

HARDIN-JEFFERSON
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 490
SOUR LAKE, TX 77659

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PD.
PERMIT NO. 8
SOUR LAKE, TEXAS
CR RT PRESORT

**ECRLOT
Boxholder
Sour Lake, TX 77659**

The Hardin-Jefferson Independent School District does not discriminate against its students or employees on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicapping condition.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 15, 2007 H-J High School Cheerleading Clinic, H-J High School Gym, 9:00 a.m.
- September 19, 2007 Progress Reports To Be Distributed To All Students
- October 12, 2007 Report Cards To Be Distributed To All Students
- October 15, 2007 School Board Meeting, Administration Building, 7:00 p.m.
- October 19, 2007 H-J Homecoming, H-J High School Stadium, 7:00 p.m.
- October 27, 2007 District Cross Country Meet, Claiborne Park
- October 31, 2007 Progress Reports To Be Distributed To All Students
- November 2, 2007 Senior Football and Parent Night, H-J High School Stadium, 7:30 p.m.

F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

All legal notices for Hardin-Jefferson ISD (i.e., school board meetings, elections, etc.) will be posted at least 72 hours in advance of the event in the following locations:

- H-J Administration Building
- Hardin-Jefferson High School
- Henderson Middle School

- Sour Lake Elementary School
- China Elementary School
- H-J Transportation Building
- Gulf Coast Special Education Co-op
- Hardin County Newspaper
- City Halls-Sour Lake, China & Nome

Some special events are also posted in the Beaumont Enterprise Newspaper and on Timberlake Cable TV. If you have a question about any postings for the school district, please call the superintendent's office at 981-6400.



H-J HEADLINER

A RECOGNIZED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Volume 7, Issue 3

www.hjisd.net

September 2007

From the desk of Superintendent Holmes.....

HARDIN-JEFFERSON ISD LOWERS TAX RATE

Property owners in the Hardin-Jefferson school district will see a drop in their tax bills. Trustees voted unanimously to adopt a \$1.14 per \$100,000 property valuation tax rate. District property values increased to \$844,286,840 allowing the district to drop the rate 29 cents from last year and 44 cents from the year before. The tax rate is made up of \$1.04 for maintenance and operation of the district and 10 cents for debt service which pays off school bonds.

During the spring when the district was working toward the bond election to build two new campuses and make renovations to the others, school officials estimated the rate to be set at approximately \$1.18. Superintendent Shannon Holmes explained, "We are certainly happy to lower the tax rate farther than we anticipated. Higher values and new construction allowed the district to drop the rate beyond our earlier projections."

HARDIN-JEFFERSON HAS NEW HIGH SCHOOL DESIGN



The H-JISD Board of Trustees approved the design development for the new high school at its August 13, 2007 meeting. The new campus, whose cost is projected to be approximately \$22 million, will include 155,000 square feet of state-of-the-art classrooms, two gyms, fine arts facilities, increased access to technology, and several multi-functional areas. The new school will be located adjacent to, and just south of, the existing high school, making use of the existing athletic facilities. Construction is slated to begin in January 2008 and conclude in August 2009.

NEW AG CLASS SHOULD HAVE BIG IMPACT ON H-J STUDENTS

A two-hour Ag Mechanics class has been added to this year's curriculum in the Ag Science Department at Hardin-Jefferson High School. This class will offer welding and pipefitting and will be taught under the guidance of the ABC School of Nederland. During the summer break our Ag Science teachers, Mr. Jeff Huckaby and Mr. Ken Abney, received their NCCER teacher certifications in order to teach this new class. This is an additional certification, under NCCER Guidelines, to their teacher certifications to enable them to teach the new course.

With the NCCER Certification, Mr. Huckaby and Mr. Abney will be able to give up to 17 certifications in welding and pipefitting to students who take and successfully complete the course. Upon completion, there will be jobs available to the students with the opportunity to earn as much as \$51,000 per year after graduation. A student can then continue to receive at least six more certifications by attending the ABC School enabling them to earn more money. Mr. Huckaby and Mr. Abney plan to tie this new course into their Metal Fab classes so that students can go ahead and get some certifications before entering the two hour Ag Mechanics class. These certifications earned by the student will stay with them for life.

The Ag Science Department is very excited and very proud to be able to offer such a great opportunity to interested H-J students.



H-J Headliner Editor: Rhonda Ritter, rritter@hjisd.net

WELCOME NEW H-JISD EMPLOYEES



Seated Left to Right: Amber Lanning-HMS/HJHS Choir, Charla Adams-SLE Science, Susan Bradley-HMS Band, Teresa Williams-CE PPCD.

Standing Left to Right: Mike Westbrook-H-JHS Band Director, Savanna Hidalgo-SLE Math, Amanda Adair-H-JHS Science, Kacy Debney-HJHS Science, Ashley Gaspard-CE 1st, Clarence Russell, Jr.-HJHS Teacher/Coach, Adam Apodaca-HJHS Spanish, Doris Long-SLE 3rd, Jacob Hooker-HMS Teacher/Coach

Not pictured: Michael Martin-HJHS Teacher/Coach, Shawn Shackelford-HJHS Teacher/Coach, Eloina Garza-HJHS Spanish, Ashley Bloodworth-CE Speech Therapist

New teachers to H-J were treated to "goodie bags" to welcome them and wish them good luck in the upcoming year. A big thank you goes out to those businesses who contributed: Texas State Bank, Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Center, Texas State Comptroller, Ernie's Hardware and Diamond S Enterprises.

Businesses who contributed to the new teachers' "Welcome to HJ" Coupon Book were: The Drugstore in China, Bellows Restaurant, Texaco Corner Market-Nome, Gourmet Cupboard, Higher Dimensions Digital Monogramming, Cyndi's Massage Therapy, Ernie's Hardware, Fesco's Good Eats, Merle Norman, Floyd's Farm and Ranch, El Jalapeno Mexican Restaurant, Sour Lake Vet, Day Break Café, J & R Meats, B & B Imports, Payne's Barber Shop, Chit, Chat and Curl Beauty Shop, and Goodfella's Pizza.

H-JISD RECEIVE GRANTS

Hardin-Jefferson has received several grants for 2007-2008 school year.

Texas State Comptroller: a grant of \$4000 to our district to be used to enforce the part of the Texas Health and Safety Code which concerns the use of tobacco products by persons who are younger than 18 years of age.

Entergy: a grant of \$1000 to China Elementary to help support ESL Adult Literacy program, "Conversational English for Spanish Speaking Adults." This class is offered on "Magnificent Mondays" to any non-English speaking adult in the community who wishes to learn to speak English. Entergy partners with organizations whose projects are instrumental in helping make their community a better place to live. The business partners who help to support this program and provide matching funds are: Brystar Construction, Diamond S Enterprises, Douget Grass Farm, Texaco Star Stop, Circle A/Pizza Pro, Hadley's Furniture, Eastex Farm and Home, Abney's Brothers Farm, Snappy's, Price & Co, China Market, and Quality Concrete. China Elementary PTO and H-J Title I also contribute. Child care is also provided. Because of their financial support, these classes are available at no charge. For more information call China Elem. at 981-6410.

Best Buy: a \$2500 grant to Susie Brooks, Emerging Technology teacher at HMS, to purchase four Toshiba laptops for student use. The laptops will be available for students who may not have a computer at home. The laptops can be checked out to aid the student with their school work. The purpose of the Best Buy Teach Award program is to reward schools for the successful interactive programs they have launched using technology.

CVS Pharmacy: a \$1000 grant to CE teacher, Donna Edmonds, to purchase speech software for classroom use. CVS awards these grants to public schools that "enrich the lives of children with disabilities through inclusive programs where children with disabilities are full participants in a program with their typically developing peers."

Junior Achievement: a \$250 grant to Angela Mireles, Kindergarten Teacher at

CE, to set up a "store" in her classroom and use tokens as money. Junior Achievement awards these grants to classroom projects K-12 that use experiential, hands-on activities that help educate students about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy.

College Tech-Prep Texas Southeast Texas Region: a \$2000 grant to Rhonda Ritter, Career and Technology Education Teacher at H-JHS, to purchase certification curriculum and exams for students in Tech-Prep courses. This grant is awarded for students to have the opportunity to complete the curriculum and then become certified through the Internet Computing Core Certification program (IC3).

Teachers who have written grants this summer and are waiting notification are: Brenda Rodgers, Dianne Timberlake, Angela Mireles, Susan Allen, Cheryl Adams, Karen Gray, Susan Jarrell, Jolynn McCraw, Susie Wheeler, Susie Brooks, Melanie Daleo, Tracy Maxwell, and CE PTO. PPCD and Kindergarten teachers at CE have submitted a request for the Inclusion Grant from Region 5 to again be awarded for their project. Former employee, Kay Moffitt, is assisting with this grant.

IT'S TESTING TIME AGAIN!

The PSAT /NMSQT will be administered at Hardin-Jefferson High School on Wednesday, October 17, 2007, at 8:00 a.m. All juniors planning to attend college are encouraged to take this test. Registration and cost will be announced at a later date.

H-J ISD EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

-Joel Nolte and Melanie Nunez graduated from the Principal's Academy X at Lamar University's Leadership Center.

-Cheryl Adams has been accepted into the Science Consortium at Region V. She will receive 120 hours of free inservice related to the science field and will also receive monies to buy science supplies for school.

-Kay Meyers received her Masters in Elementary Education with a specialization in Reading. She is now certified as a Reading Specialist, Master Reading Teacher, and ESL.

CE TEACHERS PREPARE FOR YEAR

Teachers from China Elementary spent the first week of school in in-service preparing for the upcoming school year. Wednesday's in-service involved Differentiating Curriculum to provide every child with an appropriate education based on interests, needs and abilities. Thursday Early Adventures staff, Kindergarten teachers and aides spent the day with Dana Pitman from Region V service center discussing the ABA model of teaching as well as the TEACCH program. Friday teachers spent the day with Darby Keethan from Region V learning how "You Can Have It All" which emphasizes Brain Based Research and Active Learning. The faculty will also be involved in a book study this year entitled, *How Full Is Your Bucket?*

MONDAYS ARE MAGNIFICENT

Monday's are still magnificent at China Elementary. Magnificent Mondays is China Elementary's way of working together with our community for the benefit of all. They have planned various classes and activities to capture many interests. These classes take place every Monday night from 6:00-9:00 p.m. They began on Monday, September 10.

On Monday nights the Internet lab will be open with several different classes being taught. Courses such as: learning about computers and programs, the ESL Adult Literacy program, and GED. The network will also be available for all secondary students to use to work on school projects and/or access their school files. There are no charges for any of these classes. Child care is available, if needed, for children 0-10 years old. You may enroll at any time during the year. For more information call China Elementary at 981-6410.

SLE CELEBRATES FREEDOM

In honor of "Celebrate Freedom Week", SLE will hold the "Celebrate Freedom to Read" Book Fair, September 17-21. The entire community is invited to join in the fun at the book fair being held in the SLE library.



H-J IS RECOGNIZED DISTRICT

For the 2006-07 school year, H-JISD received a RECOGNIZED accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency. The Hardin-Jefferson School District is one of only four school districts to receive this rating within our region. Sour Lake Elementary School and China Elementary School also earned a RECOGNIZED accountability rating. Hardin-Jefferson High School and Henderson Middle School both received an Academically Acceptable rating. The H-J students and staff are to be commended on all of their hard work.

BRINGING HOME AWARDS

The high school cheerleaders attended camp at College Station A&M this past June. Our mascot,



Katie Raymond was given the honor of being asked to come back and be part of the staff at UCA. This only happens to campers that UCA sees as very talented. She also received the All Star Mascot award. The following cheerleaders received All Star Cheerleader awards: Brandi Griffin, BreAnna Moses, Kylee Matthews, Ashlyn Tantillo, and Karah Kuecker. Congratulations girls and good luck on the upcoming season!

H-J STUDENTS? WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A new section to the H-J Headliner is entitled "H-J Students?" Where Are They Now?" This will focus on former students who have found success after graduating from H-J with the help of non-core courses and teachers that paved the way to their success. This article features accomplishments from the high school art department. Congratulations to Mrs. Kerry Radley on her influence in these students' lives.

Travis Coatney-Class of 2004-Travis is a junior at Lamar University, majoring in studio art with an emphasis in sculpture,

and minoring in space science. This year, he was the first Lamar Student to be awarded an H. H. Harris scholarship from the American Foundry Society in Chicago, Illinois. He has participated in many iron pours at Lamar, as well as the Iron Tribe Conference at New Mexico Highlands University, and the Southern Conference of Cast Iron Art at the Sloss Foundry in Birmingham, Alabama. He also took part in the Keene Invitational Symposium in Houston, Texas, last year, and hopes to attend the International Cast Iron Conference in England in 2008. Travis has shown his work in Port Arthur and Orange, and has sold two of his works at Lamar's annual LeGrande Ball. Travis plans to continue his education and pursue his masters degree. Travis is also the son of SLE teacher, Medley Coatney.

Lauren (Ellzey) McClusky—Class of 2004-Lauren began her art studies at Lamar University in Beaumont. She has been a Houston resident for one year and is currently a junior at Houston Baptist University studying Studio Art with an emphasis on Painting and Pedagogy. Lauren was one of five selected students to exhibit in the Houston Baptist University Homecoming Exhibition of 2007. She also received the Best in Show award for the 2007 HBU Annual Student Art Exhibition, as well as the first place award in the mixed media category. She has been nominated by HBU for the 2007 Summer Studio Residency. Lauren is the daughter of ESL teacher, Stephanie Ellzey.

STUDENTS RECEIVE CERTIFICATIONS

In May 2007 six students received their IC3 certifications. This certification is the world's first validated, standards-based training and certification program for basic computing and Internet knowledge and skills demonstrating mastery in the areas of: computer hardware, software, networks and the Internet. Students can gain college credit and jobs in the workplace with their certifications. Congratulations to: Ross Fox, Megan Grymes, Tayler Leger, Bailey and Hannah Radley, and Marissa Zimmerman. Mrs. Ritter, H-JHS teacher, is an IC3 certified instructor who prepares the students for the exam.