



An Education Link with the Birdville ISD Community

# Partnership *Newsletter*

Winter 2009

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*North Ridge Elementary  
2010 Battle of the Books  
Winner*

# Superintendent's Exchange



## Birdville Independent School District

Stephen F. Waddell, Ed.D. • Superintendent  
6125 East Belknap • Haltom City, Texas 76117 • 817.547.5700 • Fax 817.547.5530 • [www.birdvilleschools.net](http://www.birdvilleschools.net)

Dear BISD Families,

In February, BISD began communicating with families the change in start and end times beginning with the 2010-11 school year. As with any change, we knew this would be challenging for some families. However, I believe it is the best decision for Birdville ISD.

For more than a year, BISD has studied this plan. In the beginning phase, my leadership team and I reviewed it. However, it was important for others to have an opportunity to review the plan and provide feedback. The district's principals, assistant principals, many staff, community members, and the district's site-based (TEE) committee, which has parent representation, all had opportunities to help guide us to where we are today. The plan has changed and evolved over the past year.

Each day, BISD transports more than 6,000 students. The facts that this new schedule will reduce the number of early morning pick ups for both special education and regular education students, and reduce the wait time for students being transported at the end of the school day are the most important reasons for this change.

Potentially, this change allows our high schools to offer a limited number of zero hour classes. (A zero hour class is a regular class offered before the normal school day begins.) This allows a student to take their seven classes, zero hour through sixth period, or first through seventh periods. In addition, this change allows more flexibility for students based on the state's mandated four by four. (Four by four is four credits in math, science, English and history.)

With reduced funding from the state for operational costs, BISD must continue to look for ways to maximize funds. We estimate this change will save approximately \$200,000 per year in transportation costs.

Having the necessary financial resources to meet the ever-increasing operational costs is vital to the day-to-day operation of Birdville ISD. In fact, having the financial resources to meet inflationary costs for these and other expenses are essential to the operation of any home or business.

Though the changing of the school day start and end times does have some expected cost savings, BISD's ultimate decision was based on what is best for the students of the district. I ask that you give this change a chance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen F. Waddell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Stephen F. Waddell  
Superintendent of Schools



*All students succeed  
in a future they create.*

~BISD Vision



# BISD Birdville ISD 2010-11 Start/End Times



BISD's school start times and end times are changing beginning with the 2010-11 school year. This change will help reduce the number of early morning pickups for many students, provide sufficient time for routes to handle increased traffic congestion, provide the capacity to manage future growth, and improve scheduling and efficiency of field trips.

Under this change, middle school beginning and ending times are adjusted 30 minutes and high school times are adjusted approximately 40 minutes.

**New Times**

**Kindergarten**  
New: 8 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.  
Current: 8 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.

**Elementary (Remains Same)**  
8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**Middle School**  
New: 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.  
Current: 8 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**High School**  
New: 8:55 a.m. – 4:10 p.m.  
Current: 8:20 a.m. – 3:26 p.m.

*For more information, visit [www.birdvilleschools.net/startendtimes](http://www.birdvilleschools.net/startendtimes).*

## Birdville ISD Trustees Establish Scholarship Fund

Birdville ISD's board of trustees dedicated \$7 million of the district's oil and gas lease proceeds to establish an endowment fund for scholarships for BISD students to attend Tarrant County College. Beginning with the graduating Class of 2010, this fund provides the opportunity for any BISD graduate to receive a scholarship that covers the cost of the first year's tuition at any campus within the Tarrant County College (TCCD) system.

"BISD's vision is that 'All students succeed in a future they create,'" Superintendent Stephen Waddell shared. "By establishing this endowment, trustees are impacting the future of our students by offering them an opportunity to further their education. In addition, this program goes beyond ensuring that students are college ready as required in the 2009 legislative session's House Bill 3. It provides the means to make college a reality."

For eligibility criteria or for additional information, contact a BISD high school counselor.



**Don't miss this  
unique opportunity!**

*More than 500 students made the move  
for the 2009-10 school year.*



**Apply today!**

**Birdville ISD offers  
Open Enrollment**



**You're our  
missing piece!**

Visit  
[www.birdvilleschools.net/  
openenrollment](http://www.birdvilleschools.net/openenrollment)  
for more information.

# Celebrating Texas Public Schools Week March 8-12

(Denotes grade level)

Birdville ISD's 22,000-plus students will join more than four million others across the state in celebrating Texas Public Schools Week in March. This year's theme, **"Building Leaders: Today they learn. Tomorrow they lead,"** spotlights the host of educational opportunities available to students attending Texas public schools.

As part of the week long festivities, local campuses will distribute special invitations to parents and community members to visit classrooms and observe the positive activities and programs occurring in public education. Highlights of activities planned across BIRD March 8-12 follow. Please check with individual campuses for their complete list of events.

## Daily

### Elementary Activities

- Binion – Scholastic book fair
- Francisco – Parents invited to lunch
- Richland – Scholastic book fair
- Smithfield – Book fair
- Academy at West Birdville – Book fair, 6-7 p.m.

## March 8, Monday

### Elementary Activities

- Cheney – Classroom visits (PK, 3), 9-10 a.m. & 1-2 p.m.
- Foster Village – Breakfast/open house (K, 1), 7-8:30 a.m.
- Green Valley – (K) program, 7 p.m.
- Holiday Heights – Breakfast (PK, K), 7:30 a.m.
- Mullendore – Mom's breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
- North Ridge – Open house, 6-7 p.m.
- Richland – Strong fathers/strong families 6-8 p.m.
- Smith – Parents are invited for lunch(K, 1), STAKE display
- Spicer – PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Stowe – Recognition assembly
- Watauga – PTA meeting, (2) program/book fair, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Walker Creek – Book fair

## March 9, Tuesday

**Richland High School – Community breakfast, Omni Room,  
7:30-8:30 a.m.**

### Elementary Activities

- Birdville – Open house, 7:30-8:30 a.m.
- Cheney – Classroom visits (PK, K), 9-10 a.m.
- Foster Village – Breakfast/open house (2), 7-8:30 a.m.
- Mullendore – PTA meeting/(2) performs, 7 p.m.
- Porter – Open house, 6 p.m.
- Richland – PALS day
- Smith – Leader in me open house, 7:45-8:30 a.m.
- Smithfield – (1) program, 6:30 p.m.
- Snow Heights – PTA meeting/(2) program, 7 p.m.
- Spicer – Donuts and coffee with the principal, 8 a.m.
- Academy at CF Thomas – Open house, 7:30-8:15 a.m.
- Walker Creek – Open house/book fair, 6 p.m.

### Middle School Activities

- Haltom – (6) picnic lunch with parents
- North Ridge – Family celebration
- Watauga – Community breakfast, Open house, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Talent show, 7 p.m.

## March 10, Wednesday

**Birdville High School – Community breakfast, 7:30-9:00 a.m.**

### Elementary Activities

- Binion – Loved one lunch (K, 1)
- Cheney – Classroom visits (1, 2)
- Foster Village – Breakfast/open house (3), 7-8:30 a.m.
- Francisco – Parent breakfast, 7:15-8 a.m.
- Green Valley – Celebrity substitutes

## March 10, Wednesday (cont.)

### Elementary Activities

- Hardeman – Muffins moms (5), 7:30-9 a.m.
- Mullendore – Dad's breakfast, 7:30 a.m.
- Richland – Pastries with Peacock, 9-10 a.m.
- Smith – Parents lunch with students (2, 3)
- Spicer – Science fair with judging
- Walker Creek – Book fair

### Middle School Activities

- Haltom – Breakfast with parents
- North Oaks – Breakfast in library, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

## March 11, Thursday

**Haltom High School – Community breakfast, 7:30-9:30 a.m.**

### Elementary Activities

- Binion – PTA (K) program/Open house, 6:30 p.m., Loved one lunch (2, 3)
- Birdville – Community breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m.; Open house/(1) musical, 6-7 p.m.
- Cheney – Math marathon in cafeteria (3, 5), 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Foster Village – Breakfast/open house (5), 7-8:30 a.m.
- W.T. Francisco – PTA open house, 7 p.m.
- Green Valley – Art day
- Hardeman – Open house, 8-9 a.m.
- Mullendore – Open house/family dinner, 6 p.m.
- Richland – Family lunch day, Volunteer appreciation tea, 5:30 p.m.; PTA meeting/program, 6:30 p.m.
- Smith – Parents lunch with students (4, 5)
- Spicer – Classroom group pictures
- Stowe – Math bee/community dinner, 7 p.m.
- Academy at C.F. Thomas – Open house, 5-6:30 p.m.
- Walker Creek – Book fair

### Middle School Activities

- Haltom – Picnic lunch with parents (7, 8)
- North Richland – Falcon fair, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Richland – Multicultural family night, 6-8 p.m.
- Watauga – Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

## March 12, Friday

### Elementary Activities

- Binion – Loved one lunch (4, 5)
- Birdville – Celebration of kids/Haltom pride day
- Cheney – Math marathon in cafeteria (3, 5), 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Foster Village – Breakfast/open house (4), 7-8:30 a.m.
- Green Valley – Celebrity substitutes
- Hardeman – Awards assembly, 8:10 a.m.
- Mullendore – Student of virtue breakfast, 7:30 a.m.



# District Highlights

## Business Partners

The following business partners were recognized at recent board meetings: **Scott Stanford**, Scott Stanford Insurance Agency; **Lorraine Irby**, Haltom City municipal court judge; and **Stewart Bass**, Watauga, North Richland Hills and Richland Hills municipal court judge.



**Cyndi Nyvall**, advanced academic specialist at Haltom and Watauga middle schools, was recognized as the Texas Association of Gifted and Talented Region 11's Rising Star Teacher of the Gifted for 2009.



**Andrew Pollum**, fourth-grade student at Spicer Elementary, was recognized as BISD's 2009 Holiday Card Contest winner. The three finalists were: Breanna Lucas, fourth-grade, North Ridge Elementary; Nate Coats, kindergarten, Porter Elementary; and Andrew Pollum, fourth-grade, Spicer Elementary.

**Birdville ISD, HKS Architects, Inc., and W.G. Yates & Sons Construction** were recognized for receiving the Award of Excellence in K-12 Education Project Division from Texas Construction Magazine.

**The Academy at C.F. Thomas, Smith, Foster Village, Holiday Heights, Richland and Watauga** elementaries for being named Title I Distinguished Campuses. These campuses were recognized by the Texas Education Agency for outstanding academic performance.

Congratulations to **North Ridge Elementary**, BISD's 2010 Battle of the Books Champions. Mullendore and Walker Creek elementaries tied for second and Green Valley Elementary placed third.



Congratulations to **Jordan Proffer**, Smithfield Elementary fourth grader, for winning BISD's 2010 Spelling Bee. Mason Doyle from Binion Elementary placed second, and Katie Green, North Richland Middle School, and Clayton Beeter, Porter Elementary, placed third.

**The Academy at C.F. Thomas, Green Valley, North Ridge, Smithfield, Snow Heights and Walker Creek elementaries, and North Ridge and Smithfield middle schools** qualified for this year's Keep NRH Beautiful Green Campus Award. These schools will receive a check for \$150 along with a 2009-10 sign to post on their campus.

## Special Notices

During the 2009-10 school year, Birdville ISD will administer the following federal programs to students that live within district boundaries.

- Title I, Part A (Improving Basic Programs)
- Title I, Part A (ARRA)
- Title II, Part A (Teacher and Principal Training and Recruitment Fund)
- Title II, Part D (Enhancing Education through Technology)
- Title II, Part D (ARRA)
- Title III (Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students)
- Title IV (Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Act)
- IDEA-B (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- IDEA-B (ARRA)

Representatives of privately educated students interested in participation in any of these programs can contact Dr. Betty Grubbs, director of special services, at 817.547.5740 or by e-mail at [Betty\\_Grubbs@birdville.k12.tx.us](mailto:Betty_Grubbs@birdville.k12.tx.us).

Birdville ISD offers Prekindergarten programs for three-year-olds and four-year-olds who meet eligibility qualifications including limited English proficiency; economically disadvantaged; homeless; children of active military parent(s); and/or children who are or have ever been in foster care. For information, contact your neighborhood school or Patti Mullen at 817.547.5730.



**Jason Wells**, Birdville High School principal, was selected as one of three finalists for the 2010 Texas Computer Education Association's (TCEA) Campus Administrator of the Year. This award is presented to a district or campus administrator who recognizes the importance of technology in the teaching and learning process and actively promotes the use of technology on the campus or throughout the district.



# 2010-11 District Calendar

## July

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## August

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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### Legend

- holiday
  - professional learning/student holiday
  - teacher preparation/student holiday
  - teacher preparation, half day
  - Major Test Dates
  - Graduation
- ( ) begin/end six weeks  
 \* inclement weather make-up  
 # Professional Learning alternate date

### Reporting Periods

- Aug. 23 - Oct. 1                      29 days
  - Oct. 4 - Nov. 12                      28 days
  - Nov. 15 - Jan. 14                      32 days
- Fall Semester - 89 days**
- Jan. 18 - Feb. 25                      27 days
  - Feb. 28 - Apr. 15                      30 days
  - Apr. 18 - May 27                      29 days
- Spring Semester - 86 days**

### Key Dates

- August 16, 18-20    Professional Learning
- August 17            Teacher preparation
- August 23            First day of school
- September 6        Labor Day holiday
- Oct. 8,11            Prof. Learning/Student Holiday
- Nov. 24-26           Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec. 20-31            Holiday Break
- Jan. 13 - 14        1/2 Day/Teacher preparation
- Jan. 15                Teacher preparation
- Jan. 17                Martin Luther King holiday
- Jan. 28                Prof. Learning/Student Holiday
- Feb. 21                Prof. Learning/Student Holiday
- Mar. 14-18            Spring Break
- Apr. 22                Prof. Learning/Student Holiday
- May 26-27            1/2 Day/Teacher preparation
- May 27                Last day of school
- May 28                Teacher preparation
- May 29                Graduation
- Dec. 20, Apr. 22    Inclement Weather Makeup
- May 7                 Prof. Learning alternate date

## January

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## February

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## March

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## April

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## May

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## June

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