

Weekly High Five

December 9, 2008

I hope all of you enjoyed the nice weather this weekend. It was great for outdoor activities, watching college football and getting in some holiday shopping. With cooler temperatures here, some of your students may need assistance obtaining warm clothes and a jacket. The Arlington Council of PTAs has a Clothing Room at Knox ES, which stocks gently used clothing and shoes for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. If you know of a family in need, please contact your local PTA.



The Board has begun meeting in closed session to further discuss the superintendent search. They met yesterday and will meet again Thursday.

Yesterday the vertical alignment planning committee, comprised of teachers and principals, held their first meeting. They received information on vertical alignment and why it is necessary and were trained on the components of the vertical alignment process. The committee members gave input on priority content areas, meeting times, characteristics of development committee members and the most effective manner of communication from vertical teams to teachers and administrators.



The use of TRIAND by principals and teachers to monitor student progress has greatly increased this school year. Since the start of school, TRIAND has been viewed 25,656 times for 839,255 minutes. If you have not yet registered, go to www.triand.com, and click the register button. Use your AISD FirstClass log-in and password. Results from grades 1-6 math, grades 4 and 6 reading, and grades 3-6 TAKS-M benchmarks were posted today. Look for results from junior high and high school benchmarks on Monday.

At the principals' meeting Thursday, we will be joined by the counselors from each campus. Breakout sessions will focus on sharing ideas to achieve the five campus goals and a status update of the goals at each campus. It will be a great opportunity for us to continue to share ideas and best practices. As always, I look forward to our collaborating together. See you on Thursday!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry McCullough".

Jerry McCullough
AISD Interim Superintendent

Standardized Dress Information

As many of you know, the administration presented information regarding standardized dress at the Board meeting last week. After a committee of parents, students and staff recommended that an option for standardized dress be considered for the 2009-2010 school year, the Board asked administrators to gather information. At Thursday's Board meeting, Malcolm Turner presented the findings from visits to two Dallas County school districts and schools in the Fort Worth, Crowley, Kennedale and Birdville districts and the results from the AISD principal survey. Almost 77 percent of principals are in favor of a standardized dress policy, and administrators in area standardized-dress schools give the policy high praise. Standardized dress guidelines give students more choices of colors, styles and manufacturers than uniform policies. After the presentation, President Jim Ash asked to put a discussion item about standardized dress on a future agenda.

Bit of Inspiration

"You don't think you need a coach? Tiger Woods has three."

-Thomas Colligan, Educator

"I have yet to find the man, however exalted his station, who did not do better work and put forth greater effort under a spirit of approval than under a spirit of criticism."

-Charles Schwab, Industrialist

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Dec. 10: Human Rights Day
- Dec. 13: ACT
- Dec. 15: Bill of Rights Day
- Dec. 18: School board meeting
- Dec. 19: Early dismissal
- Dec. 21: First day of winter
- Dec. 22-29: Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2: Winter Break



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