

FEBRUARY 11, 2018 - DOSS ALUMNI COFFEE

I am having a coffee for any previous staff members and any adult former students. I will inform these Doss Alumni about the Doss transition to Read and re-model. I will ask for their input and suggestions for preserving our Doss history and culture. Please spread the word! Doss Alumni Coffee – March 1st 8:00-9:00 am in the Doss Jane Willis Library.

FEBRUARY 5, 2018 - DOSS REMODEL AND RELOCATION UPDATE

Stantec and Barlett Cocke are the design/ build team for the Doss/Murchison Remodel. The Doss CAT team will be working closely with them very soon to frame the design of our new modernized school. We will start with the current rough model provided by the bridge design team and include the values of the Doss staff and Community as we look to build a state of the art, modern elementary school. Last week, I was able to visit a new elementary school in Round Rock called Joe Lee Johnson Elementary. It was great to see what a modern design can look and feel like in the elementary school setting. We are very excited about this process and we are looking forward to the end result –Doss Elementary 2.0.

We will have bus service in the neighborhood next year. Your kids can ride the bus to and from Lucy Read. Also, we anticipate having the same slate of after school programs that are currently offered at Doss. Questions or suggestions? Contact me at janna.griffin@austinisd.org

JANUARY 15, 2018 - DOSS RELOCATION UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have all been waiting on the decision as to where ALL of our students will be next year. It was first reported to us that 4th and 5th grades will be at Murchison Middle School while Pre-K - 3rd will be at Lucy Read. Upon hearing this, the Doss staff requested that all staff and students be placed on one campus if at all possible. The district responded by working towards this goal and I am happy to announce that **ALL Doss students will be at Lucy Read next fall!** The staff is very excited and relieved to know that we will all be together!!!

Once at Lucy Read, you will have the same Doss staff, with the same Doss traditions, in a new location. There will be bumps, but together we will navigate those with a positive, problem solving attitude.

I know one of your first questions is regarding transportation. We will have district provided transportation to Lucy Read. I do not yet know exactly what this will look like but I do have a meeting on Tuesday to work with the transportation department. Also, I plan to invite the AISD transportation department to our February Parent Principal Coffee. Stay tuned for that.

Another important parental concern is after school care. We are working on that after school plan at this time and I plan to send you a draft of that schedule in March, after spring break.

We will work towards a positive transition for all kids and families. I will visit Lucy Read at some point in the next two weeks so that I can get a lay of the land. While being respectful of the Lucy Read staff, we will work towards some various ways to introduce our community to the campus.

We will have our own Pre-K classes at Doss. The AISD Pre-K program is two-fold: A) students who qualify by language need, economic qualification, or military service qualification and B) students who are "tuition based". We are looking to fill two classes of Pre-K next year. If you believe that you may qualify or if you are interested in the tuition based option, please contact Pat Minford at 512-414-2365.

We will need to have 11 tuition based students in order to make that second class. We already have six participants so we just need five more! Spread the word about this great option for our 4 year old

Doss Owls. Tuition based application need to be completed within the next two weeks. Again, **Pre-K tuition based applications are due on Friday, January 26th.**

Last week, I was able to sit in on interviews for the Design/Build team that will take the project moving forward. It was so exciting to see their level of expertise, hear about the awards that they have won, see the schools that they have designed, and talk about how we can work together. The firms that are bidding for our project are top notch, well respected, and have lots of experience building high quality, modern schools. This firm will be announced after it is approved by the board and then they will hit the ground running! The new team will take the pre-design work that we have already done and move that vision forward. The Doss Design Team (now called the CAT) and the CAC are two groups that will be interfacing with the Build/Design team regularly as will I.

I will be meeting with all of the AISD department heads on Tuesday to discuss the move and how each department can support Doss. Also, at the end of the month, I will be visiting Joe Lee Johnson Elementary to see their newly designed modern school. When you see a fully modernized school, it is very easy to get excited about this challenging process. The end result is going to be amazing!

In February, I will have an alumni breakfast. This breakfast is for anyone adult who has attended Doss or worked at Doss in the past. I will update the alumni on the Doss Relocation and Modernization process and then take feedback/suggestions. Our Alumni are an important part of the Doss history and need to be part of this process.

I am super excited to be part of the process of redesigning and modernizing Doss Elementary. I will no longer have adults come into our building and say "I went to school here when I was a kid and it hasn't changed a bit!" And, no more wood paneling!

We will build on the history and values of our community/staff while building an amazing, modernized, learning facility for our kids.

If you have any questions or suggestions for me, please email me at janna.griffin@austinisd.org. I encourage you to attend parent principal coffees this spring (or tune in to our live PPC feeds on Facebook) and visit Principal Griffin on Facebook for regular updates. Of course, I will also send updates through Living Tree.

Thanks for your ongoing support, suggestions, and positivity!!! Together we can make this a smooth, positive and exciting experience for our kids. After all, it's all about the kids!!!

JANUARY 10, 2018 - DOSS MODERNIZATION

I am participating in interviews this week for the Contractor and Design team for the Doss remodel. That team should be on board by February 1st. We will plan a community meeting in late February to talk with that team about the construction process. We are still waiting to know if ALL of Doss will be at Lucy Read. We should have that information in the next two weeks. Teachers are boxing up all completed curriculum. We could use moving boxes and tape!

DECEMBER 19, 2017 - HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

There are lots of great things going on here at Doss Elementary every day. I am very proud of the work by our staff and teachers to create a positive learning environment every single student.

Regarding the move to Lucy Read, we have asked the district if all of Doss Elementary could attend Lucy Read (instead of sending 4th and 5th to MMS). There are several obstacles to this proposal but the district is working to see if they can make that happen. We will get final word by the end of January. I will let you know as soon as I know!

NOVEMBER 13, 2017 - MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As you now know, the bond passed! I am so thrilled that the expansion and modernization of Doss Elementary is one of the first projects that will be tackled by the district. The Doss Project includes new classrooms to accommodate our growing population, modernization of the existing campus, flexible work spaces for students and teachers, and updated technology all in a two-story design. The new classroom additions will allow us to have all of our Doss Elementary homeroom classes under one roof! Now, that is exciting!

For the Doss addition and modernization project, the consultants and the district have discussed completing it in phases or doing it all at once. The phase model of the renovation would require significantly more time – an estimated 3-4 years – and would cost substantially more. Instead, we are going with a faster, more cost effective approach. This will require all Doss students to move to another location during the renovation so that the modernization and addition will only take an estimated three school semesters.

During the renovation, Doss Pre-K through 3rd grade students will be housed at the Lucy Read Pre-Kindergarten Campus (located at 2608 Richcreek Rd.) while 4th and 5th grades will be in portables at Murchison Middle School. This would begin in the fall of 2018. The Doss 4th and 5th graders will be completely separated from the rest of MMS. They will have their own portable cafeteria, gym, and library. Our Doss students will not be intermingled with the MMS students.

I am in the process of developing a FAQ that will be sent out to parents and posted on the Doss PTA website. This will be regularly updated as more information and details are available. I am meeting with district officials this Friday to gather more information and to have the campus questions answered. The Doss CAC will meet with district officials on November 27th in order to gain further details about the project. At the December 1st Parent Principal Coffee, we will spend time updating everyone on what we currently know about the plan and take all questions. MMS Principal Bradly Clark will also be in attendance.

I know you have lots of questions and I want to address as many of those as I can. To this point, I am having a parent meeting this Wednesday, November 15th from 12:00-1:00 pm in the Doss library. I will also live stream this meeting and you can join us via Facebook. You will be able to ask questions via Facebook comments, and I will do my best to answer them as we progress through the meeting.

We are focused on making this transition as smooth as possible while continuing to provide your kids with the high quality, well-rounded educational experience that is expected from Doss Elementary.

NOVEMBER 8, 2017 – BOND PASSED...NOW WHAT?

The Bond passed! We are so grateful for your support. Thank you! Now what?

Today we met with the district's construction management team and they confirmed that the Doss/Murchison project is in the **first** group of projects for this bond. This is exciting news! All of the pre-planning and design work will continue to be pressed forward quickly. The Murchison and Doss

projects will be combined into one project for efficiency purposes. We will share one contractor and construction will advance simultaneously.

The Project Overview for Doss is:

- Comprehensive re-build to a modernized school
- Right-size Doss to meet the enrollment needs

The Project Overview for MMS is:

- Build a 6th grade center to relieve the overcrowded building (phase 1 of this bond)
- Relocation of administrative offices and library (phase 2 of this bond)

We are starting now!

- Surveyors and soil borings (soil samples) will begin within weeks. This data will be used to inform the design decision.
- We will meet with the Pre-Design Architect next week to progress the concepts for the Design-Build Team.
- The Design-Build Team selection process will start next week and continue through January with Principal inclusion.

We are also excited for the Hill Elementary project which will be part of this bond as well. This is great news for our community, our kids, and our campuses. We are all excited about moving forward, and there are many questions about the project that will need to address. We will communicate regularly with you throughout this process and will provide you with information as soon as it becomes available to us. Thanks again for supporting the AISD bond!