

EISD Update

Gold Leadership Award



At the end of January, EISD was notified that it had earned a 2012 Gold Leadership Circle Award from the Texas Comptroller, Susan Combs. The Gold Leadership Award is based on the level of transparency in a public institution's website. The more information that is available through the website, the higher the score on the transparency check list. Out of 20 possible points, EISD scored 18.

Overall, there are three different levels of awards: gold, silver, and bronze. This is the third year in a row that EISD has earned the highest rating from the comptroller's office.

In the letter from Comptroller Combs, she states: "Congratulations on your success in moving forward on financial transparency and joining our Leadership Circle." Comptroller Combs also states, "Your listing on our 'Texas Transparency' website now displays the gold seal to indicate that you have received this award."

I would like to thank Michelle Cavazos, our webmaster, for her work and creativity on our webpage. I would also like to thank the ladies in our business office for their work in providing information: Carol Warren, business manager; Debra Meyners, payroll; and Kara Weaver, accounts receivable.

If you have not visited the financial section of our webpage, I encourage you to do so. Go to www.eustaceisd.net. On the right side of the page, near the top, under Administration is the link Financial Info. Clicking on this link will take you to our financial page. There you will find current financial information about the district, as well as links to past archives of financial information.

If you have any questions about any of the financial information found on these pages, please do not hesitate to contact me at cholcombe@eustaceisd.net.

March 2012

News Briefs

- *March 1—UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest at Canton*
- *March 8— Board Meeting—7:00 PM—HS Library*
- *March 12—16— Spring Break*
- *March 22— MS UIL Concert Contest*
- *March 26—March 29—STAAR Testing*
- *April 5—Early Release Day*
- *April 6—Holiday/ Bad Weather Day*

STAAR Testing

Students across the state will begin taking the state mandated assessments in March, which are required for grades 3-11. Students in grades 10 & 11 will continue to be assessed under the TAKS program, while students in grades 3-9 will now be assessed under the new STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness) requirements.

Current 10th & 11th grade students taking the TAKS tests must pass four tests, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies to be eligible for graduation. Additional TAKS test will be administered in late April. Their testing dates for March are as follows:

TAKS TESTING

Mon., March 5 *Exit Level Social Studies*

(*retest*)

Wed., March 7 TAKS English Lang. Arts 10th & 11th grade *Exit Level ELA (retest)*

Thurs., March 8 *Exit Level Math (retest)*

Fri., March 9 *Exit Level Science (retest)*

Students in grades 3-9 will begin the expanded more rigorous STAAR assessments later in March. This will be the first administration of the new assessment program. Ninth grade students will now be required to attain a cumulative passing standard for each of the STAAR assessments they take in order to meet graduation requirements. The STAAR assessment dates for March are as follows:

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Intermediate News

The 4th 6-weeks drawings were held on Friday, February 24th: **Winner of the 4th 6-Weeks Perfect Attendance Bicycle was Haley Clark; Winner of the All A's MP3 Player Drawing was Hannah Patterson.** Then several students won \$1 dollar bills as they participated in our **“Jump for George”** drawing! **Mrs. Brown's 3rd grade class won the Perfect Attendance Class Pizza Contest!**

Our version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” called “Who Wants to be a Money-aire?” was held on Friday, February 24th. The **4th 6-weeks Money-aire winners** were: **3rd Grade: Jacob Melin; 4th Grade: Eryne Meroney; and 5th Grade: Madison Fisher.** We will play again at the end of the 5th and 6th 6-weeks; and then we have the Champion of Champions Round on the last day of school!

On Tuesday, March 6th Eustace Intermediate School students will present “This is America,” honoring all soldiers and veterans, in the E.L. Kirk Gym. The program begins at 6:30 PM, and we look forward to seeing you there!

5th graders have been preparing for the Wax Museum of Heroes that will be held on Friday, March 9th from 12:30 to 2:00 PM. Please come view a glimpse of scientists, mathematicians, authors, inventors, and historical figures as the 5th graders creatively present their projects!

Our 4th and 5th grade will begin state testing with the new STAAR Tests. 4th graders will be taking the Writing portion of the STAAR on Tuesday, March 27th and Wednesday, March 28th. 5th graders will be taking the Math portion of the STAAR on Tuesday, March 27th and then the Reading test on Wednesday, March 28th.

Upcoming events:

- March 23 3rd Grade Field Trip
- March 30 5th Grade Field Trip

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STAAR TESTING

Mon., March 26 Eng. I Writing

Tues., March 27 Writing grades 4 & 7 – day 1 Math grades 5 & 8 Eng. I Reading

Wed., March 28 Writing grades 4 & 7 – day2; Reading grades 5 & 8

Additional STAAR testing dates will occur later in April and May. Only 9th grade students will receive test results information later in June. The state passing standards for this new assessment program for grades 3-8 will not be established until the fall.



Enrollment Update (2-29-2012)

Primary Campus		Intermediate Campus		Middle School		High School	
PK	83	3	105	6	108	9	85
K	104	4	109	7	130	10	91
1	99	5	116	8	129	11	88
2	85	Total	330	Total	367	12	103
Total	371					Total	367

Total District Enrollment—1435
Enrollment Year Ago—1460

High School News

Testing season has begun! Next week, sophomores and juniors will take the TAKS ELA test on Wednesday. Seniors still needing to complete their graduation requirements for TAKS will be retesting social studies on Monday, ELA on Wednesday, math on Thursday, and science on Friday.

To ensure that you get a High School Yearbook, please purchase before March 9. Books are currently \$55 and may be purchased online at www.yearbookforever.com or through the high school web site or from any yearbook staff member. Students have been working diligently to take great photographs and cover everything that happens. Don't miss out!

Senior ad orders must be received by March 1. Flyers were distributed at the beginning of February.

The Eustace FFA recently competed at the San Antonio Livestock and Ag Mechanics show. Results are as follows:

San Antonio Heifer Show

Brady Tindel – 1st place Brahman heifer, 14th place Brahman heifer

Chad Tindel - 5th place Charolais heifer

Samantha Crocker – 4th place Brahman heifer

Dillon Gragsone – Participated with his Brahman heifer

San Antonio Ag Mechanics

There were over 420 projects constructed and shown at the San Antonio Livestock show Ag Mechanics project show. Eustace FFA Ag Mech project show team consisting of Brady Tindel, Cameron Young, Mark Greenwood, Dillon Gragsone, and Seth Purselley placed 4th in a competitive class with their 28' Gooseneck Lowboy winning a \$150 Airgas gift card. Lots of work goes into each of these projects; if you see any of these students please take the time to congratulate them personally. Thank you all for your support in the Eustace FFA.

The Eustace FFA Show team also competed at Fort Worth Livestock Show on 1-28-12 and did an outstanding job with each market class consisting of 75 head of goats. Chad Tindel placed 10th, Brady Tindel placed 14th, Alejandro Macis placed 15th, and Kade Graham placed 15th. We also had Maggie Groom and Cole Graham participating in the show with their goats.

The Eustace FFA Ag Boosters held their An-

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Primary News

VIP

Congratulations to our recent VIP students! **Kindergarten** – Lana Ashton, Sarah Beam, Jeremy Brown, Clayton Burelsmith, Vico Casillas, Cassidy Ciardo, Haylie Cody, Landon Cooper, Andrew Cossabone, Braeden Doak, Landen Estes, Jason Fry, Carter GoDair, Amanda Guillan, Abregaila Hardy, Faith Haughwout, Bailey Holley, McKenna Jones, Cannon Kilcrease, Grace Kirkpatrick, Trevor Kirkpatrick, William Keown, Katelyn Landwemeyer, Adam Lian, Marissa Long, Rebecca Long, Sadie Long, Katelyn Maxwell, Nicholas McKee, Keithyn Meadows, Kevin Merritt, Jadie Milner, Ethan Mullins, Zeta Nelson, Brodie Norton, Emmely Ochoa, Mattie Patek, Dalton Pickle, Destiny Potter, Doc Renberg, Makayla Reyes, Skyler Roberts, Katie Rolison, Esmeralda Romero, Sarah Ross, Jason Sanchez, AJ Schedule, Marcella Shelton, Carson Stegall, Lydia Stogner, Emily Thornhill, Abby Weatherford, Lynette Webb, Zander Whaley, Ali Whitehead, Kayden York **First Grade** – Justyn Abbe, Kayleb Angel, Eric Baldivia, Jesse Belcher, Emma Bell, Morgan Buccafurno, Cole Cardwell, Mimi Caronna, Hunter Collier, Michael Dale, Ethan Dixon, Alix Duyka, Hope Ehlers, Jordan Faz, Jenna Fogle, Tanner Forson, Joshua Garcia, Savannah Gentle, Brady Griffin, Jadah Hannah, Hallie Hawthorne, Chloe Hinkle, Matthew Hough, Cason Long, Jaden Manken, Ryan McKee, Kaleigh Naug, Avery Reeve, Jordan Reeves, Navan Sanchez, Brittany Seay, Hayden Seay, Clayton Self, Anthony Shewmaker, Brandon Taylor, Aiden Wilkinson, Angelee Worth **Second Grade** – Destiny Alexander, Madison Angel, Travis Bass, Zackery Batchelor, Yazmin Becerra, Robbie Bradley, Christian Case, Gage Castillo, Savanna Conley, William Coots, Madison Cotton, Justin Crow, Peyton Estes, Driana Favela, Grace Ferrell, Makayla Fletcher, Ryan Garsee, Elaina Gartrell, Joe Gomez, Caleb Gonzales, Jaden Hammonds, Jordan Herring, Dakota Johnson, Matthew Jones, Madisen Kulsa, Nevaeh Lightfoot, Drake McAfee, Brianna McBride, Kaylee McGee, Faith Merchant, Jace Milner, Adrianna Skiles Moore, Brooklyn Moore, Haley Murff, Abbie Myers, Cadence Pace, Harlee Parker, Mark Patek, Brooklyn Patterson, Cooper Reeve, Devin Reynolds, Shelby Rowell, Callie Russell, Jeff Stephens, Trayli Tandarich, Jacob Taylor, Maddy Wiggs, Triston Willems, Joey Womble, Abby Woodland, Dylan Worth.

AWARDS ASSEMBLY

Our 4th Six Weeks Awards assembly was held Friday, Feb. 24th. There were many awards and prizes and lots of recognition for the Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade students. Please join us each six weeks the Friday after report cards for this special time to celebrate with the children and their teachers. **PERFECT ATTENDANCE WINNERS:** KINDERGARTEN: **Bailey Holley** won a MP3 player! FIRST GRADE: **Macie Rust** also won a MP3 player! SECOND GRADE: **Gage Castillo** won the BOOM BOX!! **RIGHT CHOICE BICYCLE WINNER: Zachary Batchelor!!!!** Enjoy your new bike! Second graders have a chance to earn

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other awards. The top dog readers for this six weeks were: Dakota Johnson and Trayli Tandrich. Well done students!

CHARITY WORK

On Friday, Feb. 3rd, part of the high school band came to the Primary School to help kick off this year's charity celebration. Students marched through the gym as they dropped pennies into a huge bucket. This year's donations of \$444.31 went to the American Red Cross. Mr. Mike Ferguson from the Red Cross was present for the penny march and was blown away by the students' and teachers' generosity. He actually was the contact person that helped our very own Pre-K teacher, Amy Godair when her home burned a year ago. It was great to give back to an organization that has helped so many in our community over the past several years.

BOX TOP CONTEST

Prizes were recently awarded at Eustace Primary to the winners of the winter box top contest. **GRAND CHAMPION FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL was Trayli Tandrich, second grader in Mrs. Stephens' class. She collected 560 box tops!** Other winners include Jacey Jones-482, Hannah Mathison-476, Eve Lopez-169, Cooper Harris-165, and Colton Lawson-130 from Pre-K. Kindergarten winners were Keithyn Meadows-350, Brady Boerner-330, Abby Weatherford-311, Bailey Uptmor-293, and Lana Ashton-241. From First Grade, Alec Holland-303, Andrew Cox-168, Morgan Buccafurno-162, Kaylee Neighbors-158, Ryder Anderson-143 were the top collectors, and finally from Second Grade, Maddy Wiggs-431, Robbie Bradley-383, Savanna Conley-287, Drake McAfee-225, Chloe Smith-142, and Brooklyn Moore-137. **Thanks to all the families and friends who helped collect Box Tops. You helped raise HUNDREDS of dollars for our school. Keep collecting! We will have our next awards in May!**

PARENTING SEMINAR - BECOMING A LOVE AND

LOGIC PARENT

On Thursday, March 29th Burton and Martel Love will begin a seven week parent training program which will be held at the Payne Springs United Methodist Church. This is the same seminar which has been taught several times on the Primary School campus. Classes will be held each Thursday night from 7-9. Everyone is welcome to attend! Mr. and Mrs. Love teach these classes as a service to our community; however, there is a one time \$10 charge which pays for the workbook. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Sowers at 903-425-5113.

KINDERGARTEN GAME NIGHT

The kindergarten classes enjoyed playing games and spending time with family during our Family Game Night on January 26th. All enjoyed a snack and the fol-

lowing students won great games in the door prize drawing: Maddie Hunt, Jadie Milner, Jason Sanchez, Cannon Kilcrease, Anthony Weld, Vico Casillas, and McKenna Jones. The class with the most participants was Kathleen Buie's class.

EARLY CHILDHOOD READING NIGHT

Early Childhood had their annual Clifford Family Reading Night, Tuesday, February 21. It was a fun time for everyone who participated. Families enjoyed hearing Mrs. Shaffer read *Clifford, The Big Red Dog* and then had time to enjoy reading with their families. Door Prizes were given and the following children won. Brandt Powers, Autumn Pugh, Khalon Whittenberg, Bryson Nichols, Max Valencia, Ivan Umana, Ranger McKee and the Grand Prize went to Brooklyn Wendt.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR PRIMARY:

- Mar. 1st – GT Field Trip and Love and Logic Parent Meeting
- Mar. 2nd – Big Blast Party
- Mar. 6th – First Grade Reading Night
- Mar. 8th – Love and Logic Parent and Teacher Meetings
- Mar. 10th – Love and Logic Parent Meeting
- Mar. 12-16th – Spring Break
- Mar. 20th – First Grade Field Trip

Middle School News

Immunizations Reminder

It is not too early to start thinking about getting your child ready for the next school year. If your child will be in the 7th grade next year, 2012-2013, they will be required to have their immunizations brought up to date before attending school on the first day of that school year. The vaccinations are: *Varicella* – two (2) doses of varicella vaccine or proof that the student has already had the chicken pox. A signed statement from the parent/guardian including the month and year that the student was ill is acceptable in lieu of the varicella shot. *Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap)* – one (1) dose if it has been more than five years since the student's last dose. We will need proof on record of when injection was administered to student. *Meningococcal vaccine* – one (1) dose, proof of immunization must be on record.

All shots are due by the first day of the next school year.

Technology in the Classroom (And All Around Us!)

Mrs. Twyla Felty, along with other members of Eustace I.S.D.'s technology department, recently returned from the TCEA (Texas Computer Education Association) Convention and Exposition with some interesting new knowledge and "toys". One thing Mrs. Felty is particularly excited about is the educational application of QR (short for Quick Response) codes. These square codes can be created for free on sites such as QRhacker.com or QRjuice.com. They can be read on any smart phone or iPod that

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nual Chili Cook-off and Auction on February 25th. It was a big turnout for the community and successful in raising needed funds for the chapter. The Chili Cook-Off started the evening with many entries. Judges for the event were Eustace Primary Principal Diane Shaffer, Eustace Teacher Lisa Bynum, and Area Community members Mr. Randy Teague, Mr. Josh Jamison, and Mrs. Susan O'Brien. Our very own junior student Cody Carpenter was the winner with his chili. Second place went to Joyce Byers and third place finish was Anthony Coble. The Ag Boosters would like to thank the Eustace Administration, faculty, business supporters, community members, and parents for their continued support and commitment to the Eustace FFA Chapter. They would also like to thank the area community members for their gracious support to Eustace Ag Boosters as well. A special thank you goes out to the outgoing President of the Ag Boosters Mr. Danny Davis for his continued commitment and dedication to this program. His efforts are tremendous and very much appreciated and a huge reason for its success.

The 2012 boy's track and field team is currently preparing for the upcoming season, and another run at a district championship. Their first meet will be March 1st, in Eustace. Coach Henderson is very excited about the potential that his team has shown. "I expect great things this year, and we will challenge for the district championship". As always, our team will be led by a very strong distance group of young men led by junior Evan Arambula". Everybody come out and support our track team!!

There are over 35 girls going out for track this year and we are looking to repeat our district championship from last year. The girls have been working very hard and are ready for our first track meet here at Eustace on March 1st.

All District Basketball Honors for Eustace lady Bulldogs are as follows:

First Team- Kacie Richards; Second Team- Katy Brigham and Catania Grant

Honorable Mention- Megan Renteria and Chelsea Oldham. Congratulations girls on a job well done!

Nineteen band students participated in the Region 3 Solo & Ensemble competition in North Garland. Many qualified for the State competition to be held in May on Memorial Day at Hendrickson High School in Austin. Nine students brought home nine 1st division Blue ribbons for Class 1 ensembles. Each student has worked on their own with little instruction to achieve these ratings. The solo and ensemble competition is divided into three Classifications with a Class 1 being music on a college level of difficulty. Solos and ensembles must be Class 1 and achieve a 1st division rating in order to qualify for State competition. Solos must be memorized to qualify for the state contest. Ensembles receiving

1st division ratings and qualifying for State were:

The Brass Quintet "Just for Show" by Neihaus - Jason Ballenger, Carli Copeland, Rosie Durnell, Randall Roberts, and Dylan Worrell; The Saxophone Quartet "Sonata #3" by Bach Tyler Barrett, Kallan Campbell and Ruby Espiricueta, and Tara Young. Those receiving 2nd Division ratings were: The Percussion Ensemble "County Claire" by Chris Almand, Natalie Bonner, Nic Hairl, Savannah Hairl, Cody Marple and Jonathan Warren; The Clarinet Trio "Allegro" by Beethoven received a 2nd division rating on a Class 1- Ella Agold, Megan Bell, and Racheal Hall; Bass Clarinet solo "Pastorale and Bouree" Chase Nor-

has a camera using an app such as "i-nigma" - which is also free! QR codes can contain text, reveal a photograph, or take you to a website. During the week of Valentine's, Mrs. Felty hung up QR codes telling facts about Valentine's Day and candy hearts. These were hung on the walls and placed on tables in the cafeteria. After that, teachers and students became interested, and Molly Taylor's 7th grade Texas History class created QR codes (pictured below) providing interesting facts about our state. They had so many codes that students also included facts about American History and other interesting trivia. It was really a great deal of fun for all of the students and faculty involved! Student QR codes are hanging in the



halls today, and there are plans for these codes to be used in our art galleries and for an educational "scavenger hunt".

Can you read this code?



Download i-nigma to your smart phone to see what middle school is excited about!

Some of the QR codes made by Mrs. Taylor's class. View this code to see what the middle school is excited about!

Spelling Bee

The Henderson County Spelling Bee was held on Friday, February 10th at Eustace Middle School. The winner of this spelling bee was Eustace 8th grade student Abra Roberts, who will go on to compete in The Dallas Morning News Spelling Bee, which will be telecast

live on Channel 8 at the end of March. Eustace 8th grade student Ashleigh Blaylock was the runner-up and will take Abra's place if she for any reason is unable to compete. If you see either of these students, please compliment them on a job well done. We would also like to thank Mrs. Judy Wimberley for coordinating the district and county spelling bees.

Box Tops

Our current Box Top collection contest will run through March 30th. There will be the usual random prize drawings for anyone who participates. The top three students will receive a \$15 iTunes card. In addition, the top two classes will receive cupcake, popcorn and soda parties. Please support your school by clipping and saving Box Top labels. Send them to school with your child by March 30th, making sure to have the student's name on the bag or envelope in which you send them.

Spring Fever

We have come to the part of the school year when students are generally tired and ready for a break. However, as we get closer to STAAR testing dates, good attendance is more important than ever. Some ways to make sure your child is getting the most out of school are: 1.) Make sure he/she is keeping up with their class work and homework. It's more pleasant to go to school if they feel like they are caught up and making good grades. 2.) Schedule dental visits and other appointments after school hours if possible. 3.) Ask to be notified when your child is absent from school. 4.) Discuss the school's attendance policy with your child and stress the importance of being at school. Students do not get the full benefit of the classroom experience if they are not there and are instead doing make-up work.

Art News

Eustace Middle School will have its Fourth Annual Student Art Show on May 3rd, 2012. There will be refreshments and student art to enjoy. There will also be a very special returning guest, spray paint artist Martin Martinez. For more information on this artist, you can visit his website at <http://cosmouniversalart.com>. Until the art show, if you would like to see some examples of student art, please feel free to come by the middle school to check out our Gallery Hall near the art room.

Fun in Beginning Band

On Thursday, March 8, all members of the beginning band are invited to a fun time from 3:15 until 9:00. Students are permitted to bring suitable electronic games and personal entertainment devices for a gaming time in the band hall. This will be followed by supper, gym activities, and more games. During the meal time, pizza will be provided for a small charge. For the trumpet section, who have been best behaved this second semester, there will be the option to go to Hernandez with Mr. Felty or Mr. Taylor, who are both looking forward to what should be a good time of bonding and activities for beginning band members.

February Students and Employee of the Month

Eustace Middle School would like to recognize its Students and Employee of the Month for February, 2012. Our Employee of the Month is Hayley Lane, who works in our Special Education department. Students of the Month are: 6th grade – Olivia Herring and Colin Rogers, 7th grade – Samantha Tiner and Jesse Shugart, 8th grade – Tyler Staggs and Hayden Plunk. Congratulations to these individuals for going above and beyond on a daily basis.

Testing Tips

It's almost STAAR testing time. Our teachers, administrators

and support staff have done their best to make sure your child has the instruction and confidence they need to do well. You can help your student with pre-test anxiety by going over these testing strategies with them: 1.) Look for words like *all*, *none* and *always*. These may be clues that an answer is false. On the other hand, words like *often* and *may* can signal that a statement is true. 2.) With any multiple choice test, read every answer choice before choosing your answer. Use the process of elimination to rule out any answer choices that you know are *not* correct. 3.) When answering an essay question, read the question at least twice before you begin to write. Making an outline helps some students organize their thoughts. When you are finished writing, check over your answer for spelling, capitalization and punctuation mistakes.

Important Upcoming Dates at EMS

- March 8th – Beginning Band Bash
- March 12th-16th – Spring Break
- March 27th-29th – STAAR testing
- March 30th – Box Top collection deadline
- April 5th – Early Release
- April 6th – Good Friday holiday
- April 24th-27th – STAAR testing
- April 30th-May 4th – Scholastic Book Fair

School Calendar

At the February board meeting, members approved the school calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. The calendar was presented to the board by the District Educational Improvement Council after seeking input from community stakeholders and teaching staff.

Because of the state mandate that students may not begin instruction until the last Monday in August, students will not start classes until August 27th, with the last day of school for students being June 4, 2013.

Important dates of interest are:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aug. 27 | First day of classes |
| Sept. 3 | Labor Day Holiday |
| Oct. 8 | Student holiday |
| Nov. 21-23 | Thanksgiving Holidays |
| Dec. 19 | End of first semester |
| Dec. 20 – Jan. 4 | Christmas Holidays |
| Jan. 8 | Second Semester begins |
| Feb. 22 | Student Holiday |
| March 11-15 | Spring Break |
| Apr. 29 | Good Friday Holiday/bad weather day |
| May 27 | Memorial Day Holiday |
| June 1 | Graduation |
| June 4 | Last day of classes |