



# Staff UPDATE

March 2009

www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu

Bastrop Independent School District

(512) 321-2292

## BISD celebrates Texas Public Schools Week March 23-27



Texas public schools plant seeds of success from Pre-K to high school each and every day! Our schools are growing and thriving and producing the greatest resources in the state of Texas - successful students.

Help us honor the tender loving hearts of our teachers, the fertile foundation laid by our school district, the nourishment provided by child food services staff, the warm hearts of caring parents, and the added nutrients supportive school volunteers and businesses add to our soil. There are many who tend to our garden and many who need to be thanked and recognized.

The 2009 theme is Growing Graduates: Texas Public Schools Plant Seeds for Success.

The Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) promotes this specific campaign to Celebrate Texas Public Schools. Originally created in 1950 by the Masonic Lodges of Texas to recognize contributions made by the state's free system of education, TSPRA takes it to new heights in an effort to keep it growing!

Schools across the state will designate a week, month, or specific day to focus on the seeds they have planted for student success. From tree planting ceremonies, open house nights, showcasing recycling or go green programs, or debuting creative art projects, each campus throughout the district will pick a program that suits their style.

Help our district celebrate March 23-27. Sharing our stories of success with our supportive community is imperative! Help us plant a seed!

### Several campuses get new phone numbers

#### BHS Main Line: 772-7200

- Kathy Thomas: 772-7202
- Dr. Estrada-Thomas: 772-7203
- Martin Conrardy: 772-7204
- Mark Willoughby: 772-7214
- Terrell King: 772-7211
- James Matthews: 772-7212
- Beau Sanchez: 772-7213
- Mary Cervantes: 772-7250
- Noelia Rodea: 772-7251
- Leslie Crouch: 772-7207
- Dan Allen: 772-7206
- Linda Field: 772-7209
- Leah Fertitta: 772-7210
- Terry Hamm: 772-7205
- McManus & Prettyman: 772-7215
- Gisele Vocal: 772-7216

#### 9th Grade Main Line: 772-7240

- Suzanne Ragan: 772-7240
- Anna Alvarado: 772-8400
- Ed Sanders: 772-7248
- Paula Vinklerek: 772-7242
- Charlene Emanuel: 772-7247
- Bill Sharp: 772-2746
- Kathy Jines: 772-7249
- Wesley Hamrick: 772-7253
- Maria Dominguez: 772-7245

#### Genesis HS Main Line: 772-7230

- Laurie Hoffman: 772-7230
- James Richardson: 772-7232

## TAKS testing around the corner

### MARCH CALENDAR

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



**HAVE A SAFE  
SPRING BREAK!  
MARCH 16-20**

### 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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## Pink technology makes its way to Bastrop

Technology is all around us - it's in our homes, businesses, and definitely in our schools. In Bastrop ISD schools, the technology keeps getting bigger and better every year thanks largely in part from the direction received from Lori Gracey, Executive Director of Technology and Career & Technical Education.

"Lori Gracey is a very talented individual and dedicated to this profession and to the children in Bastrop. She works every day to provide the students and staff the tools they need to enhance teaching and learning in all classrooms across the district," commented Betty Richardson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Gracey's dedication to technology excellence was recently brought into the spotlight during the TEC SIG luncheon held on Feb. 4. The luncheon was one of many events at the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) 29th Annual Convention & Exposition, which was held Feb. 2-6, at the Austin Convention Center. During the luncheon, Gracey was presented with the coveted pink jacket award, symbolizing her contributions in

the field of educational technology integration.

"It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by my peers this way," said Gracey. "All of us across the state are concerned with improving teaching and learning through the use of technology, and this just makes all of that hard work more real."

Gracey is a former TCEA president, vice president and area director, serving on its board of directors for 13 years. She also has conducted numerous training sessions for TCEA, TASA, and TASB, along with serving as a consultant and professional development provider for other school districts around the country. She is also one of 15 nationally-certified Verizon Thinkfinity cadre trainers.

At Bastrop ISD, Gracey has implemented a 1:1 technology program for the past five years, providing handheld computers to all fourth grade students. She recently led the district in a laptop initiative that has given laptop computers to each fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade student. She has been with the district since 1992, and works with CTE teachers and librar-



Lori Gracey shows off her new pink jacket she received when she was presented the Making IT Happen award

ians as well.

Making IT Happen is an internationally recognized awards program that was created in 1995 by Deb DeVries, Kathy Hurley and Pat Walkington to recognize the contributions of individuals in the field of education technology integration in K-12 schools. The program identifies and rewards educational technology leaders around the world for their commitment and innovation. Since 1995, more than 300 pink jackets have been awarded across the globe.

## Mark Your Calendar

March 10: BISD Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
BISD Service Center

March 16-20: Spring Break

March 23-27: Texas Public Schools Week



For a complete March calendar, visit [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu)

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Beverly Parsneau

We recently caught up with Beverly Parsneau, the art teacher at BMS to ask her a couple questions.

**How long have you been with Bastrop ISD?** Around 28 years

**What is the best part of your job?**  
I get to draw at work!

**What book have you read lately?**  
The Good Guy by Dean Koontz

**What is the last song you downloaded or CD bought?** Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd and David Cook by David Cook

**If you could meet one person in history, who would it be and why?** This is an easy one! John Lennon. I'm a huge Beatles fan and I think John was a creative poet, musician, artist, and human being.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** I like to do anything arty, read, play video and computer games, and snuggle up with my little rat terriers.

**Family?** I live with my wonderful husband, two little furry friends, and two koi. I visit every weekend with my son and my Dad.

## Bastrop ISD receives communications awards

Bastrop ISD received multiple 2008 TSPRA awards for excellence in school communications including one Best of Category, four Gold Stars and one Silver Star. The awards were announced at the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Star Awards Celebration on Feb. 17 during the association's annual conference in San Antonio.

Each year, the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) recognizes communicators in school districts, education foundations, education associations and organizations for their outstanding work in both print and electronic media. This year, 905 entries were received.

Entries selected as best in the state were honored with Silver Star, Gold Star and Best of Category Awards. Also, Crystal Commendations were presented for outstanding entries that featured special

programs and events, and a Platinum Award, the highest award, was given for the best comprehensive communication program.

Bastrop received a Best of Category award for the Annual Employee Awards Banquet Program. This entry also received a Gold Star. Other gold stars were awarded for the Back to School postcard, Bastrop ISD Annual Report & Calendar and Bastrop ISD Communicator. A Silver Star was awarded for the Annual Employee Awards Banquet Invitation.

TSPRA, based in Austin, is a professional organization whose members are dedicated to improving public education in Texas by promoting effective public relations practices, providing professional development for its members, and improving communication between Texans and their public schools.

## At the Board Table

### Action Items

- 1.Consider Approval for Addition of Principal Position for Cedar Creek High School
- 2.Consider Approval for Addition to TASB Policy EIF (LOCAL) on Academic Achievement – Graduation
- 3.Consider Approval for Addition to TASB Policy FD (LOCAL) on Admissions - Persons 21 and Over
- 4.Consider Approval of Proposed Gift from the Mina Masonic Lodge to BISD of Cornerstones to be placed at the New Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts and the BISD Multi-Purpose Athletic Stadium
- 5.Consider Approval of Proposed Notice

to be Published in Local Newspaper Concerning the Gift(s) Offered by the Mina Masonic Lodge and Notice of Consideration of Like Donations from other Local Service Organization  
MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
6.Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing Lease of Oil and Gas Interests in Real Property

To view the complete minutes from any board meeting, visit [www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](http://www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu).

The next Bastrop ISD board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 10.

## 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 Lauri Anzaldúa, Communications Coordinator at [lanzaldua@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu](mailto:lanzaldua@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu) or call (512) 321-2292.