

AHS NEWS

VOLUME I, ISSUE 3 JANUARY 11, 2010

EDUCATION GO GET IT WEEK: JANUARY 6-15

Hays CISD School District will kick off the new year with a district - wide event named Education - Go Get It! Our theme this year is "Not If, But Where?"

HB 2237 designates that one week out of the school year must be dedicated to Education Go Get It Week. The week is designed to "educate middle school, junior high school, and high school students about the importance of higher education." It also directs that each campus at those levels "shall provide students with comprehensive grade-appropriate information regarding the pursuit of higher education."

Hays CISD hopes that the

students will learn the following objectives during this week:

1. That college is defined as post secondary opportunities
2. How to explore interests and know how that relates to the school course.
3. The importance of taking more rigorous course in middle school and high school to prepare them for higher education
4. The importance of concentrating on coursework and grades and that they do make a difference
5. The importance of be-



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ing the first person in their family to go to college

6. That It might be worthwhile to explore the possibility of attending a college out of state, regardless of where their friends may be going.

Continued on p. 8

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 18 - Student Holiday
- January 20, 12:00 pm Senior Order Day for Caps and Gowns, announcements, etc...
- February 6, 8:30 am Financial Aid Saturday @ HHS
- February 13, 8:30 am Financial Aid Saturday @ HHS
- College Connection COMPASS Testing for Seniors
- February 20, 8:30 am Financial Aid Saturday @ LHS
- March 5, 8:30 am Financial Aid Saturday @ LHS

FINANCIAL AID SATURDAYS

Hays CISD is in a partnership with the Austin Chamber of Commerce in training adults to assist students and their parents with the FAFSA. Four Saturdays in the months of February and March will be "Financial Aid Saturday," where parents of students at Lehman High

School, Hays High School and Academy High School can obtain assistance in filling out the FAFSA and other financial aid forms.

The Financial Aid Saturday schedule is as follows:

Feb. 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Hays High School.

Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Hays High School.

February 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Lehman High School.

March 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Lehman High School.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COLLEGE SHOWCASE 2

HOLIDAYS FUN 3

SCHOLARSHIPS 8

From the Desk Of:

MR. AGNEW 2

Mr. Douglas 3

MS. LITTLE 3

MS. MOCZYGEMBA 4

MR. MYER 4

MS. OROZOVA 4

MS. HSIEH 6

MS. SEEGER 6

MS. HALL 6

MS. RHODES 7



COLLEGES HOLD SHOWCASE SATURDAYS

Stephen F. Austin State University is holding their showcase Saturdays on February 20 and March 27 from 1:00 to 5:00pm. No reservations required.

Texas State University is holding Bobcat Days on February 20, 2010, and April 17, 2010. You can preregister at www.admissions.txstate.edu/visit/bobcat-days.html

Explore UT, "The Biggest Open House in Texas" will be

held Saturday, March 6, from 11:00 to 5:00 pm. With over 300 activities to choose from, UT suggests you visit the Explore UT website to plan in advance. <http://www.utexas.edu/events/exploreut>

UTSA prospective student reception at the Monarch Events Center on February 24, 2010 - 7:00 pm

Come learn more about The University of Texas at San

Antonio at the Austin Prospective Student Reception. They will have representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, Housing, Campus Recreation Center, the Student Success Center and many more departments across campus. Bring your friends and family as you join them for refreshments and find out more about UTSA! Register online at https://www.utsa.edu/visitor/utsa_events/events_rsvp.cfm

SHOWCASE SATURDAYS CONT...

Aggieland Saturday is Saturday, February 20. Registration can be found at

<http://www.oar.tamu.edu/aggielandSaturday/registration.aspx>

and is recommended but not required. So bring your family and friends, and see Aggieland on Saturday, February 20, 2010.

On Saturday, April 7, Texas Lutheran College hosts Junior

Visit Day. Showcase is targeted to students about to wrap up their junior year in high school (but is open to all grade levels). Register at http://www.tlu.edu/admissions_visit_day_rsvp.

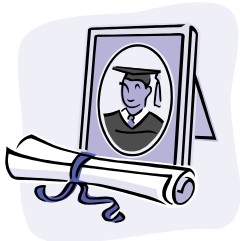
Huston-Tillotson University is holding University Day on Saturday, February 27. For more information, go to www.htu.edu.

The University of Houston will be hosting Cougar Friday on April 12, 2010. 222.uh.edu/campusvisits

If your college of interest is not listed, check their website for information about a showcase Saturday for this spring. Most showcases welcome parents to attend with prospective students.

In order to recognize Education Go Get It Week, our faculty and staff have decided to share their post graduation education experience with our readers.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. AGNEW



As we begin the spring semester at AHS, I reflect on the educational opportunities that go beyond the high school years. We are very fortunate to live in Central Texas and have the many educational institutions that are available to all of us. From Austin Community College to Texas State and

the University of Texas, as well as many small private institutions in this area, there is a place for everyone to receive higher education. I received a BA degree from Concordia University at Austin and my teachers' certification through Texas State University. I also took several

classes through Austin Community College. If you want a college education, there is a place for you, GO GET IT!

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT AHS

This year we held our Annual Thanksgiving Lunch on November 20th. AHS Students and Faculty were treated to traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

Following tradition, everyone was seated at a continuous table where students and adults could sit together and share in casual conversation. The tables were decorated by the advisories.

Distinguished guests included

Board members Mr. Ralph Pfluger and his wife Mrs. Lois Pfluger and Mr. Mark Jones; CLT members Lisa Nicastro and Suki Norton; Assistant Superintendent Carolyn Hitt, and Principal of Hays High School Mr. David Pierce.

Before the dinner, advisory classes held a food drive for the Hays Food Bank. The prize for the advisory that collected the most was to be first in line at the luncheon and to pick which faculty

member would dress like a turkey for the luncheon. They picked Mr. Myer to wear the turkey suit, which he graciously agreed to do.

In anticipation of the Winter Break, advisories competed in a Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The winning advisory was treated to a Hot Chocolate Party the day before finals began.



Mr. Myers attends the AHS Thanksgiving Luncheon dressed like a turkey.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. DOUGLAS:

Growing up I always assumed I would go to college. My parents and I never talked about it much, but I just knew I would. My mother had a nursing degree and my Dad had an associate's degree in Science. My older brother chose to join the Air Force out of high school, but that wasn't for me.

I really didn't know what I would study until my senior

year in high school when I discovered theatre. I was really excited find out I could act and sing in plays and still get a degree! It was four of the most enjoyable years of my life. I lived at home and the last three years were paid for with scholarships and grants, so fortunately, money was not an issue.

Although I really never made a living as a professional ac-

tor, the degree I received opened doors that would have remained closed otherwise. To prospective employers, it showed commitment and drive to pursue and achieve a goal. Most recently it has given me the opportunity to make a career change into teaching. Without my degree, I would have had to start

Continued on p. 5

IT'S TIME FOR PARENTS OF SENIORS TO GET BUSY ON THE FAFSA!

WWW/FAFSA.GOV

FROM THE DESK OF MS. LYTLE

Since I was in seventh grade, I knew I wanted to be a math teacher. When I got to high school I decided that I wanted to be an honor graduate and have automatic acceptance in to most Universities. Towards the end of my senior year I applied to college. I applied to Oklahoma State University, University of New Mexico, and New Mex-

ico State University. I decided to apply to these colleges because they all had great education programs and were close to my family. I was accepted by all three Universities. Each offered me a package to go to their school, but New Mexico State University (NMSU) offered me an academic scholarship for women who wanted to teach

math, a lottery scholarship, and another academic scholarship for being top ten percent of my graduating class.

While in college I had some of the best times of my life. I was able to have friends from all over the world. I was challenged, academically, at a level that I didn't know I was

Continued on p. 5



Mr. Agnew's room does not have a door, so he and his advisory came up with this alternative idea.

FROM THE DESK OF MS. MOCZYGEMBA



Faculty and student sit together in the Academy Thanksgiving tradition.

I attended UT-San Antonio, earning a B.A. in Sociology. I graduated from high school at age 17 and began college the following Fall. I was "young and impressionable" which might have made it easier for me to soak up the information. I lived at home the first two years, rented an apartment the last three years, and worked as a cashier at a grocery

store the whole time. Although it took me five years to earn a four year degree (did I mention it was the disco era?) it was well worth it.

The thing I remember most about college is the people -- both professors and fellow students. Although I no longer remember their names, I vividly remember what we did and what I learned from

them. For me, college was not about obtaining a skill. It was about meeting people and having experiences that took me farther than I ever would have gone I had not attended college.

FROM THE DESK OF MR. MYER

"My two different college degrees complement each other, helping to make the link between theory and practice, and broaden my knowledge."

After I graduated high school I attended the University of Texas at Austin. I wanted to go to UT because they were renowned for their science and engineering and I had a wonderful experience when I toured the campus in high school. What I most loved about UT was that I was given both academic and

personal freedom that I never had before. At university you can study whatever interests you. It is quite the privilege to have the opportunity to learn more about our world and how to make it better. In order to succeed at UT I had to discipline myself to set time for work, study, and free time. I have also

made great friends and colleagues during my time there. My university experience helped prepare me for both my career and my adult life.

FROM THE DESK OF MS. OROZOVA



Student decorating their advisor's door in hopes of winning a hot chocolate party.

I believe that education is one of the most important factors needed to succeed in life. Having an education can bring you many things like advancement, a career, stability, and of course knowledge.

After I graduated from High school I wanted to be an engineer. I went to college, studied hard and graduated with Master's degree in mechanical

engineering. This diploma opened the door for many job opportunities. I started working as mechanical design engineer and later on as research associate.

I always loved math and I decided I'd like to be a teacher. I went back to school, obtained my teaching certificate and started teaching math and other technical

subjects.

My two different college degrees complement each other, helping to make the link between theory and practice, and broaden my knowledge.

Having an education is a great thing. If you have knowledge, you have for certain one thing

DOUGLAS CONT...

from scratch and could have taken years. However, because of my degree, I am eligible for an alternative certification path that will take a lot less time.

There are numerous resources available to help make the dream of a college education a reality. It starts with YOU and your desire to make life better for you and your future family. So what are you waiting for? GO GET IT!!!

LYTLE CONT...

capable of.

After college I received a position in a high school as their math teacher. If I hadn't gone to college I would not be in the position I have today. As our world changes, I believe that all students need to give college (any type) a try.

Lastly, never give up on your dreams, even if it seems too hard.

OROZOVA CONT..

you can call your own and can never lose. Having an education can make you a happier and healthier person. You'll be able to enjoy some of the finer things in life because you'll have the time and the money to do so. You'll have a better life style, a better living environment, and more self confidence.

Go and get your education!



Faculty members serve the students at the Thanksgiving Lunch.

SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

The Texas Teen Scholarship for Square and Round Dancing High School Graduates is open to teenagers in the year of their graduation from high school who completed lessons and have been active members in a dance activities related club for at least two years prior to the application deadline. The applicant must be a member and continue to be active in a dance activities related club that is a member of the Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers. Qualifications include a high degree of moral character, scholastic achievement, and demonstrated leadership ability. Deadline is March 31st, and applications are in the Counseling Center.

KFC Colonel's Scholars scholarship application is open to students who are graduating this spring, maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.75, enrolling in a public, in-state college or university,

pursuing a bachelor's degree, and are US citizens or permanent residents. Application deadline is February 10, 2010. Applications are at www.kfcscholars.org

Ronald McDonald House Charities US Scholarship Program application is due February 16, 2010. Complete program details and eligibility requirements can be found at www.rmhc.org

Hays Local Scholarship Application is due March 26, 2010. Applications will be available soon in the Counseling Center.

Free Scholarship Websites include:

www.scholarships.com

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org/scholarships

apps.collegeboard.com
(www.collegeboard.com)

www.college-scholarships.com

www.scholarshiphelp.org

www.collegescholarships.org

www.newscholarshipsonline.com

www.scholarship-page.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.careersandcolleges.com

www.guaranteed-scholarships.com

www.salliemae.com/before_college/students_plan/free_money/scholarship-search

www.findtuition.com

www.hsf.net (Hispanic scholarship fund)

www.educationconnection.com

www.financialaidfinder.com

DON'T FORGET TO SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AT FASTWEB.COM.



At the Thanksgiving Lunch, this table is decorated with edible decorations.

FROM THE DESK OF MS. HSIEH



Ms. Hsieh is surrounded by friends at the Thanksgiving Lunch.

Since middle school, I had set my mind on becoming a pharmacist. I knew exactly which college I wanted to attend to reach my goal: the University of Texas at Austin. The reason I wanted to go to UT was that its College of Pharmacy was ranked second in the nation. To make sure I would get in to the university, I studied hard in high school and participated in many extracurricular activities. During my junior year in high school, I visited the campus

and absolutely loved it. When it came time to apply for college, I applied and was accepted.

As soon as I began school at UT, I immediately started working on the pre-requisite courses that would get me into pharmacy school. Meanwhile, my eyes were opened to the many new experiences that the university had to offer. I had the freedom to explore academically. That was when I discovered that pharmacy ultimately was not for

me. I switched my major to biology and began the path to becoming a high school science teacher.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at UT. I loved walking around campus, taking in the sights and sounds of the university. One of my favorite places on the UT campus was the beautiful "turtle pond," particularly in the spring when the water lilies bloomed and a new genera-

Continued on p. 7

FROM THE DESK OF MS. SEEGER

"TO MAKE SURE I WOULD GET IN TO THE UNIVERSITY, I STUDIED HARD IN HIGH SCHOOL AND PARTICIPATED IN MANY EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES."

When I graduated from High School I decided to attend Texas State University. I had visited and fell in love with the campus.

Texas State had beautiful brick walkways and buildings set upon gorgeous green hills complete with a river running through town. I also enjoyed how close San Marcos was to

both Austin and San Antonio; it is right in the middle with access to both. It was perfect for me; small town surrounded by bigger cities. Although the aesthetics were a big draw for me, the real reason I chose Texas State University is because of its Special Education Program. I knew that I wanted to pursue

Special Education when I was a junior in high school and Texas State's program was the best fit for me. It was an incredible experience; I can not imagine going anywhere else.

FROM THE DESK OF MS. HALL



This turkey poster helped advisories keep track of their fundraising progress.

The first time I thought about college was during my Senior year when my counselor called me to her office and asked me what college I was going to. After 12 years of being told what school I had to go to, I was very surprised that college was a choice.

I visited UT and thought it was too big. So, my parent

took me to Bobcat Days at Southwest Texas State University. After touring the campus, I knew that was where I wanted to go. I graduated with a B.A. in English and was certified to teach.

11 years ago I found myself living in Kingsville, where I had a hard time finding some-

thing to do with my time. My husband suggested I get my Masters Degree, so I went to Texas A&M Kingsville. I decided to get a degree in Counseling. We moved one year later, so I had to travel twice a week back and forth from Buda to Kingsville for classes, but it was worth it. Now, part of my job is to

Continued p. 7

HSIEH CONT...

tion of turtles emerged. I attended lectures and speeches given by well-known celebrities and scholars. I would never forget the experience of attending a lecture given by my childhood hero, Bill Nye the Science Guy. I made some great friends, whose friendship supported me through ups and downs. I took classes that got me started on new hobbies and interests (ballroom dancing, anyone?)

To me, college is about growing up, taking responsibility, and self-discovery. I am sure that I would not be the person I am today without my experience at UT. Going to college opens doors and gives you opportunities to explore. It is an experience of a lifetime.

HALL CONT...

make sure students know the importance of seeking more education after high school. There are so many more choices for them, today. I try to arrange a guest speaker every Friday that will speak to them about either a college, university, career school, or entrepreneurship. I also enjoy taking them on field trips to college fairs and career school fairs. My hope is to some day be able to take them on campus tours.



David Estrada helps himself to hot chocolate and cookies at the Hot Chocolate Party.

News from Ms. Rhodes, Principal...Happy New Year!!

College Days:

Undergraduate at Stephen F. Austin State University/ Nacogdoches, Texas

Bachelor of Science

Graduate at Sam Houston State University/ Huntsville, Texas

Masters in Education

.....

2010 will be a very exciting year of change for Academy High School. There is currently a district wide "Study Team" researching state and national exemplary alternative education campuses. By implementing research based successful strategies, we will strengthen the educational model currently used by Academy High School.

The Texas Education Agency has defined alternative education as... *Alternative education programs provide accelerated instructional services to students at risk of dropping out of school. At-risk students enroll at AECs of Choice to expedite progress toward performing at grade level and high school completion.* In 2010, AHS staff will be dedicated to this philosophy.

We are interested in hearing what your thoughts as parents or students are regarding possible changes for AHS. Please feel free to contact me, rhodesg@hayscisd.net, if you have suggestions/ideas that would assist Academy High School in becoming the "Best" high school in Hays C.I.S.D.

Have a wonderful 2010...

***JUNIORS
SHOULD BE
TAKING THE
SAT OR ACT
THIS SEMESTER.
SEE MS. HALL
FOR DETAILS.***



Students from Ms. Lytle's advisory proudly show off their winning door decorations.



Academy High School
4820 Jack C Hays Trail
Buda, Texas 78610

Phone: 268-8462
Fax: 268-4142
Principal: Gail Rhodes

WE ARE ON THE WEB

WWW.HAYSCISD.NET/SCHOOLS/AHS/INDEX.HTM

The *AHS News* is created each six weeks by Academy High School Counselor, Kim Hall

Scholarship Opportunities

A+ Federal Credit Union: \$1000 scholarship to hardworking area high school and college students. Applications are available mid-December through March 1st at credit union branches or on the website. Applicants must be a current A+FCU member, or an immediate family member of an A+FCU member attending or planning to attend a Texas college. apluscu.org/scholarship

ETS Scholarship & Recognition Programs: The 2010 Shell Oil Company Technical Scholarship and 2010 Shell Minority Scholarship focus on developing talent in the engineering and geosciences fields. To be eligible, applicants must plan to enroll full-time in geology, geophysics, physics, chemical engineering, civil engineering, electrical engineering, geological engineering, geophysical engineering, mechanical engineering, or petroleum engineering at specified institutions. Applications are due February 16, 2010. Copies of applications are available in the counseling center.

Best Buy is offering a 1,000 scholarships of \$1,000 dollars each. 9th—12th grade students living in the US & Puerto Rico are eligible to apply. Students must be involved in volunteer community service or work experience. Apply online at www.bestbuy.com/scholarships or www.at15.com

The Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition Deadline is February 1, 2010. The theme this year is "African Americans in Texas: Past and Present." This competition is open to all Texas high school students, grades 9 through 12. 1st Place \$2,500. Second Place \$1,500. Third Place \$1,000. Details in the Counseling Center.

Continued on p. 5

EDUCATION GO GET IT WEEK CONT...

- Who to ask for help in getting more information about college and financial aid
- That a post secondary education opens doors to a brighter future
- That there is financial help to get a post secondary education and that this is the best investment they will ever make
- The benefits of a post secondary education and how it transfers to the salary most people will make over a lifetime.

Our campus will be recog-

nizing Education Go Get It Week with several planned activities. Each staff member will post their Alma Mater for all students to see. Advisory discussions will focus around advisors sharing their college experiences and students participating in question and answer sessions. On January 8th, a guest speaker from St. Edwards University will address the students. Faculty and student body will wear their favorite college t-shirt that day as well.

On January 11th, a speaker from Austin Community College will address the stu-

dents about Financial Aid . On the evening of January 11th , Hays CISD will host "Planning for Tomorrow... Today" at the PAC Center. Please see the flyer included with this newsletter for details. On January 12th, we will host a guest speaker from Everest Institute. On January 13th volunteer for College Forward will talk about their college experiences. On January 14th , the Seniors will have a meeting with Herff Jones to order Invitations, Caps, and Gowns. Finally, on January 15th , everyone in the school district will wear their favorite college t-shirt.



Official AHS Class Rings may be ordered from Herff Jones on January 20 during lunch. Order forms are available in the Counseling Center.