

A message from the Superintendent . . .

Hello, my name is Steve Murray. As the new Superintendent for the Bastrop Independent School District, I am extremely proud to be here. My family and I appreciate the wonderful welcome we have received in Bastrop and we look forward to working with everyone that cares about Bastrop ISD to make it the very best school district for our students and staff.

While Bastrop ISD respects the past and embraces the present - our main purpose is to prepare our students for their future. Our Board of Trustees are a caring and dedicated group of people that wants the very best for the students, parents and community members of Bastrop, as well as the many communities served by Bastrop ISD. Our staff (at the district office and at all BISD campuses) is here to serve the students, parents and taxpayers of Bastrop ISD. We know and understand that building positive and productive relationships is the key to success, in and out of the classroom.

We want all visitors, parents and community members to feel welcome as they visit our facilities, access the website, or call or email us. Bastrop ISD will be known as a premier school district by virtue of the relationships we form

- and the resulting achievement attained through such relationships.

The future indeed looks very bright for all students in Bastrop ISD. All of us (the district, students, parents and community) will play a vital role in creating a "culture" that has high levels of expectation and promotes success for all. Building positive and productive relationships will be a key factor in creating the best possible culture for academic success.

If you have a question or concern, please contact me at (512) 321-2292, e-mail me at smurray@bastrop.isd.tenet.edu, or call to setup a time to come by and see me at the BISD Service Center, 906 Farm Street.

Thanks,

Steve Murray

Steve Murray
Superintendent of Schools



Steve Murray
Superintendent

Mark your calendar for Explore UT: the Biggest Open House in Texas

Join the University of Texas for "Explore UT: The Biggest Open House in Texas!" on Saturday, March 6, 2010 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students, teachers and families are welcome to attend. The cost is free and you don't even need to sign up.

During the event, choose from more than 400 educational activities on campus. Here's a sample of what is being planned:

- watch robots perform in the artificial intelligence lab
- participate in a trial of "Gold E. Locks" with a real judge
- assemble a miniature solar-powered car
- deliver the TV news in a real studio

The goal – to get students excited about learning and open their eyes to a bigger world of possibilities. It's a great enrichment opportunity for gifted and talented students and a great motivator for students whose families have never been to college.

Visit www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut for additional information.

Upcoming Events

Welcome Reception for Steve Murray	Feb. 4, 4-7 p.m., PAC*
Staff Development Day/Student Holiday	Feb. 12
Annual Sweet Heart Run	Feb. 13, 7:30 a.m., CCMS
Staff and Student Holiday	Feb. 15
BISD School Board Meeting	Feb. 16, 6 p.m., Service Center
Run for the Bluebonnets	Feb. 27, 8:30 a.m., Fisherman's park

*PAC-Jerry Fay Wilhelm Center for the Performing Arts





Empty Bowl slated for Feb. 27

Get ready to enjoy some of the best soups of Bastrop at the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry's seventh annual Empty Bowl project, slated for Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Bastrop High School Cafetorium, 1614 Chambers Street.

Pick out the perfect handcrafted bowl to fill with delicious homemade soup provided by local restaurants - and know that you are helping to fill the pantry shelves of the organization that works to prevent hunger in Bastrop County. Keep the bowl, designed and crafted by local elementary students, as a memento to remind us of those whose bowls are empty.

Live music and a silent auction are also being planned for the event. Throughout the event, the soups will be judged by Kelly Casey, executive chef of Hudson's on the Bend restaurant in Austin; Rob Balon, Austin food critic and Charles J. Lohrmann, editor of Texas Highways Magazine.

So plan to come out, have some wonderful soup and support this event that helps fight hunger in Bastrop County. Adult tickets are \$20, and children under 12 eat free.

Advanced tickets are available at the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry, 1201 Pine Street. For more information, contact Tresha Silva, Executive Director at (512) 303-0033.

Teacher turns into National Park Ranger for summer

When Red Rock Elementary first grade teacher Cindy Haynes leaves her classroom in June, she'll be headed off on an adventure not common to her fellow teachers. When she leaves, she'll be headed to the Capulin Volcano National Monument in northeastern New Mexico. It is there that she has spent the past two summers as a participant in the Teacher Ranger Teacher (TRT) program of the National Park Service (NPS).

"For some wearing the National Park Service uniform is an opportunity to live a childhood fantasy; the chance for adventure, to embrace the great outdoors, to discover and to share the treasures this nation embodies," said Haynes. "For others, it may be to participate in the mission of being the guardian of our national heritages, whether natural, cultural, historical, and recreational or a combination of these. For me, the reasons for donning the gray and green uniform for eight weeks as a Teacher Ranger Teacher include them all."

Official duties of a TRT are designed to provide a combination of adventure and educational experiences. The "permanent" Park Rangers provide a wealth of information about the geology of the area and help to show the Teacher Ranger Teachers around their duty station. Haynes has done everything from working in the bookstore, taking entry fees, directing traffic, riding tour buses up to the top while giving a presentation to a captive audience of senior citizens to most recently helping to develop an outreach program that took the volcano to the surrounding area.

"I'm excited about each day as a Teacher Ranger Teacher," said Haynes. "Everyday brings a new experience and a new group of people into the park. I like to think that my enthusiasm and excitement rub off on each visitor."

The school year provides another opportunity to share with the students and staff of Bastrop ISD her experiences through the Teacher Ranger Teacher program.



This summer, Red Rock Elementary teacher Cindy Haynes will head to New Mexico to take part in the Teacher Ranger Teacher program of the National Park Service.

"In April, she (Cindy Haynes) will speak to our classes at Red Rock during National Parks Week," said Cynthia Lively, Red Rock Elementary Counselor. "The students are totally immersed in the stories and photos she shares with them."

Haynes will once again wear the NPS uniform with pride, and bring to them the love of discovery and exploration of the treasures of our country. She looks forward to encouraging a new generation of conservators of our country's heritage.

"I have found a generation of families that are fostering that love in their children, grandchildren and themselves and that's exciting!" Haynes said with a smile.

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 BIRD Human Resources at (512) 321-2292.

Three places up for election in BISD board of trustee May election

Bastrop ISD Board of Trustees Places 5, 6 and 7 will be up for election on May 8, 2010. Currently, Glenn Peterson holds Place 5, Sophia Williams holds Place 6 and Jim Mills holds Place 7.

Candidates may file for Places 5, 6 and 7 starting at 8 a.m. on Feb. 5 through 5 p.m. on March 8 in the Community Services/Communications office at the Bastrop ISD Service Center, located at 906 Farm Street, Bastrop.

For more election information, contact Donald Williams, Executive Director of Community Services/Communications at (512) 321-2292.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We recently caught up with Melinda Anderson to ask her a couple of questions.

How long have you been with Bastrop ISD? This is my 5th year working for BISD as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Lost Pines Elementary.

What is the best part of your job? There are many aspects to my job but the most rewarding part for me is working with the kids. I enjoy helping them use and gain speech and language skills needed to communicate in their everyday lives. A smile on a child's face when he/she is understood or can express themselves is rewarding.

What magazine/book have you read lately? Nicholas Sparks – The Last Song

What is your favorite cafeteria meal? The traditional Thanksgiving meal

What is the last song you downloaded or CD bought? Kenny Chesney/Dave Matthews – I'm Alive

If you could have lunch with one person from the past, who would it be? My great-grandmother who lived next door my entire childhood.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I enjoy camping, reading, shopping, scrap booking, being outdoors with my dogs, and spending time with my family and friends.



Melinda Anderson

Family? I am married to Clint and we have two dogs, Daisey Mae and Duke.

Bio: I grew up in Smithville, Texas. After graduating from Smithville High School I attended Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX where I received a Bachelor of Behavioral Science degree. Following graduation at HSU, I began graduate school at Abilene Christian University and received a Masters in Communication Sciences and Disorders. I worked at Tri-County Co-Op in Stamford, TX for two years before moving to Bastrop where my husband began a job as a coach/teacher at BHS in 2005. In the summer of 2009 he was hired as the Head Basketball Coach at Luling High School for the 2009-2010 school year. We continue to reside in Bastrop.

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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.