelos, otros parientes o amigos). Usted también debe incluirse a si mismo y a todos los niños que viven con usted.

12. ¿Qué pasa si mi ingreso no es siempre igual? Anote la cantidad que usted recibe regularmente. Por ejemplo, si usted normalmente recibe\$1000 al mes pero se ausentó al trabajo el mes pasado y solo recibió \$900, anote que usted recibe \$1000 al mes. Si usted generalmente cobra porhoras extras de trabajo incluya esa cantidad, pero no es necesario incluirla si solo trabaja horas extras a veces.

13. Nosotros estamos en el servicio militar, ¿debemos incluir nuestro subsidio para vivienda como parte de nuestro ingreso? Si su viviendaes parte de la Iniciativa de Privatización de Viviendas para Militares usted no necesita incluir el subsidio para vivienda como parte de su ingreso. Otros complementos deben ser incluidos como parte de su ingreso.

Si usted tiene otras preguntas, por favor llame al: 979-234-3531.

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500-600 lbs	106-116	98-105
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2	25,327	2,111	488
3	31,765	2,648	611
4	38,203	3,184	735
5	44,641	3,721	859
6	51,079	4,257	983
7	57,517	4,794	1,107
8	63,955	5,330	1,230
Each additional person:	6,438	537	124

Tamaño de la familia	Anual	Mensual	Semanal
1	18,889	1,575	364
2	25,327	2,111	488
3	31,765	2,648	611
4	38,203	3,184	735
5	44,641	3,721	859
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Cada persona adicional:	6,438	537	124