

Weekly Update

A Review of Achievements & Activities in Cleburne ISD

December 4-11, 2019

Registration Underway for District's New At-Home Kindergarten Readiness Program



Backpack mail is going home with elementary students this week to inform parents of the no-cost at-home Waterford UPSTART kindergarten readiness program now available to CISD families with four-year-olds who are not enrolled in the district's Pre-K program. Registration is underway at <https://www.waterfordupstart.org/register/>. Spaces are limited and we encourage all eligible families to register soon, in order to begin use of the program in January. Many participating families will also qualify to receive a computer and internet access at no cost. Program expectations focus on engaging students in the at-home curriculum at least 15 minutes per day, five days a week. More information is posted on the CISD website.

District's Top Second Grade Readers to be Honored by School Board Trustees



The top readers from each CISD elementary campus were at the Central Offices on Thursday to compete in the District Reading Bee. Pictured left are campus champions front, l-r, Hannah Breslaw-Gerard; Deacon Blake-Coleman; Jose Julian Chavez-Santa Fe and back, Elijah Allen-C.C. Cooke; Anna Head-Adams; Lilliana Delgado-Irving and Addison



Adams-Marti. Anna Head, right, is the 2019 District Reading Bee winner, with Lilliana Delgado placing as the Runner-Up Reader. The Reading Bee is an oral reading event for second graders, which focuses on comprehension and accuracy. Contestants read a series of passages before a judge, which progress in difficulty. Competitors are found to be reading well above their grade level. These Reading Bee winners will be recognized by Trustees at the December 16 school board meeting.

Holiday Happenings

Thursday, December 12

Marti Elementary *Chillin' with my Snowmies*
5:30 PM music program followed by crafts, treats and Santa Selfies
Golden Pride Holiday Concert 7 PM CHS Cafeteria

Friday, December 13

Smith Wind Ensemble Begins Holiday Performance Tour--Appearances at Gerard and Coleman
CHS Jazz Band at Santa Fe and Cooke

Monday, December 16

Smith Wind Ensemble at Santa Fe and Adams; CHS Jazz Band at Marti, Gerard and Adams

Tuesday, December 17

Smith Middle School Winter Choir Concert 6:30 PM
Cooke Elementary Winter Festival 5:30-7 PM

Wednesday, December 18

Wheat Jazz Band Holiday Tour to Irving, Marti and Cooke

Friday, December 20 1:30 PM Early Release

Winter Break December 23-January 7

CISD Middle School Students Come Away with Honors at FIRST League League Contest



Teams from Smith and Wheat Middle Schools were among the competitors at the FIRST Lego League contest held in Hillsboro. Smith received the Robotics Design Award at the event, which engages teams of eight in three challenges relating to robotics, innovation and core values.

The Wheat Warriors Team of Lorelei Kellis, Jayden Garcia, Desiree Pozos, Bailey White, Ethaniel McCracken, Gabrielle Clifford, Leonardo Gonzales, Jimmy McNatt and Brayden Thompson finished 5th in programming. The Wheat Warriors II team (photo left) of Payton Poteet, Aubree Newland, Dezerea Hess, Stalar Chin, Cianna Sanders, Colten Harmen, AJ Jimenez and Emily Tindall was presented with the Referee Award, recognizing “remarkable teams” for their unique efforts, performance and dynamics.

Members of Golden Pride Named to Texas A & M-Commerce Honor Band

Eight members of the CHS Golden Pride were nominated to participate in auditions for the Texas A & M-Commerce Honor Band for high school juniors and seniors. Pictured are seated, Camila Varjao, Sierra Pugh and Allison Febinger and back, Aidan Herrick, Blake Wilson, Mason Hill, Mieko Smith and, absent, Julian Vital. Hill and Pugh achieved First Band honors in the audition competition. Selected for the Second Band were Febinger, Wilson and Varjao, with Herrick, Smith and Vital named to the Third Band.



Students in Elementary Gifted/Talented Program Showcase Projects at Annual GT Cafe



Gerard third grader Abigail Hawkins tests out the Peppa Pig Roller Coaster at Tuesday’s GT Cafe held at Marti Elementary. Third, fourth and fifth grade students in the District’s Gifted/Talented program exhibited their long-term projects for judging, including the “Riding the Rails” event in which fourth graders created roller coasters from pipe insulation, in learning about force and motion, acceleration, friction and gravity.



Janet Helmcamp, photo left, who oversees the GT program as district coordinator, listens as McKayla Barnes tells about the character she is portraying, as fifth graders were featured in a living exhibit on the Romans and their contributions to modern society.



Third graders were involved in entrepreneurship projects as they created their own businesses, marketing a new toy they developed using parts from discarded toys. Receiving the top grade level award of Judge’s Merit were McKayla Barnes, Irving and Tyler Ferguson, Coleman-5th grade; Brooklyn Ray, Marti-4th grade and Lily Brown, Gerard-3rd grade.

Reader Leaders from CHS Collect Books for Classroom Libraries At Irving, Cooke and Santa Fe



Students in Katie Arellano’s Read 180 program at CHS have been busy raising funds and collecting books to impact literacy skills among their younger peers at Cooke, Irving and Santa Fe. Assisted by a \$300 matching grant from the Cleburne Lions Club, the CHS students delivered books this week to expand the



libraries in seven elementary classrooms. Their visits to the campuses included the opportunity to read with elementary students. Enough books were collected to allow for a book to go home with each elementary reader, expanding the Readers are Leaders initiative to include family literacy.

District Hosts FIRST Lego League Regional Qualifier

More than 200 students representing teams from public and private schools, academies and community organizations from Hillsboro to Plano gathered in the Jeff D. Cody Arena on Saturday, as Cleburne hosted a FIRST Lego League Regional Qualifier, sponsored by the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Cleburne teachers, staff, students and community members volunteered their time at the event as the visiting teams programmed robots to complete a series of tasks, presented solutions to improve community issues as “City Shapers” and showed their character skills in teamwork and sportsmanship as friendly competitors.

Wheat Middle School Robotics teacher Gwenda Davis, who served as Tournament Director, is hopeful Cleburne will be serving as a host site again in 2020.

