

Tyler ISD Designates Bad Weather Day

Friday, May 27, 2011, will be the bad weather make-up day for the February 4th school closing due to inclement weather. Students will have classes on Friday, May 27, 2011. The bad weather day of May 27 was purposefully set in order to avoid a conflict with Memorial Day on May 30.

The Tyler ISD school calendar is approved by the Board of Trustees. It is created through a lengthy, thoughtful process that relies on input and feedback from both the community and the school system, including the District Planning Committee (DPC). The DPC consists of business representatives, parents, teachers and administrators who serve as advisers to the District in a number of initiatives throughout the year, including the selection of dates for staff development, teacher work days, holidays and bad weather days in the annual calendar.

Upcoming Dates

Spring Break
March 7-11

Bad Weather Day - No School
April 22

Memorial Day Holiday
May 30

Last Day of School
June 2

The Link is published by the Tyler Independent School District and is designed as an informative resource for parents and students.

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Visit www.tylerisd.org for detail contingency plans. Contingency information will be distributed at each campus to all seniors with other graduation material. If there are any questions regarding graduation, please contact your campus principal or the district office at 903-262-1007.

Kindergarten students at **Jack Elementary School** celebrated their 100th day of school by wearing T-shirts with 100 pieces of candy, stickers, pom poms and anything else you could imagine on them. They also made hats to wear to show the 100th day of school.



Stewart Middle School's 7th grade football team finished the 2010 season 8 – 0. The Gophers out-scored opponents 208 – 24 this season. The offensive Most Outstanding Player was Bryston Gipson and the defensive Most Outstanding Player was Ivan Dyer.



A PUBLICATION OF THE TYLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Griffin Elementary School Remembers the Past and Celebrates the Future

Students and staff returned from the December break to a brand new school ready to make new memories. It was bittersweet as the first 75 years and the official ribbon cutting of the new Mamie G. Griffin Elementary School shared the same day of celebration. On January 23rd, students, staff, parents and community members gathered to remember the past and begin the future of Mamie G. Griffin Elementary School.



Griffin Elementary School was the last campus to be built from the 2008 Bond program. It sits on 7.6 acres of land and is approximately 90,000 square feet in size. The 800 student capacity structure holds 40 classrooms and cost \$17 million to construct.

(Left) Tyler ISD Board of Trustee, Reverend Orenthia Mason, talks about the past and future at Griffin Elementary School. Mason is a former teacher and principal of Griffin Elementary School.

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Campuses Make 2010 Higher Performing Schools List

The National Center for Educational Achievement (NCEA) released its 2010 Higher Performing Schools List for student achievement in the areas of reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing. Tyler ISD congratulates the following schools that have been recognized by the NCEA as 2010 Higher Performing Schools for Texas:

- Bell Elementary Global Communications Academy, recognized in Writing*
- Caldwell Elementary Arts Academy, recognized in Writing*
- Dr. Bryan C. Jack Elementary School, recognized in Writing*
- Griffin Elementary School, recognized in Reading and Writing*
- Hubbard Middle School, recognized in Writing*
- Moore MST Magnet School, recognized in Math*





Math & Science Night at Bell ES



Students and parents alike were in awe as they traveled the halls of **Bell Elementary School** during the recent Math and Science Night. At left, Oscar Lopez and Lorelai Walker participate in different learning activities for each of the five senses. As a tuning fork is held to Oscar's ear, the teacher explained that the vibrations made by hitting the tuning fork on the table is the sound that he is hearing.

Head Start students recently received a lesson in heart health. Students were shown how the heart works, how to use a stethoscope and how to determine the rate and rhythm of the heart at rest.

High School and Elementary Students Act Together

Robert E. Lee High School's theatre department performed the production of *The Wizard of Oz*. **Caldwell ES** students joined the cast in what was an outstanding performance.



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Caldwell ES Donates Farm Animals to the Needy

Caldwell Elementary School fourth grade students were involved in a charitable project during the holiday season that expanded their personal world and concern for others in a unique way. Students and faculty donated more than \$1,000 to the Heifer International Project whose goal is to help end hunger in needy parts of the world. The students were able to buy a heifer, two goats, a pig, two flocks of ducks, two flocks of chickens and tree seedlings with the donated funds.



Internet Safety Tip

Talk about offensive, dangerous, and threatening communications. If you have any concerns, inform local law enforcement. You can also report worrisome communications at <http://www.cyberline.com>.

Students Compete in Mock Congressional Hearings



John Tyler High School students competed in the *We the People State Competition* sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Law

Related Education Department in Austin. The students testified in mock congressional hearings where they demonstrated their understanding of the institutions of the constitutional democracy and the fundamental principles and values on which they were founded. *Photo: Left to right: Row 1 - Gabriel Flores, Jennifer Orren, Victor Valle, Roberto Vazquez; Row 2 - Lucero Zavala, Jamesia Davis, Ruben Duran, Jenniffer Leon; Row 3 - Samantha Hudson, Edgar Vergara, Jaime Albavera; Row 4 - Laura Myrick, Maria Araujo, Jazmin Reese, Jazmin Solis; Row 5 - Emmanuel Jimenez, Tyler Davis, Manuel Martinez, Magaly Benitez, Ashely Deveraux, Ta'Cola Howard, Brittany Price, Abigail Arreola.*

Moore MS Students Star Struck



Students participated in a Star Gazing Evening Party where they got to view Jupiter, the Moon, and stars that were visible in the night sky through hand-held telescopes.

The science department at **Moore MST Magnet School** was able to purchase five Galileoscope telescopes for students to use in the astronomy class. The Galileoscope is a telescope that allows the viewer to get a glimpse of the sights that Galileo saw over 400 years ago. This was a special offer provided by www.galileoscope.org and made possible by a donation from Edelman Financial Services.

Technology at Jones ES Enables Students to Video Conference with Former First Lady

Jones MST Academy was selected as an interactive site for a video conference with former first lady Barbara Bush. Students participating in the video conference had the opportunity to ask Mrs. Bush a question after she read parts of the book *First Ladies, Women Who Called the White House Home* aloud to the students. The students discussed what they would like to know about the first lady and submitted five questions in hopes of having just one of their questions selected to be read via the live video conference.



JaMia Whitaker was chosen to read the question to Mrs. Bush, in which she asked the former first lady, "What was your greatest accomplishment as the first lady?" JaMia stood confident and poised as she represented her classmates and campus.



Third Six Weeks Attendance Winners!

- Griffin Elementary School
- Hogg Middle School
- Robert E. Lee High School



Message from Dr. Randy Reid, Superintendent of Schools

Now that the state legislature is in session, difficult decisions will be made regarding the future of school district finance. As such, I want to share my thoughts about some of the challenges facing Tyler ISD.

While balancing the state budget is difficult during every session, Texas now faces a historic budget shortfall, which many experts predict could exceed \$30 billion. In addition to the shortfall at the state level, Tyler ISD is also dealing with the loss of several million dollars of federal stimulus money. Cuts to public school funding are virtually inevitable and there is certainly no chance of any funding increase.

Our district has been economizing wherever possible; at the same time we're working hard to provide a quality education for our students. Tyler ISD must work to become a leaner, more efficient school system. Tyler ISD is committed to protecting the jobs of our current staff members wherever possible. The Administration is working with the Board of Trustees to find the best solutions to address these funding challenges.

I encourage every teacher, administrator, politician, media outlet, parent and stakeholder to keep the focus on our children as we face these trying financial times. I believe there are steps that all of us can take to help protect and improve public education. Pay close attention to what is happening in our district and in Austin, and communicate your personal desires and expectations to the state legislators as well as to my office. We will provide additional communication regarding this situation throughout the spring as we learn more and continue planning for our future.