

Partnership Blends Two Worlds

The City of Tyler recently hosted the City officials of Qujing, Yunnan People's Republic of China. Twelve delegates visited Tyler's Moore MST Magnet School and Robert E. Lee High School among other stops throughout the city. The visitors were escorted by Tyler ISD administrators and school principals. The delegation was able to observe a variety of classrooms in their day to day teachings.



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Elementary Students Sew Blankets for Patients

As part of a community service project, Ramey Elementary students teamed up to make lap blankets for Hospice patients and children in area hospitals during the holiday season.

The project goal was to make 18-20 blankets in the school colors of green and gold. The students cut, folded, prepared, and wrapped them as gifts. Students from all grade levels (K-5) met after school to participate in the program.

"This season is about giving and spreading joy to others," said Ramey assistant principal and project sponsor, Susan Maglio. "We would like to instill in our students the importance of caring for others and giving a gift of warmth and love this holiday season. Hopefully, this project can grow into an annual event for our Ramey Rams to promote the importance of generosity within the Tyler community."

Art teacher Lisa Larios also organized the event and assisted students in making the blankets.



Upcoming Events

School Board Meeting
January 18

Winter Break
December 21 - Jan. 2
Students Return Jan. 8

Student/Staff Holiday
January 15,
Martin Luther King Day

Spring Break
March 12 - March 16

Report Card Dates:
Third Six Weeks
January 11, 2007

Fourth Six Weeks
February 22, 2007

Fifth Six Weeks
April 12, 2007

Sixth Six Weeks
June 7, 2007

Three Tyler ISD Schools Named Best Public Schools

Three Tyler ISD schools have been named in the national magazine "TexasMonthly" as the top public schools in Texas. **Caldwell Elementary Arts Academy, Andy Woods Elementary, and Moore MST Magnet Academy** are among the 574 elementary, middle, and high schools that were ranked as "high performing" schools in Texas.



Data is gathered and analyzed by the National Center for Educational Accountability (formerly Just for the Kids). The researchers analyze how students fare in measurable curricular areas: reading, writing, math, science and social studies. The demographic makeup of the student body is also taken into account. While not every school is measured in every area – the more areas in which a school is deemed higher performing, the better that school is ranked.

In order to identify high-performing schools, three years of performance data are used. In all three years of the analysis, schools may not have any passing rates below 75%. Also, during the three year analysis, schools may not have any performance rates on the highest standard below 15%. Congratulations!

Two Tyler ISD Schools Receive "Keep Tyler Beautiful" Award



Cynthia Johnson, Ramey Principal; Reba Schumacher, Director of Elementary Education; and Jane Bidlack, Bell Principal.

Ramey and Bell elementary schools were recently selected by the "Keep Tyler Beautiful" organization for the look and landscaping of their campuses. This award acknowledges the effort that the campuses make to enhance their neighborhoods with the care and landscaping of their campuses. The two schools were among fifty area locations that were reviewed by the Keep Tyler Beautiful organization.

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The Link is published by the Tyler Independent School District and is designed as an informative resource for parents and students. For additional information regarding Tyler ISD or topics printed in this publication please contact:

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linking parents, students & schools



Cover Coughs and Sneezes. Clean Hands.

Be a germ stopper at school – and home. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue and throw it away.

Clean your hands a lot

- After you sneeze or cough
- After using the bathroom
- Before you eat
- Before you touch your eyes, mouth or nose

Washing hands with soap and water is best. Wash long enough to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice. Or, use gels or wipes with alcohol in them. This alcohol kills germs!

Stop germs. And stop colds and flu.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/



Visit the Tyler website at www.tylerisd.org to sign-up for the Tyler ISD E-Link Electronic Newsletter to receive announcements about the latest news and events.



Board Appoints Interim Superintendent

The Board of Trustees appointed Gary Mooring as interim superintendent of Tyler ISD. Mooring is currently the deputy superintendent of the school system. His new role will become effective January 1, 2007.

Tyler ISD Bond Construction Update



Austin Elementary is in the structural steel erection phase and is approximately 80% complete. The brick work has commenced at the Gym. RPR’s plan of getting back on schedule has been affective.

Bonner Elementary is in the structural steel erection phase and is approximately 60% complete. Site utilities are 85% complete. The balance of the project is on schedule and under budget.

At Douglas Elementary, structural steel erection continues on the one story wing and the gym/cafeterium. The brick work is approximately 30% complete; Douglas is ahead of schedule and under budget.

At Jack Elementary School, all work is complete except the fence at the colonnade. Bryan C. Jack is on schedule and under budget.

Technology Discounts Top \$1.8 Million

In TISD’s ongoing effort to maintain a low tax rate, the district has applied for and received discounts on technology through the federal E-Rate program. The discounts received were for telecommunications services for all campuses and technology related to the construction projects funded by the 2004 bond program. To date the district has received \$1,862,337.59 for the 2006 – 2007 fiscal year. These discounts are equivalent to \$0.0334 cents of the tax rate which is a significant savings to the Tyler community.



The E-Rate program was established under federal law to provide discounts to public schools and libraries for telecommunications and internet access products and services. The discount amount is determined by a formula based on the percentage of students enrolled in the National School Lunch Program. Discounts range from 90% to 20% of the eligible products and services. District-wide TISD’s average discount was 73% for the current fiscal year.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMMES EXPAND



2007-2008 will be an academically pivotal year for TISD student choice in IB Programmes. The International Baccalaureate Programmes in TISD are expanding to a second high school and two additional middle schools. The district also anticipates authorization of one elementary school and the continuation of another elementary candidate school.

New IB Diploma Coordinators at both John Tyler and Robert E. Lee High Schools are working together with their teachers to implement an IB Preparatory Program that will begin for the first time in the fall at Lee and will replace the IB MYP Programme at John Tyler. Ninth and tenth grade students may apply now to be screened for the program which will begin in the fall of 2007. The coordinators are excited to plan the parallel development of thinking skills, academic discipline, and content depth, with the Diploma expectations in order to prepare students to be successful juniors and seniors who will earn the coveted IB Diploma at the end of their senior year. The IB Preparatory will add another dimension to freshman and sophomore studies in anticipating the intense, complex rigor of the Diploma Programme in grades 11 & 12.

John Tyler will continue to offer the two-year Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grades in 2007-2008. Eligible students may transfer to John Tyler to participate in the program.

REL will apply for the two year junior/senior Diploma Programme in June, 2007 which will bring the IB authorization team to Tyler in fall, 2007. The goal for REL is to be authorized for the Diploma Programme by the fall of 2008 in time for the 10th grade class to become 11th grade Diploma students in the following year.

Also, new IB Middle Years Coordinators at James Hogg, Boulter, and Hubbard middle schools are working to meet individual campus needs. The district is making the transition from a five-year Middle Years Programme, partnering John Tyler and Hogg for grades 6-10, to middle school only programs for grades 6-8. The IB Preparatory Program for grades 9 and 10 will take the place of year four and five of the original MYP programme.

James S. Hogg middle school will continue to offer the only authorized IB MYP Programme in 2007-2008 for grades 6-8. Eligible students may transfer to James Hogg for the authorized programme. Boulter and Hubbard middle schools have been training teachers with the IB Organization in order to work on curriculum development and the multiple facets of the Middle Years Programme in order to open their pilot programmes in 2007-2008. These schools are now taking applications for screening. Boulter will open with grades 6 and 7 for year one, and Hubbard will open with grades 6 and 7 for year one, and Hubbard will open with grades 6-8 for year one.

By February 2007, TISD is anticipating news of Rice Elementary’s authorization of their IB Primary Years Programme. The IB organization sent an authorization team in September to evaluate every area of what Rice was developing and implementing as a part of the IB standards. As an authorized program, they will be the magnet transfer school if other students from across the district wish to screen to be in the program and transfer on a space available basis for Rice. Andy Woods Elementary will continue their PYP Candidate School status in 2007-2008. Please contact the Advanced Studies office at 903.262.1025 for additional information.



A Farewell Message from the Superintendent

As my time here at Tyler ISD draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the privilege of working with your children, and thank each of you for the opportunity to serve as superintendent in Tyler.

I am very proud of the progress we have made as a district, and I leave hoping the staff and parents believe I have positively contributed to the district and community.

My first priority has always been to offer our students the best education possible. I am proud of the progress we have made in terms of improving student achievement and building support of our public schools, and I absolutely realize that improvement is a result of your support of TISD. I firmly believe the district is heading in the right direction and there is a lot of positive momentum to continue to build upon. My hope is that I have added value to TISD over the last 5 years and the district is positioned for continued improvement in all areas.

Gary Mooring is an excellent leader, and will continue to move the school system forward. Tyler ISD is fortunate to have him as an interim superintendent. May God Bless each of you and keep you safe. I wish only the best for each of you and TISD.

Respectfully,

Dr. David Simmons