



The Recorder

October 1, 2009

New School Year Off To A Good Start

Students spilled into the schools on August 24. It was good to see returning faces and welcoming new acquaintances. It was easy to observe a mixture of emotions, from a few tears shed by Kindergarten students to seniors excited about their last year in high school. The buildings are very empty during the summer. It's so good to hear the voices of the students echoing down the hallways once again.

Speaking of welcoming new acquaintances, we have three new principals on campuses this school year.

At the Primary campus, Brandy Strolberg joins our staff as principal. She comes to Tarkington with administrative experience working with grades K-5.

Returning to the district, Calesta House is the new principal at the Intermediate campus. She was assistant principal at the Primary before taking a year away from education to help her husband with their company.

Jim Hair is the new high school principal. Last year, he served in the same capacity at the Intermediate campus. THS is a familiar place for him since he served as assistant principal there a few years ago.

We welcomed 17 new teachers to the district this year and have been very pleased with the quality of their knowledge.

Our student population is growing and we are looking forward to a great school year.

Student Populations

Primary
594

Intermediate
306

Middle School
466

High School
626

District
1992

Go Horns!

New Campus Entrances Constructed

In an effort to promote safety, new campus entrances have been under construction. The purpose was to route all visitors into the office when entering the buildings. This effort started last year with a new entry into the Primary School office.

The new Middle School office entry has been placed between the colored curved wall in front of the building and the technology department entrances. It will be accessible soon.

The new door into the High School office will be ready for use shortly. It is located on the right side of the brick wall of the main campus doors.

As for the Intermediate campus, the district will be reviewing possible changes later this year.

Watch for signs directing you to the new entrances during school hours.

**Tarkington
Round Up**

**Saturday
October 3rd
10:00—4:00**

**Middle School
Campus**



Primary School News

Summer Reading Reward - On Friday, Sept 4th, Tarkington students from grades K-5 attended a Summer Reading Water Slide party at the Primary campus. We had a record number of kids turn in their reading logs with 30 or more books that they read over the summer. Congratulations to all 52 students! Thanks for working so hard!

Tarkington Primary PTO fundraiser will kick off on October 6th. Our next meeting will be October 12th at 4:00 p.m. Come join us for MEET THE LONGHORN NIGHT! Principal Pals will be recognized at PTO meetings this year.

RTI (Response to Intervention) Math— Primary campus is adding RTI for math this year. With the help from the Math Coach, Jessiene Bruce, teachers are assessing students math skills using the new AIMSWEB diagnostic computer program. The information gained through the program aides teachers with individual student instruction. Teachers are able to place students into small groups, based on their needs, for further instruction.

Intermediate School News

Response to Intervention (RTI) - Intermediate campus has been focusing on RTI for students who have been identified as having skill gaps. With the help of the new RTI interventionist, Paula Broussard along with Jean Scott (Reading Coach) and Jessiene Bruce (Math Coach), teachers are developing strategies to aid students in their recovery of missing skills. Computer programs such as AIMSWEB and DIBELS are helping teachers focus in on problem areas for individual students. As part of the daily schedule, teachers have designated time to work with students in a small group setting.

D.A.R.E. Drug Abuse Resistance Education - D.A.R.E. is a cooperative effort between the Liberty County District Attorney's Office and area school districts. Officer Callie Shepherd will be teaching the 9 week classroom curriculum to the 5th grade class. The students will be learning how and why they should refuse alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs as well as violence. The D.A.R.E. program is a working partnership between parents, schools, and police. At the completion of the program, students participate in a graduation ceremony.

Middle School News

Care Packages to the Marines - Mrs. Killgore, MS English teacher heard of a platoon that was on their 3rd tour in Iraq and had not received many personal items like other groups. Since they were one of the last to deploy, they were often referred to as "The Forgotten 55". The students and staff rallied bringing many items including snacks, baby wipes, sun screen, magazines, travel games and toiletries. Many cards and letters were included with the items. On May 27th, 1st Sgt Stephen Mathews came to the middle school to collect the items and talk with the staff and students. When Sgt. Mathews entered Mrs. Killgore's classroom, the students spontaneously stood and applauded. Due to the large contribution from the school, 135 care packages were sent to Iraq. Tarkington Middle School was mentioned in the monthly newsletter that is sent out to the families of the deployed Marines. This was a very proud moment for TMS. The school plans on continuing the project annually.

Wireless Tablets -Technology advances have come along way in the past few years. Dr. Johnson is in the process of purchasing wireless tablets for teachers to help enhance instruction. This device allows the teacher to walk around the classroom and still access their computer. Through PC viewers, teachers can deliver instruction using computer presentations, documents and internet information. This is a very interactive tool which improves student engagement.

High School News

Career Day will take place on Friday, October 2. Mrs. McCreight has arranged for many community members as well as Tarkington graduates to come speak to the students about their profession. The speakers will describe their jobs, advise the students of the skills and training needed to prepare themselves, and give projections of the opportunities available to the students in their fields. We are thankful for their interest in our kids. Our major goal is to help Tarkington High School's young men and women plan their future career pathways and prepare them to be successful.

"Read It Forward" High School Reading Promotion began September 29- One story, one school, one semester. Based on the "Pay it Forward" idea, students and faculty will join together in a gigantic semester-long book club sponsored by the THS library. Multiple copies of a surprise book will be distributed on a special reveal day. THS student recipients will have the opportunity to read it, write comments in the flyleaf, and pass it on to a fellow student or faculty member. Book club discussions / celebrations will take place periodically throughout the semester before and after school for those who have read the book, and readers will see their name on the Read It Forward Wall of Fame.