



Staff UPDATE

March 2008

www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu

Bastrop Independent School District

(512) 321-2292

BISD Celebrates National Nutrition Month

Bastrop ISD, along with school districts nationwide, will celebrate March as National Nutrition Month.

National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

With dietary preferences and eating patterns developing early in life, the food and nutrition experts of the American Dietetic Association push that children need access both to high-quality foods and to education on making the best possible food choices.



HAVE A SAFE SPRING BREAK!

New Award Announced for Employees

For the 2007-2008 Employee Awards Banquet, the district will be handing out a prestigious new award to one deserving Bastrop ISD employee.

The Superintendent's Award will be given to the individual with the following characteristics:

- Performs above and beyond the call of duty in their day-to-day job

- Has dedicated themselves to higher learning: i.e. continuing education
- Epitomize Bastrop ISD motto - "Family Friendly Schools and a Culture of High Achievement"

Please send the name of the person you feel is the most deserving of this award, along with why you feel this person deserves the award, to Donald Williams at dwilliams@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu.

Lift Off to Learning with Public Schools Week

Students and educators throughout the state are opening their doors and inviting their communities to take a first-hand look into their educational programs during Texas Public Schools Week, March 10-14.

"The community is always welcome in our schools, but this week is most exciting because our children have planned many special activities to demonstrate the learning taking place every day," said Roderick Emanuel, Superintendent of Schools. As part of the week-long emphasis, local schools will be inviting parents and community members to visit classrooms and participate in open house events.

"Texas Public Schools Week is a celebration where everyone can participate," Emanuel said. "This observance gives us a chance to shine a light on our students and their outstanding achievements. We invite everyone into our schools so they can see how we are preparing students to meet the challenges of the future."

Texas Public Schools Week was established in 1950 by the Masonic Lodges of



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Mark Your Calendar

March 3-7: National School Breakfast Week

March 10-14: Texas Public Schools Week

March 13: Elementary Choir Jubilee

March 17-21: Spring Break

March 25: BISD Board Meeting



For a complete March calendar, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu

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• BASTROP EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS • BASTROP EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWS •

Bastrop Education Foundation teaching grants... *Deadline approaches for grant requests*

Less than a month remains for district educators to put their bright ideas on paper and apply for the Bastrop Education Foundation "Innovative Teaching Grants" for next school year.

And the idea does not necessarily have to be a BIG one, stated Sharah Johnson, Foundation Vice President of Programs. "We're looking for fresh approaches to old teaching/learning challenges, a creative way to enhance student learning, and great ideas in need of resources. The range of past grants runs from small to large—imaginative units involving a single classroom to district wide initiatives. We've given grants to individual teachers, to campuses, to certain grade levels across the district, and to the district as a whole. During the past year, the Foundation has funded more than two dozen such grants, for a total of over \$60,000."

All Foundation funds derive from donations, large and small, from the community—individuals, businesses, and organizations. "This fall's fundraising effort was the most successful ever—generating a record \$50,000. That along with the generous support of the Bastrop Sportsmen's Group from its February 2 fundraising event, positions the Foundation to award even more grants for the 2008-09 school year."

Superintendent Roderick Emanuel, who also serves as a nonvoting member of the Foundation's board of directors, recently told district principal's, "We are very excited about this year's grants and the boost they have given the district in

reaching for educational excellence. The 2008-2009 grants provide a wonderful opportunity for teachers and other educators to fund innovative ideas."

"The grant application process is a simple one of putting the imaginative idea down on paper," Johnson notes. "The streamlined application form is due on April 1—for awards that will occur on June 1—and is easily found under the Foundation's web site: www.bastropeducationfoundation.org. The site also contains information about the grants program—guidelines, the process description and timelines, the scoring criteria that Foundation will use, the end-of-project evaluation form for successful grants, and profiles of previously awarded grants.

Grants of up to \$1,000 will be awarded to programs or projects initiated by individual educators; grants of up to \$5,000 to programs or projects by campus teams, departments, or the district itself. Johnson noted that the Foundation might make awards greater than \$5,000 for program proposals that by their nature (for example, that will affect large numbers of students or are systemic in nature, serving students in more than one grade or school, etc.) may require greater funding to implement.

"We know that teaching excellence builds from the energy, experience and imagination of committed teachers. The Foundation takes keen delight in assisting educators in realizing their dreams," she added.



How do I write a grant proposal?

While grant writing often can be intimidating, the Foundation has taken pains to keep it simple. The grant application entails...

- Briefly describing your idea in narrative form
- Linking the idea to campus or district improvement plans and curriculum objectives
- Proposing a budget
- Scanning research that may be found to support the approach
- Defining how you will gauge student performance and measure the success of the project

Help is at hand...

On March 13, from 4 to 5 p.m., Foundation Coordinator Allison Murray and Curriculum and Assessment Director Jennifer Womack will conduct a workshop to help prospective applicants get a jump-start on their application. The workshop, at the BISD Service Center, will feature examples of successful past applications, how to access plans and objectives, how to find supportive research, how to develop a budget, etc.

If you are interested in attending the workshop, email amurray@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu to reserve a spot.

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Points of Pride



Fifteen students from Mina Elementary went to Austin during late January to view their artwork being exhibited at the offices of the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Commission on the Arts. The students were all winners in the Texas Landscapes and Celebrations Contest from artwork completed in Max Butler's art class. Pictured is Award of Merit winner, Tyler Beck.



Bastrop High School Counselor, Dan Allen congratulates senior Benjamin Crysop for being named a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

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Texas to recognize contributions made by the state's free system of education. Each year, the event has grown and it continues to be a meaningful way to showcase the many educational opportunities given to more than four million students attending Texas Public Schools.

Don't forget to register to vote!

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Last day to register is April 10 to be eligible to vote in the election on May 10.

TAKS Testing Around the Corner

MARCH CALENDAR

March 3.....Exit Level Social Studies (retest)
March 5Grades 4, 7 Writing
March 5...Grades 10 and Exit Level ELA
March 5.....Grades 3, 5, 8, 9 Reading
March 5.....Exit Level ELA (retest)
March 6....Exit Level Mathematics (retest)
March 7.....Exit Level Science (retest)

For the complete testing calendar, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu.

**BASTROP ISD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING**

MARCH 25

6:30 P.M.

**BISD SERVICE CENTER
906 FARM STREET**

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

- BISD Students as they prepare to take the 2008 TAKS tests
- BHS student Rachel Heine and family, mother passed away
- Whitney Brown's niece, Melissa Hansen, who has been battling Leukemia for the past 15 months
- Sarah Vinklarek's brother-in-law, Jerome Vinklarek, cancer
- Charles Elliott Jr's father, Charles Elliott, cancer
- Family, friends and students of Laura Jones' uncle, Steven Michaud, who passed away Feb. 20
- Kathy Thomas' father, Doug Smith, illness
- Sandy Beck, father passed away
- Rose Sullivan, father passed away

Help Wanted

To apply for a position with Bastrop ISD, fill out an application on-line at www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu or pick up an application at the BISD Service Center located at 906 Farm Street. Bastrop ISD is an EOE.



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 or call (512) 321-2292.