

A message from the Superintendent . . . **You are a “Difference Maker”**

As I mentioned in my email to everyone following Spring Break, I hope you all had a fun and restful time during the break. The long stretch between the Christmas Holiday and Spring Break is tough, and having the time to retool and refocus is critical. It would be so at any time of the school year, as we all have stress and job-related pressures to deal with – and time away usually helps us cope and re-energize. This is even more critical as we head into April, May and the first week of June. We have students in need of assistance through regular class time instruction and tutoring for TAKS, for class or grade academic improvements prior to final grading, promotion to the next grade level or for those needing to complete all requirements for graduation. Their stress level associated with this and so much more is something you experience on a daily basis and know all too well. Your time and thoughtful approach with all students is invaluable as they navigate through and work to overcome whatever challenges they face.

Your willingness to do whatever it takes for all of your students and to make all decisions with their best interests in mind (first and foremost) will make an immeasurable difference in not only their immediate achievement and success, but in their level of success for years to come. Each year that I have the privilege of serving children in the districts I have worked in for over 29 years, I become more and more aware of the difference that I may have had in the lives of so many children. While it is very gratifying to know (through feedback and knowledge of successes throughout the years) that I have had a positive impact on many students, it is also sobering to

know that I may have had a less than positive impact on some – or possibly, that I could have done so much more for so many more. You have all heard this or experienced it before, but I am amazed at how many students have told me that I have had an impact on them when I didn't really know I had done so. Regarding my players (when I was a coach) it was more tangible and obvious, but as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, deputy superintendent and superintendent – the impact is not always as readily seen or known. But, the impact is real and it is vital.

You will hear me talk about reflecting and refocusing all the time. As we reflect on our day, our week, month or semester, etc., we should ask ourselves some very important questions – “Did we (I) do everything possible that could have been done?”, “How can we (I) do more to make a difference?”, and “Would my students look back on us (me) as someone who made a significant and positive impact on them?” If the answer to any of these questions leaves room for doubt, refocus and recommit yourself to having a greater and even more positive impact on all of your students. Regardless of the subject, grade level or school - it is the most important thing we can do. Thanks for all that you already do for all of our students, and thanks in advance for do-

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Steve Murray
Superintendent

Board reschedules Budget Workshop

The Bastrop Independent School District will hold the first of several workshop meetings to inform students, parents and the community about the upcoming 2010 – 2011 budget.

“We have been meeting as an Administrative Team for several weeks to discuss what appears to be the most critical budget situation that Bastrop ISD has most likely seen in many years. We have a combination of factors at play that will impact our budget greatly this coming year, and for some years to follow,” said Superintendent Steve Murray.

The first public meeting will be held on April 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the BISD Service Center. (Please note, the meeting for March 29 has been cancelled).

“As most educators and parents understand, our state school finance system is woefully inadequate, we (like so many other districts in Texas facing similar financial stress) are experiencing slower growth than in years past due to the slow economy and we are set to open our

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Upcoming Events

April 2 - Staff/Student Holiday

April 20 - Reception for retiring school board member Sophia Williams, 5 p.m., Service Center

April 20 - BISD Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m., Service Center

June 1 - Retiree reception, 6-8 p.m., PAC (more information to come)

** Employee Awards
at individual campuses **

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We recently caught up with Alfred Carter to ask him a couple of questions.

How long have you been with Bastrop ISD? 23 blessed years

What is the best part of your job?
Having the opportunity to work with Bastrop ISD staff and being part of a growing District.

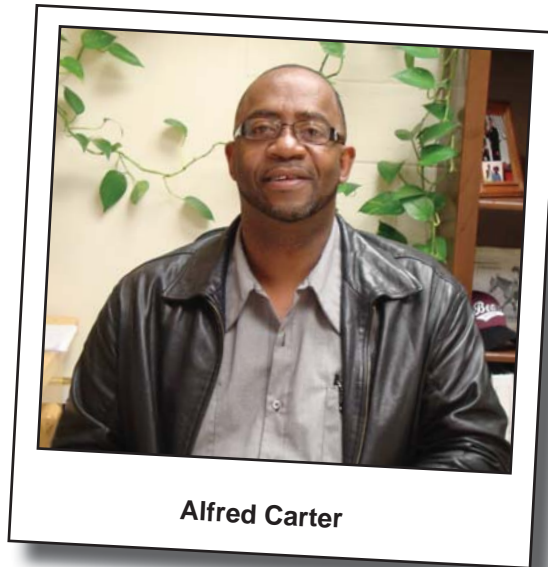
What magazine/book have you read lately? King James Bible

What is your favorite cafeteria meal?
Thanksgiving Meal

What is the last song you downloaded or CD bought? Williams Brothers, Gospel, "Cooling Water"

If you could have lunch with one person from the past, who would it be?
My mother and father being that I lost them at an early age.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Praise and Worship with my family.



Alfred Carter

Family? Married 23 years to my beautiful and supporting wife Debra Carter. We have four children, Latasha Carter (25), Alfred Carter III(23), Alneisha Carter (19) and Tamarian Carter (11).

Bio: Born and raised in Bastrop, graduated from Bastrop High School. Attended TSTI, which is now TSTC in Waco. Worked 10 years at IBM and from there to Bastrop ISD.

Board of Trustees

- John Eaton, President
- Johnny Sanders, Vice President
- Sophia Williams, Secretary
- James Allen, Trustee
- Ty McDonald, Trustee
- Jim Mills, Trustee
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- Betty Richardson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
- Barry Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
- Sandra Callahan, Chief Financial Officer
- Henry Gideon, Chief Operations Officer
- Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications

About the 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 Anzaldua, Communications Coordinator at lanzaldua@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu or call (512) 321-2292.

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-ing even more. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you, as you work to do what you need to for our students. We (I) appreciate you!

Thanks,

Steve Murray

Steve Murray
Superintendent of Schools

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second high school in August. We will meet with the Board on April 5th to have initial discussions regarding possible strategies to minimize what looks to be a significant deficit or budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 fiscal year (which in Bastrop ISD begins on July 1st). This will be the first of several budget-related meetings or workshops that the Board and Administrative Team at Bastrop ISD will have," said Murray.

HELP WANTED

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.

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

Self-Discipline

Show it.

*Building Good Citizens for Texas
Character Education program*