

Weekly High Five

December 2, 2008

I hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving. I certainly enjoyed too much wonderful food. Although my Baylor Bears weren't able to pull off the upset win over Tech, it was still a nice long weekend filled with football and family.

Football playoffs continued this past weekend, with Arlington and Bowie suffering tough losses at the hands of strong opponents. I want to congratulate all of the dedicated athletes and coaches for outstanding seasons. Our athletic programs are just one more example of how collaborative teaming and effective communication positively affect the success of our students.



Fine arts groups throughout the district are preparing festive holiday concerts and entertaining shows. These talented students and teachers have spent many hours rehearsing to bring you these wonderful performances. Be sure to show your support. For the calendar, click on the Fine Arts Events link on the AISD Web site.

With benchmarks this week, I encourage you to use the data provided by these tests to frame lesson plans and differentiate instruction. The data provided by benchmarks is a valuable tool to examine current strategies and make adjustments based on the needs of students. Don't hesitate to contact central office for any assistance or suggestions on how to maximize the use of the data.

The personnel department is developing a staff attrition plan at the Board's request. An advisory committee – including administrators, program administrators, principals, teachers and teacher associations – will begin meeting soon and will give valuable input during this process. We will be sharing more information with you as it becomes available.

As I continue my campus visits, I am impressed with the level of instruction taking place in classrooms. I truly appreciate the creative lessons taking place in our schools. Keep up the good work!

Jerry McCullough
AISD Interim Superintendent

Upcoming Meetings

The PAC has set the agenda for the next principals' meeting. One counselor from each campus and restart managers have been invited to attend the meeting next week. We will discuss goals and the strategies we will use to meet those goals.

On Dec. 8, there will be a planning committee meeting to set the course on vertical alignment. Their work will help ensure our success with this important goal.

News to Note

There is a regularly scheduled Board meeting this Thursday.

- The Board will discuss the possibility of future elections. At the Nov. 6 meeting, there was discussion regarding the appointment of a bond committee and approval of a charge to the committee, but the Board took no action.
- Also on the agenda is a discussion of standardized dress. The administration will share information and survey results garnered from neighboring districts, AISD principals and additional resources.
- Board meetings are broadcast live on Time Warner Channel 98 and www.aisd.net. You can also view past meetings online anytime.

Bit of Inspiration

"Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations. I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them, and try to follow where they lead."

-Louisa May Alcott, Novelist

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take."

-Wayne Gretzky, Retired Professional Hockey Player

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Dec. 4: School board meeting
- Dec. 6: SAT
- Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 10: Human Rights Day
- Dec. 13: ACT
- Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day
- Dec. 18: School board meeting
- Dec. 19: Early dismissal



Arlington

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