

THE COMMUNICATOR

Bastrop Independent School District

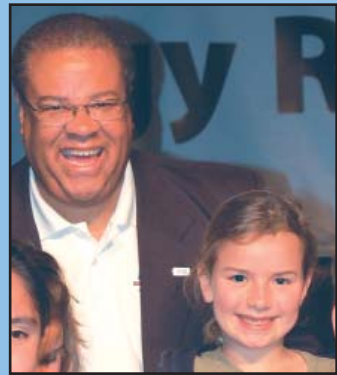
Vol. 3, Issue 6

Celebrating 125 Years of Excellence in Education

March 2008

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Crysup Named National Merit Finalist

Bastrop High School recently received news that senior Benjamin Crysup has been named a finalist in the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program as announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955.

More than 1.4 million juniors in nearly 21,000 high schools entered the 2008 National Merit Program by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which

served as an initial screening of program entrants.

Crysup was named a semi-finalist last fall along with 16,000 other students from across the nation. He is the only student from BHS to receive the honor this year.

To become a Finalist, a Semifinalist must have had an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the school principal and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier qualifying test performance. The Semifinalist also had to submit a detailed scholarship application.



BHS Counselor Dan Allen congratulates Benjamin Crysup for being named a Finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

The NMSC will begin the selection of some 8,200 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of Finalists for awards worth \$34 million. Merit

Lift-Off to Learning with Public Schools



munities 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 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.

For more information about Texas Public Schools Week, or to learn more about getting involved with BISD, contact your child's campus.

STUDENTS READY FOR TAKS



Bastrop High School students, along with students and teachers from across the district prepare for the upcoming TAKS tests that begin in March.

Bastrop school officials want to remind parents that students will begin taking the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills or TAKS beginning March 5.

“Parents, unless your child is ill, please be sure that he or she attends school on the TAKS test days,” Emanuel said. “Please check the TAKS schedule and make note of the dates in which your child will be tested.”

The tests are important because students in some grades must pass specific

tests to be promoted or to graduate — and because the TEA will rate schools based on test results.

TAKS promotion requirements are:

- Third graders must pass Reading to be promoted to fourth grade.
- Fifth graders must pass Reading and Math to be promoted to sixth grade.
- Eighth graders must pass Reading and Math to be promoted to ninth grade.
- Students in eleventh grade must pass all portions—ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies — to graduate.

“Bastrop students are up to the TAKS challenge,” Superintendent Roderick Emanuel said. “Students and teachers have been working hard all year to prepare for the test.”

BISD Receives Communications Awards

Bastrop ISD received numerous 2007 TSPRA awards including four Gold Stars, three Silver Stars and two Best of Category for excellence in school communications. The awards were announced at the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) Star Awards Celebration February 19, during the association’s annual conference held in Houston.

Awards received by BISD in the 10,000 students or less category include:

- Calendar/Planner –Best of Category & Gold Star, Annual Report & Calendar
- Programs – Best of Category & Gold Star, Annual Employee Awards Banquet Program – Silver Star, Bastrop Education Foundation Rising

Star Banquet Program

- External Newsletter – Gold Star, Bastrop ISD Communicator
- Booklet –Silver Star, BISD Community Education brochure
- Invitations/Announcements – Silver Star, Annual Employee Awards Banquet Invitation – Silver Star, Back to School Bash Postcard
- Computerized Presentation – Gold Star, 2007 Bond Election CD

Each year Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA), with more than 900 members, recognizes school communicators for outstanding work in both print and electronic media. More than 800 entries were received this year from over 135 school districts,

education foundations, associations and private consultants.

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 was given for the best comprehensive communication program.

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.

MARCH/APRIL TAKS CALENDAR

March 3	.....Exit Level Social Studies (retest)
March 5	.....Grades 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)
April 7	.....Grades 5, 8 LAT Mathematics
April 8	.....Grades 5, 8 Mathematics
April 28	.....Grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 LAT Mathematics
April 29	.....Grades 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 Mathematics
April 29	.....Exit Level ELA (retest)
April 29	.....Grade 10 LAT ELA
April 29	.....Grades 3 - 8 LAT Reading
April 30	.....Grades 4, 6, 7, Reading
April 30	.....Exit Level Mathematics
April 30	.....Grades 3, 5, 8 Reading (retest)
April 30	.....Exit Level Mathematics (retest)

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



Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications accepts an award during the Texas School Public Relations Association Star Awards Celebration from TSPRA President, Brad Domitrovich of Bandera ISD.

RUN FOR THE BLUEBONNETS 1K & 5K SET FOR MARCH 15



Every person registered will also automatically be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 2 Hyatt Lost Pines Resort and Spa overnight stays. All proceeds from the event will benefit Bluebonnet Elementary school activities.

Online registrations can be completed at www.signmeup.com/58615 or call 308-1325 to have a form mailed to you. For more information, contact Debbie Bishop at 303-1785.

Bluebonnet Elementary will host its second annual Run for the Bluebonnets 1K and 5K event on March 15 in the beautiful Fisherman's Park.

The kids 1K will start at 8:30 a.m. followed by the adults 5K at 9:00 a.m. Each child participating will receive a medal and more categories have been added to the 5K run including 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60 plus.



The winners of the Run for the Bluebonnets t-shirt contest - Haley Bishop (second runner up), Shannon Guajardo (winner) and Ashley Svetlik (first runner up).

BISD Child Nutrition Department Sponsors National School Breakfast Week

MARCH 3 - 7

In celebration of National School Breakfast Week, the Bastrop ISD Child Nutrition Department is sponsoring a NO COST breakfast for all students within the district during March 3-7.

Every student that comes to the cafeteria at their campus for breakfast will be served breakfast at no cost.

There will be prizes at each campus with a grand prize drawing from all entrants at the end of this event.

The Bastrop ISD Child Nutrition Department advocates that a



Areanna Espinoza and Daisanique Kellough enjoy breakfast together at Emile Elementary before heading off to class.

child does better in school and during testing when they have eaten a healthy breakfast. For more information, contact Albert Gaines at 308-9630 or 581-0813.

Board of Trustees Meeting Set for March 25

The BISD Board of Trustees will hold their regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the BISD board room located at 906 Farm Street, Bastrop, Texas.

The Board of Trustees invites

the community to come and be a part of the planning process for the future of our students. For more information, contact Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications at (512) 321-2292.

Spring Break Just Around the Corner

Bastrop ISD schools and district offices will be closed March 17-21 for Spring Break.

The STARS after-school program will be held during Spring Break at Mina Elementary and Cedar Creek Elementary, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuition is \$15 per day if your child is already enrolled in STARS and \$20 per

day if your child will be a drop in. For more information about the STARS program, call 308-1601. To download a registration packet, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu, "Departments", "Community Services" and "STARS".

Have a safe Spring Break!

CORRECTION

On the second nine weeks honor roll as listed in the February 2008 Communicator, Emile Elementary students - Charles Adkins, Kara Garguilo, Alyssa Greene, Erin Malone and Hunter McDaniel in Lindsay Sanders second grade class were not listed and from Bastrop Intermediate School - Carrington Waites, fifth grade, made the A/B Honor Roll.

Building Good Citizens for Texas

Celebrate
Self-Reliance
this March

Building Good Citizens for Texas Character Education Program



BISD . . . Moving from good to great!



Students at Bastrop Intermediate School enjoyed taking part in the Readers Café during February. A few sixth grade students were chosen as "servers" in the cafe. They brought menus to the tables, which listed the reading choices. When a student chose a book, the server brought it to them to preview. Then, diners could jot down the books they may want to check out in the future. Most of the titles were chosen to compliment African American History month and were either written by or about African Americans. Pictured are: Willtelya Roberson, Aesha Riley, Zachary Green and Caitlynn Black.



The Cedar Creek Middle School theatre department presented Invisomercial with two different casts performing rotating nights in late February. Pictured: (back) Stormy Mauldin, Juan Rodriguez, Lillian Raemsch, Hunter Hartman, Samantha Moore and Caitlyn Vinklerek, (front) Jordan Wenske, Mary Bryant and Kamra Crary.



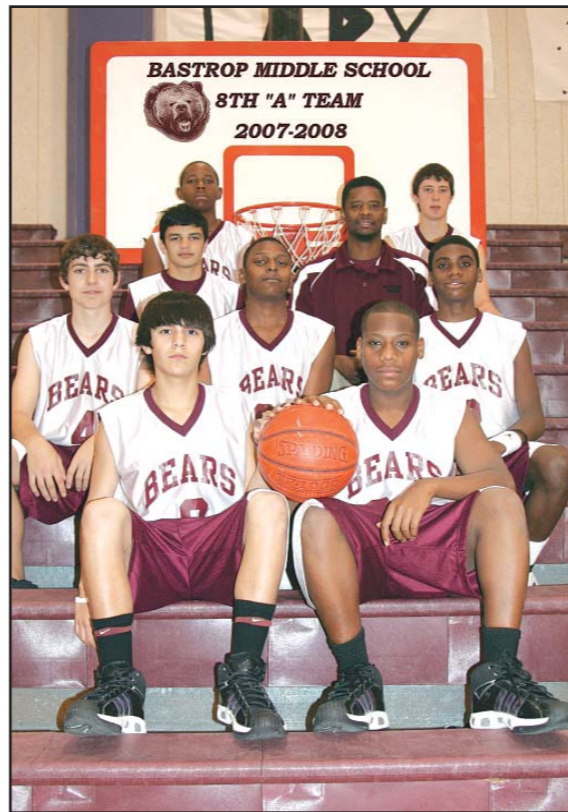
Students at Red Rock are enjoying learning to play chess. Students play each other during lunch to hone their chess skills, and the Chess club meets after school on Thursdays. Pictured is Charity Milum as she concentrates on her next move.



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 Butlers art class. Pictured is Award of Merit winner, Tyler Beck.



left: The fourth grade PALs at Emile Elementary make their first trip to the recycle bin that has been set up on the campus. Parents and community members are encouraged to drop off newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office/school papers and mail at any time to the bin that is located on Emile Street where the buses run.



The eighth grade boys "A" basketball team from Bastrop Middle School have clinched the first boys basketball district championship since the school moved to Old Austin Highway during the 1999-2000 school year. The team had a record of 9-1, with the only loss coming from Del Valle.

Team members include: (top row) Laderious Nicholson, Jarrett Dooley (second row) Anthony Perez, Coach Ronald Brooks (third row) Colton Brown, John Thorne, Aaron Clemons (bottom row) Jacob Hernandez, Kaliem Evans (not pictured) Jacob Guerra and Matthew Soto

The eighth grade "A" team was coached by Ronald Brooks.

BISD Science Fair Winners



Bluebonnet Elementary Science Fair winners include: (back) Wyatt Buckner, Kirsten Pruet, Kikki Cearly, Lorelei Mellenbruch, Briana Rogers, (middle) Ivey Williams, Amber Mendel, Esmeralda Barbosa, Taylor White, Ashley Svetlik, (front) Issiah Rodriguez, Alex Sullivan, Gehrig Maxwell, Casper Smith, Jared Beltran and Kaitlyn Fox.



Annie Limmer of the UT MD Anderson Cancer Research Center-Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research carefully studies the science fair projects at Emile Elementary. Limmer and many other community members volunteered as judges for science fair competitions across the district.



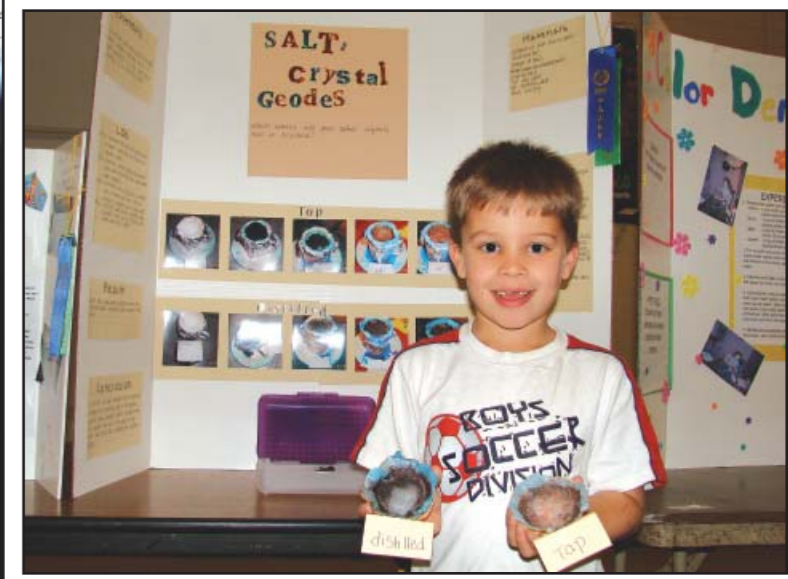
Emile Elementary student, Jared Smith works to set up his science fair project before the judges come in.



Mina Elementary first place winners in the third grade experiment category include: (left to right) Kirsten Watson, Marlayna Chalmers, Marissa Stacy, Baylee Voigt, Rabecca Hicks and Celeste Nevares.



Tristan Gideon and Logan Allen were two of Bastrop Intermediate School's blue ribbon winners from the science fair last week. All blue ribbon winners will be advancing to a regional competition.



Lost Pines Elementary first grader, Joshua Sharpe shows us his salt crystal geodes. Joshua won first place in the experiment division for his science fair project.

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS COMPETE FOR UIL AWARDS

All six Bastrop ISD elementary campuses battled it out at Lost Pines Elementary at the annual UIL Academic Meet held on February 9.

Students in second, third and fourth grade competed in a

variety of individual and team events.

Individual events included ready writing, creative writing, number sense, spelling, story telling and oral reading.

Team events included picture memory and music memory.

Several students earned perfect scores in their events. In fourth grade picture memory, perfect scores were achieved by Aidan Walker-Emile, Francisco Borja-

Emile, Beatriz Rubalacaba-Mina and Esmeralda Lopez-Red Rock. In third grade music memory, perfect scores were achieved by Georgia Picciandra-Emile, Erin Mosley-Emile and Gemma Williams-Lost Pines. In fourth grade music memory,

perfect scores were achieved by Christian Deleon-Cedar Creek and Daphne Hernandez-Emile.

Congratulations to all the students that participated in this fun filled day - you made your campus proud.



The Lost Pines Elementary fourth grade spelling team, coached by Paula Clark brought home two awards. Team members - Jonathan Oliver won sixth place and Kayla Roper won fourth place.



Mina Elementary student, Caitlin McGuire and her mom wait to hear the results from the third grade Music Memory event. The team placed second.



The Red Rock Elementary Creative Writing team coached by Melissa Schlabach, included Patsy Koecher, Brooke Garrison, Shelby Nangle and not pictured Desarae Vickery.



Cedar Creek Elementary Ready Writing students (left to right) Hannah Ferguson, Bryce Wyatt, Bailey Adams, Kheyera Sonnier, Katy McPherson and Jordan Ludzenski show their bear pride after the competition.



Part of Bluebonnet Elementary's Music Memory Team - Briana Roger, Colton Mear and Meagan Krakora show their fourth place ribbons for the fourth grade competition.



Engineering Fun

Several students from Bastrop ISD got a taste of the engineering field during *Introduce A Girl to Engineering Day* held at the University of Texas on February 23.



photo to right: Paniah Waites participates in an activity in which students were given different materials to create a tool that could be used in fishing for objects submersed in water. This was to simulate a "rescue" and students were briefly told about engineering projects in which people, animals or objects had to be retrieved using engineering skills.

BISD to Face New Teams in Upcoming Years

The University Interscholastic League has announced the 2008-09 and 2009-10 district alignments. Bastrop has been placed in Conference 5A, Region 4, District 25.

Other districts that make up District 25 are Austin, Austin Akins, Austin Anderson, Austin Bowie, Austin Westlake, Pflugerville and Pflugerville Connally.

Changes from the 2007-08 school year include the addition of Pflugerville and Pflugerville Connally and the occlusion of Seguin and San Marcos.

2nd Annual Teen Summit on

Teen Violence

APRIL 26

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
BASTROP HIGH SCHOOL

Will you take a stand against dating violence, bullying, stalking and sexual assault?

Join other teens for presentations, a teen panel, dramatizations and a question and answer session.

Lunch provided.

Sponsored by Family Crisis Center & BISD.

About the BISD Communicator

This newsletter is published to provide the latest news and strengthen communication for everyone. Publication supported by the Bastrop ISD Office of Community Services/Communications. Suggestions for articles and other comments should be addressed to: Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications
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- Bastrop High School
Michael Benedict, 321-1151
- Genesis High School
James Richardson, 321-2593
- Gateway School
Beth Murray, 321-2339

March Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 3	Begin Fifth Six Weeks	Secondary School	---
March 3 - 7	National School Breakfast Week	District Wide	during breakfast
March 5	RIF Book Distribution	Red Rock Elementary	---
March 6	Spring School Pictures	Bastrop Middle School	---
March 7	Celebrate Dr. Suess' Birthday/Kinder Rodeo	Lost Pines Elementary	TBA
March 8	Cheer Clinic (ages 4-14)	Bastrop Middle School	8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
March 8	Easter "Egg"stravanganza	Red Rock Elementary	8:00 a.m. - Noon
March 8, 29	Kodiak Academy	Bastrop Intermediate School	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
March 10 - 14	Texas Public Schools Week	District Wide	---
March 11	Open House & Book Fair	Lost Pines Elementary	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
March 12	Class & Individual Picture Day	Bluebonnet Elementary	---
March 13	Elementary Choir Jubilee	Bastrop High School	7:00 p.m.
March 15	Run for the Bluebonnets	Fisherman's Park	1K-8:30 5K-9:00 a.m.
March 17-21	Spring Break	District Wide	---
March 25	BISD Board of Trustees Meeting	BISD Service Center	6:30 p.m.
March 25	Treasured Tuesday	Lost Pines Elementary	5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
March 28	End of Third Nine Weeks	Elementary/Intermediate Schools	---
March 29	Yard Sale Fundraiser	Cedar Creek Elementary	TBA
March 31	Begin Fourth Nine Weeks	Elementary/Intermediate Schools	---

To view the complete Bastrop ISD Calendar of Events, visit www.bastrop.isd.tenet.edu.





Around  **BISD**
BASTROP INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
reaching for excellence

