



# Staff UPDATE

February 2009

[www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu)

Bastrop Independent School District

(512) 321-2292

## Filing Begins for BISD Elections

Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees Positions 1 and 2 will be up for election on May 9, 2009. James Allen was elected to Place 1 in 2006. Karen Halladay was elected to Place 2 in 2006.

Candidates may file for Place 1 and 2 starting at 8 a.m. on February 7 through 5 p.m. on March 9 in the Community Services/ Communications office at the Bastrop ISD Service Center, located at 906 Farm Street.

The last day to register to vote is April 9, 2009.

For more election information, contact Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/ Communications at (512) 321-2292.

## CCHS to Open with Grades 9 & 10 for 2010

It has been determined . . . Cedar Creek High School will open for the 2010-2011 school year with grades nine and ten. In each subsequent year a grade level will be added, meaning the campus will house grades nine through twelve for the 2012-2013 school year.

During the regular Jan. 20 Board of Trustees meeting, Superintendent Roderick Emanuel gave his recommendation for the campus to open with grades nine and ten for the first year.

“This configuration (grades nine and ten) will be the least disruptive academically and will help to build a strong and sustaining eagle tradition,” Emanuel explained. “Research has shown that a phase in model is the most common practice. It is the least disruptive to all students and

helps to nurture and develop academic success. Overall, it is the best for students,” he added.

The BISD Board of Trustees had the final say on the issue, with the majority siding with the Superintendent’s recommendation.

“This is the toughest decision I’ve ever had to make as a school board member,” said James Allen, School Board President. He reminded those in attendance that the Board had challenged the Superintendent and his staff to research configuration scenarios and bring information and a recommendation back to the board.

To view updates on Cedar Creek High School, the multi-purpose athletic stadium and the Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts, visit [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu).

## Explore UT - Set for March 7



Join the University of Texas for “Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas!” on Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students, teachers and families are welcome to attend. The cost is free and you don’t even need to sign up.

During the event, choose from more than 350 educational activities on

campus. Here’s a sample of what is being planned:

- What FDR Might Tell Obama: Watch a depression-era president offer his advice.
- Facebook - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Learn how to use it safely.
- Computer Mapping: Find your way around the world using an advanced geographic information system.
- Paradox of the Hungry and Obese: Learn why many of the poor are

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### DISTRICT MISSION

*The mission of the Bastrop Independent School District is to ensure the academic success of all students by fostering a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.*

### DISTRICT MOTTO

*Every Student Succeeds*

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## BASTROP EDUCATION FOUNDATION REVIEWS GRANTS

Now comes the tough part: the Bastrop Education Foundation has begun evaluating the record number of Innovative Teaching Grant Proposals for 2009-10 school year that were submitted by the mid-January deadline.

Sharah Johnson, the Foundation's vice president for programs, greets the task with enthusiasm, "The 30 proposals represent the greatest number we have had in the three years we've awarded such grants and demonstrate wonderful creativity and commitment in addressing, head-on, a wide range of teaching and learning challenges." A review committee—made up of Foundation board members and other community leaders—will study each applica-



tion intensively over the next several weeks; Sharah expects that work to be completed and the awards to be announced in April.

In the past, grant awards have ranged from a few hundred dollars to thousands; the scope of projects, from resources for an individual classroom to district wide initiatives involving thousands of students. Over the last two years, the Foundation has awarded 43 grants, totaling almost

\$131,000 in support of instructional excellence. (Descriptions of the Foundation's work and of past grants may be found at <http://www.Bastrop-EducationFoundation.org>).

The Foundation is a not-for-profit philanthropic organization committed to enhancing local educational opportunities. It works closely with the school district but is an independent entity, governed by a 24 member board made up of business, educational and civic leaders. The Foundation is supported entirely from individuals and groups; the Innovative Teaching Grants are underwritten primarily through fundraising efforts of the Bastrop Sportsmen's Group.

[www.bastropeducationfoundation.org](http://www.bastropeducationfoundation.org)

## Empty Bowl 2009



The **Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center** invites you to attend the fifth annual **Empty Bowl** event.

**Tickets** are available at the Food Pantry located at **1201 Pine Street** or can be purchased at the door the day of the event. Adults \$15, kids under 12 eat free.



Saturday, **February 21**  
**11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Bastrop High School,**  
1614 Chambers Street

- **Bowls** designed by local elementary students.
- Live music provided by **Sausage**.
- Austin food critic **Rob Balon** will rate food.

For sponsorship information, call Tresha Silva at **(512) 303-0033**.

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## UT . . . *continued from page 1*

often overweight and what can be done.

- **Lights! Camera! Action:** Watch University students rehearse and film a TV drama.
- **Student Rights:** Learn why schools can prescribe a dress code without violating constitutional rights.

The goal – to get students excited about learning and open their eyes to a bigger world of possibilities. It's a great enrichment opportunity for gifted and talented students and a great motivator for students whose families have never been to college.

Plan a field trip. Register your school bus online beginning the first week of January. Bookmark the website: [www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/bus](http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut/bus). The site will be updated with new activities by the first of January and will provide information about arranging lunch "where the Longhorns eat."

Don't miss it!

## Open Positions Within BISD

Bastrop ISD is always looking for qualified candidates to fill open positions within the district.

To view a complete list of openings with job descriptions or to complete the online application, visit [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu) and under 'quick-links', look for 'employment'.

For more information, contact BISD Human Resources at (512) 321-2292.

## WALL OF HONOR



Bastrop High School senior, Armando Padron recently received the Gold Award for Youth Leadership during the TAPE conference. Padron, (center) is pictured with Superintendent Roderick Emanuel (left), his parents and Claudia Munoz (right).

The BISD Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program was a Crystal Award Winner for Volunteer Programs during the recent annual TAPE conference. Pictured: Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent; Nan Burley Richie, State Farm representative; Allison Murray, BISD Partners in Education Coordinator and TAPE President; and Sharon Cox, TAPE Past President.



## Send Us Your News

We want to hear from you! What's happening on your campus?  
Has anyone won an award? Is there an event coming up soon?  
Do you have a unique story about a student?

Tell us about it. Send your news to [dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu).



## Staff UPDATE

The Staff Update is published electronically every month for staff by the BISD Community Services/Communications department to share information and recognize staff and students. Send news items to Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications at [dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu) or call (512) 321-2292.