



The Recorder

Thundering Horns Band Raps Up Contest Season

The Thundering Horns Band went to a total of four marching contests for their 2009 season. The season started in Round Rock at the "Central Texas Showcase of Bands" where the band earned a "Division 2" rating and many positive comments from the judges. The band next traveled down the road to Cleveland for the Cleveland Invitational where they received a "Division 2" rating. UIL came on October 20th in the Woodlands. The band received their highest marching score in many years bringing home a 2-1-2 for a composite rating of "Division 2". The judges commented on how good the band sounds for their size. On October 23rd, the band finished their 2009 Contest season at the Sam Houston State University Invitational Marching Contest. Our band tied for 3rd place in the preliminary competition. What made this win special was that the band we tied, beat us two years ago by 8 solid points and they never let us forget it. "We certainly got their attention this year!" stated Band Director Jon Lawles.

Battle for the Pink Bell

Tarkington Student Council sponsors, Denise Johnson and Robin Wyatt, were contacted by Splendora High School Student Council suggesting a contest between the two student groups to see who could raise the most money for the Koeman Breast Cancer Foundation. The groups sold 25 cent pink paper links. The links were formed into a chain. On the field, before the football game against Splendora, both groups displayed their chains to see who had the longest chain which represented the money raised for breast cancer awareness. Tarkington raised \$1501 and Splendora raised \$1200! Special thanks to the Tarkington Middle School Student Council and Mrs. Riley for their help with the project. It was a great community effort. Now, the high school is sporting two bells. The pink bell hangs around the longhorn's neck over the cafeteria and the football bell hangs around the longhorn's neck by the office.

Upcoming Events and Holidays

November 24
November 25,26,27
December 1
December 10
December 15
December 17, 18
December 21 to January 4

Progress Reports
Thanksgiving Holidays
Intermediate Choir Concert
Christmas Band Concert (all levels)
Middle School Choir Concert
Early Release @ 1:10
Christmas Holidays

Hooray!
For the
Ladyhorns

Undefeated
District
Volleyball
Champs

3rd
Consecutive
Title

Go
Horns!

Way
To Go!

Longhorn
Football
Team

"Battle of
the Bell"
Winner

Primary School News

TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgement
Commended on Reading and Math

Fancy Nancy Day—TPS annual Fancy Nancy Day a big success. Teachers and students had a great time putting together something "fancy" to wear. Outfits included hats, ties, boas, crazy socks, tutus and dresses. The most important reason for the dress up day is for the students to wear an index card with a "fancy"(interesting) word around their neck that describes their outfit. Students have been introduced to words that are not in their everyday vocabulary. If you were to stop a student in the hall and ask them to tell you about their word you would hear something like.... "Spectacular means spectacular... The class had spectacular behavior". Mrs. Strolberg, TPS Principal, enjoyed listening to the students version of the meaning of words and loved all the "fancy" dressed teachers.

Intermediate School News

TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgement
Commended on Math

Art Strong at TIS— Students have been very busy under the guidance of art teacher, Billie Alexander. The following students' art projects are on display in the board room for the months of October and November: Taylor Stutts, Caleb Reynolds, Harley Mol, Cindy Jo Mendez, Tyler Hamic, Tito Lobos, Savannah Parker, Kathryn Dousay, Madilyn McDougald.

Tarkington Intermediate was well represented at our Region IV Service Center holiday card design contest. There were thirty pieces selected from Elementary K-5. One students' design (out of all area districts) will be selected to appear on the front of the Region IV's holiday card. All finalist will be on display at Region IV Service Center during the month of December. The following students designs were chosen: Seth Brandt, Jonathan Zakrzewski, Madi McDougald, Sammi Butler, Sean Godkin, Kayla Escobar, Ellie Rau, Claire Chapman, Carrie Hudman. Congratulations to all!

Middle School News

TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgement
Commended on Reading and Social Studies

Veteran's Day Salute - On November 11, TMS presented a Veteran's Day Program. As students, parents, and community members entered the auditorium, a PowerPoint with the names of Veterans , past and present, were on display. After the procession of Veterans and the posting of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance was given and the National Anthem was sung proudly. A Veteran's Day Proclamation was announced, then the school choir performed along with the band. Dan Bayless was the guest speaker for the event.

TMS Principal, Dr. John Johnson, described the plans for a Veteran's Memorial to be erected in honor of the men and women that has served our country from the Tarkington community. The students will be working through their Social Studies classes to locate as many veterans as possible. The creation of a website to provide information for the community is in production. On the website, there will be a form for individuals to submit information about the veterans of our community. Progress about the memorial will also be posted on a regular basis. For additional information and possible donations, please contact Social Studies teacher, Terri Berry, Veteran's Memorial Coordinator. Her email address is tberry@tarkington.isd.esc4.net.

High School News

TEA Gold Performance Acknowledgement
College-Ready Graduates, Commended on Social Studies

Author Visit—Andrea White, author and wife of Houston Mayor Bill White, came to visit Tarkington HS students on October 8. She was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, but has spent most of her life in Houston, Texas. Her first book, *Surviving Antarctica*, was on the reading lists of several states, including the Texas Bluebonnet list. In 2006, she won the Golden Spur award given by the Texas State Reading Association for the best book by a Texas author. Mrs. White spoke vividly about her inspirations when writing the books *Surviving Antarctica and Radiant Girl*. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session about her writing process and the publishing business.

The Gold Performance Acknowledgment (GPA) system acknowledges districts and campuses for high performance on indicators other than those used to determine accountability ratings.

