

Weekly High Five

March 3, 2009

I hope you all enjoyed a restful weekend. It will be a busy two weeks until Spring Break with TAKS testing, report card distribution and open houses.

Today marked our first day of general TAKS testing this year. Exit Level retests and makeup testing continue for the remainder of the week. From the campus visits I've completed throughout the year, I know that you all have done a great job preparing our students. Our common focus on set goals has already improved the quality of education we are providing. The feedback I have received from other administrators visiting campuses today during testing was very positive. Thank you for all of your hard work making this day a success!

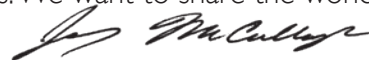
The "Marking History" pencil drive, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division, began yesterday and runs through Friday, March 13. The pencils collected will be distributed throughout Iraq to schools and to Iraqi children. Please encourage your students and staff to donate new, plain pencils for this worthwhile cause.



This week is Educational Diagnosticians' Week, a week dedicated to recognizing our diagnosticians for their hard work and dedication to education. Diagnosticians are a valuable resource for students and parents and a tremendous support for staff. Please recognize your diagnosticians for all of their work with our students. They are instrumental in helping students achieve success in school.



Next week is Texas Public Schools Week. The theme for the week is "Growing Graduates: Texas Public Schools Plant Seeds for Success". Open houses are scheduled Monday for high schools, Tuesday for junior highs and Thursday for elementaries. Be sure to take pictures of any special activities and submit them, along with a brief description, to Good News in FirstClass. We want to share the wonderful things happening on our campuses with the community.


Jerry McCullough
AISD Superintendent

Bond Advisory and Financial Futures Committees

The deadline to apply for the Bond Advisory Committee, the Financial Futures Committee or both is this Thursday at 4:30 p.m. The FFC will review the preliminary General Operating Fund budget for 2009-2010 and provide recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the budget. The Bond Advisory Committee will review and assess our long-term capital needs, advise the Board on the possible need for a bond election, and if an election is recommended, advise the Board on the particular projects and items that should be included in the bond package. More information about the committees and an online application is available at www.aisd.net. Please share this information with employees, parents or community members that might have an interest in participating.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- March 2-6: National School Breakfast Week; Educational Diagnosticians' Week
- March 3: TAKS ELA (10, Exit Level, Exit Level retest); TAKS Reading (3, 5, 8, 9); TAKS Writing (4, 7); Begin fifth grading period
- March 4: TAKS Math (Exit Level retest)
- March 5: TAKS Science (Exit Level retest)
- March 6: TAKS Social Studies (Exit Level retest)
- March 8: Begin Daylight Saving Time
- March 9-13: Texas Public Schools Week
- March 9: High school open house; Report cards distributed
- March 10: Junior high open house
- March 12: Elementary open house; School board meeting
- March 14: SAT
- March 16-20: Spring Break



Arlington

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Condolences

We would like to express our condolences to the following employee on the loss of a loved one:

Wallace R. Bailey, father of *Marsha Tucker*, Roark ES principal, passed away.

Bit of Inspiration

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember; you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

-Harriet Tubman, Abolitionist

"Face your deficiencies and acknowledge them, but do not let them master you. Let them teach you patience, sweetness, insight... When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another."

-Helen Keller, Author