



Photo by Suzi Issa

PTA members showed off their school pride designing and painting the Exley Express train as part of the Katy Heritage Society's All Aboard Katy public art project

Exley Elementary School

Roaring to success *Written by Kenzie Stanfield | Select Photos Courtesy of Exley Elementary*

As you walk through the doors at Exley Elementary, you can see the school overflowing with life and learning. The walls of the entryway don an oversized train engine, similar to that of the school's mascot the Exley Express, which is full of smiling children. The teachers in the hall all wear the same big smiles. It seems clear this Katy ISD campus, rated Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency, offers students a dynamic and engaging environment.

Spirit of Excellence

Jo Ella Exley Elementary first opened its doors in fall 2004 and has been serving parents and children of the surrounding neighborhoods for the past seven years. The school has maintained its Exemplary status

with the Texas Education Agency for the last six years and plans for that to be one of many traditions to continue. A true spirit of excellence guides the teachers and staff.

With "roaring to success" as its campus motto, the school quickly works its way into the hearts of new students and parents, just as it has with current and former ones. "We absolutely love the school and the staff," says Heather Thompson, mom of Exley student Garrett Thompson. "We can't say enough great things about Exley!"

Conducting Success

Principal Imelda Medrano leads the way toward great achievement as the conductor of this successful school. She truly loves

the students she serves and is thankful for an amazing staff and supportive parents. "The caliber of students we're serving is just outstanding," she says. "Parents are super involved [and] the staff goes above and beyond. They are all a true joy to work with!"

Her specific goal for the school encompasses meeting each child's individual needs; the broader goal is to provide a rich educational experience in the classroom. Technology grants and other programs provide students with diverse learning tools during school hours. For example, science enrichment occurs in each grade level and combines parental involvement with hands-on activity labs.



Amy LaMont's fourth-grade students sport tie dye shirts for a class photo



Exley's top fundraisers in the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart events, which helped bring in more than \$27,000 for the American Heart Association

All Aboard the Exley Express

As a medium-sized Katy elementary school, Exley boasts a sizeable and involved PTA membership. The campus is especially proud of being the only school in the community to have taken part in the Katy Heritage Society's All Aboard Katy! public art project. In 2010, the Exley Elementary PTA sponsored a large nine-foot-long, six-foot-tall fiberglass locomotive as part of the project.

The train, which is proudly displayed outside of the school, was designed and painted by PTA members to represent the various aspects of the campus. It is currently one of seven throughout the community. "The goal of this project is to unify and connect all the parts of the Katy area with each other and our history," said Katy Heritage Society Executive Director Carol Adams at the dedication ceremony. "You'll see the trains and know you are in Katy."

Training Tomorrow's Leaders

Outside of the classroom, extracurricular activities abound and there seems to be something for every student. Whether it's music, language, philanthropy, or art, all kids have an opportunity to interact and learn about their world. Destination Imagination recently sent two teams to compete at the state level. Knit Kids, Scrabble Squad, and the Exley Press are just a few of the groups that can be found meeting before or after school.

Students and staff members also focus much time on giving back to others. When the campus hosted its seventh annual Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart events, Exley students raised an astounding \$27,352 for the American Heart Association for local heart and health education. They ranked first in the state and fifth nationally for total dollars raised.

Another activity, new this past year and unique to Exley, is a fourth- and fifth-grade marimba band called Fara Bango. Formed by teachers Sabrina Silva and Jerry Manto, the ensemble has performed at various district events, as well as the school carnival and Katy Relay for Life. Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart, along with Fara Bango are just two concrete examples of the dedicated and creative culture found at this top-notch elementary school. There is no doubt this school is helping students roar to success. **KM**

KENZIE STANFIELD is a mother of four and wife to her high school sweetheart Dusty. She enjoys time with her family and friends and documenting life through her family blog.

Get to know Exley Elementary

Mascot

The Exley Express

Colors

Silver, red, and black

Opened

2004

Principal

Imelda Medrano

Associate Principal

Dr. Maria Fondon

Assistant Principals

Ranesia Edwards and
Karen Raymond

Phone Number

281-370-0990

Location

21800 Westheimer Pkwy.

Motto

Roaring to Success

Enrollment

1,070 students



SERVICES START AT
\$69/mo.



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& Mail Service
Meeting & Conference Rooms

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