

EANESide-Out

A Monthly Newsletter for the Eanes ISD Community

February 2010

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Kindergarten Round-Up



Thursday,
March 25, 2010

Tell neighbors & friends!
Check www.eanesisd.net
or individual campuses for
times and additional
program information.

Kennedy Center "On Location" at Hill Country



Students from Hill Country are benefitting from a unique opportunity provided by the Kennedy Center that includes use of a mobile film lab housed in a state-of-the-art bus with specialized instructors.

Because Hill Country Middle School was one of 10 schools selected nationally by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the "On Location: Spotlight On Your Community" bus is spending three weeks on campus providing film students with a unique learning opportunity. Now in its second year, the program allows students the opportunity to produce a documentary telling the story of an arts organization or artist in their community, which will be shared worldwide on the Internet.

The customized Thomas-built On Location bus has been converted to a media studio. Two media teaching artists are working with the classes in storytelling techniques and media skills. The completed videos will be uploaded to the Kennedy Center's "onlocationproject.org" website.

In addition to the bus and instructors, Hill Country will receive a media equipment package and lab valued at \$5,000, an additional \$1,000

to support the project, and curriculum materials. In addition, training will be provided for both students and teachers in storytelling, filmmaking, editing, and producing video stories.

"Students are chosen for a certain role to perform throughout the project, and we match students with their talents," explained instructor Lorraine Blackwell. Some roles include director, producing team and story team.

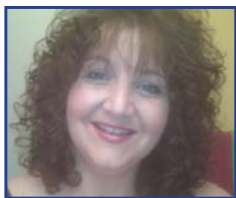
The program is supported by Daimler Financial Services. Other schools selected for the program were: Sadler Arts Academy (Muskegon, Okla.), Cedar Ridge Middle School (Decatur, Ala.), Hometown Elementary School, Hometown, W.Va.), Leepertown Grade School (Bureau, Ill.), Kunsmitter Creative Arts Academy, Denver, Colo.), Open Meadow Middle School (Portland, Ore.), Martin Luther King Jr. Technology Academy (Sacramento, Calif.), Gage Middle School (Huntington Park, Calif.).

WHS Teachers Receive Honors

Westlake High School teachers Denise DeMartino, Valerie Taylor and Callan Nokes recently have received professional honors.

Ms. DeMartino, who is a Chemistry teacher and Science Department chair, has been selected by the College Board to receive the 2010 Excellence in Service Award for the Academic Assembly. This award recognizes one delegate from the Academic Assembly for exemplary contributions to and achievements in professional activities in the Southwestern region.

Ms. Taylor, a Language Arts teacher, has been selected as the recipient of the Dr. Edmund J. Farrell Lifetime Service Award that is spon-



sored by the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. The Farrell Award was inspired by Dr. Farrell's profound impact on the profession of English/Language Arts education, commitment to excellence in the teaching of English and continued dedication to service and support of the mission and purpose of the Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. He was a professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Geography teacher and boys' golf coach Callan Nokes has been chosen as the 2009 Southwest Sectional Coach of the Year in boys' golf by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The Southwest includes the states of Texas, Colorado, Arkansas, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Previously Nokes earned Texas state coach-of-the-year honors from that organization. Last year the Chaparrals captured the Texas state golf title in Class 5A.

District Calendar

Saturday, Feb. 6: First day for candidates for General and Special Trustee Election to file for a place on ballot

Monday, Feb. 8: Board of Trustees study session, Central Administration, 7:30 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 15: Student holiday/staff in-service

Tuesday, Feb. 16: Immunization Clinic, 3:30-5:50 p.m., Westlake HS Nurse's Clinic

Friday, Feb. 19: End fourth six weeks (secondary)

Monday, Feb. 22: Beginning of fifth six weeks (secondary)

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Board of Trustees Study Session, Central Administration, 6:30 p.m. (closed session), 7:30 p.m. (open session)

Board of Trustees Meeting Update

The EISD Board of Trustees held a study session and one regular meeting in January. In addition, a study session to talk about a potential bond program was held on Feb. 3.

The Jan. 11 study session included a discussion about facility planning and a potential bond election. Information was presented by the district's bond financial consultants regarding bond interest rates, the district's current debt service structure and bond ratings, the potential impact of a bond on tax rate and tax amounts, and federal stimulus programs that could result in savings in a bond sale.

Timelines for both May and November elections were shared, including deadlines for the Board to call an election; trustees shared their opinions on these options.

The list of projects being consid-

ered was reviewed, and Board members requested additional information from the administration on several items.

Other points of discussion included the future of elementary schools and where resources should be directed, facility needs for specialized programs, the future of district technology, options for use of the Shriner tract, potential scope of accessibility improvements, and other maintenance and facility upgrades that have been identified for the next five years.

The Jan. 27 meeting featured three reports: the annual investment report/review of investment policy, the district's Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS) summary, and the monthly business services report.

At the start of the meeting, the state finalist Westlake football team

was honored. In addition, trustees were honored for School Board Recognition Month, including words of thanks from representatives of the Student Councils of secondary schools.

The Board had another opportunity to discuss a possible future bond election on Feb. 3. At that time, an example of a possible bond package totaling \$123 million was shared with the Board to serve as a starting point for discussion. Board members also had the opportunity to get clarifying information from district staff members on topics such as technology and special education.

The regular February monthly meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (closed session begins at 6:30 p.m.). A study session is set for Feb. 8 at 7:30 a.m.

KUDOS

- Westlake senior Pedram Razavi's physics research paper titled "On the Motion of Falling Leaves" was chosen as one of the best 300 papers in the U.S. by the Intel Science Talent Search. He won an award of \$1,000, and another \$1,000 will be awarded to the high school from Intel.



- Westlake senior Rachel Prochnow was crowned "Miss Texas High School America" on Jan. 16 based on interview, beauty, and fashion modeling; she now will compete for Miss High School America.

- The 2009 El Paisano yearbook has been selected as a Crown Award finalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. In addition, Quill and Scroll (an international journalism honor society), has awarded 10 yearbook staffers with Gold Keys in the Yearbook Excellence Contest.

- After Math, a rock band of Westlake students led by freshman Livvy Bennett, won top honors in the SchoolJamUSA.com Best Band in America contest. Because the prize money is to be divided between the students and school, Westlake will receive \$1,250. Individual band members also were honored as best bass player, best guitar player, and best vocalist.

- Westlake had several art and photography students recognized in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards. Eight students received Gold Key awards, including American Vision Award Winner Adrienne Arredondo. Gold Key winners have qualified for national award consideration. Westlake also had four students honored with Gold Key Portfolios, eight Silver Key winners, and 12 students earn Certificates of Merit.

Superintendent's Column



I hope that everyone is enjoying the spring semester. It is a time when students are crossing milestones in their current school year

and preparing for challenges that lie ahead. I know that seniors are finalizing college plans, fifth-graders and eighth-graders are positioning themselves for upcoming school transitions, and pre-school parents are getting ready for Kindergarten Round-Up (which is scheduled for March 25).

In the next few months the Board of Trustees will continue discussion regarding the potential of a future bond program. Eventually, the Board will deliberate about the timing and size of a bond proposal, as well as which projects under consideration should be included. We have received a great deal of parent and community input throughout these discussions and during forums held in the fall. Information on this topic is available on the district website, under the heading of "Facility Planning."

Looking around the district, there are many events and special activities happening. Elementary Science Days ... the choir musical at the high school ... middle school programs ... and more. Many events at our schools are made possible by the volunteer efforts of our parents as well as the leadership of campus administration. Thank you all for working hard to create special experiences for our students. One example of a recent successful program was the Transition Fair hosted by our Special Education Department in conjunction with Lake Travis ISD. Parents had the opportunity to gather information and make connections to help their children in future years.

The district also is working on the selection process for a principal at Barton Creek Elementary. A profile is being developed with the input of parents and staff and resumes are being accepted. We will conduct interviews this spring.

Sincerely,

Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent

- West Ridge eighth-graders John Byron Hanby and Michael Castor competed at the Central Texas Future City Competition, where their challenge was to design a future city for use by residents who have been affected by a financial crisis or a natural disaster. They wrote essays, designed a computerized version of a city, built a 3-D model, and presented to a panel of judges. They placed fourth overall and won a specially created "Sustainability Awareness Award" for excellence and depth of knowledge about energy conservation.



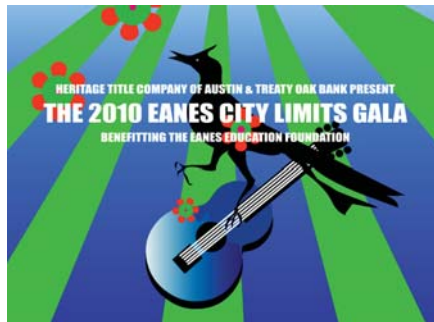
- West Ridge student Charlotte Price (pictured above) also won a Gold Key Award in the Scholastic Arts competition in photography.

EEF Campaign Momentum Continues

The Eanes Education Foundation is on track to reach its goal of funding 20 teachers in 2010. EEF has accomplished this through the tremendous support of the Eanes community and enthusiastic volunteers. This early success is a result of parents recognizing that their gifts to EEF really do make a difference in students' classrooms.

EEF raises money in many ways, but the two main initiatives are the Annual Giving Campaign (AGC) and the Gala.

To date, the Annual Giving Campaign has raised \$697,223, more than the campaign has raised in previous years at this point in time. A main reason is that 26 percent of donors have returned and increased their gift. In addition, 312 new donors who have never given previously have joined the team. However, there are still 490 donors who gave last year,



but haven't yet renewed their gifts. "We are positive that if these parents who have supported us in the past give again this year, we will achieve our 2010 goal," said EEF Director Wally Moore.

EEF's Annual Gala, titled 2010 Eanes City Limits, is being presented by Heritage Title Company and Treaty Oak Bank. It will be held on Feb. 27, 2010, at the Renaissance Hotel. While the Gala is a fundraising event, more importantly, it is a wonderful community-building event where

friends and neighbors reconnect in a unified way. Gala attendees can expect an energetic, creative and lively event featuring exciting entertainment, while visiting with new and old friends in the district. Three live bands are on tap, as well as dancing and after-dinner games. Everyone will have the chance to raise his paddle high and often for such thrilling auction items as the opportunity to be an extra on "Friday Night Lights," trophy hunts and get-aways that range from the Ritz in St. Thomas to Cabo San Lucas.

EEF doesn't present its annual grant check to the district until August, so there is plenty of time to show support through the AGC or the Gala.

Gala tables or tickets should be purchased soon, because seating is limited. Visit the EEF website at "www.eaneseducationfoundation.org" to purchase space at the Gala and/or make a donation online.

Hats Off to Trustees!



Westlake Student Body President Michelle Suh and Vice President Robert Andon shared words of thanks to Board members in honor of School Board Recognition Month and also gave each trustee a Class of 2010 shirt.

SAVE THE DATE!
Family Fun Run & Healthy Living Fair
Saturday, March 6, 2010

On March 6, the EISD School Safety and Health Advisory Council will be hosting a Family Fun Run and Healthy Living Fair for all of EISD students, their families, and the Westlake community. Mark your calendars to join this fun event.

Westlake High School
Choir
and
Technical Theatre
Departments

PRESENT

Disney's
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Music by Alan Menken Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice Book by Linda Wolverton

FRIDAY ~ FEBRUARY 19 ~ 7:30 PM
SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 20 ~ 2:00 PM
SATURDAY ~ FEBRUARY 20 ~ 7:30 PM