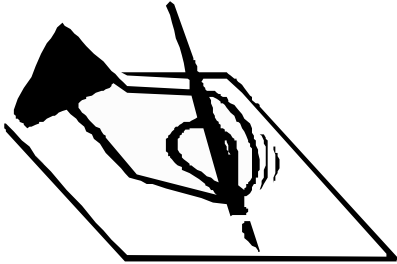


INSIGHTS



September, 2009



A Message From

Dr. Telena Wright,
AISD Superintendent,

This new school year is off to a great start! AISD enrollment is up to 1765; we finished the 08-09 year with 1724. I am excited to have every one of our new and returning students with us this year. The new pre-kindergarten class accounts for 13 of the enrollment increase. Another factor to consider is that this year's ninth grade class is 32 students larger than the '09 graduating class. Hilltop is at 547; Intermediate has 280; MS is 332; and HS is at 606. MS enrollment was at 310 and HS was at 568 at the end of the 08-09 year.

Pre-kindergarten is a new program at Hilltop. Students may qualify for the program by being military dependents, English language learners, or economically disadvantaged. Mallory Bownds who was teaching fourth grade has moved to pre-kindergarten as the teacher.

Argyle Intermediate is open for the second year. This configuration worked well in its first year.

New graduation requirements for students on the recommended plan are in effect for students beginning with the class of 2010. The state no longer requires health and technology applications. The state now only requires two semesters of PE. In AISD technology applications will still be required but health will not be required; the PE requirement will be reduced to 2 semesters. State Board of Education members on September 16 directed their staff to draft rules that would eliminate the required courses for the minimum and distinguished achievement graduation plans as well as the recommended plan. Board members will vote on the changes in November.

Bible is a new elective being taught at AHS. Steve Chancelor is teaching the class which teaches Bible from a historical perspective. A small group of students are taking American Sign Language using distance learning equipment.

Finances in AISD improved with the legislation passed in the last session. For the first

time Chapter 41 districts in the mid size range of 1600-5000 are receiving mid size allotment. All teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, and speech therapists received \$1000 raise plus any step raise due plus longevity pay. Other staff received a 3% raise.

A major construction project completed in the summer was the concession stand on the visitors' side. The concession stand has two ticket windows and two windows for selling concession items. All the work done on the concession stand was done with bond money from the 2007 bond election. The new press box on the visitors' side is a used box from another district. The cement work to install it was donated. Also the work on Eagle Plaza was donated. If you have not visited the stadium, please do so and see how nice it looks.

Accountability ratings announced August 1 were exemplary at HT, AIS, and HS. MS earned the recognized rating with one score, eighth grade science, short of exemplary. 90% is needed for exemplary, and the scores were at 86%. District rating was recognized with the analysis group of economically disadvantaged math being at

Superintendent Continued...

89%, where 90% would have been exemplary.

October 9 Argyle High School will be presented the Lone Star Cup. Dodge Dealers sponsor the Lone Star Cup and present one cup in each division 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A each year. Points are accumulated through the UIL competitions in the areas of fine arts such as band and one act play, academics, and athletics. Receiving the cup is a huge honor. \$1000 is also presented to the school for a scholarship.

AHS also received the honor of being selected #12 in the area through a ranking system by Children at Risk, a non profit group. In prior years, Children at Risk ranked only schools in the Houston area, but expanded to the rest of the state this year. High school measures included:

- Percentage of 11th grade students who achieved “Texas Success Initiative” standard
- Percentage of 11th graders who passed the exit-level social studies and science TAKS
- Percentage of graduates who took ACT or SAT exams
- Average score for students taking the SAT
- Average score for students taking the ACT

- Percentage of 11th and 12th graders who took at least one AP exam
- Percentage of students who took one or more AP exam and scored at or above the criterion score
- Percentage of students who completed and received credit for at least one advanced course or dual enrollment class in Grades 9-12
- Average class size
- Percentage of graduates who satisfied the course requirements for the state’s recommended high school curriculum
- A four-year, same-school graduation rate calculated by Children at Risk

AHS Wind Ensemble, directed by Kathy Johnson, has been selected by the National Wind Band Honors Project as a National Winner.

Many times I am asked what we need or what you can do to help us with your child’s education? One of the most important things you can do is have your son/daughter at school every day, well rested and well nourished. We depend on attendance to fund our district. If you will plan your trips

during school breaks and summer, it helps us financially. We need you to seek information from your son/daughter’s teachers and coaches. If you have a question or concern, schedule an appointment and ask questions. I want each of the students in AISD to have a productive, happy year. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.



Hello! My name is Chris Daniel and I am the new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

For the past three years, I was the principal of Argyle Middle School. Prior to Argyle, my experiences included nine years at North Hills Preparatory School in Las Colinas and five years at Castleberry ISD. This is my 18th year in education and I love working in Argyle! On a personal level, I’ve been married to Terri Daniel for 18 years and we have two beautiful 3-year old girls.

Each school year, all campuses and districts in the state are rated by the Texas Education Agency as Exemplary, Recognized, Academically Acceptable, or Academically Unacceptable. For this school year, Argyle ISD is rated **Recognized**, Argyle High School is **Exemplary**, Argyle

Mr. Daniel Continued...

Middle School is **Recognized**, Argyle Intermediate School is **Exemplary**, and Hilltop Elementary is **Exemplary**. These are great accomplishments and we are proud of the effort of the students, parents, teachers, and administrators in ensuring success in our district.

One of the newsworthy items this year in regards to school ratings was the **Texas Projection Measure (TPM)**. On each TAKS Confidential Student Report (CSR) that was sent home there is an indicator called the TPM. The TPM is an estimate of whether a student is likely to pass the TAKS tests at a future grade. For example, a 3rd grade student takes TAKS tests in Reading and Math. The CSR will show a projection as to whether or not the student will pass those particular TAKS tests in 5th grade. Grades 3 and 4 make projections to 5th grade; Grades 5, 6, and 7 project to 8th grade; grades 8, 9, and 10 project to the TAKS Exit Level test.

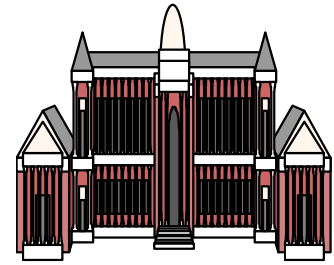
TPM was newsworthy this summer because TEA allowed students who did not pass a certain subject of TAKS, but was projected to pass according to TPM to count as passing when determining school and district ratings. With or without the TPM, our schools and district rating remained the same. Although, with the TPM, we were **one percentage point**

away from being an Exemplary district.

We are continuing to work toward becoming an exemplary district and having an exemplary rating on all campuses. We have plans in place to hopefully make this happen during the 2009-2010 school year.

In these times, schools are not only rated by the state, but also by the federal government. Under the accountability provision of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), all public school campuses, school districts, and the state are evaluated for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). It sounds simple, you are either getting better each school year or you are not. Specifically, districts, campuses, and the state are required to meet AYP criteria on three measures: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and either Graduation Rate (for high schools and districts) or Attendance Rate (for elementary and middle/junior high schools). **In Argyle, we met AYP during the 08-09 school year. Actually, we've always met AYP.**

I hope this gives you a better understanding of our state and federal accountability systems. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me anytime.



Argyle High School
Principal
Mr. Jeff Butts

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year

I would like to welcome each of you to the 2009-2010 school year. We are very excited to begin what I feel has the potential to be a very successful year. The Class of 2009 did a great job in leading our high school to one of our most successful years in AHS history. In 2009 we excelled in all areas including academics, athletics, and fine arts. This resulted in Argyle High School winning the Class 3A UIL Lone Star Cup. We are very proud of our student's TAKS performance in 2008-2009. Our student's hard work paid off in AHS being named an Exemplary campus for the second year in a row.

As you can see, 2008-2009 was a great year for our high school. However, continuing the example set by previous graduating classes, I believe our students are prepared to improve on the achievements of past years. Our students and faculty continue to amaze me with their focus and commitment to excellence in all areas.

Mr. Butts Continued...

We appreciate the support of our parents/guardians and our community. One of the many goals we have in the 2009-2010 school year is to improve on our communication. One of the main ways that we are attempting to improve on our communication is encouraging our parents and the community to use our AHS website. On our website, you will find upcoming events, important information, and the different accomplishments of our students. On the right side of the high school website you will find a column that has the campus weekly calendar. We also have our parent portal activated in order for parents to have access to their student's grades and attendance. Teachers are required to at least have these updated by Monday morning at 8:00am. Student report cards will continue to be mailed home with three week reports being sent home with the student.

In closing, we are very proud of our students and their accomplishments. I believe the reason we are so successful is due to our students, parents, staff, and community working together to provide the best education possible. Together we must continue to improve upon each facet of our campus. We cannot take for granted the success of previous years. This success came with hard work, determination, and collaboration of the four groups of people mentioned. We are very excited about the upcoming school year. Please

let us know if there is anything we can do to further improve the education of our students at Argyle High School.



From the desk of... Scott Gibson, Middle School Principal

It is hard to believe we are several weeks into the 2009-2010 school year. Argyle Middle School continues its work at challenging students in a safe atmosphere. The faculty at AMS experienced no turnover for the school year with all teachers returning. We are ready for an exciting year working with these great students. I would like to share a few things we have planned for the school year.

Our counselor, Ms. Shobe, has initiated Character education lessons into our Activity period one day a week. A new character trait will be emphasized each six weeks. This six weeks students have been learning about Respect with Responsibility being the target beginning in October. Building on the Character education lessons, we will have a day in January called Challenge Day. This is a day where selected students will participate in a full day workshop to see the value in each student. Challenge Day's

motto of "Be the Change" is designed to help students combat bullying and students being mean to each other. Career Day has been set for Friday, November 20th. Last year was a huge success with close to 40 parents and volunteers sharing their work experience with the students of AMS. If you would like to volunteer your time or know someone with an interesting job that would be willing to share that knowledge, have them contact Ms. Shobe at tshobe@argyleisd.com.

Middle School UIL academic team competition dates have been set for the beginning of January. Therefore, practice for these competitions will be starting soon. I have placed a point of emphasis on the UIL academic meet for us to improve upon our very close second place finish last year. Competitions range from Art to Calculator Applications, and are an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate academic achievement outside the classroom.

Argyle Middle School inducted seventy-four new members into the National Junior Honor Society. This is the largest group in AMS history. Seeing a large number of inductees shows the desire in our students for excellence in both academics and citizenship. As you can see, there are many things happening at Argyle Middle School. It is a privilege for the faculty of AMS to serve the community of Argyle.



**Argyle
Intermediate School
Principal, Conrad Streeter**

Dear Parents and Community Members,
The first six weeks of school is nearly complete and report cards will be coming home before you know it. We are excited to be starting our second year as a campus. Argyle Intermediate School is rated as an Exemplary Campus by the TEA for the 2009-2010 school year. Our students and staff worked very hard last year to achieve this recognition, and I am very proud of their accomplishment. As we begin our second year, our staff is focusing on teamwork and how to best reach all of our students' learning needs. As a campus, we are beginning a new program that emphasizes positive character traits for our students. At AIS, we want all of our students to be respectful, responsible, kind, and to demonstrate integrity each day. Our teachers and staff will be emphasizing these core values throughout the school year with our students. Students who exemplify these core values will be recognized throughout the year.

I would like to thank all of our parents and teachers that have joined the PTA. We are very fortunate to have a parent organization that so positively impacts our students, and supports our staff on a consistent basis. The funding the PTA designated in last year's budget is directly responsible for improving the school's landscaping, assisting families with financial need for field trips and school supplies, providing quality programs, and sponsoring this year's character program. We are fortunate to have such a proactive organization on our campus. I am very grateful to our PTA and all the hours they volunteer to make our school a better place for all students.

I want to thank all of the parents who work collaboratively with their child's teacher to provide an excellent education. As a school and community we set high expectations both academically and socially. Through strong relationships between students, parents, and teachers we are able to achieve excellent results.

I look forward to seeing parents and students at our Family Night on October 6, 2009. More information will be sent via email and the AIS newsletter.

Thank you for helping our school year begin so positively!



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***From: Robin Block,
Elementary Principal***

What a wonderful beginning to the 2009-2010 school year at Hilltop Elementary! It seems as though everyone has settled into a routine be it in classrooms, drop-off and pick-up, or in the home. Our current enrollment at Hilltop is 550 with the addition of our prekindergarten classroom. At the end of the 2008-2009 school year we had an enrollment of 563 students. Hilltop Elementary has 161 "new" students this year with 2 in PPCD, 14 in prekindergarten, 101 in kindergarten and 39 new students spread among grades 1-4. We welcome all of you to our Hilltop family and hope your experience thus far has been positive. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher. Let's continue to make this year the best yet at Hilltop. Thank you for entrusting us with your children every day.

Mrs. Block Continued...



Please note the following:

- We will not have school at Hilltop Elementary September 30 in order to hold parent/teacher conferences. You may call and schedule a conference time with your child's teacher at 940-464-0564. The official school calendar is incorrect. We will not have school at all on the 30th of September.
- October 2nd marks the end of the first six weeks
- The PTA Walk-a-Thon will be held October 2nd during each grade level's specials time.



Argyle Band News

***Kathy K. Johnson
Director of Bands
Argyle High School***

This fall has been fast and furious! The high school band has been rehearsing since the summer and is performing their UIL Contest Show at the football games. The middle school is working towards their football game performance and fall concert, and the beginners are learning to play their first notes! All is well in the land of music!

Good luck goes out to Michael Lemish and the Argyle High School Drumline for a successful Plano Drum Line Competition! Argyle will compete against other high schools in our category on Saturday, September 26th! Go all the way AHS Drumline!!!

The Argyle High School Wind Ensemble has been selected as a National Winner in the National Wind Band Honors Project. Two Argyle students, Kirsten Ketchersid on flute and Aaron Kline on clarinet, were also selected as Outstanding Soloists by the adjudicators for their solos in the music submitted for this contest. The Argyle Band

will be featured on a compilation CD of the winning performances. Rich Yancey, the Managing Director of the project wrote "The Argyle Band continues to prove that they are the finest in the State and in the Nation"!

The High School Marching Band begins its competitive season on Saturday, October 3rd with a performance at the Birdville Marching Contest. The next competition, Classic Marching Festival on the Lake, is the following Saturday, October 10, at the Little Elm Stadium. The Little Elm Festival will be a meeting of the top four 3A bands in the state. We will round it off with our UIL Region Marching Contest on Wednesday, October 21, at the Northwest ISD Stadium in Justin. You can see the band's contest show, "Efx", during half-time performances at the Varsity Football Games.

The Lone Star Cup will be presented to Argyle High School at the varsity football game on Friday, October 9.

High School students will be auditioning for the Region Jazz Band on Saturday, September 19 in Denton, and for the Region Band on Saturday, November 7 in Bridgeport. Area auditions will follow on January 9, 2010 here in Argyle. The high school Winter Concert will be on Sunday, December 6.

The Middle School 7th and 8th grade Bands will be performing with the high school band for middle school night at the

Mrs. Johnson Continued...

varsity football game on October 9. The middle school and intermediate school Fall Concert is on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Argyle High School Performing Arts Center and the middle school band will perform at the middle school football game on Thursday, November 5, at 6:30.

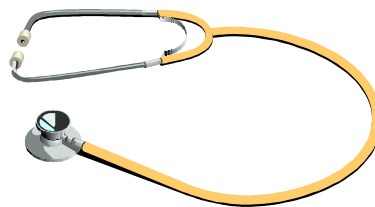
7th and 8th grade band students will be auditioning for Region Band on Tuesday, November 17 in Sanger.

All middle and intermediate school bands will be performing a Winter Concert on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 pm.

OUR THANKS:

Thank you to our parents and Band Boosters, Lori Schinske, Kay Clark, and Jill Burns for their efforts in raising funds for the band. Hearty thanks go out to Ann Athey, Denise Bennett, Rich and Linda Taylor, Alanna Sommer, Donna Wright, Denise Jenkins, Kathy Kline, Jill Burns, Barbara Hayden, Celia Hawk, Susan Spratlen, Danita Lanning, Sherri Block, Dana Ratcliff and Lori Schinske for taking on the daunting task of marching uniform fittings and alterations. Another big thanks goes out to Yolanda Taylor and Sue Mosier for all the work they have done with organizing our concert uniforms. Thank you to our 'snack queens', Amy Olson and Denise Bennett for taking care of the 'sweet and salty' cravings of the band students and directors. Many thanks to

Chad Clark, Steve Moore, John Schinske, and Kenneth Wages for driving our trailers and for all of the 'grunt work' that you do for the band. Kurt and Traci Eisenmann, thank you for organizing the bleacher parent volunteers. Special thanks to Amy Radford for the stellar job she is doing with publicity and to Melissa Ramirez for her work on the Argyle Band website and with the middle school bands. Thank you Joan Wittmis and Deena Kayfus for the great job you are doing organizing the concession stand volunteers and to all those dedicated parents who have volunteered their time to work concessions! Thank you to the community of Argyle for your undying support. Finally, thank you to all of the parent volunteers from 'pit pops' to 'bleacher creatures' to drivers....without you, we couldn't do our jobs nearly as well!



A NOTE FROM Nurse Kris Wildeveld

Flu Virus

The Flu virus can spread quickly and easily. We are doing everything possible to educate your children and staff in the prevention of spreading and when to stay home. This fact sheet explains how cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in

homes and public places (like schools) can help to prevent the spread of pandemic influenza (flu).

How Flu Viruses Spread

- A flu pandemic is an outbreak of illness caused by a new flu virus that spreads around the world. Because the virus is new to people, nearly everyone will be at risk of getting it.
- The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from person to person by coughs and sneezes. This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person move through the air and make contact with the mouth or nose of people nearby.
- Droplets from an infected person can also make contact with environmental surfaces (like the tops of tables). The virus can then be spread from those surfaces if a person touches the droplets and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth, or nose before washing his or her hands.

- The virus also can be spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes into his or her hands and then touches a surface (like

Mrs. Wildeveld Continued...

a phone, remote control, or toy) before washing his or her hands. Another person could become sick if he or she touches that surface and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth, or nose before washing. Flu viruses and other germs can live 2 hours or longer on hard environmental surfaces like tables, doorknobs, and desks. Surfaces are likely to be touched much more often than they can be cleaned and disinfected. Thus, it is important to wash your hands often, keep your hands away from your face, and keep such surfaces clean to help prevent the spread of germs.

How to Stop the Spread of Pandemic Flu Virus from Environmental Surfaces

Use good hygiene practices

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; put the used tissue in a waste basket and clean your hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your upper sleeve (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue and need to cough or sneeze.
- Clean your hands as soon as possible after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
 - Use soap and water and wash your

hands for 15 - 20 seconds; or

- Use alcohol-based hand wipes or alcohol-based (60-95% alcohol) gel hand sanitizers; rub these on the hands until the liquid or gel dries.
- Clean your hands often when you or others are sick, especially if you touch your mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Always clean your hands before eating.
- Carry alcohol-based hand wipes or alcohol-based (60-95% alcohol) hand-sanitizing gels with you to clean your hands when you are out in public.
- Teach your children to use these hygiene practices because germs are often spread at school.

Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and items in homes and schools

- Follow label instructions carefully when using disinfectants and cleaners.
 - Pay attention to any hazard warnings and instructions on the labels for using personal protective items (such as household gloves).
 - Do not mix disinfectants and cleaners unless the labels indicate it is safe to do

so. Combining certain products (such as chlorine bleach and ammonia cleaners) can be harmful, resulting in serious injury or death.

- Keep hard surfaces like kitchen countertops, tabletops, desktops, and bathroom surfaces clean and disinfected.
 - Clean the surface with a commercial product that is both a detergent (cleans) and a disinfectant (kills germs). These products can be used when surfaces are not visibly dirty.
 - Another way to do this is to wash the surface with a general household cleaner (soap or detergent), rinse with water, and follow with a disinfectant. This method should be used for visibly dirty surfaces.
 - Use disinfectants on surfaces that are touched often. Clean the surface as explained above before using disinfectants.
 - If disinfectants are not available, use a chlorine bleach solution made by adding 1 tablespoon of bleach to a quart

Mrs. Wildeveld Continued...

- (4 cups) of water; use a cloth to apply this to surfaces and let stand for 3 – 5 minutes before rinsing with clean water. (For a larger supply of disinfectant, add ¼ cup of bleach to a gallon [16 cups] of water.)
- Wear gloves to protect your hands when working with strong bleach solutions.
- Keep surfaces touched by more than one person clean and disinfected. Examples of these surfaces include doorknobs, refrigerator door handles, and microwaves.
 - Clean with a combination detergent and disinfectant product. Or use a cleaner first, rinse the surface thoroughly, and then follow with a disinfectant.
 - Use sanitizer cloths to wipe electronic items that are touched often, such as phones, computers, remote controls, and hand-held games.
 - Use sanitizer cloths to wipe car door handles, the steering

wheel, and the gear shift.

Use recommended laundry practices

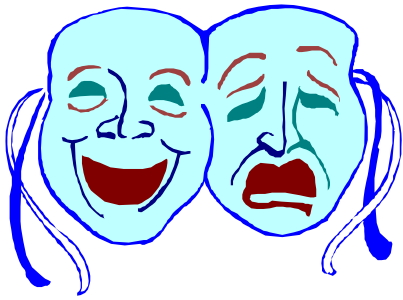
- Gently gather soiled clothing, bedding, and linens without creating a lot of motion or fluffing; for example, do not shake sheets when removing them from the bed.
- Clean your hands after handling soiled laundry items.
- Use washing machine cycles, detergents, and laundry additives (like softener) as you normally do; follow label instructions for detergents and additives.
- Dry the cleaned laundry items as you normally do, selecting the dryer temperature for the types of fabrics in the load. Line- or air-drying can be used to dry items when machine drying is not indicated.
- Clean your hands before removing clean laundry from the washer or dryer, especially if you have coughed or sneezed on your hands.

Use recommended waste disposal practices

- Toss tissues into waste baskets after they have been used for coughs, sneezes, and blowing your nose.
- Place waste baskets where they are easy to use.
- Avoid touching used tissues and other waste when emptying waste baskets.
- Clean your hands after emptying waste baskets.

Additional Information

Disinfectant products (sanitizer cloths and liquid disinfectants) available from grocery stores, hardware stores, and commercial cleaning product suppliers have been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Always follow label instructions carefully when using these products. For more information about EPA-registered disinfectants, visit www.epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm. For more information about cleaning and disinfection of surfaces to protect against pandemic influenza virus, consult “[Interim Guidance on Environmental Management of Pandemic Influenza Virus](#).” To learn more about pandemic influenza, visit www.flu.gov.

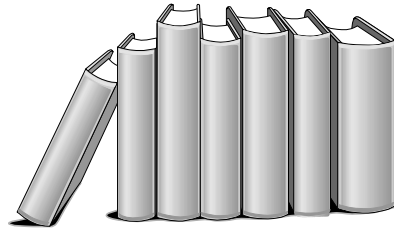


**AHS SPOTLIGHT
PLAYERS
TO PRESENT
MELODRAMA ON THE
HIGH SEAS**

The AHS Spotlight Players will take you on an oceanic voyage on October 2nd at 7pm in the Performing Arts Center.

The scene is set on the H. M. S. Majestic as a riotous adventure in the Roaring Twenties. Little does the heroine know that she is the intended victim of the villain Snively Swine's (Josh McSwain) kidnapping plot. With his partner the slinky and exotically Aracnia Webb (Dana Londenberg), he disguises himself in order to gain the confidence of Merry Sweet (Paige Wolfe) and her flapper friends, Mitzi (Laci Satterfield), Ritzy (Sarah Anderson), and Ditzzy (Caroline Klapp). Merry falls in love with the handsome waiter Cary De Mille (Kyle Wiseman), but the ship's policy says he can't get involved with a passenger. Must these two ships pass in the night? Not if Merry's flapper friends can help it!

Together they transform Merry from a shy young lady into a red-hot jazz baby. Swine launches his scheme. It's sink or swim for Cary. Can he save Merry and stay out of the Aracnia's clutches? It's up to the passengers—movie star Mary Pickaxe (Brooke McDaniel) and gossip columnist, Hedda Hooper (Alex Robinson), detective Willy Ketchum (Christian Stapleton), and more—to help Cary put the damper on Swine. Can they do it? Join the Spotlight Players and join in the hilarious fun. Admission is \$5 at the door. Doors open at 6:30pm.



If you haven't gotten your 2008-2009 high school yearbook yet, please contact Paula Smith. If you didn't order one, there are a few extras available for \$65.

psmith@argyleisd.com
and 940-262-7777

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