

INSIGHTS



October, 2005



A Note from the Superintendent Carolyn Pierel

The district is preparing to seek competitive sealed proposals for the construction of tennis courts at the high school/middle school campus. This is an excellent opportunity for a local business or family to donate money toward this project. In return, the new courts could be named appropriately for the donor. Many districts are now naming various fine arts and/or sports facilities after people or companies who provide generous donations to the district. Please contact me if you have an interest in doing so.

If your company would like to advertise on the Argyle ISD web site, this is another opportunity to promote your organization while helping the district. Soon a new link will be added to the district web site. This link will take you to a

“wish list page” where district needs, great and small, will be listed. Often citizens have commented that they would like to help but don’t know what would most benefit the district. This new link should be helpful in providing suggestions but the list will never be exhaustive. Local groups as well as many individuals have provided the district with unexpected and greatly appreciated gifts throughout the years. The generosity and heartfelt desire to help by our citizens continues to impress everyone in Argyle ISD. I can never express enough my personal appreciation for everything that has been given in time, money and support for the district. Thank you again for working with our education professionals to provide the best we can in facilities and academic enrichment for our students.

ACCOUNTABILITY RATING 2005

**Dr. Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent**

When Argyle ISD attained the accountability rating of Recognized, we became one of only 168 districts in the state attaining this second highest rating. This attainment is a

result of hard work by students, parents, and staff; all deserve recognition and congratulations. All three campuses also attained the Recognized rating, joining 1866 other campuses. Statewide only 27.3% of campuses and 14.5 percent of districts achieved Exemplary or Recognized.

Statewide there are more than 1200 school districts and charter operators and about 7900 campuses. Statewide only 9 school districts and one charter operator earned Exemplary. Two hundred ninety campuses-287 regular and three charter schools-earned Exemplary.

To earn the Recognized rating we had TAKS passing rates of 70 percent or higher for each subject and for all students and each student group. We also had to have a passing rate of at least 70 percent on the SDAA II and a completion rate of 85 percent. An annual dropout rate of .7 percent was also required.

To earn an Exemplary rating, our district and campuses will have to achieve TAKS passing rates of 90 percent or higher for all students and each student group and in each subject area. The student groups are African American, Hispanic, white and economically disadvantaged.

Accountability Rating 2005 Continued...

The TAKS covers reading/English language arts; writing; mathematics; science and social studies.

At least 90 percent of the students who take the SDAA II must meet the academic expectations set for them. A high school completion rate of 95 percent or higher and a grade 7-8 annual dropout rate of .2 or less is also required to achieve an Exemplary rating.

Special areas of emphasis needed to attain the Exemplary rating this school year will be elementary science tested at Grade 5 but taught K-5, middle school math 6-8, and high school ELA.

This article contains reference information from <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/press/accountability05pr.html>

940-464-7241 X5177
twright@argyleisd.com

ChooseToCare

If you know about something that could harm you or someone you know, report it to your school officials now. But, if reporting what you know, in person, is not an option – provide your information online.

ChooseToCare.com is safe, secure, and confidential. And, you can remain anonymous. No Web access? Call toll-free: 877-277-3812



From: Robin McWhorter, Elementary Principal

As many of you are aware, the elementary school participates in the DARE program during the fall semester of each school year. D.A.R.E stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education. DARE 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 exceptional 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 November 9.

Topic areas are specific to the needs of this age group, with an emphasis on student progression. While practical, the lessons are fun and engaging; 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 students to learn from each other.

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 will be given instruction concerning the potential dangers in the misuse of drugs, medicine, and other substances.

We take great pride in having Officer Willingham as Hilltop Elementary 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 presence. The ceremony will take place on November 9 from 8:30-9:30 with a reception following in the cafeteria.



***From the desk of...
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 hard to believe that the first six weeks is but a memory, 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:

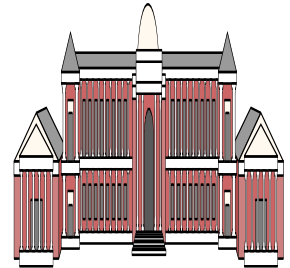
www.argyleisd.com; click on the drop down menu for schools; click on staff directory; select Middle School; the page that opens will list each teacher with a link to their webpage. Following this same path will allow you to access the teachers' email as well. Clicking on the teacher's name will allow 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.

I would like to thank all of you who helped make the first training for Safe School Ambassadors a huge success. The staff and students learned many valuable ways to help make AMS a safer place to be everyday. We will continue to meet as family groups throughout the school year.

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 2005-2006.



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

**Zeros Aren't Permitted:
(Z.A.P.)**

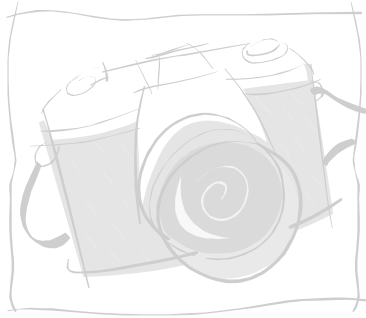
Purpose: To develop a consistent process that will **raise student expectations** in regard to the successful completion of homework and classroom assignments. Argyle High School uses the ZAP (**Zeros Aren't Permitted**)

ZAP Continued...

program to support the academic efforts of all students at the high school. The primary purpose of this program is to develop a consistent process that will **raise student expectations** in regard to the successful completion of homework, classroom assignments and to improve results on tests and projects. At the heart of the ZAP program is an effort to help students appreciate the importance of completing all assignments to the best of their ability. If it is assigned by a teacher then it is an important part of the learning cycle. If it is an important part of the learning cycle then it is just as important to complete that assignment in a timely manner while that material is still being covered. Process: If a student performs at less than 70% mastery on any give assignment or fails to turn in a daily assignment or homework assignment then that student will be asked to fill out a ZAP form. That form will have the students contact information on it. Some time during the day an administrator, or even that classroom teacher, will contact the parent and make arrangements for the student to stay after school and complete the assignment. If the student stays at school and completes the work that day then the point deduction will be minimal (10 to 15). If the work is not completed until the next day, then the late work policy of the campus will apply and the highest the student can make will be a 75. The work must be

turned into the office by 8:00 AM.

If the work does not come in by the next day then the student will receive a zero in the grade book. The student will still be expected to complete the assignment because it is an important part of the learning cycle and any part of that cycle interrupted will cause problems for future success.



The Middle School Yearbook staff wants you to send us your photos! If you have any good action, group or fun shots for consideration for the yearbook you may email them to lnorris@argyleisd.com. You may also take them to the Middle School office. Place your name on the back of the photos if you would like them returned.

What is PPCD?

By Carol Herrin

PPCD stands for Preschool Program for Children with Disability. This program is to provide an appropriate individualized educational program, in the least restrictive environment, for children ages three through five, who demonstrate disabilities.

What do you do if you suspect your child has a disability? Your doctor may be the first to identify a problem in your child's development. Unfortunately sometimes the less obvious disabilities go unidentified for too long. Usually mothers are quick to suspect a problem when their child is lagging behind others in his development. If you suspect a problem, talk to your doctor about it. If he says, "He'll outgrow it," seek another opinion. Call a child development center, speech & hearing clinic or a hospital funded by public money. If your child is three years old or will be by September 1st, contact your local school district to set up an appointment for screening and assessment which will be done at no charge to you. It is a good idea to take your child for a physical check-up first. (A Handbook for Parents, Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities, Denton County Special Education Co-op)



Nurse's Corner

By Jan Haney

I wanted to make you aware of facilities in Denton for low cost medical and dental care.

Denton County now has a clinic for children of families with low incomes for medical care. The clinic will see children without insurance and is on a

Nurse's Corner Continued...

sliding pay scale. Clients will need to furnish the latest check stub, SS numbers, picture ID of adults in household, birth certificates of children. They will also need to show if on food stamps, or other aide. The fees are \$40, \$10, and \$5 depending on income.

You can call:

People's Clinic of Denton
County
505 South Locust
940-387-2020

Hours of operation

8:00 am to 5:00pm Mon, Tue,
Thur, Fri.

10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Wednesdays

Appointments are necessary

Also TWU has a dental clinic for the general public for preventative care.

It serves anyone above the age of four years old.

Services offered are :

Cleaning \$15

Cleaning with bite wing x-rays
\$20

Full mouth x-rays \$15

Panorama x-ray \$15

Sealants are \$10 per quadrant
(based on Dr. recommendation)

Work is performed by student
hygienists under supervision.

Located at TWU in Denton
940-898-2888

Hours of operation are: Monday
and Wednesday

8:00 am to 10:30 am and 1:00
pm to 3:30 pm

Clients are screened and given
times on first come first serve
basis.

We still need a few more people
to commit to join in order to

have enough to form a local
Weight Watcher group. If you
are interested, please call Jan at
940-464-0564, ext 113.

There are times when we need
nurses to substitute for the
school nurses. If you are a
registered nurse and would be
interested in substituting or
volunteering to cover for the
nurses, please call Sherrie
Thompson, RN at 262-7777,
ext. 4301 or Jan Haney, RN at
464-0564, ext. 113 for more
information.



**Hilltop Elementary
Computer Labs are in
need of mouse pads.
Donations would be
greatly appreciated!**

Please contact:

Niki Barthel

@ 940-464-0564

Ext. 402

**“A Boost for the
Boosters”**

**Steve Schmidt,
Girls Athletic Coordinator**

From the hard-hitting
young men on the football field,
to the hard-hitting ladies on the
volleyball court, and the brave
souls who endure the elements

of the sport of cross country,
Argyle fall sports are in full-
swing. In each of these
activities, much success has
been shown already this school
year. From the training that the
kids put in, the hours of labor
coaches spend preparing the
game plans and preparing the
athletes, the drop-offs to
practice and pick-ups after
practice that the parents suffer
through, it does take a village,
and then some, to make it all
happen.

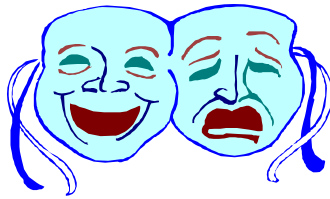
Sports activities also
require a great deal of money.
The question of how much a
school district should put into
extra-curricular activities
(including sports), is highly
debated. Obviously the value of
“extra-curriculars” should not
take the place of the necessary
fundamentals of education.
Yet, it is hard to imagine what
would happen to school morale
without these activities that
bring about values and lessons
that no book will ever be able to
teach.

At the present time, the
state of Texas is struggling to
find the funds to help its schools
simply get by. Funding sports
is not (nor, should it be) a top
priority. To keep the quality of
these programs thriving in our
community, the Argyle Athletic
Booster Club has been
tremendously helpful. My best
calculations show that at least
\$43,000 was donated during the
previous school year by this
organization to help our kids
and coaches succeed. This does
not include the cost of the top-
notch banquets they set up for

A Boost for Boosters Continued...

our athletes at the end of each season. Nor does that figure comprise the scholarships that were given to several young men and women who graduated from AHS last spring.

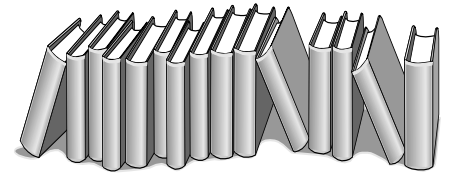
This is a huge contribution, especially considering the size of our school. This year, we have more athletes, we have more expenses, and we plan to have at least the same success, if not more, from our teams involved in Texas high school sports. Our Booster Club needs more help. All parents should be able to see their kids participate. That means basketball and volleyball parents need to work the concessions at football games, baseball and softball parents need to work some basketball games, football parents need to work softball and baseball games, tennis and golf parents need to work the wrestling meets, and so on. These are only a few examples. The leadership of the Booster Club can direct you when and where you may help out. But the bottom line is that if everyone does **something**, no one will have to do **everything**. And more money will be raised so that ALL of our Argyle Middle School and Argyle High School athletic teams can be "boosted" to the full potential. Please let me know if you'd like me to assist you in reaching one of the officers of the organization, so that you may begin helping with the cause today.



SPOTLIGHT PLAYERS TAKE ON TEEN DRINKING

The AHS Spotlight Players are currently addressing the problem of teenage drinking and its effects in their upcoming production of *ALKY* by Jerome McDonough. The performance will be presented on October 27th to the student body in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week.

The cast includes Bonnie Kurrus, Gable Huggins, Casey Grounds, Jared Rogers, Kelly Garcia, Caitlin Thompson, Kate Lockwood, Yvonne Freebourn, Ashley Cannon, Jessica Lane, and Sarah Ratliff. The play is under the direction of Nancy Chumbley, AHS Theatre Director.



News from Hilltop Elementary Library:

ONE LUCKY CLASSROOM TO SHARE BOXTOPS PROCEEDS

This year, for every 50 Boxtops for Education turned in by a class, the teacher's name will go into a drawing. At the end of the current collection period (October 21) one lucky name will be drawn and that teacher will receive for her classroom the amount of money earned with the boxtops her class has collected. Remember, each coupon is worth 10 cents which really adds up when everyone participates. If a class collects 50, their teacher's name will go into the drawing 1 time. If they collect 600, the name goes in 12 times. The more collected, the better the chance of winning. Boxtops for Education coupons are found on most General Mills, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Old El Paso, Yoplait and Totino's products. Often grocery stores will have special promotions and the receipts will have a bonus message at the bottom. Also, sometimes the bonuses are on those coupons that print out when the receipt is printed.

This promotion helps to purchase new things for the library and school along with

Elementary Library News Continued...

the Tyson brands A+ School coupons. Send either of these to your child's classroom. For more information, you can go to boxtops4education.com.

[Student Council is looking for volunteers to help with the Homecoming Dance on Oct. 15th. We need volunteers in decorating and chaperones. We also need donations of snack foods and beverages to help supply the refreshment table at the dance as well as the alumni table on Friday the 14th. If you can help please contact Paula Smith @ \(940\) 262-7777 or by email \[psmith@argyleisd.com\]\(mailto:psmith@argyleisd.com\)](#)



Argyle Band News

Congratulations to Michael Lemish and the AHS Drumline for their success at the Plano Drum Line Competition. The snare section and the pit won top honors and the Drumline was chosen as the outstanding Drumline in their class. Way to go AHS Drumline!!!

The High School Marching Band begins its competitive season on Saturday, October 8th with a performance at 10:15 a.m. at the Birdville Stadium. The next performance is at UIL Marching Contest on Saturday, October 22nd at 1:30 p.m. at Standridge Stadium in Carrollton. You can see the Band's contest show title *The Rise and Fall of Rome* during half-time at Varsity Football Games.

The first performance for the Sixth Grade Band and Middle School Red and White Bands is on Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the new Performing Arts Center. This will be the first opportunity for the Middle School Bands to perform in the new auditorium.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Argyle High School Band wishes to extend a special thank you to Lori Schinske, Denise Murphy and Eva Lane for their dedication to perfection in issuing and taking care of the Band's uniforms.

The Band would like to thank Ellen Pourzan (*aka Snack Queen*) and Susan Admire for keeping the Band well stocked in snacks and drinks at Football Games.

Thanks also to Bill and Sharon Coleman for their donation of services in conjunction with marking the new HS Band Practice Field.

And, a BIG THANKYOU to all of the HS Band Parents that

assist the Band during Football Games. You are the best!!!!

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Invitation To A Town Hall Meeting To Discuss Traffic Issues

When: Tuesday, 11/8/05
Where: AHS Cafeteria
Time: 6:00 p.m.

MRSA

By Scot McClure

In an effort to help educate the community of Argyle about the potential risks of methicillin resistant staphylococcus infection (MRSA), I have been asked to review some safeguards for athletes. The bacteria according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is often referred to as "staph". It is carried on the skin and nose of approximately 25-35 percent of the population without causing an infection. However, when the bacteria cause an infection it may be resistant to regular antibiotics. The resistant form is known as MRSA. MRSA infection is a growing concern for all athletic environments across the country. There have been cases reported throughout Texas and in our local communities. I have visited with several healthcare professionals who have stated that it is present in the athletic environments they are serving. The National Athletic Training Association has issued an

MRSA Continued...

official statement on MRSA. This statement can be viewed at <http://www.nata.org/publicinformation/position.htm>. The following was taken from the official statement: "NATA's official statement recommends the following precautions be taken:

1. Keep hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and warm water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer routinely.
2. Encourage immediate showering following activity.
3. Avoid whirlpools or common tubs. Individuals with open wounds, scrapes or scratches can easily infect others in this environment.
4. Avoid sharing towels, razors, and daily athletic gear.
5. Properly wash athletic gear and towels after each use.
6. Maintain clean facilities and equipment.
7. Inform or refer to appropriate health care personnel for all active skin lesions and lesions that do not respond to initial therapy.
8. Administer or seek proper first aid.

9. Encourage health care personnel to seek bacterial cultures to establish a diagnosis.

10. Care and cover skin lesions appropriately before participation. "

The Argyle I.S.D. athletic training program encourages all athletes to report to Mr. McClure ATC, LAT all skin lesions for appropriate evaluation and first aid. Furthermore, if any athlete or parent suspects that a lesion is not healing properly, then contact your personal physician and get the proper antibiotics as soon as possible. The athletic department and sport medicine team along with proper attention to details by the athletes and their parents will help prevent MRSA infections in Argyle I.S.D. athletic programs.

AHS Student Council 2005-2006

Student Body Officers

PRESIDENT: Bailey Slough

VICE -PRESIDENT: Teacup Gorman

SECRETARY: Nickie Hagen

TREASURER: Emily Licata

HISTORIAN: Laura Vickers

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

Whitney Hoopingarner

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR:

Yvonne Glass

SENIOR CLASS

PRESIDENT: Gaspar Mesta

VICE-PRESIDENT: Jeff Martz

SECRETARY: Taylor Culberson

TREASURER: David Arnoldy

JUNIOR CLASS

PRESIDENT: Rita O'Connor

VICE-PRESIDENT: Julie Kurrus

SECRETARY: Jill Beathard

TREASURER: Alex Whitaker

SOPHOMORE CLASS

PRESIDENT: Michael Laurion

VICE-PRESIDENT: Trevor

Cantrell

SECRETARY: Kori McConnell

TREASURER: Samantha Delbecq

FRESHMAN CLASS

PRESIDENT: Kelsey Case

VICE-PRESIDENT: Emily

Hayward

SECRETARY: Jackie Mabry

TREASURER: Mary Bowman

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

SENIOR:

Megan Self

JUNIOR:

Jill Beathard

Ashley Cannon

Cole Frazier

Jen Hilz

Chris Wilkerson

SOPHOMORE:

Josh Camillo

Meghan Donnelly

Katie Edwards

Jayson Haynes

Chloe Kemp

Cicily Koh

Jacque Lansdowne

Ashlyn Leenhouts

Kirstie Lipp

Bradleigh Lowry

Cara McQuirk

Jennifer Mooney

Cayla O'Connor

Erin O'Connor

Catherine Pettibon

Victoria Presley

Randi Roberts

Ross Slough

Katherine Yarbrough

Maddy Webbe

Jake Wilson