



# Staff UPDATE

January 2009

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

Bastrop Independent School District

(512) 321-2292

## CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP School Board Recognition Month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition Month to build awareness and understanding of the vital function an elected board of education plays in our communities. The Bastrop ISD is joining with other districts throughout the state to thank board members for caring so much about the future of every child enrolled in our public schools.

“Texans benefit every day from the dedicated energies and countless hours devoted by a group of more than 7,000 men and women across the state. These public servants are elected to serve by local citizens and receive no compensation for their tireless efforts. School board members are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts. Their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of all our children,” said Superintendent Roderick Emanuel.

“Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their work reflects a year-round commitment,” Emanuel said. “Every day trustees demonstrate strength and dedication as they focus on excellence for their district programs, their teachers and most importantly their students. They unselfishly contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public schools, and represent a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision making in education,” he said.

The men and women serving Bastrop ISD are James Allen, President; Jim Mills, Vice President; Karen Halladay, Secretary; John Eaton, Trustee; Johnny Sanders, Trustee; Glenn Peterson, Trustee; and Sophia Williams, Trustee.



James Allen  
President



Jim Mills  
Vice President



Karen Halladay  
Secretary



John Eaton  
Trustee



Glenn Peterson  
Trustee



Johnny Sanders  
Trustee



Sophia Williams  
Trustee

*Thank  
you!*

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## Early College Start Info. Session Planned

BHS will host an Early College Start Student/Parent Information Night for Austin Community College during the Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 semesters. This ECS program provides the opportunity for high school students to earn college credits through ACC while in high school. Students who begin taking classes the summer after their sophomore year and take the maximum of two classes each semester can earn a year of college credits by the time they graduate from high school.

This meeting is open to all tenth and eleventh grade parents and students interested in the ECS program and its opportunities. It is scheduled for Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the BHS Cafetorium.

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## BISD receives 'Fast Launch' Award

During the annual State of Education event, held in Austin, Bastrop ISD received the 'Fast Launch' Award. Before an audience of nearly 600 key Austin business and education leaders, the Chamber laid out a shared strategy for achieving an enrollment increase, provided baseline information on the current state of education in Austin and "graded our own paper" toward the overall success of the 20,010 by 2010 program. The Chamber's education initiatives were established to help increase the number of metro-Austin students who enroll in higher education by 20,010 students by the year 2010.

The 'Fast Launch' Award is given to recognize a school district that has taken significant steps to implement

## Cedar Creek High School Configuration Scenarios Presented

During the upcoming January 20 school board meeting, the Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees will make the decision on how to open Cedar Creek High School for the 2010-2011 school year.

During the November and December Bastrop ISD board of trustees meetings, public forums were held to discuss the first year configuration of the Cedar Creek High School. These discussions involved the opening of the school based on three different scenarios.

The first scenario would open Cedar Creek High School as a ninth grade campus only. The second scenario would open CCHS as a ninth and

tenth grade campus only. The third scenario would open CCHS as a ninth through twelfth grade campus.

Keep in mind, this is only for the first year, 2010-2011. The high school will eventually be a ninth through twelfth grade campus no matter what scenario is chosen. If scenario one or two is chosen, a grade level will be added each year until the campus is ninth through twelfth grades.

To view the Cedar Creek High School Configuration Presentation or the Frequently Asked Questions document, visit [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu).

For more information, contact Bastrop ISD at (512) 321-2292.

the '20,010 by 2010 initiative.' The Chamber felt that Bastrop ISD Superintendent Roderick Emanuel's charges for the school year directly align with Opportunity Austin and the 20,010 by 2010 initiative.

Bastrop ISD hired its first ever P-16 coordinator, Marissa Graham, to help increase the number of graduates who will attend post secondary institutions. Now, in the second year, notable gains in Bastrop ISD have been made. Examples include:

- over 1,600 Bastrop high school students took the PSAT
- Bastrop High school is now an ACT and SAT test site
- Texas Common Application rates increased from 31% to 51% of the graduating class

- Financial aid submission rates increased by 50% in Bastrop's primary zip code
- The college enrollment rate has increased from 39% to 45%.

The goal of the State of Education event is to inform the Greater Austin business community about ongoing initiatives and the end-of-year status. The Chamber's unequalled combination of the right program, the right reporting, the right policy and the right people has led to hundreds of Greater Austin students becoming more college ready.

To learn more about the Austin Chamber's education initiatives please visit [www.AustinChamber.com/CollegeReady](http://www.AustinChamber.com/CollegeReady).

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Sherri Schwab

We recently caught up with Sherri Schwab, Assistant Principal at Cedar Creek Middle School to ask her a couple questions.

**Short bio:** "I grew up in New Braunfels and graduated with a bachelors from Southwest Texas in 1998; I majored in English and minored in Spanish.

I began teaching 8th grade LA and coaching in 1999 at Manor Middle School. I also taught 7th and 8th grade LA and coached in Round Rock ISD for 2 years. I graduated from Texas State with a masters in Educational Leadership in May of 2008. This is my 9th year as an educator."

**What is the best part of your job?**

Working with students and collaborating with teachers.

**What magazine/book have you read lately?** The entire Twilight series ...

AMAZING! I also saw the movie over the holidays.

**What is your favorite cafeteria meal?**

Cinnamon rolls for breakfast on Tuesday mornings.

## BEF SEATS NEW OFFICERS



2009 and seated six new members on its board of directors.

At the helm will be Jolene Wells, former Executive Vice President, who succeeds Sara Clayton as president. Sara now becomes Immediate Past President. Other officers include: Executive Vice President Jennifer Long, Vice President for Development Cindy Goertz, Vice President for Finance Lamar Ozley, Vice President for Marketing Dick Smith, Vice President for Programs Sarah Johnson and Secretary Matthew Mix.

Newly appointed to three-year terms on the board of directors are Troyanne Bush, Chris Dillon, Kathy Holberg, Terry Moore, Bill Owens and Gilbert Solis.

The 23-member board governs the Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization whose principal focus is to recognize student achievement and provide grants for innovative teaching leading to improved student success. Its activities

In its annual re-organization, the Bastrop Education Foundation has installed new officers for

are supported entirely by donations from members of the community who desire to enhance local education, preschool through college. The board is made up of business, community, and educational leaders who have volunteered their time and energy to strengthen local educational opportunities.

Completing their terms on the board are Cheryl Grett, Kathleen Handy, Martha Harris, Georgia Hunter, Mary McMurrey, Patricia Orr, Mark Sheffield, Tresha Silva and Susan Weems Wendel.

Incoming president Jolene Wells stated, "In the past three years, the Foundation has achieved remarkable momentum in recognizing and advancing educational achievement. Our retiring board members deserve a lot of credit for that and the great future it promises for the organization. We are deeply indebted to them, to our continuing board members and to a very supportive community for what we have accomplished and for what the future holds."

For further information, visit [www.BastropEducationFoundation.org](http://www.BastropEducationFoundation.org) or contact Jolene Wells at (512) 581-4361.

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

**What is the last song you downloaded or CD bought?** Comal County Blues by Jason Boland.

**If you could meet one person in history, who would it be and why?** I can't choose just one! Either Princess Diana or Albert Einstein.

**What do you like to do in your spare time? Any hobbies or collections?**

Reading and running are both my hobbies and what I love to do in my spare time.

**Family?** My parents and siblings live in New Braunfels.

## 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.