

BULLARD BANDS TO HOLD CONCERTS



The Bullard ISD Bands will hold their annual annual Christmas Concerts. The Middle School bands will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday Dec. 18 at in the Middle School Cafetorium. Refreshments will follow the concert. The High School Concert Band and the Jazz Band will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 in the Bullard High School gymnasium. Prior to each concert, the Bullard Band Boosters will hold a Silent Auction. A wide array of items will be offered for auction. Proceeds from the auction help support the activities of all the Bullard ISD bands.

Best

Continued from Page 1

to the teachers to the paraprofessionals," he said. "Our schools and the district work as a team, and this is clearly a team effort paying off."

And while early indications from the just-released Academic Education Indicator System show a slight drop in the science category, Assistant Superintendent Lynette Hughes

feels it's only momentary.

"This year we've developed more success strategies in all aspects of our curriculum, so we hope to see these numbers and hopefully these honors increase."

Wright agreed.

"This is a great honor for our students and teachers," he said. "Our teachers really care about the kids here and do a great job."

This is the fourth time "Texas Monthly" has published a list of the top public schools in the state, and the second consecutive year that the higher performing schools are ranked according to the number of subjects in which they excel.

Fore more information on actions at Bullard's school board meeting, read the Dec. 19 edition of the Bullard Banner News.

Testing

Continued from Page 1

But the biggest change students will face is online TAKS testing.

"Online testing is coming," Case said. She just returned from a workshop in Austin, and they said that by 2010 all TAKS testing will be online.

As it stands now, some of the testing already happens that way.

Franks said that the school's English 1 and 2 are tested online and English 3 is optional.

"The TEA (The Texas Education Agency) is having us phase this in," Case said. In 2009, grades four, six, seven, nine and ten will still have an option."

The reasoning, Franks said, is that these grades are not ones where the TAKS must be passed in order to promote.

To assuage both parents and students, Case said, there will still be paper and pencil backup.

But she said the students' fears don't necessarily need to be allayed.

"The students love it," she said. "It's user friendly; it guides you through the process easily and research shows that scores actually improve if the student is computer proficient."

Which brought one parent to ask that very question.

Franks addressed that by

talking about the district's change in curriculum to, he said, make sure the students have that foundation.

"All eighth grade students are required to take a technology applications class with an end of course exam to measure proficiency," he said.

One parent said her child wanted to take the course when she was in eighth grade but couldn't because of scheduling conflicts and extracurricular activities.

Case said that, too, had been addressed.

"We've changed the scheduling so all students are getting it," she said.

The district - in fact - has a written plan beginning from pre-kindergarten through middle school to introduce and increase computer proficiency.

Case said the advantage to online testing is quicker results.

"When we get the results faster, we're able to see where improvement is needed or where students will need to retest," she said. "This will help all of us."

Another challenge, brought up by a parent, was the number of computers.

"That too, is something we're working on, but it's doable," Case said. "We're going to run into some glitches, but we'll all work through them."

She reiterated, however, that parents needed to help as

well.

"So much emphasis is put on testing, and it can be stressful - for the parents, for the students and for the teachers," Case said. "We want to keep the stress level as low as possible."

"Test anxiety is very real." Case suggested that students and parents especially use online resources to know dates and break it down to reduce the fear.

"TEA has a great web-site that helps with dates," she said.

Case also suggested simple things, like drinking water.

"Water is effective at reducing anxiety, and we've seen research that scores improve just because of hydration," she said.

But nothing, she said, beats parental involvement.

"All of us - students, parents and teachers - have to be computer proficient to make this work."

For more information on TEA go to www.tea.state.tx.us.

The next roundtable meeting will be held at 8 a.m. Feb. 14 at Bullard High School.

All parents are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Scott Franks at 903-894-9272.

ACTS OF SERVICE



On Dec. 4, about 30 families and almost 80 kids enjoyed the first-ever Brook Hill Christmas carnival. In conjunction with a local service group, Brook Hill students created and set up over 20 game booths, constructed a 570 square-foot maze, developed a Christmas story skit (complete with Nativity scene) and bought Christmas gifts for each of the visiting children. This event was in conjunction with the "4 as 1" project shared by All Saints, T K Gorman and Grace. All feedback has indicated that all participants had a wonderful time and the families greatly appreciated Brook Hill's efforts to host such an event. Front row, from left: Suzanne NeJame, local child, Mary Schuler and Allison Bell and back row, from left: Katherine Townley, Bridgette Aarant take time to pose for a picture.

Dr. Martin sees patients in Tyler, Lindale, Rusk and Flint.

Podiatrist
Dr. Billy Martin
treats patients like family.

With his friendly manner and concern for patient care, it's no wonder that podiatrist Dr. Billy Martin was named Resident of the Year at Southern Arizona Veterans Affairs Health Care System in Tucson. "I just try to treat patients with compassion, explain what's going on, use layman's terms and allow them to participate in their care by being part of the decision-making process."

Dr. Martin believes in conservative methods of treatment. "I try to use any surgical approach as the last means. If you can fix a foot problem with shoe or lifestyle modifications, that's the best way to start."

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Martin in Tyler, Lindale, Rusk or Flint, please call 903-596-ETMC.

ETMC First Physicians
Our specialty is you.

Blue Cross Blue Shield and other major insurance providers accepted.

A not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life in East Texas communities. www.etmc.org

Merry Christmas
Pyp It
GARDEN CENTER
Thank You for your business
Seasonal Houseplants
Hanging Baskets & Combo
Pots for the patio

GIFT CARDS
GIFT BASKETS

14801 Hwy 110 S
WHITEHOUSE
FALL HOURS:
Mon-Sat 9-5 **903 . 561 . 9502**

Tan This

Opening Saturday December 15th at 10:00 am
in the Bullard Crossing Retail Center (on Hwy. 69 next to Brookshire's)
Wolff Tanning Beds
Australian Gold and Designer Skin products
Offering manicure/pedicure and massage services

PHONE: (903) 894-4404 • WEBSITE: tanthissalon.com
HOURS: MWF 7am - 8pm
Tu-Th 6am - 8pm
Sat. 8am - 2pm