

INSIGHTS



September, 2004

www.argyleisd.com

*By Carolyn Pierel
Superintendent*

The above web address is the only official site for the Argyle ISD. You will find a wealth of information located there, as well as related links you may also find of interest. This is the only web site that is sponsored by the district. You may assume that anything that appears there is factual information. While other web sites or chat rooms may claim to provide news about the district, please be aware that they have no official connection to AISD. We do not provide information to the sites nor do we participate in chat room discussions. As a citizen in a free society, you may choose to read or participate in any site you so desire. However, the information you receive may or may not be accurate and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the district. If you wish information that is not provided on the web site, you can always contact me and if it is legally or ethically permissible, I will tell you. A good rule of thumb is this – if the district cannot discuss an

issue, it is safe to assume that no one else knows all the facts surrounding the issue.

Parents are urged to sign up for the AISD calling tree and e-mail notification. These are both excellent means of receiving notification about school events. Also, I hope you will continue to read “Insights”. Our goal is to provide parents with clear, consistent and accurate information to the greatest extent possible.

What’s New This School Year?

There are so many new and exciting things happening this year that choosing one to begin with is a difficult task.

Since our primary focus is always the students, the most appropriate news with which to begin this article pertains to student enrollment. As of August 27th, our enrollment total is an increase of 115 students over last year. The following breakdown gives figures for each campus: elementary 638, middle school 374 and high school 465. To accommodate student growth, AISD has added seven additional full time teaching positions, and two part-time teachers. Eight of those are

academic only teachers and one shares teaching and coaching duties. We have also replaced teaching positions due to resignations or retirements for a total of 28 teachers who are new to our district. There are seven at the elementary, nine at the middle school and twelve at the high school. All of our teachers are fully certified to teach in their assigned subject area. All three campuses have had or will soon have a meet the teacher night to give parents an opportunity to become acquainted with new personnel. The district is well into our current high school building project with about half completed at this time. The new fine arts wing will be finished in September and the auditorium is due to open in early spring. The new elementary is still targeted for completion in the early summer of 2005.

All of our fall sports programs have shown tremendous growth. I credit our excellent coaching staff for this increased rate of participation.

In case anyone has not yet heard, our middle school band was recently chosen as the number one band in the state in their classification. They will be performing at the TMEA

**Mrs. Pierel
continued...**

state conference in San Antonio in February.

Finally, you may have noticed some features that we have added in an effort to ensure the safety of our students. All three campuses are structured so that visitors must enter through only one location which is located at the front of the building. All visitors must sign in before entering a district campus. They should also sign out and turn in their visitors' badge or sticker. At some point in September, all district employees will have picture identification badges which must be worn any time an employee is on a school campus. The hallways and cafeteria at the high school and middle school are now monitored by surveillance cameras at all times. Release times at the elementary campus have been staggered in order to facilitate student pick up and all campuses have added ten minutes to the school day in order to provide adequate time for lunch.

As always, change is exciting and at the same time somewhat unsettling. There are always a few bumps in the road as new things happen. I hope that you will be pleased with our efforts and ask for your patience if everything is not perfectly smooth at the beginning. If you have concerns or suggestions for improvement, please call and make an appointment to visit with me or another

administrator. Clear communication is always the key to good relationships.



Coordinated Approach to Child Health

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

Coordinated Approach to Child Health (CATCH) is being implemented at the elementary school this year. All staff members received training on the program on August 9. Jan Haney, elementary nurse, has formed a committee regarding the program. Coordinated school health is a process which brings a school community together to teach children to be healthy for a lifetime. Coordinated school programs reinforce positive healthy behaviors throughout the day and make clear that good health and learning go hand in hand.

CATCH builds an alliance of children, parents, teachers, and school staff to teach skills and behaviors associated with maintaining healthy lifestyles. CATCH coordinates four component areas:

Physical Education – CATCH P.E. provides standard based

physical education lessons to teach lifelong movement skills which blend both fun and fitness.

School Nutrition - CATCH Eat Smart guides school cafeterias toward promoting a nutrition rich environment.

Classroom – Go for Health, a cartoon-and peer-based curriculum, teaches healthy eating, daily physical activity and tobacco avoidance---habits that prevent chronic disease.

Family – At home, the health messages children learn in school are reinforced with interactive and enjoyable Home Team activities. The school community is brought together through CATCH Family Fun Nights hosted at school.

The emphasis on a coordinated health program is as a result of the alarming statistics regarding the health status of children in the United States. More children in this country are overweight than ever before. Children who are overweight are more likely to develop diabetes and other chronic disease risk factors like high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

Poor eating habits are often established during childhood. More than 60% of young people eat too much fat, and less than 20% eat the recommended five or more servings of fruit and vegetables each day. More than a third of young people in grades 9-12 do not regularly

Dr. Wright continued...

engage in vigorous physical activity.

If you are interested in being on the CATCH committee or making recommendations to the committee, call Jan Haney at 940-464-7241 x1132.



Nurse's Corner

We are excited with the start of the 2004-2005 school year. We are hoping everyone has a healthy and happy year. We would like to remind everyone of the guidelines for taking medications at school.

1. All medications sent to school MUST be in an original container. IF you are sending medicine to school that a student is also taking at home, you can ask the pharmacist to provide a bottle for the school and they will do so.

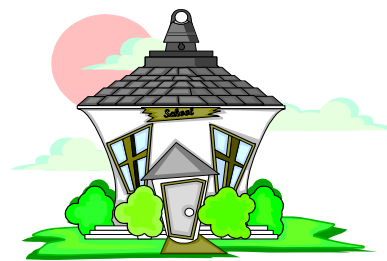
2. No medication will be given if there is not a signed, dated permission from the parent that gives times and doses to be given. If the medication is to be kept in the school for more than 15 days, then we must have a signed and dated order from the physician. This is for both over the counter and prescription drugs.

Also we need to remind everyone that students should

not return to school after an illness until they have been free of fever or vomiting and diarrhea for at least 24 hours. This is for the protection of all students.

If your child has an infectious illness, we need you to notify the school so we are aware of the number of cases and areas of infection.

The Elementary School is starting a new coordinated health curriculum this year. It is called CATCH, (Coordinated Approach to Child Health). The staff had an in-service recently and we are excited about the possibilities this program offers. Watch for lots of new and fun ideas to be coming. This program includes all area of school, teachers, administrators, counselors, nurses, PE coaches, and food service, as well as the parents. Working together we can all make a difference in the health of all of our students.



From: Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the start of a new school year at Argyle Elementary. For many, it is a greeting extended to friends; to others, it is an

introduction and an invitation. To all, it constitutes a pledge of continued efforts to provide the best possible education for our students.

Our school's reputation and success rest, in large measure, on parental concern and involvement. We seek to afford each student an education commensurate with his or her abilities, relevant to this country's needs, and challenging to a degree that will prompt a love of learning. This is no easy task. We need your cooperation and understanding if this year is to provide a profitable and satisfying experience for your child. Our school, from its foundation, has stressed academic excellence...in this there is no compromise or change.

Our school can take pride in its highly qualified and dedicated faculty. We are very pleased to have added the following faculty members. Kelly Little – Kindergarten; Holly Williams, Anita Gumbert, Misty Whitworth – Third Grade; Cristy Sydow- Fourth Grade; Cheryl Sain- Dyslexia; Linda Scofield- Reading Recovery and SOAR; and Marilyn Kemp- MALL. These educators along with our returning faculty welcome your concern, and they view education as a partnership between home and school. Over the years, the spirit and tradition that is our school have played a key role in shaping the educational experience. Each class profits from the example of those who have gone before them. Ours has been a tradition

Elementary Principal continued...

of students committed to the proposition that the privilege of coming to school carries with it the obligation to do the best they can.

If there is anything we can do to help your child, please do not hesitate to call. The unvoiced problem cannot be resolved, as the missed opportunity rarely offers itself again. Our goal remains to provide the best possible education for each student.

We trust that your experience with our school will enhance your faith in public education and that you will find in this school an education for your children that is worthy of your love and concern for them.

Me gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad de dar la bienvenida todos ustedes a la salida de un nuevo año escolar a Argyle Elementary. El muchos de Para, es un saludo se extendido un amigos del los; un otros, introducción de una de es la y una invitación. Un todos, el un del constituye, la prenda del la del esfuerzos continuados para mantener la posible educación mejor nuestros estudiantes.

La reputación del La de la escuela del nuestra el resto de y del éxito, en la medida grande, preocupación de la de en el involucramiento de y paternal. Los Nosotros buscamos permitirnos el lujos de un cada estudiante una educación correspondiente hacen trampas el su el o sus

habilidades, pertinente un rurales de necesidades de este, desafiando de y un un grado que incitará un amores del aprender. Ésta ningún es ninguna tarea fácil. La Nosotros necesitamos su cooperación el y entendiendo si este año es proporcionar un aprovechable el y satisfaciendo la experiencia para su niño. La escuela de Nuestra, de la fundación del su, los ha enfatizado el excellence... in académico esto dan heno al compromiso del ningún el cambio de o.

El Nuestra escuela puede enorgullecerse del su facultad muy calificada el especializada de y. El Nosotros estamos muy contentos haber agregado un miembros del los del siguiente de lo de facultad. Kelly Pequeño-el Jardín del infantes; el el Acebo Williams, Anita Gumbert, el Whitworth Empañado-Tercera Calidad; Cristy Sydow - Cuarta Calidad; Cheryl Sain - Dyslexia; Linda Scofield - el la de Leyendo Recuperación y VUELA. Los Estos educadores junto hacen trampas la bienvenida del nuestra de la facultad volviendo su preocupación, las y ellos ven la educación como una sociedades entran en la casa la escuela de y. Encima del años del los, espíritu del el y tradición que hijo nuestra escuela ha jugado un papel importante formando la experiencia educativa. El Cada clase gana del ejemplo del aquéllos que han ido ante el ellos. La El nuestro ha sido una tradición del comprometida del estudiantes un la proposición que el privilegios del venir un lleva de escuela de la hacen

trampas el él la obligación para hacer el mejor que ellos pueden. Si dan heno al algo que nosotros podemos hacer para ayudar un niños del su, los por no favorecen ningún llamar del fulano. El sordo de problema de El ningún resolverse del puede, el como la oportunidad extrañada raramente se ofrece del nuevo. El Nuestra meta permanece mantener la posible educación mejor cada estudiante.

Las Nosotros confiamos que su experiencias hacen trampas el nuestra escuela reforzará su fe en la educación pública el y que usted encontrará en esta escuela una educación para sus niños que hijo digno del amor del su el e involucran para ellos.

Atentamente,
Robin McWhorter, Principal,



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

Welcome back to school! I would like to take this opportunity to personally welcome everyone to Argyle Middle School. I am excited each morning as I turn into the drive and approach the parking lot because AMS is a wonderful place to be. I want to welcome all of our new students. I believe that you have joined the

Middle School Principal continued...

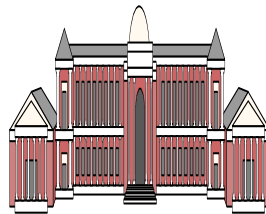
best middle school in the state of Texas and I look forward to getting to know each of you during your years in middle school. I also would ask that you join me in welcoming our new faculty and staff: Jennifer Sanders, Student Support; B.J. Gosnell, STEPS to Employment; Ruth Fryer, Instructional Assistant; Barbara Hayden, 6th Grade Science; Jamie Tomlinson, 6th Grade English and Student Council; Jennifer Wilson, 7th Grade Science and Coaching; Kathi Olson, 7th Grade Texas History and Coaching; Charisa Harris, 7th Grade Math; Debra Drake, 8th Grade Math; Emily Burk, 8th Grade English and Cheerleading; Sherrie Thompson, Middle School/High School Nurse.

We have started our year with excellence. Congratulations to our volleyball teams, who won their first games on August 23rd! Congratulations to our Red Band, who was named Honor Band this summer in state level competition! We are looking forward to remarkable and wonderful achievements from all our students at AMS this year.

We welcome your participation in our school and the many functions we participate in throughout the year. Please use our district website and our campus website to stay up to date with the activities and events at AMS. Teachers will prepare their websites weekly to

help you stay informed about what is going on in each of their classes. This is an excellent way to know what your child missed if he or she is absent. Our website is www.argyleisd.com. Each teacher has posted tutorial times outside their classroom door and on the white board in the middle school office. Please feel free to call the school if you have any questions or concerns. Michelle Schmidt, our middle school secretary, will be glad to schedule appointments for both teachers and myself. You may contact her at (940)246-2126x2302.

Welcome back! We are looking forward to an exemplary year at AMS!



Argyle High School Principal Mr. Jeff Henry

It is the beginning of a new school year at Argyle High School. The summer is quickly turning to fall and another school year is under way. As we take another step forward in the creation of a new year for a young high school, it is a great time to reflect on last year's accomplishments and the traditions that have their beginnings in the infancy of a new school. We have graduated just two classes from Argyle High School and last year was

the first time we have really had Argyle High School alumni. This is doubly exciting because we are able now to reflect on our brief history, revel in the tremendous success these young people have enjoyed and at the same time we can look forward and help our young people set in place today the traditions that Argyle High School will be remembered for. It is not often that people are afforded the opportunity to be a part of something brand new and are able to be a part of setting the course of the future. This is the legacy that our young people are entrusted to establish. It is the responsibility of the adult leadership of this school and local community to help our young people maintain the high standards that has been established and to continue to improve our standard and image.

The young people of this community are our most valuable resource and it is our responsibility to ensure their place in establishing what Argyle High School is to stand for. The coaching staff has spent many hours training our student athletes not only for the physical aspect of the game, but also there is training for learning to deal with the emotional aspect of the game. It is our responsibility to recognize the rolls that each of us must play. Let the coaches coach, let the players play, let the managers manage and let the fans cheer, but do not under any circumstance get them mixed up. It is our responsibility to model good

High School Principal Continued...

sportsmanship. We must remember that hollering at the official is like hollering at life. When life turns you down, it does no good to holler. You must begin again and set your attitude on your goal. There is no shame in getting knocked down, the shame is staying down. Let us all do our part in beginning a new and great year for the Argyle Eagles. Let us be the example that we want our young people to be.

The Competitive Female

Steven Schmidt
Girls Athletic Coordinator

As we set forth into another school year, much of my thoughts have been concerning the number of female athletes in our sports programs here at Argyle. In the 7th grade, the majority of both boys and girls will choose to be a part of the athletic program. Each year, there will be fewer and fewer who return. Not everyone finds what they're looking for in the athletic program, and not everyone is an athlete. No coach would suggest that ALL kids should stay in athletics. Yet studies are showing that there are some correlations to playing sports and being successful in life.

The results of an Oppenheimer Funds survey of 401 highly successful American women show that 82% of those

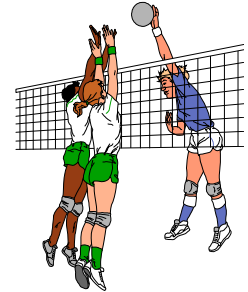
polled played sports in junior high, high school, or college. Team activities were said to have helped them succeed in the competitive work environment. A University of Virginia study suggests that 80% of female leaders in Fortune 500 companies had participated in school sports. Could it be that this involvement in team sports is teaching young women how to be competitive at work?

Adding to these statistics, some of the other obvious benefits are health related. Physical activity cuts down on the risk of obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, and many other ailments that can curb the road to success. No one can be at their best, ready to compete in any business or profession, if the health of their body is suffering. Exercise also helps young women to feel confident in their body image and helps to protect them from some of the dangers of peer pressure, studies show.

Physical fitness can take place without involvement in team sports or the school athletic department. Yet, it is also much more difficult to stay loyal to a personal fitness plan, rather than working out with a group of peers. Even if a young girl only stays in the athletic department for a few years of her school career, she will be exposed to the importance of physical fitness, she will be given the opportunity to see the struggles and rewards that come from being a part of the team, and maybe most importantly,

she will see that it is acceptable and attractive to be a competitive female.

Capozza, Korey. "Team Sports Give Girls a Career Edge." Prevention. February, 2004.



Argyle Middle School Volleyball By Tracy Sykes

Congratulations to the Argyle Jr. High Volleyball Teams. After going through a 3-day tryout session, the teams had only 2 days to prepare themselves to play against S&S. All four teams (7B, 7A, 8B, 8A) won their game on Monday night. Each game was exciting and close. Congratulations Lady Eagles! Their next home game will be against Celina on Sept. 13th - time 5:00 p.m.

Argyle MS Teams:

7B – Lauren McGuffey, Ally Koehler, Jordon Milbauer, Taylor Pierce, Andrea Frizzell, Alex Whitby, Sydney Sanders, Lauren Kislingbury, Michelle Newell, Lily Otto, Lindsay Nelson, Shannon Portz.
7A – Katie Mckinney, Katie Eckert, Colbea Harris, Dakota Adoue, Claire Pettibon, Meredith Wooley, Tara Nation, Jordan Merka, Sally Smith, Emily Rodgers, Erin Leamon, Callye Herbison
8B – Rachel Hoyt, Jessica Bonfield, Evan Milbauer,

**AMS Volleyball
continued...**

Stephanie Parks, Courtney Williams, Michelle Burns, Jessica Matchett, Becca Brier, Amber Hardy, Alex Ball, Emily Mooney, Kristen Gill
8A – Amy Beecher, Juliana Bruno, Kendee Long, Chloe Balvin, Kaylee Brazeel, Bekah Clarke, Alyssa Scott, Mariana Harrison, Kaylee Sutton, Amanda Sutton, Emma Forrer, Rachel Schermerhorn

**Second Annual
Black Diamond Affair
Coming Soon!
Volunteers Needed!**

The 2nd annual Black Diamond Affair is scheduled for February 26, 2005, to be held at the Doral Hotel near the Texas Motor Speedway. The Chairman of the event this year is Lina Polischeck, VP of Development for the Foundation Board of Directors. According to Lina, "This will be an Evening in Monte Carlo, with dining, dancing, gaming tables, and our spectacular live and silent auctions."

Last year the Black Diamond Affair was a lot of fun and a huge success, raising \$72,000 for programs to benefit Argyle ISD school children. There are many ways to help this year in making the Black Diamond Affair another huge success. The planning committee needs volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, including decorating, finding sponsors, helping with the

auctions, and more. Also, donations for the live and silent auctions will be needed. Other ways you can help is through sponsorship of the Black Diamond Affair or purchasing ad space for the program.

A kick-off party will take place on August 28, 2004, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for all Black Diamond Affair volunteers. If you are interested in being on the BDA committee or helping in any way, please contact Lina Polischeck at 469-682-1331.



Band News

At the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention in July, the Argyle Middle School Red Band was named the best middle school band in the state of the Texas. The judging was based on a recording of the Band's performance from this past spring. In honor of its first place finish, the Red Band will perform in February at the annual Texas Music Educators Association Annual Convention which is held in San Antonio. The Red Band also placed first in the Association of Texas Small School Bands Outstanding Performance Series for its performance of *Quintology* and second for its performance of *Newcastle March*.

The Argyle High School Wind Ensemble placed first and second in the Outstanding Performance Series for its performances of *Linden Lea* and *Pablo!* The Wind Ensemble also placed second for its performance of *The Glory of the Yankee Navy*.

Band Booster Tailgate Party

All Band parents and families are invited to attend the first annual Band Booster Tailgate Party on Friday, September 10th. Bring food for your family and/or to share, soft drinks/water and be sure to bring your lawn chair. We will meet from 5:30 to 7:00 in the parking lot beside the new practice gym. Contact Valerie Donahue if you have any questions.

Anyone interested in use of school facilities, after hours, must contact Tammy Keen at 940-464-7241, ext. 5179.



**Transportation
By Roxie McBride**

The Drivers for routes 1 through 5 are proud to be of service to you, our students,

Transportation Continued...

community leaders and staff of AISD.

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce your drivers, and myself: Special Education – Barbara Baker, Aide Special Education – Lyle Burnett, Rt. 1- Charles Spath, Rt. 2 – Jack Harris, Rt. 3 – Cheryl Stroud, Rt. 4 – Anna Johnson, and Rt. 5 – Roxie McBride (Operations Coordinator).

We have a very diverse driving work force. We come from many venues, and our experience is tremendous. (We have approximately 48 years between us.)

We are a group of dedicated district drivers who make it their job to see that all students in this district have a safe ride to their destination and back. Our goal remains the same, ***“Safe, On Time, and Ready to Learn”***.

I will be working with the Kindergarten through 5th grade classes talking about School Bus Safety, and providing an in-school program to facilitate that process. Should the need ever arise, your children will know exactly what to do, and how to do it.

With the arrival of our new school buses last fall, all are outfitted with A/C. There are a couple of differences compared to the old ones that were provided by Durham School Services. We will be advising your children on those

differences. We are very proud of the new buses.

If you have a need, or concern, I would be happy to discuss it with you, and to work on a solution, or if you wish to complement a driver, on his or her performance, I will be happy to take that call also. Feel free to call me. I have voice mail if I am unavailable at the time of your call, and I will always return my calls as promptly as I can. You can reach me at (940) 464-7241, ext. 1169. Please do not forget to leave your name and number.

We are very grateful to those of you who always try to make our jobs easier; from the back parking lot, getting the drivers out and to the high school on time, to the buses getting out over a sometimes very dangerous railroad crossing, and on to their destination safely.

What an awesome group of Argyle students we have! We are pleased to transport your children!

Again, we wish to thank you for your graciousness, and support.

Sincerely,
Roxie McBride and your
2004-05 Argyle ISD
Transportation Drivers

***Labor Day is Monday
September 6, 2004.
There is no school.***

