

Weekly Update

A Weekly Review of Achievements & Activities in Cleburne ISD
SPECIAL EDITION

Cleburne ISD's Top Stories of 2016

As we begin a new semester--and a new year--we are taking a look back at some of *Weekly Update's* top stories of 2016. It was a challenge making our final selections, as so many great things were accomplished by our students, schools and District in 2016.

Citizens' Bond Committee Presents Recommendation for \$130.5 Million Bond Election to Include Construction of New CHS, Improvements to Cooke and Coleman and Instructional Technology



The CISD Citizens' Bond Committee concluded four months of research and review of district facility needs, in presenting a recommendation for a landmark \$130,558,461 bond referendum to Trustees on February 8. The 59-member committee, made up of parents, retirees, business members/owners, civic leaders and CISD teachers, were challenged with developing the components

for a May 7 bond election, along with a long-range facility plan for the District. Their recommendations included the construction of a new comprehensive high school on the existing Cleburne HS site, the renovation of the current CHS into a Career/Technology Education and Fine Arts facility, renovations and upgrades to Cooke and Coleman Elementary Schools, new instructional technology for all CISD classrooms and a 1:1 mobile device initiative for students in grades 6-12.

Golden Pride's Melanie Looper Achieves All-State Band Honors for Second Time

In January of 2016, senior Melanie Looper was selected for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band, after advancing through the audition process, which began at the regional level. Looper was awarded 8th chair in the 5A Symphonic Band. This was her second time to be named to the All-State Band, after first achieving the honor as a sophomore. She is now studying psychology at the University of Texas and is also involved in the music program at UT.



Looper

Smith Student Wins Area 24 Spelling Bee; Coleman Student Places Third in Area Reading Bee



Clark



O'Toole

Two CISD students brought major honors to their schools and community in academic competitions in 2016.

Rylie Clark, then a sixth grader at Smith Middle School, won the Area 24 Spelling Bee Contest for the second consecutive year. She went on to represent Johnson County at the Regional contest held in March at Texas Christian University.

Emerson O'Toole was Coleman Elementary's Reading Bee Champion and went on to win the District title and the opportunity to represent Cleburne at the annual North Texas Reading Bee Championships. At the November contest, involving top second grade readers from across DFW, O'Toole placed third.

Voters Pass Bond 2016 by Near 3:1 Margin



The largest bond referendum in CISD history brought a record number of voters to the polls for the May 7 election. The bond election was approved by nearly a 3:1 margin, with 2,973 votes for, and 1,425 against.

“None of this would have been possible without the work of the CISD Citizens’ Bond Committee, that devoted more than 1,500 volunteer hours to shape the components and the projects within Bond 2016,” Superintendent Dr. Kyle Heath said. “Words cannot begin to express my gratitude, and that of the Board of Trustees, for their efforts, as well as the hard work and commitment given by so many, most especially members of the *Yes Matters* Political Action Committee. A special thank you to the Cleburne community for investing in our students today, and those to come.”

Students Represent Cleburne High School at the National Level



Williams



Hernandez

In 2016, Cleburne HS students were involved in skills and leadership events at the national level. Dylan Williams competed in automotive services marketing at the DECA International Career Development Conference held in Nashville. Jorge Hernandez, a 2016 graduate, was the winner in the Medical Math event at the Skills USA State Leadership Conference and represented Texas at the national competition. In

October, Cleburne FFA President Hanna Lisenbe represented Texas at the National FFA Convention. Lisenbe was placed on the state delegate list following her election to 1st vice-president for Area VII and now serves on an FFA national committee.



Lisenbe

New Principals for Cooke Elementary and Cleburne HS



Two CISD campuses welcomed new administrators last spring, including Le’Ann Downs, photo left, who was named the campus leader of Cleburne HS. Cooke Elementary students also had the opportunity to meet their new principal, Jake Walker, who came on board in late May.



Walker

2016 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Team Up for Graduation Speech

Class of 2016 Valedictorian Victoria Childress and Salutatorian Preslie Grumbles chose to give a joint graduation address, creating a new “first” in Cleburne High School history. A rain-soaked forecast forced the May 27 graduation ceremonies to be moved from Jacket Stadium to the CHS gymnasium, with live coverage of the event airing in the Don Smith Performing Arts Center and at neighboring Cleburne Bible Church. A total of 373 graduates were honored in the commencement celebration.



District Awarded State Grant to Expand Pre-Kindergarten Program



Cleburne ISD was awarded \$199,685 in grant funding through the state’s new prekindergarten initiative, to be utilized in a one-year pilot project to expand the program for qualifying early learners to all elementary campuses. All-day Pre-K classes are also being piloted this year at Gerard, Adams and Santa Fe.

Four Campuses Receive State Distinction Designations for Student Performance on STAAR

The 2016-2017 school year began with the announcement of Distinction Designations awarded by the Texas Education Agency to four CISD campuses, relating to student achievement and progress on the spring STAAR exams. Cleburne High School received state honors for Academic Achievement in Science and Social Studies. Smith Middle School was recognized for Academic Achievement in English/language arts/reading. Wheat Middle School was awarded a Distinction Designation for student progress on the STAAR assessments. Coleman Elementary received a Distinction Designation for Academic Achievement in Science.

District Staff Begins New School Year with Capturing Kids' Hearts Training



Cleburne teachers began the new school year ready to take student engagement to a higher level following districtwide training in the Capturing Kids' Hearts initiative. The three days of staff development in the program, utilized by schools and colleges across the nation, began with a convocation address by Flip Flippen, who developed the Capturing Kids' Hearts effort. Signs of the program in use range from classroom social contracts created by teachers AND students, to teachers greeting each student as they enter class each day.

CISD Introduces New Mobile App

Cleburne ISD launched its new mobile app in August, placing District and campus news and information at your fingertips. Calendars, CISD news, sports schedules, online payment for student meals and so much more--it's all available on the app. The CISD mobile app can be uploaded to Android and Smartphones and tablets from the App Store. Search for Cleburne ISD and follow the prompts.



CHS Senior Named National Merit Scholarship Commended Student



Cleburne High School senior Will Whitworth was honored in October by the CISD Board of Trustees for his achievement as a 2017 National Merit Scholarship Commended Student. Whitworth placed within the upper five percent of the more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test as eleventh graders.

Players Through the Decades Honored in Celebration of Jacket Stadium's 75th Anniversary



The recognition of players through the decades highlighted district home games this season in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of Yellow Jacket Stadium. Dan Burt, a member of the 1941 Jackets, the first team to play at the stadium in its opening season, photo right, is greeted by members of the 1958 and 1959 teams. Players from the 1940s through 2015 were honored in pre-game events.



Community Provides Input on Preliminary Designs for New CHS and Renovation Projects



Parents and community had the opportunity to share their thoughts regarding a series of preliminary schematics displayed in an open house held at CHS November 1. A Pre-Design Committee, made up of members from the CISD Citizens' Bond Committee, has also been involved in the design process, as Corgan Architects,



working with CHS staff, move closer to a final plan for the new high school and the CTE/Fine Arts facility.

District Prepares for Deployment of Chromebooks to Secondary Students



Superintendent Dr. Kyle Heath and the entire Central Office staff assisted in the unloading of the 3,600 Chromebooks destined for students in grades 6-12, made possible with the passage of Bond 2016. A series of parent meetings were held in November and December in anticipation of the deployment of the mobile technology devices to students, starting the first week in January, 2017.

Golden Pride Departs December 27 for Appearance in 2017 London New Year's Day Parade



2016 ended with the CHS Golden Pride Band's December 27 departure for London to represent Texas in the 2017 London New Year's Day Parade. The community was very supportive in the Band Boosters' two years of fundraising efforts to assist students with travel expenses.