

INSIGHTS



MAY, 2004



Hilltop Elementary

*By Carolyn Pierel
Superintendent*

Recently there has been some concern expressed regarding the new Hilltop Elementary which will begin construction in May. The Board approved a contract for the construction of a school designed to accommodate 750 students rather than the 450-600 student capacity originally discussed. The vision of several years ago was to construct multiple small elementary schools. However the Board came to the conclusion that had these ideas not changed to accommodate current fiscal realities, the vision would have become a spending nightmare.

Here are the facts:

(1) Argyle Elementary is overcrowded. The new K-5th grade, 750 student Hilltop Elementary will accommodate student growth until about 2009 when an additional elementary school will be needed.

(2) Renovating the present elementary site for a second elementary is no longer a prudent action because there will be a need for a new middle school by the 2006-2007 school year. Middle school sites require at least 30 acres of land. At the cost of land in Argyle coupled with availability to sewer access, the only feasible thing for the district to do is use the existing elementary site for the new middle school. This would save the district over 10 million dollars in construction costs and adequately provide for both high school and middle school facilities until 2013.

(3) At the time that a second elementary site is needed, the district will determine what it can actually afford to spend. Decisions will be made at that time regarding the size and location of any future schools.

(4) Decisions regarding facilities must be based on financial realities. The district has a limited capacity to raise new money through bond elections. Regardless of what the past vision might have been, decisions have to be based on present and future realities. The district currently has a broad based facility committee that is studying current and future facility needs. It would benefit the community to listen to the recommendations the committee brings to the Board.

(5) It is the responsibility of the district to remain financially solvent. As elected officials whose responsibility to the taxpayer is to oversee the finances of the district, the Board must make decisions based on clear data about what is in the best interests of all our students.

(6) The maximum capacity of Hilltop Elementary is 750 students, not 1,000. All of the documents filed with the city reflect the 750 number. There is not now, nor has there ever been, an intention to put 1,000 students in the new building.

When I first came to Argyle ISD, the Board was looking at several options to ease the crowding at Argyle Elementary. One option being considered was to renovate the current Argyle Elementary and in addition, build a second elementary of 450-600.

Because of limited sewer access in the southern sector of the district, the only land that was feasible to purchase for a new elementary was in the northern sector.

If the original plan was followed, that would cluster both elementary schools in the northern sector within a few miles of each other.

Hilltop Elementary Continued...

To further exacerbate the problem, the middle school/high school campus will reach capacity no later than the 2006/2007 school year. The need to build an additional middle school is eminent. The district can use the current site of Argyle Elementary for the middle school and save the cost of land purchase and a great deal of land preparation work. It is doubtful that a new middle school can be afforded unless the district uses land it already owns.

To have a new middle school opened by the time it is urgently needed, the Argyle Elementary site must be vacated. The enrollment on the day Hilltop Elementary opens is projected to be between 650-675 students. If the capacity of Hilltop Elementary remained at 600, where would these additional students go?

Visions are meant to point decisions in a certain direction. They are not meant to be set in stone, nor are they a literal roadmap. The decision to build Hilltop Elementary evolved over many months of discussions and data gathering. These discussions were a part of monthly Board meetings held in open session. The district is confident that current plans are the only ones possible at this time in order to meet increasing enrollment demands and make the best use of our limited resources.

Bond Election 2001 – How Are We Doing?

It seems as though the election held in the fall of 2001 to approve a proposed bond program occurred just yesterday. Time, at least for me, appears to fly by more swiftly every year. In fact it has been almost eighteen months since voters approved 27.5 million dollars in bonds to finance a new school building program. This is probably a very good time to review what was proposed and provide voters with an update on the projects. In a brochure titled Argyle Independent School District Capital Improvement Program the anticipated projects to be completed through the bond program were:

New Elementary School

- Pre-Kindergarten – 5th grade campus for 450-600 students
- Classrooms
- Library
- Multi—Purpose Area (Gymnasium)
- Cafeteria

Performing Arts Education Wing

- Band Rehearsal Areas
- Ensemble Rooms
- Practice Rooms
- Choir Rehearsal Rooms
- Band/Choir Offices
- Theater Arts Classrooms
- Black Box Stage
- Performance Rooms (dressing, green rooms)
- Storage Areas (instruments, props, costumes)
- Shop Areas

Multi-Purpose/Sports Facility

- Varsity/Junior Varsity Locker Rooms
- Boys Track/Baseball Locker Rooms
- Girls Track/Softball Locker Rooms
- Equipment Storage
- Weight/Training Rooms
- Coaches Offices
- Multi-Purpose Space
- Auxiliary Gymnasium

Other Middle School/High School Projects

- Tennis Courts
- Softball/Baseball Concessions
- Restrooms
- Parking Lots

Auditorium

- 500 Seat Performance Hall (For Student/Community Use)
- Sound/Lighting Equipment
- Lobby

Capital Equipment

- Computers/Software
- Furniture
- Instruments
- Vehicles/Maintenance Equipment
- Security Equipment
- School Buses

Maintenance/Administration

- Central Receiving and Distribution Center
- Central Administration Offices
- Board Room
- Maintenance Building/Shop
- Maintenance Yard
- Record Storage
- Supply Storage

Bond Election 2001 Continued...

Land/Renovations

- Renovations to Eagle Drive Campus
- New Elementary Site
- Up to 3 Additional Sites for Elementary and/or Middle School

In order to provide a comprehensive update, I will discuss each of the major areas separately.

New Elementary School

Argyle ISD will be awarding a contract for the construction of this building in April. Construction should begin shortly thereafter. The school is slated to open in August of 2005 and will be named Hilltop Elementary. It will be located on land behind the small business mall on Country Club Road. The student capacity has been upgraded to 750.

Performing Arts Education Wing

This new addition to the high school/middle school is currently under construction. It will contain all of the items listed in the brochure. It is expected to be ready for occupancy by the start of the 2004-2005 school year.

Multi-Purpose Sports Facility

This project is nearing completion and may be finished by the time this article is

printed. It is already in use and needs very few final adjustments made before the district takes possession. The auxiliary gym is also currently under construction.

Other Middle School/High Schools Projects

None of these projects have begun yet, as construction of these are slated to be carried out this summer.

Auditorium

The auditorium is also under construction and is due to be completed early in 2005. The number of seats has been increased to 750.

Capital Equipment

Computers and software have been purchased, as well as band instruments, school vehicles, buses and security equipment. Furniture for the new school will not be purchased for some months yet.

Maintenance/Administration

A new transportation and maintenance facility has been completed and is in use. Plans for a new administration building are on the back burner. It will be built only if there are sufficient funds left after everything else has been taken care of first.

Land/Renovations

The land for the new elementary has been purchased.

Renovations to campuses have been made as needed. This summer in addition to other building projects, four new science labs will be added at the high school and carpet in the high school/middle school hallways will be replaced with tile. At this time, it has been determined that it would be imprudent to purchase additional elementary sites until future growth patterns can be determined.

I am personally very proud of the progress that has been made in the last eighteen months. The Argyle ISD Board has done an extremely good job of overseeing these projects and ensuring that the items voters approved will come to fruition. Our architect, James Kirkpatrick has designed beautiful new buildings and additions that blend well with existing facilities. Our team of administrators, especially Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Tom Woody has worked relentlessly to see to it that all of our projects have been completed on time and within the budget.

Finally, I would like to again thank the voters for their support in passing the 2001 bond election. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to be able to report that your confidence in Argyle ISD has not been misplaced. All of the anticipated projects, with the possible exception of a new administration building will be completed by the end of 2005.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Texas Education Agency has appointed Elementary Teacher Jane Ruestmann to the State Review Panel for Fine Arts. A state review panel member occupies one of the most influential advisory positions in Texas education. Her responsibilities include reviewing and evaluating the textbooks submitted for the November 2004 adoption by the State Board of Education.

Argyle ISD Gifted and Talented Window

Argyle ISD will be accepting nominations for the gifted and talented education program for Grade 6-11 students not currently identified as G/T during the two week period May 3-May 14. Parents, community members, staff, and students may nominate.

Nomination forms are available in the middle school and high school offices. You may also secure a form by contacting Dr. Telena Wright, Assistant Superintendent, at 940-464-7241 x5177 or twright@argyleisd.com.

Persons completing a form are asked to state why they believe the particular student should be considered and what area of special interest they believe the student has.

Correction:

In the last issue of Insights there was a mistake on the invitation announcement for Paula McCain's retirement party held at Cross Timbers Church big room. This particular party is for the faculty and administration. The public reception will be held on May 13th in the elementary cafeteria. *We are sorry for the mistake.* We hope to see you all at the reception for all of our retiring staff!

English as a Second Language (ESL)

*Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum*

What is English as a Second Language?

English as a Second Language (ESL) is intensive English language instruction by teachers trained in recognizing and working with language differences. State law requires school districts to provide ESL:

- In elementary school when there are fewer than 20 limited English proficient (LEP) students of the same language enrolled in the same grade in the district.
- In middle school and high school when there are LEP students.

What is an ESL program?

An ESL program provides intensive instruction that

develops oral and written comprehension and reading and writing in English. An ESL program uses the academic and cultural experience of the student as a platform to provide the appropriate instruction in English.

What is the purpose of an ESL program?

An ESL program develops competence in English. It prepares the student to be successful in all academic subjects.

Who should be enrolled in an ESL program?

Students in kindergarten through high school who speak or hear a language other than English in their home and who have difficulty in English are eligible.

Will a student in ESL be taught the same subjects and learn the same skills as students in the regular program?

Yes, students in ESL must receive instruction in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in English using strategies and methodologies appropriate for them. Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are integral parts of the state mandated curriculum. Music, P.E., and Art are all part of the balanced curriculum that children in the program are required to receive.

ESL
Continued...

**Who is responsible for
teaching in an ESL program?**

Teachers, who are specially trained, tested and certified to teach in ESL programs meet the special language needs of these students. Janet Sorbello, Brenda Head, and Stacy Lesseps all teach ESL in Argyle ISD.

**How is an ESL program
different from English
language arts instruction?**

Teachers are appropriately certified by the state to teach ESL. State-adopted ESL materials are provided to help students learn through proven methods. The focus is on learning English for effective participation in other classes.

**How can parents help their
children learn by participating
in the ESL program?**

Parents can volunteer for classroom activities. Parents can encourage their children at home to achieve, provide a place to study, and show interest in school work. Parent can ask their child's teacher or principal about becoming a member of the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC), which helps determine how students will be taught.

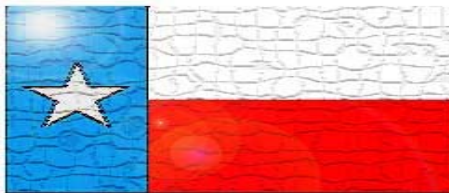
**ARGYLE HIGH
SCHOOL
PRESENTS**

“ANNIE”

**MAY 14-15, 2004
7:30 PM
AHS
CAFETORIUM**

**ADULTS: \$7
STUDENTS AND
CHILDREN: \$5**

**TICKETS ON SALE
MAY 3 IN HS OFFICE**



**TEXAS READING
ROUNDUP
COMING JUNE 1ST**

Beginning June 1st and continuing until June 18th, the Middle/High School Library will be open from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday. Students from Argyle ISD are welcome to browse the shelves, check books out, and participate in a reading program. Prizes will be given for reading a certain amount of minutes during the 3 week period.

Thank You Argyle I.S.D.,
Wendy Warner

The nature of our profession means that you have to move aside at some point to give others a chance to move ahead and make their contributions. I have loved my time in Argyle and I have been fortunate to be a part of this growing district while it has done great things through difficult times.

Let me first say I'm slightly confused by all these wonderful things people have been saying to me since I decided to retire. Not that I don't agree with your comments. In fact, I could add a few other qualities I think you've overlooked. Honestly, though, I couldn't be more honored when those who are the closest and most important people in my career recount meaningful memories.

As my generation of educators pass from the field, it represents a passing of the torch. A new group of educators is standing by waiting to take the lead. They will bring new ideas, new visions, new methods, and yes, even some new challenges. As these young educators move from one district to another, they do rely on the professional cadre of veteran staff to provide the bedrock foundation of consistency necessary for an organization to grow. I feel fortunate to have been a part of the "Old Guard" and know that my generation has contributed greatly to the strength of this district.

Wendy Warner continued...

Time catches up suddenly to us all: one day, you're young and brilliant and moving mountains, and the next day, you're getting junk mail from the American Association of Retired Persons and people your very own age are talking about pension plans and the prostate. The many diets, the anti-aging vitamins, the cold cream and fiber, haven't made me look a minute younger. Despite my best efforts, I am still getting older. I need to spend more time attending music concerts and less time counting textbooks. I need to quilt up the pile of fabric that clogs the cupboards, paint the canvases I have stacked up, and read the trashy novels in the garage sale bags.

I could never leave here without thanking everybody for all the good times and happy memories that I have gained from working in this district. Looking back on my career and thinking of all the wonderful people I've had the opportunity to work with is something that I'll always treasure. My sincere thanks go out to my colleagues. I wouldn't have survived without the support they've afforded me over the years. What an amazing group of professionals. Over and over I have witnessed this staff team up to support a family or school member in need. I have also been blessed to have had many wonderful parents and community members to work with over my tenure in Argyle. I have always been most inspired by those parents who demanded

moral and ethical character of their children, high expectations of the staff and accountability from the administration. Last, but not least, I wouldn't have ever lasted this long without the privilege of working with your youth. The life of a public school educator is a life of constant silent prayer. Just when you think you have seen or heard it all, some child will expand your horizons, increase your vocabulary, or lift your spirits. It may be a long day but it is never boring!

So to this family of students, parents, community members, and staff, I want to give my sincere thanks for choosing me to serve in this community and allowing me to be a part of your lives.



The End of School Blues

From: Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal

Wow! This year has flown. We are quickly approaching the end of another school year. Students, teachers and parents alike are looking forward to summer and the freedom that it entails. As some are excited about the year being over, other students may feel some trepidation. Some children feel a sense of loss and uncertainty at the end of the year.

Kindergarten students form a special bond with their teacher and their surroundings. They may look around the classroom at the block corner, the legos, the artwork on the walls and the rabbit and become truly sad. While adults can look forward to events in the future, children still live mostly in the present. Even though the end of the year is old hat for some students, the concept that in three months they'll be in a different class with another teacher and new friends can be difficult to grasp. For nine months, their teacher has nurtured them and encouraged them to feel successful about their accomplishments. Once school is over, they feel as though they are literally missing a piece of their lives. So what can you do to ease the transition into summer? Talk to your child about summer plans, whether they include swimming lessons, camp or a visit to Grandma's house. It is helpful to put dates of activities on a calendar at home, and to have your child mark off every passing day. Here are some other ways to celebrate the end of school and help your child's summer get off to a good start.

- Help your child make or buy a small gift for the teacher, or bring flowers on the last day of school.
- Let him bring a camera to take pictures of his school friends, teachers, and classroom. Hang the pictures on the refrigerator or in his room.
- Ask your child which of her classmates she

Elementary Principal Continued...

- would like to see over the summer and schedule play dates. Children need to know that friendships do not end just because the school year is over.
- Suggest that your child draw a picture or write a story of all the things that he liked about his year.

Above all, tell your child how proud you are of all that he has learned and accomplished this year and how much you are looking forward to all the special times you will have together this summer.

I hope your children have had a successful and happy year. Thank you for the privilege and honor of leading this very special elementary school. I look forward to seeing you at Meet the Teacher Night August 13th at 5:30.



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

I am amazed, as I am sure many of you are, that the school year is so rapidly drawing to a close. As we quickly approach our last day, I would like to share some final housekeeping details with everyone. Over the last several weeks there have been many questions concerning tutoring.

To help alleviate confusion, let me share with you the tutoring schedules by grade level. Currently, sixth grade offers tutoring every morning upon request, every afternoon from 3:20-3:45 and every day during advisory. Seventh grade offers tutoring Tuesday mornings from 7:30-8:00; Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school from 3:20-4:00 and every day during advisory. Eighth grade offers tutoring everyday after school from 3:20-4:00. All teachers will set up special tutoring times upon request, so if your child needs help and cannot come at the published times please do not hesitate to call the teacher to set up an appointment for tutoring.

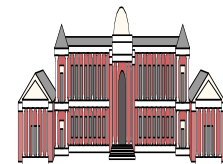
Another item of confusion for some has been finding the teachers' websites in order to check on assignments. Middle school teachers post assignments on a weekly basis in order to assist with keeping up with assignments from home. To access a teacher's website log on to the district website at www.argyleisd.com. The home page has a link for schools. A drop down menu will appear, please click on staff directory. Select Middle School and all the faculty and staff will be listed. Choose the teacher and click on the website link. This will open the teacher's web page. If you have further questions, please feel free to call the school office for assistance.

We are currently in the process of selecting courses for next school year. Your child should bring home to you a course description book and a

course selection choice sheet. This year, Mrs. Flanagan has created a worksheet on the back to aid you and your child in selecting courses for the upcoming year. Please help your child with the process of selecting classes. If you need assistance or have questions please call Mrs. Flanagan or Mrs. Ball.

This Middle School Awards Night is May 10, 2004. Our evening will begin at 7:00 in the competition gym of the High School. I would like to invite all parents and students to come and share in the celebration of the many amazing achievements our students have accomplished over the school year. We are blessed with wonderful children and this will be a fun evening to recognize many of our students.

If you have other questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call the office. We have had a fantastic year, and I will be sad to see it come to a close.



Argyle High School
Principal
Mr. Jeff Henry

It is that time of year already. We are now involved in TAKS testing and getting ready for graduation, and while all that is going on we are asking our students to make choices about the schedule for next year. One question that always comes up is whether to take those dreaded "advanced courses", you know

**High School Principal
Continued...**

those AP courses (Advanced Placement), or to just take the regular course. Do those courses really make a difference in the long run? Do they really help one get into college? Does my son or daughter really need those enrichment classes?

The myth for many years, in education, was that only certain "gifted and talented" students would most benefit from enrichment or AP courses. Nothing could be further from the truth. Endless experiments have been done on both animals and humans to determine what conditions predictably and precisely build a better brain. Experts tell us there are two things particularly important in growing a better brain. The critical ingredients in any purposeful program to enrich the learner's brain are that first the learning is challenging, with new information or experiences. Often novelty will do it, but it must be challenging. Second, there must be some way to learn from the experience through interactive feedback.

This is the basic premise that the AP institute puts forth. They encourage all students to become involved in the enriched curriculum. Without exposure to new curriculum and new learning, a youngster will never develop the complete learning capability of his or her potential. The more challenging the curriculum, the more parents and teachers challenge and ask students to extend

themselves, the more learning and strength in learning will be developed.

As you look forward to next year, please sit down with your young students and take a serious look at the AP curriculum. Yes it is more rigorous, yes it will require a little more time, but the benefits are well worth the effort in the overall learning cycle. Don't be afraid to look at the positives of the AP program and what they can do for the beginning learner. If you have questions about whether your student can be successful in the AP curriculum, please ask for a visit with the counselor.

We at the high school, thank you for sharing your kids with us this year. Have a great summer!



**PARENTS, STUDENTS,
FORMER STUDENTS,
TEACHERS**

The PTA is hosting a Retirement Reception honoring:

**Dianne LeClaire
Paula McCain
Wendy Warner**

Please join us in wishing them well and letting them know how much they have meant to us all!
WHEN: Thurs., May 13, 2004
WHERE: Elementary Cafeteria
TIME: 3:15 - 5:00 p.m.



AMS cheerleaders for the 2004-2005 school year have been selected. We would like to congratulate the following girls:

**Becca Brier
Jessica DeLong
Emily Hayward
Kourtney Kellar
Chloe Pourzan
Amanda Sutton
Kaylee Sutton
Meredith Sutton
Brooke Gehr
Maggie Hendryx
Jordan Milbauer
Taylor Pierce
Sally Smith
Shaylinn Tackett
Skyler Webbe
Meredith Woole**

Mascot -Reyna Taylor

Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in teaching Spanish to our Elementary Students in 2004-2005, please contact Robin McWhorter at (940) 464-724, ext. 1130

District 12-2A UIL
Academic Meet
April 2, 2004

Argyle High School competed in the District 12-2A UIL Academic Meet on Friday, April 2nd. The following students placed at the meet.

Josh Albritton: 5th in Science and 5th in Mathematics
Maggie Borders: 4th in News Writing

District 12-2A UIL
Academic Meet
April 2, 2004 Continued...

Kevin Burnett: 2nd in Number Sense, 3rd in Calculator, and 3rd in Mathematics

Ashley Clark: 6th in Social Studies

Lauren Edwards: 2nd in Feature Writing

Justin Freebourn: 2nd in Science (tie)

Michelle Hinojosa: 3rd in Ready Writing, 3rd in Editorial Writing, and 5th in Headline Writing

Newt Newman: 6th in Computer Applications

Daniel Miller: 2nd in Science (tie)

Les Murphy: 1st in Mathematics, 2nd in Calculator, 5th in Number Sense, and Top Physics Score

Erika Wade: 2nd in Literary Criticism

Kelsey Wells: 2nd in News Writing

Amanda Woolums: 5th in Poetry Interpretation

The **One Act Play** placed 1st.

The **Mathematics Team** of Les Murphy, Kevin Burnett, Josh Albritton, and Lauren Johnson placed 1st.

The **Science Team** of Daniel Miller, Justin Freebourn, and Josh Albritton, and Les Murphy placed 1st.

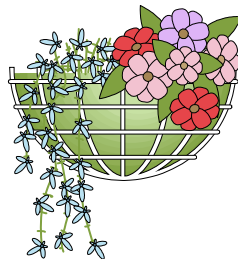
The **Journalism Team** of Michelle Hinojosa, Lauren Edwards, Maggie Borders and Kelsye Wells placed 2nd

The **Literary Criticism Team** of Erika Wade, Andra King, and Stephen Dillenberg placed 2nd

The **Calculator Team** of Les Murphy, Kevin Burnett, Josh Albritton, and Justin Johnson placed 2nd

The following students will advance to Regional Competition:

Josh Albritton, Kevin Burnett, Lauren Edwards, Justin Freebourn, Michelle Hinojosa, Justin Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Daniel Miller, Les Murphy, Erika Wade, and Kelsye Wells.



3 CEMENT BENCHES
NEEDED

Do you have an old cement bench that you would like to

donate to the school? Would you consider donating a cement bench to the school? If so, please contact Nancy Nytomt at:

nytomt@argyleisd.com or come by her second grade classroom in room 105 and tell her the great news!!

Thanks so much for helping to make our school beautiful and inviting for our children, Parents and guests!

Argyle High School
Students Advance
to State

The Argyle High School UIL Academic Team competed at the Regional Meet on Saturday, April 24th.

The following students placed individually at the meet.

Josh Albritton: 3rd in Science with the 2nd Highest Biology Score and 5th in Calculator Applications.

Kevin Burnett: 2nd in Number Sense, 2nd in Mathematics, and 3rd in Calculator Applications.

Justin Freebourn: 1st in Science with the Top Biology score.

Michelle Hinojosa: 3rd in Ready Writing and 4th in Editorial Writing

Daniel Miller: 5th in Science with the Top Chemistry score.

Les Murphy: 1st in Mathematics with the Top Physics score.

Erika Wade: 6th in Literary Criticism.

AHS UIL Team State Bound Continued...

The following Teams placed at the meet.

The Science Team of Justin Freebourn, Josh Albritton, Daniel Miller, and Les Murphy placed 1st and will advance to State.

The Mathematics Team of Les Murphy, Kevin Burnett, Josh Albritton, and Lauren Johnson placed 1st and will advance to State.

The Calculator Applications Team of Kevin Burnett, Josh Albritton, Les Murphy and Justin Johnson finished 2nd and will advance to State as the Wild Card.

The following students will advance to the state meet.

Josh Albritton in Calculator Applications, Mathematics, and Science

Kevin Burnett in Number Sense, Calculator Applications, and Mathematics

Justin Freebourn in Science

Michelle Hinojosa in Ready Writing

Daniel Miller in Science

Justin Johnson in Calculator Applications

Lauren Johnson in Mathematics

Les Murphy in Calculator Applications, Mathematics, and Science

GOLDEN EAGLE Teacher Excellence Award

Argyle ISD Education Foundation is pleased to announce the 2003-2004 nominees for the *GOLDEN EAGLE* Teacher Excellence Award, sponsored by the Miles Foundation. We received a total of 46 nomination forms for 20 excellent teachers. Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete a nomination form and for helping the foundation honor and recognize our outstanding teachers.

One teacher from each campus will receive a *GOLDEN EAGLE* Award, along with a check for \$250, on April 30th. All the nominees will be recognized during the Staff Development meetings that afternoon, and the award recipient will be announced for each campus. The three Campus Award recipients will interview with the independent Panel of Judges the following week, and a District "Teacher of the Year" will be selected from those three candidates. The District "Teacher of the Year" will be announced in May, and that teacher will be recognized with an additional \$250 check and trophy.

Congratulations to the 2003-2004 Golden Eagle nominees! Please let **all** of the outstanding teachers in our district know how much we appreciate them!

High School Nominees

Cindy Harris
Kimberly Kass
Cliff McCurdy
Cindy Mikel

Middle School Nominees

Leah Beedle
Joe Bigbee
Susan Greer
Michael Lemish
Abby Nelson

Elementary School Nominees

Amy Brendel
Joye Erwin
DeAnne Fife
Carol Herrin
Karen Hood
Nancy John
Dianne LeClair
Nancy Nytomt
Linda Norris
Wyvona Ulman



BAND & Choir NEWS

High School Choir

The Argyle HS Treble Chorus performed at the Lonestar Classic Music Festival on April 2nd, they received Superior Ratings from all three judges, and were awarded the Outstanding Choir trophy.

Band & Choir News Continued...

High School Band

The Argyle HS Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band attended UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest on April 6th and both bands received Superior Ratings from all six judges and were awarded the UIL Sweepstakes Trophy. Also, on March 8th, both bands performed in the Big D Classic Music Festival at the Meyerson Symphony Center. Both Bands received Superior ratings and Outstanding Band trophies.

MS Band

The Argyle MS Red Band and White Band attended UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest on March 29th and the White Band received a Superior rating in Sight-reading and the Red Band received a Superior rating in Concert and Sight-reading and was awarded the UIL Sweepstakes Trophy.

MS Red Band received Superior ratings from all three judges at the Big D Classic Music Festival held at the Meyerson on April 12th. They also received a trophy for Outstanding Performance.

Both MS Bands will perform at the Murchison Center on Friday, May 7th. The Red Band performs at 8:50 a.m. and the White Band performs at 9:40 a.m. The MS Bands will go to Six Flags on Friday, May 14th for their end of the year trip.

6th Grade Band

The Sixth Grade Band will perform at the Murchison Center on Thursday, May 6th at 8:50 a.m. Parents are encouraged to attend this special performance. After the performance, the Sixth Grade Band will go to Medieval Times.

Chaperones are need for this event. Please contact Ms. Mikel.

The Second Annual Percussion Concert

Monday, May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. All percussion students from Sixth Grade through High School will perform.

High School Band Banquet

Friday, May 21st



On April 5th and 8th, 44 Argyle Middle School students participated in the 12A UIL Academic District Meet. On behalf of all the academic coaches we salute all your hard work and your willingness to give of your time to our school. You make us so proud.

Academic Coaches: Leah Beedle, Gayla Burnett, Linda Creamer, Susan Greer, Kay Honeyman, Dayna Hudson, Jennifer Sanders and Twila Kelcourse coach/AMS Academic UIL Campus Coordinator.

Students participating were:

Ethan Clark, Jake Katzen, Jake Sizelove, Sam Forrer, Maggie Hendryx, Erin Leamon, Kelly Sims, Colton Hagler, Jordan Milbauer, Tymbre Peterson, Tyler Kass, Megan Kaase, Mandy Tipton, John Walker, Brady Brown, Chance Casey, Jared Hudson, Liz Fryer, Rachel Schermerhorn, Christa Conroy, Gaby Dominguez, Elisa Tapia, Liz Fenley, Rebecca Sanders, Amy Beecher, Kristen Gill, Emma Forrer, Jessica Bonfield, Austin Hamm, Grant Bewers, Adrianna Chrestopoulos, Meredith Devine, Nicole Brammer, Jackie Mabry, T.J. Record, Riley Lynch, Robbie Ehlers, Michael Stein, Eric Katzen, Kirstie Wade, Jenny Wright, Paul Wright, Katherine Yarbrough, Sarah Roberts.

The following students placed in their events:

7th grade Calculator

Tyler Kass- 3rd place

8th grade Calculator

Robbie Ehlers- 4th place

7th grade Dictionary Skills

John Walker- 4th place

7th grade Editorial Writing

Jared Hudson- 2nd place

Chance Casey- 3rd place

7th grade Impromptu

Speaking

Rachel Schermerhorn- 2nd place

7th grade Listening Skills

Gaby Dominguez- 4th place

7th grade Maps, Graphs, & Charts

Liz Fenley- 6th place

8th grade Maps, Graphs, & Charts

Robbie Ehlers- 1st place

MS UIL Academic Meet Continued...

6th grade Mathematics

Jake Katzen- 4th place
Jake Sizelove- 6th place
Team of Ethan Clark, Jake
Katzen, Jake Sizelove- 3rd place
team

8th grade Mathematics

Eric Katzen- 2nd place
Team of Eric Katzen, Kirstie
Wade, Jenny Wright- 2nd place
team

7th grade Modern Oratory

Rachel Schermerhorn- 1st place
Mandy Tipton- 4th place

6th grade Number Sense

Jake Sizelove- 4th place
Sam Forrer- 6th place
Team of Ethan Clark, Sam
Forrer, Jake Sizelove- 3rd place
team

7th grade Number Sense

Grant Bewers- 2nd place
Team of Grant Bewers, Jessica
Bonfield, John Walker – 2nd
place team

6th grade Ready Writing

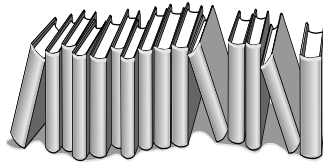
Kelly Sims- 5th place
Science I (7th grade)
T.J. Record- 1st place
Tyler Kass- 2nd place
Team of Tyler Kass, T.J.
Record, Elisa Tapia- 1st place
team

Science II (8th grade)

Robbie Ehlers- 4th place
Team of Robbie Ehlers, Sarah
Roberts, Paul Wright- 2nd place
team

7th grade Spelling

Riley Lynch- 5th place



***The annual Friends of the
Argyle Libraries Book
Donation and Basket Sale will
be on the following dates:***

Elementary – May 17-21 in the
library during Field Day on the
21st.

Middle School – May 10th in
the library and during
Academic Awards at 6:30 p.m.
that evening.

High School – May 17th in the
library and during Academic
Awards at 6:30 p.m. that
evening.

*Come visit the libraries, buy a
book to donate to the library of
your choice or purchase a
basket filled with various
goodies.*

Powder Puff Football Game

Mark your calendars for May
13th at 7:00 p.m. when Argyle
High School will be hosting a
Powder Puff Football Game
between the Junior and Senior
girls. Besides seeing a great
football game between the girls,
you won't want to miss the
cheerleaders! The proceeds
from the football game will
benefit Project Graduation.
Project Graduation is the drug-
free alcohol-free celebration for
the seniors following their
graduation. In addition to the
football game, we will also be
concluding our **Pooper Bowl**
contest and announcing the

winner. Tickets for the **Pooper
Bowl** are still being sold and in
case you haven't heard about
this exciting event, the person
who buys the lucky square that
gets pooped on wins 1/3 of the
cash! Don't miss an evening of
food, fun and cash money.
Please come out and support
Project Graduation!

Thanks,

Jan McBryde (817) 430-3742

Adolescents Benefit From Structured Extracurricular Activities

*Submitted by Todd Rodgers
Boys' Athletic Coordinator*

Large amounts of time spent in
unstructured, unsupervised
activities are related to negative
academic and social outcomes
for adolescents, report Rich
Gilman, University of
Kentucky, and Joel Meyers and
Laura Perez, Georgia State
University. They reviewed 15
years of research on the types of
activities that promote mental
health in adolescence,
concluding that participation in
highly structured, cooperative,
adult led activities had the most
positive effects. These
activities appear to enhance
confidence while instilling
knowledge skills and positive
values.

Research has found that
participation in structured
extracurricular activities
promotes personal and social
development and academic
achievement. In particular,
positive effects have been found

Adolescents Benefit From Structured Extracurricular Activities Continued...

for activities that are highly structured and emphasize skill building under the guidance of adults other than parents. In contrast, adolescents who are unaffiliated with any social network are at much higher risk of suicide and dropping out of school. Students who spend large amounts of time in unstructured activities or with delinquent peers are more likely to get in trouble with the law, to abuse drugs and to drop out of school.

Academic Benefits

A number of studies show that the highest achieving students spend more time in structured, adult-led activities. Participation in these structured activities accounts for greater achievement after controlling for background factors such as race and socioeconomic level. School-sponsored activities have greater positive effects on academic achievement than community-sponsored activities. Researchers speculate that such activities promote a sense of “belongingness” and engagement in school that leads to higher academic achievement. Participation in school-related activities may also influence teachers’ expectations of students.

Studies that investigated only sports participation show less-significant correlation between participation and academic achievement. Athletic activities appear to enhance personal and

social relationships while being less influential for academic outcomes. There is some evidence that participating in too many activities can have a diminishing return for academic achievement.

Students At-Risk for School Dropout

Almost all students who are considered “competent” by teachers graduate from school regardless of their participation in structured extracurricular activities. However, the probability that a high-risk student will graduate increases when she participates in more than one extracurricular school activity. Participation in extracurricular activities alone does not ensure graduation; it is important that a student’s peer group also be involved in such activities. Outcomes are negative for adolescents who participate in extracurricular activities but remain in delinquent peer groups.

Assessing Different Types of Structured Activities

Students who participate in athletics are almost twice as likely to graduate as students not active in school athletics. Boys appear to benefit more than girls from participation in sports. Some studies review, however, that participation in sports teams corresponds with greater rates of alcohol and drug use when compared to participation in other structured activities. The likelihood of such negative outcomes appears to be contingent on the quality of coaching, the peer group that surrounds the athlete, and the cultural value of the activity

within the school and community.

Not surprisingly, students who participate in academic activities fare better academically and are more likely to attend college. Cultural and arts activities appear to promote students’ social relationships and engagement in school and to prevent school dropout.

Conclusions

These researchers conclude that there is consistent evidence to suggest that structured extracurricular activities can promote mental health among all adolescents and particularly for those at risk of negative academic and personal outcomes. It is important, therefore, that at-risk teens be involved in a structured activity of their choice under the influence of positive peer networks and competent adults. These activities can lead to greater self-esteem, satisfaction and engagement in school, social competence, improved academic performance and graduation. One important qualification is that the student’s social network influences the effects of these activities. A willingness to participate, success in the activity and support from peers may be necessary for positive outcomes.

“Structured Extracurricular Activities Among Adolescents: Findings and Implications for School Psychologists”
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