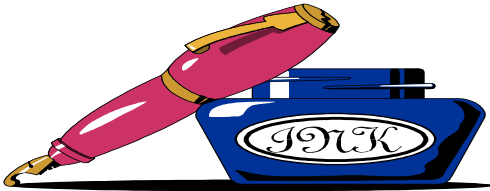


INSIGHTS



September, 2005



A Note from the Superintendent Carolyn Pierel

School has been in session now for a few weeks. Routines are being established and processes are being set into place. The district would like to thank parents for their patience and support during this time. District-wide enrollment is up by one hundred students from the first day of school last year. During the year, we expect enrollment to continue growing by about another fifty students.

It is evident that as our population continues to grow there is increased traffic congestion around our schools. This is a very frustrating situation for both the district and the Town. The Texas Highway Department has issued a decision that the Town of Argyle does not qualify for additional traffic lights at this time. Nor is there any possibility of significantly widening Highway 377 due to the location of railroad tracks and an existing flood plain.

Neither the Town nor the district has the necessary resources to buy additional land around the schools or to build additional roads. The resulting traffic lines at our campuses mean that even with the best efforts of administrators and teachers, drop-off and pick-up lines are longer. At Hilltop Elementary, it will take about twenty minutes from the time of dismissal for the last student to be helped into a car. Buses are more full this year, and routes are taking longer. It is especially hard for our buses to turn left onto Highway 377 leaving the secondary campus in the afternoon. Some buses have had to wait ten to fifteen minutes in line in order to safely make this turn. The district is currently considering employing an off-duty law enforcement officer to assist with traffic control at this location on Cook Street. Administrators at Hilltop are working diligently to fine tune the drop-off and pick-up processes.

Several suggestions have been received which I would like to address. First, it has been suggested that elementary students who have siblings at the secondary campus be allowed to ride a bus and be picked up at the secondary campus. This is not feasible because of safety

issues. Employees on the secondary campus are not available to assist in elementary pick-up procedures and, therefore, monitor the safety of elementary students. Should a student be injured, employees might not recognize the student. Emergency information cards would not be readily accessible. All three campus principals are adamant that this would create a safety hazard for elementary students. It would also increase traffic congestion on the secondary campus.

The second suggestion is that a bus or buses be reserved for only elementary students to ride. The district owns eight buses. If we used some exclusively for elementary students, those buses would have to cover all the usual routes. That would mean that some elementary students would be on buses for hours both morning and evening. Buses with secondary students would have to cover the same routes and they also would have hours to ride. Additionally, as buses would be following each other on the same routes, this process would add significantly to gasoline usage at a time when gas prices have skyrocketed.

The third suggestion is to space school release times apart more than they currently are. Currently, grades K-2

**Superintendent,
Carolyn Pierel Continued...**

dismiss at 3:00 PM, grades 3-5 at 3:15 PM, and 6th-12th at 3:30 PM. The first concern would again be the buses. If the secondary schools dismissed at 3:45 PM, then that would add additional time to any bus route that went from the elementary to the secondary campus. Young students would be even later arriving home. Secondary students who are involved in any type of after-school activity would have to begin that activity later and, therefore, stay even later in the evening.

Finally, some have questioned why the new school has a smaller campus and fewer roads leading to it than the old Argyle Elementary. The answer is that public schools cannot afford to purchase extra land and build additional roads in order to accommodate high traffic use for a brief period of time each day. The new elementary sits on approximately twenty acres, which is considered generous by today's standards. Many new elementary schools in this area are built on ten to fifteen acres. Argyle Elementary sits on forty acres which is considered the standard size for a modern middle or junior high school. Argyle Elementary was the site of a K-8 school until very recent times and was used for both elementary and secondary purposes. It also had the benefit of Front Street where parents could form long traffic lines without having to sit on a busy street or Highway 377.

I hope that this information helps parents to understand that the district has reached certain decisions based on advance planning as well as knowledge about the financial realities of Texas public schools. The district would like to be able to provide even more and better services to students and parents. However, we are doing everything we possibly can with the money that we have available. Our primary focus must be to educate and provide a safe environment for the students. I sincerely thank parents and interested citizens for your understanding and desire to help. We have beautiful facilities and excellent teachers and administrators who are dedicated to serving this community. The challenges that come with being a fast-growth district are daunting and can sometimes appear overwhelming. However, I have a firm belief that as long as we all remain focused, committed and positive in our thinking Argyle ISD will grow even better in the coming years. Thank you once again for everything you do to support our students, faculties, and staff. We appreciate your interest and welcome your suggestions.

**DUKE UNIVERSITY
TALENT
IDENTIFICATION
PROGRAM**

Dr. Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent

The Duke University Talent Identification Program identifies gifted children and

provides resources to nurture the development of these exceptionally bright youngsters. Duke TIP is committed to serving this unique group of students by providing services and programs beyond what is offered in the classroom. Through Duke TIP a whole range of activities and programs are accessible to parents and teachers to meet the individual needs of gifted children.

Exceptionally bright students often go unrecognized because they hide their talents, underachieve, or exhibit behavioral problems. A disproportionately large number of minority group students, youngsters from families where English is not the primary spoken language in the home, and children from less affluent families are at risk for not being identified as gifted.

Duke TIP provides students with the opportunity to learn more about their abilities. In fourth and fifth grade, qualifying students may participate in Duke TIP's 4th/5th Grade Talent Search program and may take advantage of its optional above-level testing.

Through Duke TIP's 7th Grade Talent Search program, which focuses on the identification, recognition, and support of high-ability seventh graders, students take college entrance exams alongside high school students.

Beginning at critical points in education, Duke TIP gives students a chance to learn more

Duke University Talent Identification Program Continued...

about their abilities. Through identification, recognition, information, advocacy, challenging educational programs, and research, Duke TIP offers a wide array of services to students, their parents, educators, and schools.

4th/5th Grade Talent Search

The 4th/5th Grade Talent Search is a resource for parents, school personnel, and local communities that focuses on the identification, development, and support of talented 4th-6th graders. The goals are to: motivate students to focus on their academic achievement, reward positive performance, disseminate educational information to students and their families, offer independent learning opportunities for students, and provide an optional out-of-level testing experience.

To take part in the 4th/5th Grade Talent Search students must meet criteria in these areas: school attendance, grade, and test scores.

Students must live in or attend a school within Duke TIP's 16-state region. The region includes Texas. Students must be in 4th or 5th grade when applying. Eligible students must have scored at the 90th percentile or above on a grade level standardized achievement, aptitude, or mental ability test or approved state criterion referenced test. Students need

only qualify on one acceptable composite or sub test area.

Registration for 2006 will open in January 2006. Interested, qualifying students can enroll in the 4th/5th Grade Talent Search through either paper application or online registration. There is a \$25 fee. For the \$25 the student and family receive a Certificate of Achievement, *Staying on Course: Parent Resource Handbook*, *The Navigator* newsletter (twice a year), *Academic 411*, an opportunity to enter a writing contest for monetary awards, and an opportunity for above – level testing (EXPLORE test) and recognition.

The EXPLORE tests were developed for 8th-grade students to measure education achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science.

Participating in this level of testing will be a challenge that will help identify abilities.

Grade 7 Overview

The Talent Search is now beginning its twenty-sixth year. The Talent Search identifies academically talented 7th graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending elementary or middle school. Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Assessment college entrance examination. The goal is to assist young people with excellent mathematical or verbal aptitude.

To be eligible a student must be a current 7th grader, live or attend school in TIP's 16-state region and have scored at the 95th percentile or higher on a grade-level standardized achievement, aptitude, or mental ability test.

Registration deadlines for this year are:

Test Dates		Paper Application	Online Registration
SAT	ACT		
December 3	December 10	October 1	Oct. 16
January 28	February 11	November 1	

All participants who complete the SAT or ACT will receive testing experience, *Educational Resource Handbook*, *Educational Opportunity Guide*, *Insights*, Certificate of Merit and a results summary.

For more information or if you have questions, call

Michael Ball, Elementary Counselor, 940-464-0564, Sheila Flanagan, Middle School Counselor, 940-246-2126, or Telena Wright, Assistant Superintendent, 940-464-7241.

This information is from the Duke TIP Web site: www.tip.duke.edu/talent



National Bus Week is October 16 -22, 2005

ChooseToCare:
Sponsored by Texas Bank

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**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the start of a new school year at Hilltop 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. Our school mission is 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; therefore, 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 takes pride in our highly qualified and dedicated faculty. We are very pleased to have added the following faculty members to our family this year: Stephanie McClure-First Grade; Kristi Lindemann-First Grade; Diane Beaver-Second Grade, La Shea Butts – Second Grade; Patience Knotts- Fourth Grade; Kerry Callahan-Paraprofessional; Donna Wright-Paraprofessional. These educators, along with our returning faculty, welcome your questions and insight regarding your children. All faculty at Hilltop Elementary view education as a partnership between home and school, and we realize our students reap huge benefits from a positive working relationship. Over the years, the spirit and tradition that is our school have played a key role in shaping the educational experience. Ours has been a tradition 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.

In closing, I want to thank everyone for your patience, cooperation and flexibility during dismissal time this week. We are continually striving to provide the safest mode possible to release all of our students. For safety reasons and to help with traffic flow, we are asking that you not arrive more than 20 minutes early for dismissal. Kindergarten through Second grade dismissal is at 3:00 in the back of the school. Third grade through Fifth grade dismissal is at 3:15 in the front of the building.



From the desk of...
Sonja M. Ball,
Middle School Principal

I want to extend a warm welcome back to all new and returning students to Argyle Middle School. Our school year has begun and I am already witnessing many wonderful accomplishments by our students. I am certain that the 2005-2006 school year will be another exemplary year for all

Sonja Ball Middle School Principal continued...

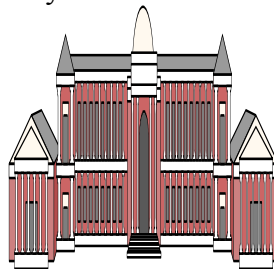
at AMS. I want to welcome our new faculty to AMS: Jennifer Granger is teaching seventh grade science; Matthew George is teaching seventh grade Texas History; Tamela Adair is teaching eighth grade science and coaching middle school girls; Diane Seabrook is teaching eighth grade history; Heidi Shaban-Cortese is teaching middle school art; Kim Hubbard is teaching middle school and high school theatre; Vicki Larson is teaching middle school P.E. and coaching high school girls; Megan Tellez is teaching TAKS math for middle school and high school and is coaching middle school girls. Welcome to each of you, we are very excited to have everyone join our middle school faculty.

I am looking forward to the initial training for our Safe School Ambassador program on September 20, 2005. AMS is piloting a program designed to address the issues of school bullying and harassment. Safe School Ambassadors is a program that will work to change the culture of the school through the empowerment of the bystanders. I would encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about Safe School Ambassadors to review the report found at www.safeschoolambassadors.org/aboutsssa_researchreport.php.

I also invite parents and students to utilize the district website in conjunction with the school website to keep updated on school happenings and assignments. Our web address

is www.argyleisd.com. As in past years, all of our core teachers have posted tutorial times outside their classroom doors and on the white board in the 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)246-2126 ext. 2302.

Welcome back!
Everyone at AMS is looking forward to a productive and positive year.



Argyle High School Principal Mr. Jeff Henry

We are finally under way to begin a new school year and the students at the high school are back in the “groove” of going to class and are settling down to the business of going to school.

We are very excited about the great start we are experiencing this year. Even with more numbers than we had anticipated (the halls are crowded and there are classes with as many as 30 and 35 students) the Eagles are doing a great job in getting to school on time and moving from class to class in an expedient manner. This is a tribute to our faculty and staff

and their cooperative effort in making things work in trying conditions. Too, we would like to thank our parents and community for their support and effort in this endeavor.

A point of focus that we all need to be mindful of is the continuation of our strong academic and extracurricular traditions. The students, faculty, coaches, directors and parents that have preceded us have spent many long and arduous hours building what we are now able to be a part of. Argyle High School is a great school and we must be mindful of the sacrifice and diligence of the people that have set this great school in motion. We have a responsibility to the past and to the future. It is no accident that we are where we are today. Take a moment and reflect on what has been before, and make a commitment to respect that tradition. If you are new to the district, please be mindful that this great district and high school are no accident and we need all the support you have.

Have a great Argyle Eagle School Year!



Nurse's Corner By Jan Haney

Welcome back to another exciting year. We are looking forward to a great year with the students all staying as healthy

Nurse's Corner Continued...

as possible. There are a few guidelines we would like to remind you about.

Students all have emergency cards kept in the Nurse's office. It is imperative that we have current and ample information. We need to be kept apprised of any new or changed telephone numbers or emergency contacts. All students need three emergency contacts. This allows us to have people who can help us locate you in the case of an emergency. If your child is sent to the emergency room for any reason, this card information is sent with him/her, therefore it is extremely important that any health information that would be needed at the emergency room is on the card. That includes diagnosis and medications, even if not taken at school. Please stop by and update cards as needed.

In the interest of protecting all students we ask that you keep your student at home if:

- they have a fever of over 100 degrees
- have been vomiting or having diarrhea in the last 24 hours
- have red eyes with creamy discharge
- have a rash of undetermined origin
- undiagnosed open draining sores
- have untreated head lice
- or other signs of infection

Please feel free to call and consult the school nurse if you have questions or concerns.

The elementary nurse could use some clothing for the closet. I mostly need tee shirts and shorts with elastic in the waist so it can fit various sizes. As the weather gets colder I will be needing sweat pants and tops.

We would like to "Thank You" for sending in your immunization updates on vaccinations your student received over the summer. Over the next couple of weeks you may receive a letter pertaining to vaccinations that are now required by your student. There have been a few changes in the required immunization dates. If this pertains to your student, we will send you notification. Again, if you have any questions please feel free to contact your campus nurse.

We are considering starting a local weight watcher group that would meet after school one day a week. It would require that we pay in advance for 8 weeks and we would resign up each 8 week session. We must have 20 people committed in order to have them come here. If you are interested please notify Jan Haney, RN at 940-464-0564 ext 113 or e-mail me at jhaney@argyleisd.com.

ELEMENTARY CRISIS BAG SUPPLIES NEEDED

We are currently updating, restocking and creating new Crisis Bags for the Elementary staff. Each person with a classroom where children are has a bag to use in case of

evacuation, lockdown or shelter in place emergencies. Over the years some have been used, others are new and need to be created, and we have found other items we need to add from trial and error.

If you have any of the things listed we would love to have them donated. Please call Jan Haney at 940-464-4564 ext. 113 if you would like to donate items or for more information.

Bandage Tape – ½ inch wide
Bandages /Band aids
Gauze – round or flat
Triangle bandage
Flash light
Antiseptic wipes (alcohol)
Antiseptic hand cleaner
Bottles of water
Latex gloves
Flash light batteries



Argyle ISD Education Foundation Receives \$15,000 Donation from CoServ Electric

Representatives from CoServ Electric attended the May 23rd Argyle ISD Teacher Luncheon and

Education Foundation
Continued...

awarded the Argyle ISD Education Foundation with a \$15,000 donation to establish the CoServ Electric Teacher Assistance Endowment. CoServ Electric is an electric cooperative headquartered in Corinth that provides electric service to seven counties in Dallas-Fort Worth. The endowed funds from this donation will help teachers to purchase items needed in their classrooms through the Foundation's Grants-to-Teachers program. The Grants-to-Teachers program provides grants for innovative and creative projects or programs in the classroom.

According to Mike Dreyspring, President/CEO of CoServ, "Teachers work diligently to prepare daily lessons and often have to dig into their personal funds to purchase the teaching aids used to supplement their classroom activities. CoServ Electric appreciates this important alliance with the teachers in your community." CoServ Electric is making one-time donations totaling \$195,000 to 11 other area

schools and education foundations in fulfillment of this partnership with the education community.

Kim Hinnrichs, V.P. of Programs for the Argyle ISD Education Foundation, was on hand to receive the donation from CoServ along with several other board members of the Foundation. "We were excited to hear that CoServ Electric wanted to set up this endowment for teacher assistance," said Ms. Hinnrichs. "We appreciate having the opportunity to work in partnership with CoServ and to provide an avenue for them to contribute to the educational endeavors within the Argyle community. It's our hope that other local businesses will see the value and benefit of 'investing in educational excellence' and follow the lead of CoServ Electric." The Argyle ISD Education Foundation provides grants and awards to teachers and students and supports innovative and creative teaching otherwise not funded by the school district. To find out more about the Foundation, visit its website at

<http://www.argyleeducationfoundation.com>.

AHS PLAYERS GO "WILDE"

The AHS Spotlight Players are gearing up for a year of excitement as they take the stage in the new auditorium on September 30th and October 1st with their performance of Oscar Wilde's THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST. The performances begin at 7:30 each evening. Doors open at 7 PM. Tickets will be available in the high school office on September 26th or at the door. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students, faculty, and senior citizens, and \$3 for children 10 and under. The cast includes Owen Lindsley, Jared Muller, Michael Wolfe, Kristen Eichler, Katherine Yarbrough, Vickie Eades, Rachel Schermerhorn, Bryan Montgomery, and Michael Yarbrough. The evening promises to be filled with fun and entertainment for all.



**Argyle
Band News**

The Fall Band Booster Meeting is on Tuesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Band Hall. All band parents of students in sixth through twelfth grade are urged to attend.

We have designated Friday, September 23rd as Middle School Night at the High School Varsity Football Game. All 7th and 8th grade band students will be guests of the High School Band at the game. Please make plans to attend.

Upcoming events for High School Band:
Saturday, October 8th – Birdville Marching Contest
Saturday, October 22nd – UIL Marching Contest
Saturday, October 29th – Area Marching Contest



**Grand Opening of
AISD
Performing Arts Center**

**Sunday
September 18, 2005**

**at 191 S. Hwy. 377,
Argyle, Texas 76226**

From 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Performances by:

**AHS Drama
Department
AHS Band Department**

Art Exhibit by:

AHS Art Department

**Followed by a reception
and tours of the new
Fine Arts facilities**



**Twice the Love; Twice
the Joy
We've been blessed
with
two baby boys!**



Luke Tyler

7:28 a.m.

4 pounds 5 ounces

16 inches

&

Landon Walker

7:29 a.m.

4 pounds 1 ounce

16 inches

**June 2, 2005
Harris Hospital
Fort Worth, Texas**

Excited Parents:

**Staci & Russ
Anderson**

