

INSIGHTS



March, 2004

Future Planning

*By Carolyn Pierel
Superintendent*

Recently the University Interscholastic League released its new classification for schools for the next two years. Argyle ISD missed being classified as class 3A by only two students. While being one of the largest 2A districts in the state has many competitive advantages, we must not overlook the obvious. For all intents and purposes, Argyle ISD is no longer a truly small school district. Its population is becoming similar to that of Sanger or Pottsboro.

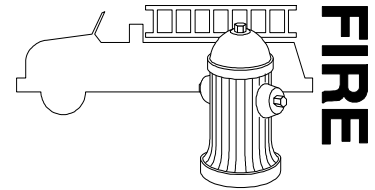
Historically, the district's growth over the past five years has ranged from five to eight percent annually. The district has gained over one hundred students from last year alone. At that rate, it will not be too many years before the district has outgrown its current facilities. This includes the new facilities that are currently under construction.

At the recommendation of the Board, I have formed a facility needs committee. This committee's mission will be to assist the district in developing

a facility plan that will take us through the next seven to ten years.

The committee, comprised of parents, business and community members will meet throughout the rest of the spring semester. They will be studying the financial status of the district, looking at enrollment projections, meeting with architects and touring current facilities. Hopefully by early summer they will bring recommendations to the Board regarding future construction planning. It is still much too early in the process to predict what the outcome of this study will determine, but the recommendations of the committee will be given serious consideration by me and the Argyle ISD Board of Trustees. Persons serving on the committee are: Rick Alderson, Kevin Brown, Lori Camillo, Arturo Canizares, Carol Delbecq, Mark Eckert, Hunter Hardy, Norma Harrington, Kim Hinnrichs, Donna Howell, Ben Krueger, Frank Lyle, Larry McBryde, Kevin McKinney, Tom McMurray, Jan Michie, Rod Overlander, Kent Peyton, Mark Sanders, Mike Sizelove, Mary Stein, Mont Wilkes, and Greg York. I will be publishing their recommendations when they are finalized, probably at

some point this coming summer.



Fire Marshall Update

On February 19th the State Fire Marshall made another inspection visit to Argyle Elementary. The school made a perfect score. I will receive an official report in the next few weeks, but the inspector gave me a verbal comment that we were 100% in compliance with suggested improvements. Congratulations to Mrs. McWhorter, her faculty and staff and Mr. Siems, our Director of Maintenance, for their successful efforts.

Argyle ISD has been notified that a new Level II Sex Offender has moved into our district and lives on Country Club Road. If you would like to stay current on registered sex offenders in our area, go to www.wbap.com and the site will direct you to the correct page on the Dept. of Public Safety web site.

\$10,000 Grant for Argyle Educational Foundation **by Wendy Warner**

A \$10,000 grant from Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, has been awarded to the Argyle Educational Foundation to be used toward a school/community library. The purpose of this project is to enrich the literary environment of our school district and community. Wendy Warner, AISD Liaison to the Argyle Educational Foundation, wrote the grant launching the project into action. Argyle ISD is a rural school district that encompasses students from the municipalities of Argyle, Bartonville, Denton, Flower Mound and North Lake, totaling 1350 students. The school has a student library but there is no public library in Argyle. Students must travel after school or at night to the county library. Parents and community members have expressed a strong interest in opening the Argyle High School Library to the community. This was the first step to secure funds to pilot a school/community library project for our students and community patrons to utilize for literary purposes. This grant provides the first link in the realization of a school/community public library.

Funding from the Verizon grant will support the addition of reading materials to the current Argyle Library collection. The

average budget for each library item averages \$20.00 per unit. To add a minimum of 500 items to the collection will cost \$10,000.00. A team of interested people from the School, the Foundation and Friends of the Library will research appropriate materials to add to the collection. Requests for reading and research materials that meet both the interests of the public and meet the students' needs will be purchased with grant funds.

This is only the beginning to making the entire project successful. We are very grateful to Verizon for their interest in literacy and their award of this grant. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Tracy Smith at (940) 262-7777.

BENEFITS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

*From Telena Wright
Asst. Superintendent*

Students who learn a second language benefit in practical ways. They are better able to communicate with native speakers in this country and in other nations; they have a better understanding of other cultures; and they are better prepared for potential careers. Moreover, students' learning skills in general are enhanced through foreign language study.

Parents, as you assist your son/daughter in making subject

selections this spring, keep these important benefits in mind. Students, consider this information as you decide whether to take a third or fourth year of foreign language.

Immediate Benefits:

Attaining greater academic achievement in other areas of study, including reading, social studies, and mathematics

Developing a clearer understanding of the English language and greater sensitivity to structure, vocabulary, and syntax.

Earning higher SAT and ACT scores, especially in verbal areas.

Sensing a greater awareness and deeper understanding of other cultures, and developing a more positive interaction with persons from other nations.

Gaining advantageous qualifications for student exchange programs.

Developing a global attitude.

Improving knowledge of geography.

Exploring career opportunities involving foreign language.

Earning college credits while in high school and/or fulfilling a requirement for college entrance or graduation.

Long-Range Benefits

Facilitating the learning of additional foreign languages.

Benefits of Learning a Foreign Language Continued...

Acquiring an indispensable skill in a global world.

Preparing for travel for business, education, or pleasure.

Performing research abroad.

Qualifying for foreign study programs:

Student exchanges

Junior year abroad in college

Summer courses abroad

Business internships abroad

Exchanging professional ideas and information in commerce, law, education, arts.

Enhancing career opportunities:

Employment abroad in business, education, or government

Employment in the U.S. by foreign countries.

Employment in the U.S. by United States export companies.

Employment in industries dealing with foreign tourists.

Employment in social services, hospitals, law enforcement

Appreciating the aesthetics of literature, music, art, folklore

Developing more flexibility in thinking processes through problem solving, conceptualizing, and reasoning.

Enjoying the satisfaction of achieving a personal goal--- learning another language.

CHOOSE-TO-CARE **TIP LINE**

By Wendy Warner

Argyle Independent School District supports safe and drug-free campuses through "CHOOSE-TO-CARE", an innovative, web-based, tip line program. This is the 3rd year that Texas Bank has sponsored this wonderful program for AISD.

The web-site <http://www.ChooseToCare.com> allows students, parents, employees, and other members of the school community to go on-line to provide information about student safety issues, anonymously, if they prefer. "Choose-To-Care is not meant to replace the one-to-one relationship between administrators, faculty, and students that schools have worked so hard to develop. It is an additional option that is being provided to them. No Web access? Call toll-free: 877-277-3812

Choose-To-Care is an innovative and timely update on the more traditional 800 number services. It's about providing people with an option that allows them to come forward with information they might not otherwise be willing to provide. With the Web, they can communicate from the privacy of their own home and in a

setting that allows them to compose their thoughts. We believe this provides the school with another opportunity to get complete information that could help the District provide a safe environment for all of their stakeholders.

When users communicate through the ChooseToCare.com site they are communicating in a secure Web environment – encrypted with the same SSL technology used by financial institutions. Choose-To-Care uses a digital certificate that allows users to verify the site's identity. Additionally, the site posts a privacy policy statement that lets users know the conditions under which they are providing their information, and to whom their information will be given. Privacy is key to the credibility of the service from the user's perspective as well as from the school's perspective. The information is received by Asset Control, Inc. in Denton and is then reported to the appropriate AISD administrator.

We hope that our students will take the opportunity to advise us about any concerns they have about the safety and well-being for not only themselves, but also for others. Staff members, parents, and others in the community also can utilize this forum to share their immediate safety concerns.

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

Choose to Care Tip Line Continued...

person, is not an option, provide your information on-line. ChooseToCare.com is safe, secure, and confidential. And, you can remain anonymous. No Web access? Call toll-free: 877-277-3812



NURSES'S CORNER

VISION CARE

Good vision is essential to success in school. In fact, 80% of what children learn in the first 12 years comes through their eyes. Therefore, it is essential that we all are diligent to make sure we follow the basics of caring for children's vision.

Vision screenings, performed at school, are for clarity and distance vision. There are certain eye conditions such as lazy eye (amblyopia) and wandering eye (strabismus) that can be detected. However due to limitations, screenings cannot detect all eye conditions.

Eye exams, performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, are the most effective method of detecting vision problems and eye disorders. We recommend you observe your child for the ten warning signs of vision problems and if you find that any are present you have your

child's eyes examined professionally.

Ten Warning Signs of Vision Problems in Children:

1. Squinting, closing or covering one eye
2. Holding a book close to the face
3. Losing their place while reading
4. Excessive clumsiness
5. Using a finger while reading
6. Tilting the head to one side
7. Performing below potential
8. Short attention span
9. Frequent daydreaming
10. Rubbing eyes repeatedly

Did you know that sun can damage eyes as much as skin? Children, whose young eyes let in more UV-rays and spend a lot of time out outdoors, are very susceptible. It is recommended that you have sunglasses with shatterproof lens available.

If you have concerns about your child's vision, please feel free to call your school nurse any time.



Dyslexia Identification and Screening by Janet Sorbello

The National Institute of Health defines Dyslexia as a specific language based disorder characterized by

difficulties in single word decoding, usually reflecting insufficient phonological processing abilities which are often unexpected in relation to age and cognitive academic abilities.

In plain English we may ask: What are the common signs of dyslexia? In younger children some signs are:

1. Difficulty remembering the names of the letters of the alphabet
2. Difficulty remembering the sounds of the letters
3. Reversing letters when writing (b-d) or flipping them (b-p)
4. Scrambling letters in reading or writing (gril-girl)
5. Substituting words for the written word (rat-mouse, house-home)

Dyslexic students can sometimes go unidentified through the earlier grades because they are bright and can memorize well. But as more independent work is required there is a break down in reading ability. For older students, decoding isolated single words is very difficult and a clue to the problem. Some experience difficulty expressing their ideas on paper but are very capable verbally. Spelling is a difficulty for most dyslexic students. However, some students may be able to spell fairly well and stumble in reading, or the opposite may be true.

Argyle Elementary's Dyslexia Curriculum is the Alphabetic Phonics Program. It is a state approved program, and Ms. Sorbello is a certified Dyslexia Therapist. The

Dyslexia Identification and Screening Continued...

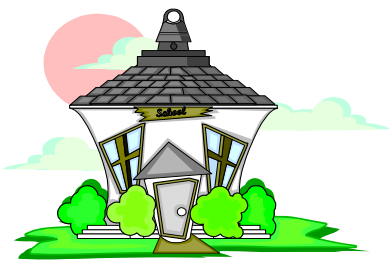
program usually lasts 3+ years from beginning to end. Students must have an average or above average IQ to succeed in the program. We will be screening students for next

year's program after Spring break.

If you have identified characteristics of Dyslexia in your child, please contact their teacher so your child can be screened. For a professional identification of Dyslexia or learning problem, Scottish Rite Hospital has a free testing service for children that are referred by their pediatrician. Cook's Children in Ft. Worth also does professional testing on a sliding scale basis.

Please feel free to contact Ms.Sorbello at the school if you have any questions or speak to your child's teacher.

You may find the following websites informative: www.gophonics.com/dyslexia.htm and www.interdys.org.



**Robin McWhorter,
Elementary Principal**

As I know you are aware, this year we held our first science fair at the elementary campus. It was a huge success, and I am very proud of our students and

faculty. I felt it important to designate this month's article to the research behind science fairs and the important role they play in today's schools.

We held a science fair for a variety of reasons: to stimulate student interest in science, to provide students with opportunities for research and inquiry, to publicly recognize students' completed projects, and to provide students with opportunities to share their work. Learning some scientific facts or principles is a valuable fringe benefit for students doing projects but the primary objective for science project work is to teach students to think.

In the social domain, science fair projects help students become responsible and purposeful. Science fair projects also foster development of a student's sense of personal capabilities and qualities. Additionally, science fair projects help students develop an appreciation for nature and the relevance of science in daily life, thereby promoting positive attitudes toward science.

To top off science week, we held a "Weird Science Live" assembly to emphasize the fact that science is all around and that science is fun. All 615 students were attentive and seemed to enjoy the 45-minute show presented by Lester, the weird science live presenter.

In closing, students are already discussing plans for next year's science fair. One student said he knows what his project will be, but not to ask him. Only he and

his dad know, and they are not telling. I guess the suspense will have to continue until next year.



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

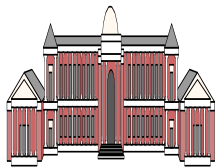
Middle School Principal

What does the ideal middle school look like? What kind of school would you like your children to attend? What do you feel is the purpose of school? What would you like your middle school child to accomplish before leaving for high school? These are the types of questions that the Campus Leadership Team (CLT) for Argyle Middle School is currently wrestling with as the team of teachers, parents, administrators and community members works to create a vision and mission statement for AMS.

Over the last several months the leadership team has been studying the book Professional Learning Communities at Work by Richard DuFour and Robert Eaker. The authors stress the importance of creating vision and mission statements that will chart the course for all decisions made by the leadership team. From the study of this book, our team has chosen to rewrite the vision and mission statements for Argyle Middle School. The team wants to incorporate input from all the stakeholders of AMS into the statements in order to have statements that

From the Middle School Principal Continued...

are meaningful and will guide the future decisions made. In this light, the teachers are giving input and the students are giving input via the Principal's Advisory Council. The committee is asking for parent input through a survey that has been sent out in the last report card. Please take the time to answer the questions and return the survey to the middle school office. Your input as parents is very valuable. The leadership team will use all the information from each group of stakeholders to write statements that accurately reflect the goals and dreams of Argyle Middle School of the new millennium.



From the High School Principal

Mr. Jeff Henry

As we come to the close of the first six week grading period for the second semester we are looking forward to an exciting spring season. Basketball is starting the playoff run to the state championship while baseball, softball, track, tennis, golf, UIL academics, One Act Play are all swinging into motion. The band is facing several upcoming concerts and guest appearances this spring. And certainly we must remember that cheerleading

tryouts are to be held in the near future. All of this makes one stop and reflect on how our student body stretches themselves to do so much and still maintain a focus on the academics that are so important to the educational process.

Every successful school has at its' backbone a sound educational program supported by well rounded extracurricular programs. These extracurricular programs serve to take the daily lessons of the classroom and enrich that experience. In depth teaching based upon high classroom expectations and sound academic classroom management systems pivot off of these strong extracurricular programs to make sure our student body stays well rounded and vested in diversity. We would like to think that our sound extracurricular programs allow our teaching cadre to relate the concept of winning and doing one's best at all times is the Argyle Eagle Tradition.

In a positive move to support our student body in their academic and extracurricular efforts we at the high school have implemented the ZAP program. The teachers spent most of the previous weeks explaining the process and how it was to work. This last week students were gradually introduced to the program and how it will impact their school work and success.

The purpose of this program is to develop a consistent process that will **raise student expectations** in regard to the

successful completion of homework and classroom assignments. At the heart of the ZAP program is an effort to help students appreciate the importance of completing all assignments to the best of their ability. If it is assigned by a teacher then it is an important part of the learning cycle. If it is an important part of the learning cycle then it is just as important to complete that assignment in a timely manner while that material is still being covered.

The process is relatively simple and painless. If a student performs at less than 70% mastery on any given assignment or fails to turn in a daily assignment or homework assignment then that student will be asked to fill out a ZAP form. That form will have the students contact information on it. Some time during the day an administrator, or even that classroom teacher, will contact the parent and make arrangements for the student to stay after school and complete the assignment. If the student stays at school and completes the work that day then the point deduction will be minimal. If the work is not completed until the next day, then the late work policy of the campus will apply and the highest the student can make will be a 75.

This week begins a new six week grading period and we are asking all parents to take an added interest in their children's academic progress. If you receive that call from your child or from an administrator please remember that we are not only

From the High School Principal Continued...

trying to save the grade, but more importantly we want your child/student to stay abreast of what is happening in the classroom. Often we focus on the grade and forget that one assignment left out or undone can be the one assignment that is integral in understanding an important concept. This hole in the learning cycle can sink the student for the grading period, but also for the entire lesson cycle that is going on at the time.

Argyle ISD Education Foundation is excited to announce the first annual **GOLDEN EAGLE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS!**

Has your student had a teacher who inspired your child? Do you know an outstanding teacher in Argyle ISD?

A cash award will be given to one teacher from each campus, and an additional cash award to one District "Teacher of the Year." The three Campus Award recipients will be interviewed by an independent panel of judges who will select the District "Teacher of the Year." Nomination Forms will be accepted from anyone willing to participate in the process – parents, peers, principals, students, etc.

Argyle ISD has many wonderful, outstanding teachers! Honor and recognize them with your nomination.

Nomination forms can be found in each campus office now or coming soon on our new website at www.argyleeducationfoundation.org or email Kim Hinrichs at gkhinrichs@msn.com.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, March 26, 2004, at 5:00 pm.

Let's show our "Golden Eagle" teachers how much we appreciate them!!!!



BAND NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS ...

To the thirty one band students and five choir students that will perform in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday, May 29th in San Marcos.

Those students include:

Choir Soloists: Jeneá Case, Victoria Eads, Jessica Huerring, Amber King, and Morgin Matthews

Band Soloists: Ashley Clark - flute, Dara DeGrand – flute, Sean Morrison – horn, Rose Schirato – horn, Justin Friederich – percussion, Jessica LuForte – percussion, and Chris Wilkerson – percussion

Flute Quartet: Christie Bonfield, Ashley Clark, Lauren Edwards, and Michelle Hinojosa

Clarinet Quartet: Josh Albritton, Cindy Hinojosa, Peyton Preston, and Kevin Wilkerson

Sax Quartet: Josh McFarling, Adam Schinske, Brock Spratlen, and Erika Wade
Brass Quintet: Kevin Burnett, Joseph Forrest, Justin Landrum, Les Murphy, and Rose Schirato
Horn Quartet: Shane Cannon, Justin Johnson, Katie Klingele, and Sean Morrison

Trombone Quartet: Graham Atwater, Stephen Forrest, Nathan Hammontree, and Les Murphy

Percussion Ensemble: Yasmin Furtick, Jessica LuForte, Caitlin Murphy, Courtney Self, and Chris Wilkerson
Other soloists and groups receiving a first division are:
Lauren Edwards – Flute,
Michelle Hinojosa – Flute, Sara Willeford – Flute, Cindy Hinojosa – Bass Clarinet, Josh McFarling – Alto Saxophone, Erika Wade – Alto Saxophone,
Tyler Tillerson – Trumpet, Ross Lincoln – Trumpet, Preston Conroy – Trombone, Helm Donahue – Euphonium, Sam Howell – Euphonium
Trumpet Quartet: Jon Dutton, Robbie Ehlers, Joseph Forrest, and Tyler Tillerson

Band
Important Dates

High School

March 8 – Concert at AHS
March 12 – Contest at the Meyerson Symphony Center (during the day)
April 2 & 3 – Trip to Austin
April 6 or 7 – UIL Concert and Sight-reading, Denton
April 16 thru 18 – Spring Trip to Corpus Christi

Choir

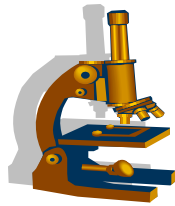
March 8 – Concert at AHS
April 2 – Contest at Lake Highlands High School

Middle School

February 19 – Concert at AHS 7:00pm
February 27 – MS White Band (3rd period) to IMAX
February 28 – MS Solo Contest at AMS
March 25 – MS UIL Music Concert 7:00pm
March 31 – MS UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest
April 14 – MS Red Band (5th period) Contest at the Meyerson Symphony Center (during the day)

6th Grade Band

February 19 – Concert at AMS
February 28 – Solo Contest at AMS
March 25 – Concert at AMS 7:00pm



2004

Science Fair Winners

This year's science fair was a tremendous success. We have many future scientists among us! There were over 300 entries from grades K through 5. The judges had a hard time determining the winners because they were all so wonderful!

Kindergarten

1st The Size of my Class- Brad Sullivan
2nd The Softest Wood- Will Blake
3rd Do Dew Drops Drop?- Gracie Darby
3rd (Tie) Sugar and Salt: Same or Different- Alyssa Woolums
5th The Shadow Shows – Andrew Heine

First Grade

1st What Really Cleans Carpets- Riley Ray
2nd Cat Treats- Karan Muns
3rd Sugar Flowers- Emily Young
4th Does Temperature Affect how Fast Food Decays? Lily Pratt
5th Refrigerator Food- Jessica Portales

Second Grade

1st How Plants react to different Feedings- Rochelle Taylor
2nd Cool Cubes- Chloe Mathes

3rd Are all Pennies Created Equal? Payton McWhorter
4th Babies “Luv” to be Hugged and Pampered- Chance O’Sel
5th Sound Sense- Slader Ammons

Third Grade

1st Does Container Color affect the Speed of Evaporation? Mary Beth Wright
2nd Changes in Indoor Temperature-Celene Gielink
3rd What you Drink- Morgan Gumbert
4th Shocking News about Natural produce- Nate Graf
5th Myth Busters- Blake Lyle

Fourth Grade

1st Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz- Hunter Monroe
2nd Wild Ride Rollercoaster- Tate Watson
3rd Pop till you Drop- Alexa Ehlers
4th It’s Bubblelicious – Taylor Reneau
5th Electro Magnets- Pierson Sizelove

Fifth Grade

1st What Toothpaste is best at Cleaning Stains- Elena Katsinas
2nd Water Filtration- Christopher Louy
3rd Battle of the Batteries- Jay Darby
4th Producing Electricity without Pollution- David Hagler
5th Does Argyle have Hard Water? Natalie Osenbaugh
5th (tie) Heat and Energy- Jace Hudson

Best of show K-2: Riley Ray
Best of show 3-5: Elena Katsinas