

# Weekly High Five

November 18, 2008

The Board held a special work session last Thursday to discuss scheduling options, including block scheduling at the high school level and teaming at the junior high level. Block scheduling options presented include the current A/B block with reduced teacher conference periods, a traditional seven period day, a hybrid of block and traditional schedules, and the current A/B block with an increased staffing formula. The Board asked staff to provide more information about the current A/B block with reduced conference periods and the hybrid block option at this week's Board meeting. Junior high teaming options presented include eliminating team planning periods and adjusting the staffing formula. Staff will also share more information about the junior high teaming concept at Thursday's meeting. The public is invited to share their views on the scheduling options in the open forum. Also discussed at last week's Board work session was the appointment of a bond committee. After lengthy discussion, a motion was made to appoint a committee but was not seconded; the motion failed.

The principals' meeting last Thursday was very informative. Collaborating with special education counselors, diagnosticians and LSSPs was important to the discussion regarding ARDs. The handouts and exercises to determine TAKS testing levels will help you when making these decisions on your campus. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you may have. Central office staff is here as a resource to help you.



Hill Elementary and Bailey Junior High celebrated their 40th anniversaries last week. Hill's celebration featured a speech by former student Aaron Pierce, who went on to become valedictorian of Arlington High School and a missionary in Brazil. The celebration at Bailey included a slideshow of memorable photos from the past 40 years. Congratulations on the milestones!

I want to congratulate all of our talented athletes and dedicated coaches involved with fall sports. District tennis, cross country, volleyball and football teams had very successful seasons. Lamar's tennis team advanced to the regional meet. All six high schools had athletes advance to the regional cross country meet, and Lamar's Jeff Arnier competed in the state meet this past Saturday. Arlington, Lamar, Martin and Seguin volleyball teams advanced to the playoffs. In their first trip to the playoffs, Seguin advanced to the Class 4A Region 1 semifinal Friday where they fell to No. 1 Hereford. Football playoffs began last week. Martin fell to Burlison in the first round, but Arlington, Bowie and Seguin continue play this weekend. Good luck!

Jerry McCullough  
AISD Interim Superintendent

## Principal Advisory Council Meeting Overview

We had a very successful PAC meeting today. We shared goals, priorities and current issues. The PAC also discussed ways to ensure staff development meets the needs of the campuses. The agenda for the Dec. 11 principals' meeting was set. One counselor from each campus and restart managers are invited to ensure that everyone is on the same page. It is important that we market the school district to the community, so be sure to submit any good news items or upcoming events to Good News in FirstClass.

## Did you know?

Representatives from the International Baccalaureate Organization were in town last week for meetings at Lamar and Sam Houston high schools. After successful meetings, Lamar and Sam Houston will continue the application process to become IB World Schools.

## Bit of Inspiration

"When you counsel people, you work on their weaknesses. When you equip people, you work on their strengths."

*-John Maxwell, Motivational Speaker & Author*

"Happiness=Connection. Happiness is more than just that smiley feeling. It's also feeling a connection to something larger than yourself. When people are in service to something bigger, they describe their lives as filled with meaning. It's not the smiley face, but when it's all over, you realize you'd do it again."

*-Karen Reivich, Positive Psychology Researcher & Lecturer*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Nov. 16-22: American Education Week
- Nov. 17: Begin third grading period
- Nov. 19: Education Support Professionals Day
- Nov. 20: School board meeting; National Parental Involvement Day
- Nov. 21: Report cards distributed
- Nov. 23-29: National Family Week
- Nov. 26: Staff development/student holiday
- Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 27-28: Staff/student holiday



# Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

*More Than a Remarkable Education*