

An education link
with the Birdville ISD community

Partnership

A TEA
"Recognized"
District
BISD

Winter 2001

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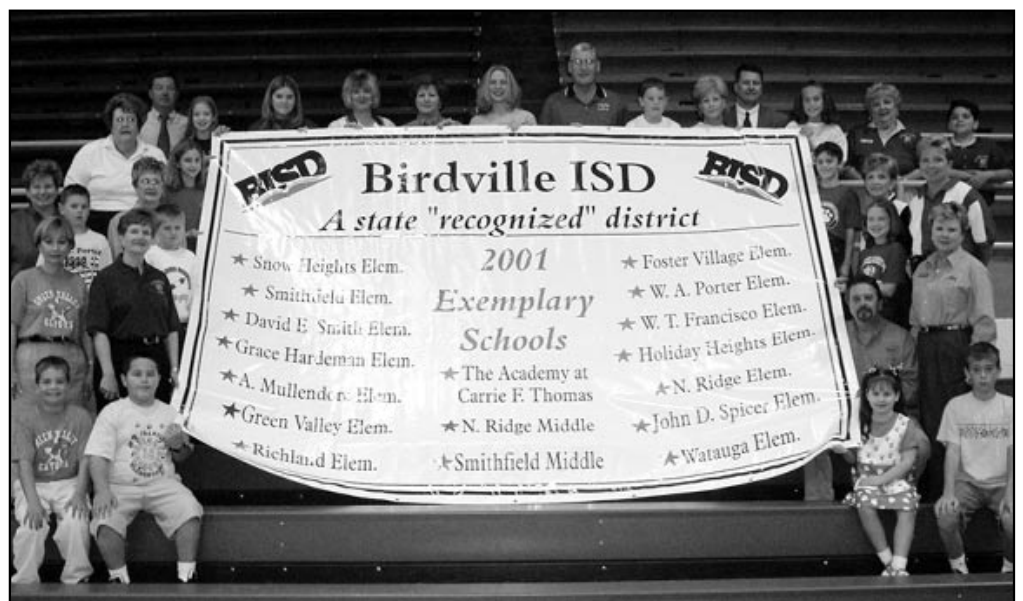
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Birdville ISD Dates to Remember

MLK, Jr., Day	Jan. 21
Winter Break	Feb. 4-8
Spring Break	April 1-5
TAAS Testing	April 16-19
Last Day of School	May 23
Graduations	May 25, 26

Striving for excellence

Commitment to students remains top priority



Seventeen BISD campuses — 15 elementary schools and two middle schools — earned the top state rating of "exemplary" for 2001. Ten campuses, including all three high schools, were rated "recognized" for 2001 by the Texas Education Agency.

As the 2001 fall semester comes to a close, Birdville ISD's commitment to the success of every student remains evident.

Beginning this school year, administrators from across the district have committed time each week to mentor students in reading, writing and mathematics. Virtual Education courses and distance learning opportunities have brought the world directly into our classrooms. BISD also will be piloting a new Spanish program on several elementary campuses.

BISD's dedication to excellence is what has made it a state "recognized" district for the past three consecutive years. In addition, the TEA has rated 17 campuses "exemplary" and 10 campuses "recognized."

See Page 2 for a list of BISD schools and their 2001 TEA accountability ratings

These ratings are an indication of the continuing positive improvements that began in 1995 when Green Valley Elementary became BISD's first exemplary campus. Our high marks are a result of the hard work of students, teachers, parents and staff.

Thanks to the support of the entire BISD community, BISD continues to strive for all 31 of its campuses — and the district itself — to earn the premier rating of "exemplary" that signifies excellence in education.

For more information about school ratings, visit the TEA Website at: www.tea.state.tx.us.

Superintendent's Exchange



On September 11, our lives were changed forever. What began as a normal school day soon became a day that we will never forget ... a day we watched our great nation come under attack.

In the midst of the tragedy of the day, I was not surprised at the way that the staff and students responded. These individuals came together to comfort and show each other support and encouragement. They became a family helping each other face the uncertainty.

Since September 11, Birdville ISD students and staff have donated more than \$15,000 to charity with the desire to help those who suffered from this great tragedy. I watched our community, led by our children, model the virtues that have been a part of BISD's curriculum for more than three years. Virtues such as compassion, kindness, citizenship, and courage were very evident.

As superintendent of Birdville ISD, I am proud to be associated with this community. In light of the events of the past several months, take time this holiday season to share a word of gratitude and encouragement to those around you.

TEA Accountability Ratings for 2001

Exemplary Campuses

- David E. Smith Elementary
- W.T. Francisco Elementary
- Alliene Mullendore Elementary
- Richland Elementary
- Smithfield Elementary
- Snow Heights Elementary
- Holiday Heights Elementary
- Watauga Elementary
- Grace E. Hardeman Elementary
- W.A. Porter Elementary
- The Academy at Carrie F. Thomas
- Foster Village Elementary
- North Ridge Elementary
- John D. Spicer Elementary
- Green Valley Elementary
- North Ridge Middle
- Smithfield Middle

Recognized Campuses

- Birdville Elementary
- Glenview Elementary
- South Birdville Elementary
- O.H. Stowe Elementary
- The Academy at West Birdville
- North Richland Middle
- Watauga Middle
- Birdville High
- Haltom High
- Richland High

Acceptable Campuses

- Haltom Middle
- Richland Middle
- North Oaks Middle
- Shannon Learning Center



BISD Fact:
Birdville ISD spans 40 square miles across five cities and is the largest employer in Northeast Tarrant County with more than 2,700 employees.

An education link
with the Birdville ISD community

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BIRDVILLE ISD MISSION

"BISD, in partnership with the community, pursues educational excellence and dedicates its resources to create a learning environment that encourages all students to become productive citizens and lifelong learners in a global society."

**Birdville ISD:
Lighting the Way
for Our Future**



TRUSTEE Spotlight



**Sherry
Dunn**

2001-2002
Board
Secretary
Place III

Occupation: Business Owner
Trustee Since: May 2001

Mrs. Dunn is a longtime resident of Haltom City. She has owned and operated Dunn-Rite Glass, Inc., for more than 27 years.

Although she is the Board's most recent addition, she is no stranger to Birdville ISD. Dunn has been an active member of PTA at the campus, district and state levels. She has served as Texas PTA Region III Vice President, Texas PTA District 11 President, BISD Council PTA President, and PTA President at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. She was the founder of BISD Council of PTAs' Clothes Connection.

In addition to serving Birdville, Dunn is a member of the Haltom City Crime Prevention Board, National Association of Homebuilders, Greater Fort Worth Homebuilders Association, and the Fort Worth and Northeast Tarrant chambers of commerce.

She and her husband, Bob, have two sons, Beau and Brad; a daughter-in-law, Missy; and one grandchild, Melanie.

Did You Know . . .

Birdville ISD derived its name from Jonathon Bird, who led a group of settlers west in 1851 to what is now Tarrant County. They named their settlement Birdville. Records indicate the first schools in the area began in 1855, and the one-teacher Birdville Academy was built in 1858 on Birdville Hill in what is now Haltom City. Today, the district has 31 campuses and serves more than 21,500 students in five communities.

Students reaping rewards of hard work

Two BISD seniors named National Merit semifinalists

Nearly 1.2 million students in more than 20,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2001 Merit Program by taking the 2000 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test as juniors. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's high school seniors received the prestigious designation of becoming a semifinalist this year.

BISD congratulates these students and their families on their accomplishments. BISD's two National Merit semifinalists for 2002 are:

Jodi Andrews Haltom High

Jodi is a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Choir, and Student Council. She has served two years as president of the International Thespian Society Troupe #4036, and was elected as junior class historian. She has been recognized for Academic Achievement from the Texas Committee for Educational Excellence. Jodi plans to major in Psychology at Texas A&M University. She is the daughter of Audrey Andrews and granddaughter of Evelyn Miller.



Kristen Parker Richland High

Kristen is a member of the National Honor Society, Richland High School Site-Based Student Leadership Team, the International Thespian Society, and is president of the Texas Association of Future Educators. She is a member of the Rebellaires and has performed in every RHS theatre production since her junior year. Kristen is a devoted member of her church and the organization "Working Within Our Community." She plans to major in Psychology at Abilene Christian University. Kristen is the daughter of Kathy and Andy Parker.



National Merit Scholarship commended students

Jeremy Graham of Birdville High; Evan Archer and Scott Bagley of Haltom High; Blake Bennett, Meredith Cooper, Kathleen Fitzgerald, John Leake, David Legault, Jennifer Lohrke, Amy Montalvo, Kelsey Moore, Michael Moose, Lindsay Petersen and Lauren Yarbrough of Richland High.

WWII veterans may receive high school diplomas under new law

World War II veterans who left a Texas high school to serve in the Armed Forces may be eligible for a high school diploma, thanks to a new state law.

Senate Bill 387 will allow school districts to issue diplomas to honorably discharged veter-

ans who were scheduled to graduate from a Texas high school after 1940 and before 1951. These veterans must have left their high school before graduation to serve in World War II.

Under the proposed rules, WWII veterans or those acting on behalf of

deceased veterans from BHS must apply directly to BISD.

If you attended BHS during these years and meet the above criteria, call Karen Hibbs at 817.547.5800. For any other Texas high school, contact Tim Cole at 817.581.2653.

Highlights . . .

Around the District

Announcements . . .

Adult Education General Education Diploma (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) evening classes have started and will run all year. The classes are free and no registration is required. The GED class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. at the Shannon Learning Center, Room 312. ESL classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Shannon Center, Room 314. Classes run through May 9, 2002. For information, call 817.547.5786.

Are you interested in taking an online class through **BISD's Virtual Education Program**? BISD offers Algebra I, Geometry, Pre-AP Biology, AP Biology, Latin I, Integrated Physics/ Chemistry, Economics, Government and English I. For more information, call Lane Ledbetter at 817.547.5754.



BISD libraries accept donations for the purchase of new books given in-memory-of or in-honor-of individuals. This is an outstanding way to help students and to honor someone special. For information about donating books, contact your campus principal or librarian, or call 817.547.5665.

Are you curious about the history of Birdville schools? The **Birdville Association of Retired School Personnel (BARSP)** is collecting

items for the Ida Joe Reynolds Room. This room contains archived material such as old annuals, photo albums, news articles and much more. The Ida Joe Reynolds Room is located at 5304 E. Belknap and is open during regular school hours. If you are interested in donating memorabilia related to BISD, please call Joe Reynolds at 817.485.1138.

Do you know a child with a disability? Contact Special Services, 817.547.5700, for information or available assistance.

Awards . . .

The Northeast Chamber of Commerce awarded Superintendent **Bob E. Griggs** the "Big Man on Campus Award" at its 44th Annual Awards Dinner on Nov. 8. Griggs was recognized for his commitment to the Chamber and to the Birdville district.



Janna Smith, third-grade teacher at **Birdville Elementary**, was recognized for being honored as the "Wal-Mart, North Richland Hills 2002 Teacher of the Year."

Ronda Schaefer of **Haltom High School** was recognized as BISD's first virtual teacher. Her commitment and dedication while preparing and teaching the online Algebra I course was key to the successful start of BISD's Virtual Education program.



Birdville Elementary was recognized for being named as one of the National Elementary Blue Ribbon Schools for 2000-2001 by the United States Department of Education. **Marta White** is the principal.

Congratulations to **Birdville High School Principal Debbie Tribble** for being selected as the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals' Principal of the Year for Region 11. This selection places her name in nomination for the Texas State High School Principal of the Year Award.



Congratulations to **North Richland Middle School Principal Ray Thompson** for being selected as the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals' Principal of the Year for Region 11. This selection



places his name in nomination for the Texas State Middle School Principal of the Year Award.



Dillon Young, second grader at **O.H. Stowe Elementary**, was recognized as BISD's first Reading Bee winner. He placed fifth in the North Texas Reading Bee.

Congratulations to BISD's Coordinator for Health Services **Judy Beverly** for being selected to receive Score A Goal in the Classroom's Bayard H. Friedman Hero Award for being the most outstanding nurse in all of North Texas. The awards presentation took place at the TCU vs. Louisville football game on Nov. 23.

Birdville High School Varsity Tennis coach **Rick Heaton** has been selected as "Coach of the Year" for District 6-4A. Heaton was unanimously chosen by his fellow coaches in the district. District 6-4A is presently comprised of Southlake-Carroll, Grapevine, Boswell, Brewer, Northwest and Birdville. His selection is indicative of his outstanding leadership.

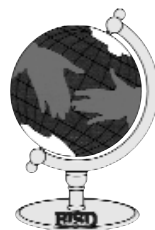


The **Birdville High School** Marching Band competed for the first time at the UIL State Marching Contest for 4A high schools on Monday, Nov. 5. The band placed eighth out of 21 bands, all of which are established programs. The band is under the direction of band directors **Brian Gibbs**, **Joe Nunez** and **Kevin McNulty**.

Seven BISD campuses have been selected to receive Board Goals Excellence Awards for programs and/or events at their schools. The program is designed to encourage and reward staff and students who further BISD's efforts to become a premier school district in the state with an international reputation. The awards are funded from revenues received from the district's 1999-2004 vending contract. Award winners for the period of July 15-Sept. 15 are: **Glenview Elementary**, Reading Level Books for first-third grade; **Glenview Elementary**, Hands on Science Lab/Equipment; **Richland Elementary**, Adult ESL Class — Nine week session; **Snow Heights Elementary**, FOSS Science/Media Kits; **The Academy at West Birdville**, Language Learning Lab (LLL); **North Ridge Elementary**, Science Equipment for TEKS; **John D. Spicer Elementary**, Science Lab Equipment for TEKS; and **North Richland Middle**, TI-83 Graphing Calculators.

Business Partners . . .

The following business partners were recognized at recent board meetings: **Steve Mills**, Allen Samuels Dodge; **Steve Glaze**, Allen Young Pontiac Buick GMC; **Randy Moresi**, North Hills Hospital; **Rory Day**, Office Depot; **Lisa Nelson**, Conway Transportation; **Kent Hudson**, Citizens National Bank; Gill Children's Service; and **Luis Estrada**, Hispanic Television Network.



"Helping Dreams Take Flight"

The **BISD Foundation for Educational Excellence** sponsored the first "Spirit of Champions" breakfast honoring Haltom and Richland high schools. The breakfast took place the week of the annual Haltom vs. Richland football



game. The community joined students from both campuses to celebrate the friendly rivalry that has existed between the two schools for nearly 40 years. Proceeds from this event went to the Birdville ISD Educational Foundation, which supports innovative programs within BISD. During the spring of 2002, the foundation will award \$45,000 for innovative programs that directly impact instruction.

Volunteers . . .

Volunteers are "Growing Strong Together" as they reach across BISD. So far this school year, BISD has recorded more than 4,009 volunteers, with more being approved everyday. The superintendent's challenge is 5,250 approved volunteers donating more than 285,000 hours. If you are interested in being a volunteer in BISD, contact your local campus or call the volunteer office at 817.547.5423.

Birdville Council PTA won the state Outstanding Council Parent Education Award! The honor was announced in Austin at the annual Texas PTA Summer Seminar. The council has an active partnership with the district to lead successful parent education workshops throughout the year. In addition, North Ridge Elementary won Outstanding Parental Involvement for Elementary Schools.

BISD bond projects are . . . *results in action*

Positive results of your bond dollars can be seen throughout Birdville ISD. The following is an update of work completed, projects in process and schedules for projects being planned.

1996 BOND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE ...

PROPOSITION I

New High School — Complete.

PROPOSITION II

Additions, Renovations, Land:

- SHW Group Architects has completed the design for an addition to the administration building. BISD has asked for proposals.

PROPOSITION III

Technology:

- New Gigabit fiber optic network backbone has been installed in all of the campuses in North Richland Hills and Watauga. Installation of high-speed fiber optic cable to campuses in Richland Hills and Haltom City is scheduled to be brought online during the spring 2002 semester.

PROPOSITION IV

Kindergarten Classroom Additions — Complete.

PROPOSITION V

Fine Arts/ Athletic Complex — Complete.



Construction on an addition to the Administration Building is scheduled to begin in spring 2002. This is the last project to be addressed under the 1996 bond.

1993 BOND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE ...

PROPOSITION I

Roof & HVAC:

- Buildings scheduled to receive new roofs are proceeding as planned. Eighteen of the 19 total projects are complete. The remaining roofing project (administration building) will be included with other upcoming work at that site.

PROPOSITION II

Additions, Renovations, Land — Complete.

PROPOSITION III

Technology — Complete.

Birdville ISD seeks waiver from state for 2002-2003 school year calendar

Since 1994, Birdville ISD has adopted a modified school calendar with an early start date to accommodate a fall, holiday, winter, and spring break. In the summer of 2001, Gov. Rick Perry signed Senate Bill 108, which limits the start of school to the week of Aug. 21 unless the school district is granted a waiver request for an earlier start.

BISD administrators and staff believe that they have had strong community support for the modified calendar in the past. Because of this, BISD again this year formed a calendar committee to propose a calendar for the 2002-03 school year. This 24-person committee was comprised of

parents, students and BISD staff. The committee brought four calendars for consideration, three of which would require a waiver.

The committee distributed more than 12,000 ballots to students, parents and staff. Of those ballots, more than 3,000 were returned. Two calendars received a total of 80 percent of the vote, thus the District Advisory Committee supported the application for a waiver.

The community was asked to revote on the two most popular calendars. Again, more than 3,000 ballots were returned, indicating a preference for the Aug. 13, 2002 start date.

As required by law, the district

conducted a public hearing on Dec. 3 where 20 people addressed the school board regarding their preference for the school calendar. The Committee reviewed the ballot vote along with the results of the public hearing and again gave its support for the Aug. 13 calendar. The Board of Trustees approved the 2002-03 calendar. The waiver request will be sent to the Commissioner for Education in January for his review. He is expected to make a ruling in early March 2002.

BISD will post the ruling in the next Partnership newsletter, on BISD's cable channel 33, and at www.birdville.k12.tx.us

BISD has plan to evaluate roads, conditions in bad weather

Birdville ISD is dedicated to the safety of its students and staff. With the onset of winter, it is important for the BISD community to understand how the decision is made to delay or close school.

When the threat of snow or ice is forecast, BISD's superintendent, four associate superintendents and the director of Transportation implement the following plan to determine whether schools will be open, delayed or closed. Before 4 a.m., the director of Transportation checks the condition of roads and local weather with

area police. If conditions are questionable, the remainder of the team is notified and they begin driving assigned sections of the district. This is done to determine the safety of the streets. They report conditions to the superintendent and, based on these reports, the superintendent decides whether to start school on time, delay the start of school, or close school for the day. The district attempts to make a decision as soon as possible.

If the superintendent decides to delay the start or close school, the administrators notify local television

and radio stations. The district also posts this information on its Web site, www.birdville.k12.tx.us, and on cable channel 33. BISD only posts these notifications if school will be delayed or closed, not if it is open as usual.

If school is in session or if it is delayed and parents do not feel that it is safe to transport their child to school, it is their right as parents to keep them home. Perfect attendance and exemption status will not be affected if the student returns to school with a parent note. It will count as an excused absence.

State Legislature mandates information distribution about meningitis

During the last legislative session, the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 31, which requires public schools to annually provide all students and parents with information relating to bacterial meningitis. This article is for information only, and is being printed due to legislative mandate.

There is no outbreak. This information is to educate parents about bacterial meningitis.

What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Most people with viral meningitis recover fully and there is usually no need for the use of antibiotics. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare.

Bacterial meningitis is very serious. If diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal, or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Germs are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, sharing drinking containers, utensils,



Be smart when it comes to your health. Keep vaccinations up to date, get regular checkups and practice good health habits.

or cigarettes). The people most at risk are college freshmen who live in dormitories. Vaccines are recommended for young children, college freshmen and adults over age 64.

For more information:

Information is listed at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov and the Texas Department of Health: www.tdh.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/

Symptoms of meningitis

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have:

- Severe headache
- High temperature
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Neck stiffness, joint pains
- Drowsiness or confusion

The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots or bruises caused by bleeding under the skin.

Birdville ISD recently redesigned the Partnership newsletter. This change enables BISD to provide the Partnership online at www.birdville.k12.tx.us. Current publications will be placed on the home page and past issues will be under "Newsletters" in the BISD INFO menu. If you would like to receive e-mail notification of the posting of new newsletters, please e-mail your name, mailing address and email address to: Communications@birdville.k12.tx.us. Please indicate in your e-mail if you would like to stop receiving the quarterly newsletter by mail.

BISD virtues program continues to enrich students

Fairness, Courage, etc. top virtues curriculum for spring

The Board of Trustees adopted Birdville's Virtues in 1999 in an effort to enhance the BISD experience. A total of 31 virtues were adopted, and a different virtue is highlighted each month throughout the district. A historical character who displays/represents each virtue also will be discussed. During the fall 2001 semester, the virtues of self-discipline, citizenship, confidence and compassion have been emphasized. The following virtues will be discussed during the spring semester on every BISD campus:



Birdville Independent School District

January • Fairness • Nellie Bly

Definition: Following the rules and not choosing one side over the other.

February • Courage • Marian Wright Edelman

Definition: The ability to face fear or pain without losing self-control.

March • Patience • Nelson Mandela

Definition: The ability to deal calmly with trouble or delays.

April • Humility • Eleanor Roosevelt

Definition: Not placing yourself above others.

May • Joy • Will Rogers

Definition: A feeling of happiness or pleasure.



Birdville Independent School District
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