

INSIGHTS



November, 2004

Carolyn Pierel Superintendent

I would like to offer congratulations to Argyle High School, Argyle Middle School and Argyle Elementary School for their performance on last year's Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. Argyle High School has maintained its Exemplary status and is one of only fifteen high schools in the entire state to do so. Argyle Middle School is Recognized due to an 88% passing rate in math. Mrs. Ball and the middle school faculty are working hard to ensure that the middle school regains its Exemplary status. Argyle Elementary is also Exemplary. Only about one-third of the elementary campuses statewide achieved this honor. I am proud of the efforts made by our parents, students, teachers and administrators in order to provide a climate of success for all.

If you missed the assemblies at the campuses during Red Ribbon Week, you missed something very special. Argyle Elementary had their D.A.R.E. graduation for students. D.A.R.E. is a program designed by law enforcement officials to

promote anti drug and alcohol use.

The high school and middle school students attended two excellent programs. The first program, Kebbsmiles, was a talk by Rick Selah whose daughter committed suicide after drinking. A dove release and flight over the stadium ended the program. The second anti drug assembly was given by Athletes in Action. I would like to thank the Safe and Drug Free School committees, the PTA and PTSA, the AHS student council and especially Carla Hamm for all the time and effort that went into planning these activities.

Other recent student successes that deserve mention are the elementary Rock n Roll Read-A-Thon which raised over \$30,000 for the school. The AHS marching band made superior scores at the UIL marching contest, our AHS girls volleyball team and boys football team are headed for the play offs and our high school cross country boys and girls teams are moving on to the Regional competition.

The next regular meeting of the AISD Board of Trustees will be November 15th at the high school library. Open session usually begins about 7:15 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to attend and I hope to see some of you there.

Dyslexia Information For Parents

Lois Pohl from Scottish Rite Hospital will speak to parents regarding dyslexia on Tuesday, November 16, at the Argyle Elementary Cafeteria, at 7:00 P.M.

There is no charge; please call 940-464-7241 X5177 if you are planning to attend.



The Student Success Initiative

**Dr. Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent
Of Curriculum**

Frequently I am asked questions about the requirement that third graders pass the TAKS reading test to advance to the fourth grade and the requirement that fifth graders pass the TAKS reading and math tests to advance to the sixth grade.

The Student Success Initiative Continued...

These requirements are part of the Student Success Initiative and are state law requirements. The Student Success Initiative was created by the Texas Legislature to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics.

Under the Student Success Initiative grade advancement requirements, students are required to pass the Grade 3 TAKS reading test to be promoted to fourth grade and to pass the Grade 5 TAKS reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to sixth grade. When these students have advanced to eighth grade (beginning in the 2007-2008 school year), they will be required to pass the Grade 8 TAKS reading and mathematics tests to be promoted to ninth grade.

In addition to the SSI grade advancement requirements, state law also required that high school students pass the Grade 11 Exit Level TAKS test in English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science, along with meeting all their course requirements, to receive a diploma from a Texas public high school.

What happens at Grade 3?

Third grade students have three opportunities to pass the grade 3 TAKS reading test—two during the spring and one during the summer.

If a student does not pass, the student will be given additional instruction after each testing opportunity. Parents will be notified if their child does not pass the TAKS reading test that is required for promotion.

If a student has not passed after the second testing opportunity, a Grade Placement Committee, which consists of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, is formed. The GPC will create an instructional plan based on the individual needs of the student. The committee will decide, based on local district policy, whether the student will take TAKS or a state-authorized alternate assessment for the third testing opportunity.

A student who is unsuccessful after the third testing opportunity will be retained automatically. The student's parents may appeal the decision by submitting a request to the GPC within five working days of receiving the retention notice. Parents may request a waiver of the third testing opportunity if they do not want their child to test. If the waiver is approved, the student is automatically retained, but the parents may still appeal the retention.

What happens at Grade 5?

Fifth grade students have three opportunities to pass the Grade 5 TAKS reading test and three opportunities to pass the Grade 5 TAKS mathematics test. If a student does not pass one or both tests, the student will be given additional instruction

after each testing opportunity. Parents will be notified if their child does not pass a TAKS test that is required for promotion.

If a student has not passed after the second testing opportunity, a Grade Placement Committee, which consists of the principal, teacher, and parent or guardian, is formed. The GPC will create an instructional plan based on the individual needs of the students. The committee will decide whether the student will take TAKS or a state-authorized alternate assessment on the third testing opportunity.

A student who is unsuccessful on the reading and/or mathematics test after the third testing opportunity will be retained automatically. The student's parents may appeal the decision to have their child repeat the fifth grade by submitting a request to the GPC within five working days of receiving the retention notice.

Parents may request a waiver of the third testing opportunity if they do not want their child to test. If the waiver is approved, the student is automatically retained, but the parents may still appeal the retention.

What can a parent do?

Keep in contact with your child's teacher throughout the year. If your child seems to be struggling, ask the teacher about tutoring programs or other forms of available assistance.

Read and discuss a variety of materials with your child. Help

The Student Success Initiative Continued...

your child understand the meanings of new words. Ask who, what, where, when, and why questions to help your child understand the main idea, purpose, and meaning of what is read.

Help your child make connections between personal experience and the events and characters in a story. Ask if a story is similar to other stories and why.



Nurse's Corner By Jan Haney

We are moving into flu and cold season and with the shortage of flu vaccine there is an increasing need to remind students of good health practices to prevent spread of infection.

We would like to remind you all of the need for good health practices, with well balanced meals, exercise, and sufficient rest. We also are busy reminding students of the need of careful hand washing. We need all of you to help us as we hope to teach the children healthy habits to increase their immune systems and prevent spread of communicable infections.

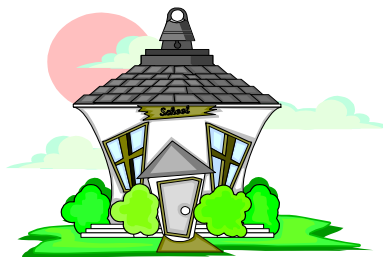
A recent study in Detroit showed that washing hands at least four times daily can reduce gastrointestinal illness and

related absences by more than 50%.

Many illnesses are spread by close contact in the classroom. We would like to remind you that students who have had a fever should not return to school for 24 hours. We also request that students who vomit or have diarrhea not return for 24 hours. This will hopefully help in the spread of illness to other students.

Please be aware of exposure to other students when you are deciding to send your child to school. We want every possible student to be in class learning and participating, but if they are too ill to perform, and will infect others, they do not need to be in the classroom. If you have a question, please feel free to call the school nurse.

Recent studies have shown the effectiveness of alcohol-based hand sanitizers in school settings. If you want to send a small bottle for your child's use, you are welcome to do so. We would recommend that you send varieties that are not heavily perfumed if you decide to do this.



**From: Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal**

This month's article focuses on student safety in relation to car-line practices. When putting

students in their cars at the conclusion of the school day, parents and/or students frequently place faculty in an uncomfortable situation. It is our practice to place students in the back seat of their vehicle as this has shown to be the safest place for children. However, there are times we are instructed to put children in the front seat of the vehicle. One can imagine how this places us in a precarious position. All agencies including the American Academy of Pediatrics agree that the safest place for children younger than 13 is in the back seat. The following recommendations come from the AAP and can be found in more detail on their website,

www.aap.org/family/airbag.htm

- The safest place for all infants and children younger than 13 years to ride is in the back seat.
- Never put an infant in the front seat of a car, truck, SUV or van with an air bag.
- All children should be properly secured in car safety seats, belt-positioning booster seats, or the shoulder/lap belt correct for their size.
- Seat belts must be worn correctly at all times by all passengers who have outgrown booster seats.
- Side air bags improve safety for adults in side impact crashes, but children who are not properly restrained seated near a side air

**Robin McWhorter
continued...**

bag may be at risk for serious injury.

What parents can do

- Eliminate potential risks of air bags to children by buckling them in the *back* seat for every ride.
- Plan ahead so that you do not have to drive with more children than can be safely restrained in the back seat.
- Air bag on/off switches should only be used if your child has special health care needs for which, your pediatrician recommends constant observation during travel, and no other adult is available to ride in the back seat with them.
- If no other arrangement is possible and an older child *must* ride in the front seat, move the vehicle seat back as far as it can go, away from the air bag. Be sure the child is restrained properly for his size. Keep in mind that your child can be at risk for injuries from the air bag. The back seat is the safest place for children to ride.

We need your help assisting us in this essential matter. Please don't agree to let your child sit in the front seat as a reward, a rite of passage, or as a chance to visit one-on-one and so on. In addition, please assist us by not instructing a faculty member to place your child in the front seat. We feel it is our responsibility to provide the safest environment for all students from the instant they walk in the door until the moment they are placed in their vehicle.



**...from the Principal's Desk
Sonja M. Ball,
Middle School Principal**

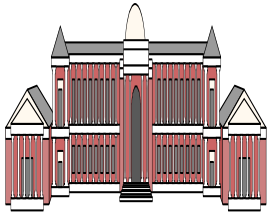
Over the last several years, I have had many opportunities to visit with both teachers and parents concerning issues that we face while raising our children. I feel that I am truly blessed and enriched by each of these encounters. Daily I am given the opportunity to enhance my abilities to serve our children because of the conversations in which I am fortunate enough to participate.

Many times the conversations begin due to concerns that parents have regarding something that has taken place within a classroom setting. I always want to be available to hear concerns, particularly those that involve

our classrooms. However, I often find myself at a distinct disadvantage due to the fact that I am not able to be in all classrooms at all times. Our teachers, unlike me, are present and know what is going on in their classrooms. I would ask that when parents have a concern regarding something that has occurred in a classroom setting or over a particular assignment, the first place they turn is the classroom teacher. Talking through the concern with the teacher will more often than not clear up the concern immediately. All of the teachers at AMS have scheduled times each day for which they are available to meet and converse with parents. Having open lines of communication with the people who spend time with our children is the best way to insure that we as parents are doing our job of advocating and taking care of our children. Please know that if at any time the lines of communication are not reciprocated, or a resolution to a concern has not been found, I will be more than happy to meet with all the interested parties.

As I have related at other times, the best way to meet with teachers or with me is by calling our school office (940)246-2126 x2302 and scheduling an appointment through Mrs. Schmidt. Each of us at AMS want to be able to give each parent and student our undivided attention, therefore, it is most helpful to set up an appointment to be certain that

we are able to give you the time and attention you deserve.



***Argyle High School
Principal
Mr. Jeff Henry***

The University Interscholastic League tells us *“Interscholastic activities constitute the right kind of “growing up” experiences for young people.”*

Our young Argyle Eagles are interested in achieving, belonging, and displaying their loyalty. Our community and the parents of the Argyle Eagles obviously believe in these things as well. How does one know that?

If you attended the football game on Friday, October 22, when the Eagles played in Celina, you would have seen tradition in the making. You would have seen a tremendous effort in performance and attitude by a group of young men who could have, at any time, given up. Sitting in the stands with eminent rain on the way and the game “going south” for the Eagles, the first apprehension an administrator has is the appropriate display of sportsmanship of the fans, students attending and playing in the game. This was never a

concern on Friday night. The Argyle Eagles, their fans and supporters were true champions the entire night.

I have never been prouder of a group of young people, and most especially, I have never been prouder of being part of this community. There are many letters from fans and parents alike from last year’s many accomplishments when the Eagles were winning the state marching contest and traveling to the state basketball tournament. Those letters were in the aftermath of much success. Friday night, the Eagles were down and could not seem to get anything to work. The success they achieved was far more important than any score on the scoreboard. Our athletes never gave up, and they were playing as if any second they would be triumphant. They maintained their composure in the face of unsportsmanlike conduct from their opponents as well as odds that were increasingly difficult to overcome.

Our young people were standing almost the entire game and never gave up on our “guys.” They were positive and supportive, even during the rain. The parents were as inspiring ... what a tribute to our community! The parents were behind our young men every step of the way. Their comments were positive and rejuvenating at every snap of the football. Our band and cheerleaders were absolutely fantastic. In the rainy condition that prevailed, many bands

would have packed up and gone home. Our band stayed, played, and encouraged our team throughout the game. Our cheerleaders stayed with our team every yard our athletes advanced and every yard they retreated. They were successful in helping our fans and band support the efforts on the playing field.

Argyle Eagles, you can be extremely proud of your school, your athletic program, your band, and your cheerleaders. Also, please be proud of yourselves ... for you are working diligently in helping build a positive and winning spirit. It is easy to be cheering when all things are going well for our team. The mark of a truly successful program is having perseverance, persistence and a positive mental attitude with the knowledge that, even with the “right things” in place, we may face adversity and an outcome that is not in our favor. Again, thank you for a great Friday night.

Is it surprising that, at the writing of this article, our Argyle Eagle’s Cross Country Teams have placed second and third at the District meet? Is it surprising that our Academic UIL team performed extremely well in their first meet on Saturday? Is it surprising that our Eagle Band placed first at the District competition last Saturday? Is it surprising that our Special Olympics team achieved gold medals in its first year of competition?

Is it surprising that our Lady Eagles volleyball team clinched the District championship on Tuesday?

Mr. Jeff Henry continued...

Anyone who wants to see truly fine University Interscholastic League Programs on display, just come watch our Argyle Eagles perform sometime.

Have a great Argyle Eagle Week !!!!



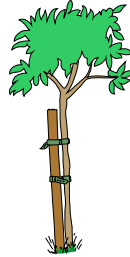
High School Band News

At the Birdville Marching Festival, the Argyle High School Band placed 10th out of 33 bands that competed, including five 2A bands, six 3A bands, nine 4A bands and thirteen 5A bands. One judge placed the Argyle Band first out of all thirty three in Visual Performance. In the Finals Competition, the Percussion Section placed fourth overall. The Band also was the 2A winner in all categories of competition.

On the same day, the Band competed at the Plano East Marching Festival and received first division ratings from all three judges.

At the UIL Marching Contest, the Band received first division ratings from all three judges.

The Band will perform in the Golden Triangle Marching Classic on Saturday, October 30th at 3:00 p.m. The Contest will be held at the new stadium in Denton. An admission will be charged: \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12.



CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

The Senior classes of 2003-2004 left money to Argyle High School to be used to help beautify the campus. Nancy Chumbley and Mary Beth Lynch are coordinating this project. You will notice that two Chinese Pistache trees have been planted in front of the competition gym area. There are also plans to plant bushes around the building and to install personalized bricks in the spring in front of the new performing arts center and flagpole. Keep your eyes open for the upcoming improvements as the year goes on.

If you would like to donate to this needed project, please contact Nancy

Chumbley at the high school. Help make our campus an appealing place to be.



Eagle or Oyster?

**Todd Rodgers
Boys' Athletic Coordinator**

I found this inspirational exert in a book titled *High Hopes: Taking the Purple to Pasadena, the Winning Ways of Northwestern Football*.

“When God made the oyster, he guaranteed its absolute economic and social security. He built the oyster a house, its shell, to shelter and protect it from the enemies. When hungry, the oyster simply opens its shell and food rushes in. The oyster has freedom from want.

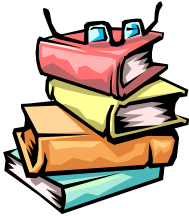
But when God made the eagle he declared, ‘The blue sky is the limit; build your own house!’ So the eagle built on the highest mountain that storms threaten every day. For food, the eagle flies through miles of rain and snow and wind. Over time the eagle, not the oyster, has become the symbol of America.”

I thought this was relative to our situation facing Celina on Friday night. Celina is the oyster and they don't struggle for anything because

their forefathers established a perpetuating system to guarantee success. They open their “mouths” and players move to their school annually.
Todd Rodgers continued...

We on the other hand are the **Eagles**; we are the ones who struggle daily and weekly to just make it. Our team has faced adversity and overcome several obstacles but our hunger for success is ravenous and only quenchable with wins. We can and will become the symbol for success.

I teach many concepts as a football coach but I believe one of my most important lessons pertains to struggle. I think athletes benefit when they experience the struggles of exhaustion, perfection, toil, failure and success. Life’s decisions will hopefully seem minute once they have embraced struggle and met it head on.



From the Secondary School Library/Media Center
Tracie Smith

“Avon loved to read because books told him all about the things that creatures did when they went on adventures. ... when the stories ended, the creatures were always happy.” This excerpt from Avi’s new book, [The End of the Beginning](#), portrays the wonderful world of reading and

how Avon’s friend puts it ...”after you read, you can write your own book.”

Once again, thanks to the Friends of the Argyle Libraries”, on November 4th, the entire 6th grade will take part in an author visit that will enhance their writing skills. Author H.J. Ralles, will present a dynamic and practical lesson which inspires children to write creating three dimensional characters.

More author/storyteller visits are in the works, so stay tuned.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the library the week of November 29th. Proceeds go right back into the library to purchase more books. Classes will visit during the week as teachers allow. Come check it out.

Once again, the school has purchased invaluable databases through Region XI. To access, please visit the Library website at:

www.argyleisd.com/Library.asp

Links to all will be here when all the information is received from the companies. Currently, Gale Resource, a database that has periodicals, reference materials, primary source documents, and newspapers is available from school and home. Click on the link, type in “Argyle” and if asked the password is “eagles”. For World Book online, go to www.worldbookonline.com and the user name for home use is “argyle1” password is “eagle”. Coming soon will be SIRS and Proquest. . Another resource available to all students is

www.unitedstreaming.com.

This site has videos and an image clip library. The user name is “argyle”, password “eagle”. These sites will eventually have links from the library’s home page, so please explore all of these resources.

[Middle School Math Corner](#), by Linda Creamer

What is a prime number? What is an integer? How do you use a coordinate plane? What are triangular numbers? Ask a middle school math student and they are sure to know the answer to one or more of these questions. Students are working on math before and after school in tutorials. In the 6th grade, we even use Advisory period for tutorials.

How can you help your child with math? Check out the Harcourt website (that’s the publisher of our math book) at www.harcourtschool.com.

Soon to come—E-instruction, a computer enhanced math program designed for each student’s individual instruction. Accelerated Math, a program that targets a student’s individual difficulties in math is currently being used in the

Elementary school and will soon be in use for Middle school.

Senior Ads for Sale

The PDA ads are now on sale for the Yearbook.

1/8 page = \$60.00

1/4 page = \$100.00

1/2 page = \$175.00

Full page = \$300.00

Checks made out to AHS Yearbook please.

The deadline to reserve and pay for space in the 2005 yearbook is December 17, 2004. (Deadline for pictures for the ad will be March 11, 2005.

Hurry! Space is limited.

Please contact Tanya Kosla at the High School for more information.

tkosla@argyleisd.com

940-262-7777

Class of 2007 students and parents,

Class dues are
\$20.00 each year.

This money goes towards several events throughout each year and your high school career. Homecoming, Winter Formal, Prom, Field Trips (if applicable) and Graduation.

We begin collecting dues Freshman year and continue through Senior year to help finance your class events. The dues alone do not cover all expenses.

We will need to have a major fundraiser each year to help complete our financial responsibilities. **Events do not happen for free!**

Projected budget for Prom 2006 is \$10,000.00. The class dues do not completely cover all the details to host a formal event such as this.

Please help by bringing dues as soon as possible to Mrs. Kosla in the High School Art Room. (Check to see if you paid dues for Freshman year.)

Students that choose not to bring their yearly dues and choose not to participate in the class fundraisers will not be

able to attend dances or other fun events until the dues are paid. We would like everyone to share the responsibility to the best of their ability.

Parents that have questions or that would like to volunteer time, and or resources please contact...

Tanya Kosla

tkosla@argyleisd.com

940-262-7777



Argyle Eagle Blankets!

Argyle High School Student Council is currently taking orders for a throw blanket.

The blanket is 48" x 68", 100% cotton, machine washable and dryable and custom made in the USA.

Student Council has only ordered 100 blankets and they should be here mid-November.

The cost is \$30.00 and you can order one by contacting Paula Smith, Student council Advisor, at the high school.

For questions and orders call (940) 262-7777 or psmith@argyleisd.com.
