Wildcat Weekly

from the Superintendent: Jason Marshall

Update on Texas 86th Legislative Session

The Texas Legislature has reached its half way point, and things are beginning to heat up at the capitol. Both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch (Senate and House) are in agreement that more money needs to be spent on education with the hottest educational topics being teacher salaries and benefits, Pre-Kindergarten expansion, and STAAR test accuracy. This bipartisan support for public education hasn’t happened often in recent years, so the spirit surrounding public education is very positive in Austin.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN EXPANSION

At the March school board meeting the PISD Board of Trustees approved an expansion of the district’s PreK program so that the district can offer the program to 60-80 additional students. The Board made the decision to expand the PreK because they realize the importance of a child’s education beginning at an earlier age.

Although the district’s PreK program is already providing early education to as many students as possible, there is a waiting list each year of students who qualify and meet the income requirement but who do not get to attend PreK due to the program being full.

Currently the district’s PreK program is located at the Washington Early Childhood Center which has reached full capacity. To make room at WECC for the PreK expansion, the district will relocate the PISD Employee Daycare to a property on the east side of the Loop that the district is in the process of purchasing. Moving the daycare will create the space needed for approximately eighty additional Pre-K students. The new PISD Employee Daycare Center will open in August 2019.

The PISD Board of Trustees is very excited about the PreK expansion, and the opening of the new daycare facility. If you know of someone who has a current three or four year old who might like to attend our PreK program next year, please have them call Mrs. Sheila Bradley, Washington E.C.C. Principal.

TEACHER STIPEND

The PISD Board of Trustees recognizes the value of our effective teaching staff and wants to retain our excellent classroom teachers. With this in mind the Board took a preliminary step to address teacher compensation at the March school board meeting.

To show their support for classroom teachers, the PISD Board voted unanimously to provide a stipend in the amount of $2,500.00 to be paid during the 2019-2020 school year. Although it seems likely that the legislature is going to act on school funding, the Board wanted to do something for teachers prior to the outcome of the legislative session. Should the legislature provide additional funding for teacher salaries, a salary increase would replace the $2,500.00 stipend.

PISD STEAM SHOWCASE

For the first time, Palestine ISD will have a district showcase on Saturday, May 4th, at Palestine High School.

The district is calling all campuses/grade levels to participate in the event. The showcase will feature science, technology, engineering, arts, and math projects and displays. Awards will be given in each of those areas, so get your students ready for our 1st Annual STEAM Showcase.
Girls Soccer
The Ladycat Soccer Team will play LaVega in the Bi-District round of the playoffs on Friday, March 29th at Mexia High School.

Boys Soccer
The 4A #1 state ranked Palestine Wildcat (27-0-2) Soccer Team defeated the 5A #6 Mt. Pleasant Tigers, 1-0, Friday night in a non-district game. The Wildcats start the 2019 UIL Playoffs with a Bi-District match-up with the Gatesville Hornets. The match will be played on Friday, March 29th at 8pm (following the Ladycats match with LaVega) at Mexia High School. Coach John Absalom

Tennis
The Palestine Varsity Tennis Team had one of its best overall tournaments of the year at Van on Friday, March 22nd. The Wildcats came home with five trophies (two first place, two second place and a third place). Monique Ybarra took first place in the girls' singles A bracket - her fourth win of the year. In their first tournament together, Noel Pouncy and D'Michael Bellfield captured first-place in boys' doubles B bracket. Alex Shiller and Camryn Lupo got their second straight second-place finish and Seth Sheeley and Cassidy Lupo took second place in mixed doubles B bracket.

Gage Concilio, in his first singles tournament of the year, took third place in the B bracket.

The JV tennis team competed in the district tournament on Tuesday, March 26th in Madisonville where they won several medals. Dominick Gonzalez won the district title in boys' singles. Abby Armstrong and Gabby Knox took second place in girls' doubles. Amy Fabian and Enoch Sodimu took fourth in mixed doubles. Deshaun Kelley took sixth in boys' singles and Rubi Cervantes and Kelsey King took sixth place in girls' doubles.

The Wildcats will be back in action at Taylor on Friday, March 29th before the district tournament next Monday and Tuesday, April 1st & 2nd. Coach Scott Tyler

Softball
The Ladycat Softball Team is improving every day! I could not be any more excited about the future of this team and this program.

Update from Tuesday, March 26th games vs Mexia
The JV lost a close one 10 to 7; Haley Kimbrough, Kaysha Felder and Tamara Deckard were standouts for the JV game. Varsity clawed and fought but could not pull it off in the end. Mexia jumped out in the first inning 4 to 0. We answered in the top of the 3rd with one run. In the bottom of the 4th Mexia scored 5 runs to end the inning. In the top of the 5th we scored 6 runs that led the inning to finish trailing 9 to 7. In the 6th inning we scored one run but they answered with a score of their own which closed the inning 10 to 8 Mexia. We scored one run in the 7th which lead to the final score of 10 to 9. Fazaria Edwards and Liliana Defore hit their first career and season home runs. The Ladycats are back in action for a non-district game Friday, March 29th @ Mildred. JV games start @ 4:30 pm    Varsity @ 6:00 pm. Coach Regis Andrez

Baseball
Baseball games were tough in Mexia this week, but the cats came away with a clean sweep. JV won 8-3 breaking away from a tight 3-2 game in the final inning. Varsity won 6-4 against a good Mexia squad. The Wildcats will play Mildred tonight at Mildred. Coach Austin Evans

Track Schedule
The Wildcats continued to improve in Track and Field while competing in the Doug Jordan Relays. The Wildcats won the meet with 116 points. Students with outstanding Field Event performances were Chris Harris, finishing second in the Pole Vault and Ahmad Deckard placing third in the Long Jump. Outstanding Sprint Performances were the 4x100 Meter Relay composed of Jeremiah Davis, Kobey Taylor, Tyler Hunt and Tayon Huntley finishing Third, and Marquis Thompson receiving two First Place medals in the 110 Meter Hurdles and 300 Meter Hurdles. Outstanding Distance Performer was Grant Attaway placing Second in the 800 Meter Run. Coach Darold Turner

Upcoming Track Meets:
April 10th-11th District Meet @ PHS
April 17th Area Meet @ PHS
Mrs. Mason’s Culinary students are making chocolate covered pretzels.

Ana Olguin and Edward Chavez, Mrs. Bristow’s dental students, practice taking x-rays of the teeth.

Mr. LaFontaine helping Hope Torrez on her vocabulary worksheet.

Mrs. Sharrock’s students, Vianey Gloria, Jenny Cotton, and Alana Johnson, are dressed up for an interview day.
Mrs. McCreary’s 7th Grade PLTW class dissected sheep brains in class this week.

PJHS students enjoyed their SUPERSNO Snow cones for a benchmark incentive treat this week. PJHS had 320 students pass their Benchmark test.

7th grade writing students stuffed STAAR questions into eggs for the 7th Grade Eggs-Travaganza next week.

Thanks to Mrs. Gipson for making our STAAR banner.
Lots of Crazy Socks!

Open House at A.M. Story
Southside Elementary

Principal: Grace Mancilla

Calendar of Events

3-29 through 4-5-19  Book Fair (Library)
4-4-19    SS Carnival  (5:15 pm-7:15 pm)
4-19-19   Student & Staff Holiday  (Good Friday)
May 6 through 3-10-19  Teacher Appreciation Week
         5-12-19  Mother’s Day
5-13-19  STAAR-3rd Gr. Math  (CLOSED CAMPUS)  No Food Drop Offs
5-14-19  STAAR-3rd Gr. Reading  (CLOSED CAMPUS)  No Food Drop Offs
         5-21-19  SS Field Day
5-24-19  Last Day of School   Early Release-11:30 am
Looking for bird nests and finding what birds use to make nests in Science Lab.

Steel Tunstall relaxes on his prize from the fundraiser.

Kindergarten Skating
Washington Early Childhood Center

Principal: Sheila Bradley

W.E.C.C having fun learning about transportation.

Mrs. White and Mrs. Carrizales’ classes had fun racing boats they made by recycling.

During Specials, Ms. Love & Mrs. Garcia had the students racing all types of transportation.
March 2019 Family Events  
PISD Texas ACE Afterschool Program

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<td>Northside–Muffins for Mom @ 7-8 am</td>
<td>Northside–Painted Cookies @ 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Northside–4-H Meeting @ 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Northside–Donuts for Dad @ 7-8 am</td>
<td>Northside–Goodies for Grandparents @ 7-8 am</td>
<td>Northside–Seuss-isation Ball @ 8:00 pm-7:30 pm</td>
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<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>Story–Black History 365 @ 5:30 pm</td>
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For more information about these and other events, please contact the TACE Site Coordinator for each campus:

**PHS:**  
Damon Hooe  
903-727-2627  
dhooe@palestineschools.org

**PJHS:**  
Robin Chapman  
903-727-2632  
rchapman@palestineschools.org

**Story Intermediate:**  
Angela Nixon  
903-727-2602  
apowell@palestineschools.org

**Southside Elementary:**  
Angela Nichols  
903-727-2625  
nichols@palestineschools.org

**Northside Primary:**  
Tammy Conner  
903-727-2601  
tconner@palestineschools.org
Library time is very important on our campus.

We like to grow our own vegetables.

Northside Texas ACE

Students practicing their math doing addition with pegs.

Students using the digital microscope and exploring the things around them.

Students doing partner reading during morning Texas ACE.
Southside 4-H students enjoyed a night of painting, fun and creativity. Misti King, art teacher from Northside, came over to help students and parents create a one-of-a-kind painting. Families had a lot of fun spending time together working on their unique creations. Thank you Mrs. King for all of your help. Our paint night was a great success!
Palestine Junior High School
Texas ACE

Helping out at Wildcat Acres!
Chem Club member, Alexis Kiser, paints an invisible message on the sign for the Chemistry Circus!

More Chem Club Shenanigans!
## Looking Forward

### March-April 2019

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<td>6:00p Soccer V Girls vs Ennis @ PHS</td>
<td>Tennis JV District Tournament @ Madisonville</td>
<td>High School UIL Academic Meet @ Fairfield</td>
<td>1:30p Dogwood Relays @ Wildcat Stadium</td>
<td>Tennis V @ Taylor</td>
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<td>7:00p Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>4:00p Softball/Baseball JV/V @ Mexia</td>
<td>5:30p A.M. Story Intermediate Open House</td>
<td>6:45p Palestine Education Foundation Purses &amp; Pearls @ Palestine Senior Activity Center</td>
<td>2:30p JH Boys &amp; Girls Track Relays @ Teague</td>
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<td>District Tennis @ Madisonville</td>
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<td>6:00p Adult English Awards @ PHS Wildcat Café</td>
<td>End 5th Six Weeks</td>
<td>12:00p Baseball V @ Rice</td>
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<td>District Golf @ Fairfield</td>
<td>UIL High School Speaking/Writing/ LD Debate @ Fairfield</td>
<td>4:00p Softball/Baseball JV/V vs Madisonville</td>
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<td>District Track @ PHS STAAR - 5th Grade Reading</td>
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<td>7:00p Regular Board Meeting</td>
<td>7:30a ACT Tests</td>
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<td>PHS Blood Drive 5:30p Baseball V vs Cooper</td>
<td>Area Track @ PHS</td>
<td>4:30p Baseball JV/V @ Madisonville</td>
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