

INSIGHTS



October, 2004

Carolyn Pierel *Superintendent*

Recently I sent a very important letter home to all parents in the district regarding our new accountability ratings. If you did not receive a letter, please notify the secretary at your student's campus and one will be sent to you. Also, if you are interested in receiving a more detailed report, please attend the October Board meeting on October 18th, 2004 at the high school. The Board usually reconvenes in Open Session between seven and seven thirty.

A new column is being added to the Insights beginning this month. It is entitled Meet Your Board Member. It will feature a different member of the AISD Board each month. I hope this will help you to become better acquainted with the people you have elected to serve our students.

By mid November the district expects most of the construction projects at the high school to be completed. Exceptions are the auditorium, concession stand at the baseball/softball complex and tennis courts. They will all be completed in the spring semester or summer. The elementary school continues to

meet expected timelines and will open next year.

Traffic studies of Hwy 377 at Harpole and Cook Streets have been requested of the Texas Department of Transportation. We thank the Argyle Police Department for their assistance. Hopefully, something can be done to increase the safety of those entering and leaving the high school/middle school campus during beginning and dismissal periods.

I would like to end the column by again expressing my thanks to the schools and parents for all their efforts to create a safe, secure and successful environment for our students.



Meet Your Board Member

This new column begins by spot-lighting a gentleman who is already well known in our community. Doug Robison, his wife Bonnie, and their daughter Grace have lived in Argyle for almost 17 years.

Doug and Bonnie share a law practice in Denton that concentrates on representing children who have been catastrophically injured. They are both active contributors to charities that benefit children such as Children's Advocacy Center, CASA and Friends of the Family.

Grace, an active junior at Argyle High School, participates in choir, UIL Academics and is an expert horsewoman. Much of her time is spent in practicing those skills and entering riding events.

Doug says that he originally ran for the Board to improve parent-teacher relationships. He now feels that the job is far larger than a single issue and has developed a broad perspective of the district's needs.

He wishes that more people realized that public school funding is very limited. He believes that it is the duty of the Board to take available resources and spread them though out our academic, athletic and fine arts programs in a fair and progressive manner.

Long range planning activities on the part of the Board have

Meet Your Board Member Continued...

given him a great deal of satisfaction, as one of his major goals for the district is to insure excellence as we continue to grow at a fast rate.

When asked what message he would like to share with parents, Doug said, "Don't hesitate to come to Board meetings and share your concerns or suggestions. Input is always appreciated."



Dyslexia Information For Parents

Dr. Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent
Of Curriculum

Lois Pohl, M.Ed. with Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for children in Dallas, Texas, will give a special presentation regarding dyslexia to parents at the elementary school cafeteria on November 16 at 7:00 P.M. All interested parents are welcome to attend.

Dyslexia is one of several distinct learning disabilities. Dyslexia is difficulty in processing and producing print language, deficits in

phonological awareness and rapid naming, poor application of phonics for decoding and encoding and struggle in using basic skills in a fluent and accurate manner.

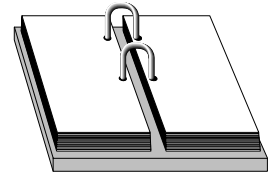
Common signs of dyslexia in K-4 are: learns the alphabet later, learns letter-sound relationships only with explicit instruction, confuses basic sight words, makes frequent reading and spelling errors, has poor handwriting and difficulty copying, and struggles with reading reducing reading comprehension.

Common signs of dyslexia in Grades 5-8 are: continues to transpose letter sequences frequently, still reads below grade level, requires specific instruction to learn decoding/spelling strategies, avoids reading aloud, avoids writing compositions and comprehends below listening comprehension level.

Common signs of dyslexia in high school and adults are: avoids reading books independently, continues to spell incorrectly, avoids writing whenever possible and finds unique ways to cope with reading and writing tasks.

The majority of children have affected relatives. There is a 4:1 male:female ratio. Teacher Cheryl Sain provides dyslexia services for all students in AISD.

You do not need to register to attend the presentation.



2004-2005 School Calendar

The 2004-05 school calendar includes six early release days for students:

September 27
December 16
December 17
February 21
May 19
May 20

These dates were chosen by the District Leadership Team in order to promote the educational achievement of AISD students by allowing time for teacher conferences at the end of the first grading period, first semester, fourth grading period and second semester.

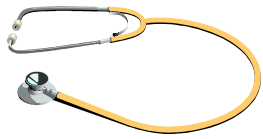
September 27 is the first day after the close of the initial grading period. By this time teachers have had opportunity to evaluate student progress and make informed recommendations to parents of students who are failing or near failing.

February 21 is the first day after the close of the initial grading period of the second semester. The choice of this date allows teachers to confer with parents after students have completed a significant part of the year but still have time to make improvements.

School Calendar Continued...

December 16 and 17 were selected for conferences at all levels and end of first semester exams for secondary students. Likewise May 19 and 20 allow for second semester exams for secondary and conferences for all levels.

DLT welcomes parental input into the school calendar. You can send input for the 2005-06 calendar to Dr. Telena Wright at twright@argyleisd.com. Input should be received prior to the January 12 DLT meeting.



Nurse's Corner By Jan Haney

We will be doing vision and hearing screening in Elementary this month. All students in elementary will be screened. There will be a re-screening for those who are questionable and you will be notified if there is a need for a professional examination. If you do not hear from the school, then please know your child's vision and hearing were normal.

Sometimes a child during the year will begin to exhibit symptoms of vision or hearing problems. If your child complains of difficulty seeing, hold books too close when reading, sits too close to TV, squints or covers one eye with

hand when reading, awkward tilting of head, frequent rubbing of the eyes, frowning or frequently losing the place when reading, please feel free to consult with your school nurse. These are symptoms of visual problems.

If your child frequently asks to have things repeated, turns on side of the head toward speaker, talks too loudly or too softly, appears to show strain in trying to hear, or concentrates on speaker's lips there may be a problem with hearing. Temporary allergies, fluid in ear, or colds can sometimes cause this, but if it persists please feel free to check with you school nurse.

Middle School and High School screening will take place very soon. Again if you have concerns please call your school nurse.

Children dart and run across playgrounds, ball fields, and yards, full of energy. All children get hurt sooner or later. Most of the time they are fine, but sometimes they can receive a concussion. This is a very common type of head injury. Here are suggested symptoms and signs to watch for if your child has had a blow to the head.

EARLY SIGNS OF CONCUSSION

Confusion
Headache
Dizziness
Nausea/Vomiting

LATE SIGNS OF CONCUSSION

Persistent headache
Lightheadedness
Poor attention
Memory problems
Irritability
Blurry vision
Ringing in ears
Fatigue
Restlessness
Anxiety
Depressed mood

BEHAVIOR OF CHILD WITH CONCUSSION

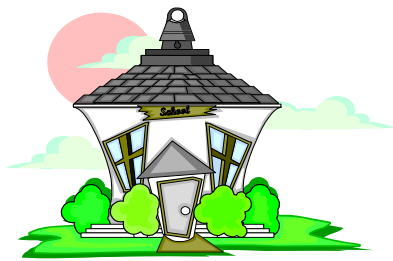
Blank stare of befuddled expression
Slow to answer questions or follow instructions
Confused, easily distracted, and unable to carry out normal activities
Disoriented to time and place, walking or running in wrong direction, not know what time or day it is or where he/she is
Slurred speech or not making sense
Uncoordinated, clumsy, stumbling, unable to walk straight line
Extreme emotions, very upset, crying easily
Difficulty with memory, repeatedly asking questions already answered, unable to recall words or objects

Whenever you have any questions or concerns about how your child is acting,

Nurse's Corner Continued...

thinking or behaving after your child has hit his head, contact the doctor and have your child examined

CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health) is a new health curriculum started in Elementary. Please talk to your children about the GO foods we are currently discussing. Soon they will be learning about SLOW and WHOA foods. On the last Friday of each month we are having Fear Factor Friday with tasting of fruits and vegetables they may not have tried before. If your child has allergies that would be a problem with this please let us know. We also encourage you to help your child to learn the joy of experiencing new foods, especially those that are on the GO list.



**From: Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal**

As many of you are aware, the elementary school participates in the DARE program every fall. D.A.R.E stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. It is a prevention program designed to equip elementary school children with knowledge

about drug abuse, the consequences of abuse, and skills for resisting peer pressure to experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

This unique program uses a uniformed law enforcement officer to teach a formal curriculum to students in a classroom setting. The fifth grade students are currently working through the curriculum and are set to graduate October 26.

Topic areas are specific to the needs of this age group, with an emphasis on student progression. While practical, the lessons are also fun. Students make the lessons come to life while practicing new skills. D.A.R.E. lesson plans focus on four major areas:

1. Providing accurate information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco
2. Teaching students good decision-making skills
3. Showing students how to recognize and resist peer pressure.
4. Giving students ideas for positive alternatives to drug use

Lessons consist of Goals and Objectives that meet the National Health Education Standards. The format of instruction provides practical information throughout the lessons and allows the students to learn from each other. The lessons on normative beliefs include national data about teen use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help children better understand how

few of their peers actually do use these substances. In addition to presenting the curriculum to fifth grade, D.A.R.E officers visit the kindergarten through fourth grade classes. These visits focus on child safety and prevention issues. Students are alerted to the potential dangers in the misuse of drugs, medicine, and other substances. There is recognition of the need to help students at this level develop awareness that alcohol and tobacco are also drugs. We are extremely fortunate to have Officer Willingham as our D.A.R.E officer. Selection of officers for the program is based on their innate talent in human relations and communication skills.

As I referenced earlier, the D.A.R.E program culminates in a special graduation ceremony for fifth grade. If you would like to join us for this special event, we welcome your attendance. The ceremony will take place on October 26 from 9:45-11:15 in the gymnasium.



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

As the second six weeks get under way, all of us realize how quickly a school year passes. I find it hard to believe that the first six weeks is but a memory,

Middle School Principal Continued...

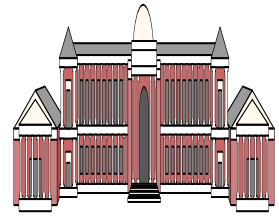
and that report cards have already gone home. I also realize that it is the time of the year when I need to review with everyone the topic of homework. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the ways in which we can work together to be sure that all of our children at AMS are successful, particularly where homework is concerned.

Previously, I wrote about the Argyle website, www.argyleisd.com, as one way in which the teachers communicate with the students and parents about what is going on in their classrooms on a daily basis. I will stress the importance of using this valuable resource once again. Each of the middle school teachers will update their websites weekly with the assignments for the week. If your child is unsure of an assignment, or you are curious about what your child is working on please reference the websites. To access the teacher pages use the following path: www.argyleisd.com; click on the drop down menu for schools; click on staff directory; select Middle School; the page that opens will list each teacher with a link to their webpage. Following this same path will allow you to access the teachers' email as well. Clicking on the teacher's name will allow you to send an email. Teachers will do their best to respond to your email within twenty-four hours of receiving the correspondence from you. I

want to encourage you to use this form of communication whenever possible, as teachers do have limited access to the telephone during the school day.

Tutoring is an important component for success at AMS. Each teacher has posted their tutoring times outside their classroom door. In addition, a white board posted in the middle school office has all the core teachers tutoring times listed. Teachers have selected two times each week to be in their classrooms for tutoring. However, if there is a particular need, other times may be arranged by contacting the teacher. We want to be sure that all children are given the opportunity to succeed throughout the school year. Communication is crucial in the effort to be sure all students are successful. In that light, if there is a concern, please contact your child's teacher to work through a solution to resolve the area of concern. Calling Mrs. Schmidt (246-2126x2302) to schedule a conference is the most efficient means of setting up an appointment with your child's teacher. Sixth grade teachers are available from 12:50-1:40; seventh grade teachers from 10:00-10:50; and eighth grade teachers from 1:45-2:35. Before and after school times may be arranged via phone or email.

Working together, we can be sure that each child at AMS can have a successful year. We look forward to being partners in education throughout 2004-2005.



Argyle High School Principal Mr. Jeff Henry

Another school year is underway and things are really beginning to happen around here. Football is off to a wonderful start with district play just around the corner. Volleyball has already begun district play and by the time you read this we will be two games deep in district play. Here at the high school we are in the process of developing and refining the campus plan for the high school. Along with working on student achievement and how to improve our overall standard Texas Test Scores, some of the topics for discussion will be grades, testing, assignments and home work.

The watchword of any sound educational program is assessment. In the education field it is imperative to stay abreast of emerging issues, motivation theory, learning theory, legal requirements and other information as a basis for successful program development. It is in fact, very important that all campuses facilitate the use of sound research-based practice in the development and implementation of campus curricular, co-curricular, and

High School Principal Continued...

extracurricular programs.

Collaborative organization is the primary vehicle to facilitate campus participation in district planning, implementation, monitoring and revision of curriculum to ensure appropriate scope and sequence of content and alignment with predetermined district goals.

It is the leadership team's firm belief that every teaching effort should be aimed at enhancing the quality of instruction.

Coupled with this is a sincere belief that every student that walks onto our campus deserves the very best educational effort that we can throw at him or her. We don't pick and choose whom we wish to work with or whom we wish to motivate on any given day. When a student steps onto our campus they are ours and we owe them the best we have. It is easy to run them off. It is easy to send them out of the class. Any one can work with the really bright and eager student. Who will choose to work with the student who really needs help? The basic skills and knowledge that a student should possess once they have been associated with our program is based on self-concept. Students should feel good about who they are and feel good about the process of learning. Students should be confident in where they have been and that they have a place in society.

One other issue that will be considered in the leadership

team is discipline and school climate. Insuring that school rules are being followed is and must remain a team effort. It goes with out saying that there is a student code of conduct as prescribed by Texas Education Code § 37.001. Most codes are relatively comprehensive and if not should be immediately updated. But the real answer is in the treatment of that code from one classroom to the next and from one teacher to the next. So let us sit down and decide what is important and what is not. Let us decide which battles we want to fight and which we do not want to fight. If it is not important then let us not have a rule to say we have a rule. If we do have a rule then it is up to everyone to uphold that rule. There should be in place a level system that has consequences spelled out and that makes it clear that each referable offense will constitute sanctions, which steadily climb the ladder of discipline; consequences finally leading to an AEP placement if the misbehavior remains persistent. An excellent way to prevent problems in the classroom and the hallways is to be there and interacting with the student body. Just the presence of an adult will help curtail problems. I am a firm believer in teachers being in the hallways when students are passing and just generally being where the students are. The real fun is recognizing those students that are setting the good example. Let's do just that; walk over and edify positive behavior that we are looking for. Everybody get involved. Set up some type of

reward system for recognizing those students doing the right thing. This does not mean to set up a system that rewards students for doing what they are supposed to be doing. We don't give extra credit for doing what is right. But let's be awful sure that we jump all over that student that does the right thing when it is obviously a tough decision, or lets be dang sure that we edify that student that makes a sound choice when the chips are down and the pressure is there to do something different. How about just saying Hi! Sure good to see you today. Good discipline isn't a trick; it is just a matter of being there and modeling good behavior.

Argyle High School Student Council Officers 2004-2005

PRESIDENT:
Laura Pettibon
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Kelly Sample
SECRETARY:
Lindsey Gorman
TREASURER:
Allison Gorman
HISTORIAN:
Laura Vickers

Senior Class Officers 2004-2005

PRESIDENT:
Lauren Edwards
VICE-PRESIDENT:
SECRETARY:
TREASURER:

**Junior Class Officers
2004-2005**

PRESIDENT:
Bailey Slough
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Sean Morrison
SECRETARY:
Dillon Delbecq
TREASURER:
Justin Lansdowne

**Sophomore Class Officers
2004-2005**

PRESIDENT:
Rita O'Connor
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Julie Kurrus
SECRETARY:
Brice Bode
TREASURER:

**Freshman Class Officers
2004-2005**

PRESIDENT:
Dalton Kane
VICE-PRESIDENT:
Gabe Nytomt
SECRETARY:
Britany Kay
TREASURER:
Kate Lockwood



Band News

The High School Marching Band will perform at several contests during October.

Everyone is invited to attend and support the Band.

October 9th
9:15 a.m. Birdville Marching Festival, Birdville Stadium, Birdville
1:00 p.m. Plano East Marching Festival, Clark Stadium, Plano

October 16th
1:15 p.m. UIL Marching Contest, Standridge Stadium, Carrollton

October 30th
Time to be determined Golden Triangle Marching Classic, New Stadium in Denton ISD

.....
The Middle School Red Band and White Band, Sixth Grade Band and High School Choir will perform a Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26th in the High School Gym.

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The Band Boosters are sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner before the Varsity Football Game on Friday, October 29th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be available in the High School Office.

.....
Middle School Night at the Varsity Football Game is set for Friday, October 8th. Members of the Middle School Red Band and White Band will join the High School Band in the stands.

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Treasure Chest Items Needed!

Elementary PE will need more Treasure Chest items soon. Any prizes such as 'Happy Meal' toys, pencils, erasers, stickers, and small 'party' favors work well for rewards (non-candy, please). A big thank you goes out to the parents that have already provided some treats. We appreciate your generous donations and support!

Behavioral Expectations of Spectators

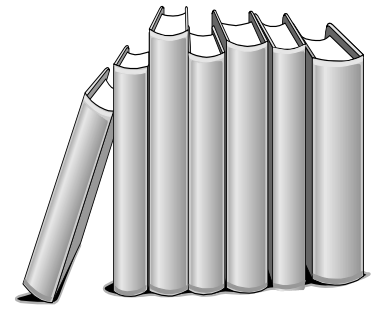
Todd Rodgers
Boys' Athletic Coordinator

I came across these expectations and I thought we as coaches and parents should begin to share these principles with our children/ young athletes to insure great sportsmanship off the field as well as on the field.

Behavioral Expectations Of Spectators Continued...

1. Remember that you are at the contest to support and yell for your team, and to enjoy the skill and competition- not to intimidate or ridicule the other team or its fans.
2. Remember that school athletics are a learning experience for students and that mistakes are sometimes made. Praise student-athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people, just as you would praise a student working in the classroom.
3. A ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
4. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
5. Show respect for the opposing players, coaches, spectators and support groups.
6. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete, and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
7. Recognize and show appreciation for an outstanding play by either team.
8. Refrain from the use of any controlled substances (alcohol, drugs, etc.) before, during, and after the game on or near the site of the event.
9. Use only cheers that support and uplift the teams involved.
10. Be a positive role model at events through your own actions and censuring those around you whose behavior is unbecoming.
11. Parents and spectators should be aware that the school can (and should) remove them from the premises and can prohibit them from attending future contests due to undesirable behaviors.
12. Game officials can ask that school administrators have unruly fans removed from a contest facility.
13. There is no such thing as a "right" to interscholastic athletics. Interscholastic athletics are considered a "privilege".
14. Keep in mind that you are a guest of the school, and that while winning is certainly an admirable goal; it is hollow if it comes at the expense of morals, ethics, and just plain common sense.
15. The school is responsible for the behavior of their spectators. The school district can be and will be punished for actions

of patrons in violation of UIL standards and rules.



From the Elementary Library NEW CONTEST BEGINNING!!

We are on our way to another big year with Box Tops for Education. Last school year, we were able to raise \$1500.00 for our library and school by having families save and send in the Box Tops for Education Coupons found on all General Mills products. This money will help us to have author visits and purchase new books, videos and supplies. I know we can raise at least that much again, or even more. Begin now to watch for the coupons as well as your grocery store receipts, which often have extra rewards on them.

The main thing to remember is that the Box Tops coupons are each worth 10 cents each when our school redeems them from General Mills. As you clip those, save them in a baggie or envelope and send them to your child's teacher. The first redemption date is October 31, so our current contest will continue through October 22. The class that turns in the most

Elementary Library Continued...

box tops will win a new book for the classroom and a surprise from the librarian.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to join the **Box Tops for Education Booster Clubsm** at boxtops4education.com.

Signing up takes only a few minutes and membership is so rewarding.

Enjoy these great Box Tops Booster Club benefits:

- Money-saving coupons to stretch your family budget
- Easy meal ideas your kids will love
- Exclusive access to the Box Tops for Education Marketplacesm
- Recommendations for children's books and family movies
- All the latest news from Box Tops

If everyone helps, we can earn more cash for our school than ever before. Check on our progress throughout the year by visiting:

boxtops4education.com

Remember to tell your friends and family near and far to sign up, too, and help us reach our goal.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Every student who is interested in participating in this fun contest should be getting prepared by

reading the books from the lists. Those books are kept in a special place in the library so they are easy to find for checking out. The contest will be earlier than it has been in the past (February), so if you are interested in coaching a team or helping in some other way, please give me a call (464-7241 ext. 1107) as soon as you can and I'll be glad to give you a job.

ACCELERATED READER QUIZZES

Just in case you have missed getting the word, our quiz list for Accelerated Reader is updated, corrected and can be found on the Argyle ISD web page. Go to the Argyle Elementary site, and scroll down to Accelerated Reader. Remember, this is a list of the quizzes we own. We do not have every book that we have a quiz for. If you find the book in some other place, and we have the quiz, then the student can take a quiz for it here.

FRIENDS OF THE ARGYLE LIBRARIES

This great group is off and running and giving the libraries such support! This is an active advocacy and fund-raising group that has as its mission to help to make the libraries in AISD **exemplary**. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a membership and who has shown willingness to participate in this endeavor. There are lots of opportunities to be involved. Talk to either of the librarians if you want to know more about F.O.A.L.

**Thanks for supporting
the library!**



From The Transportation Corner

By Roxie McBride

National School Bus Safety week is October 18th – 22nd. The Transportation Safety Team will be holding the in- School Bus Safety Program this week. Parents are welcome.

There will also be a poster contest. Information will be given to the art department and any student grades K-5th may participate. Ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place, and Honorable mentions.

We will be initiating a new reward program on each bus. "Outstanding Student of the Week".

A certificate and an award will be given to one elementary student, **and** one middle **or** high school student.

We are well into our 2nd year with our own buses, and going strong. We will continue to strive for excellence under our safety record, and we again want to **thank every parent** who so kindly helps us get into and out of the schools, so we may get the students on there way to or from their destinations. As always if you have a concern, or question please feel free to contact me at (940) 465-4754.

Substitute Teaching

By Sandra Henry

Are you looking for a flexible work schedule, and a chance to make a difference? Argyle Independent School District's substitute teachers are a vital element in the success of our students. We are always looking for qualified substitutes to join our team. In order to become a substitute teacher, you must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent. In addition, you will need to complete a substitute application that can be obtained at our Administration Office.

Once you are accepted as an AISD substitute teacher, our campus staff may contact you each day with available assignments, based on the preferences you provide to us. You can select days of the week you wish to substitute and specific schools. You will

receive a daily rate of \$60.00 for each day you work.

Documents Required Are:

1. Substitute Teaching Application
2. Original proof of identity and employment eligibility (a driver's license and social security card are acceptable)
3. A copy of your teaching certificate (if applicable)

Before you begin work at AISD, you must also complete the following documents:

1. Employment Eligibility Form (I - 9) (Complete Section I Only)
2. Federal Withholding Exemption Form (W - 4)
3. Criminal History Background Check Authorization form
4. Substitute Profile Sheet

We appreciate your interest in becoming part of the Argyle Independent School District.

For more information concerning substitute teaching, contact:

Tami Barthel
Executive Assistant
800 Eagle Drive
Argyle, TX 76226
940-464-7241 ext. 5170
Fax: 940-464-7297

Argyle Independent School District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in hiring based on age, race, color, creed, religion, disability, gender, ethnic or national origin, military or veteran status. AISD prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities and will reasonably accommodate applicants with a disability, upon request.

Argyle Middle School Dance Schedule

**October 1, 2004
December 10, 2004
January 21, 2005
February 11, 2005
April 22, 2005**