We all know that January is School Board Recognition Month. The goal of this designation is building awareness of the crucial role our elected board of trustees plays in our community and schools. Please take the time to show our board members how much we appreciate their dedication and hard work. They are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing our school district. Their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children.

Even though showing appreciation should be a year-round process, taking advantage of School Board Recognition Month assures that these important people receive some of the thanks they deserve.

Please take this opportunity to acknowledge our public servants who make the time to share their vision and voice about the future of our children. You can email them through our district Groupwise system. Our Board members include Lynn Fields, John Graves, Bonnie Longnion, Mike Sullivan, Jim Eggers, Dave Martin, and Aaron Clevenson.

New benchmark assessment identifies needs

The professional learning communities philosophy adopted by Humble ISD stresses that each student will be treated as an individual learner. Every student has unique strengths, as well as challenges, that must be addressed by teachers whose goal is to help each student succeed in the classroom.

Professional learning communities founder Dr. Richard DuFour posed three questions to educators:
1) What are our students expected to know?
2) How will we know if they have learned it?
3) What are we going to do if they don’t learn it?

These questions are being used to shape the way Humble ISD measures student learning. Through benchmark assessment systems, educators won’t have to wait until they receive results of the annual state mandated TAKS test to know if their students have met clearly outlined objectives.

Instead, teachers will be able to determine every few weeks which students have not met established goals in core academic subjects. Unlike standardized test results that only show pass/fail rates by entire grade levels, the new method of testing can pinpoint exactly which students still need help in reaching specific goals.

“A couple of years ago, we developed benchmark targets using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). We determined what students at each grade level should be expected to learn by the end of the school year,” explained Janet Orth, Humble ISD Assistant Superintendent for Learning Support. “The only way we know if students have reached those targets is to assess them. So, we began to create assessments based upon the targets.”

The district is providing training to teachers to help them develop common testing materials by department and grade that will accurately reflect whether students are on track in meeting (Continued on page 4)
Accomplishments & Honors

The Kingwood Middle specialty choirs, Bella Voce and First Edition, under the direction of Amy Conkel and Diane West, participated in the 42nd Annual Heritage Society’s Candlelight Tour downtown on Allen Parkway on Dec. 10. Also, the KMS Young Men’s Choir sang the National Anthem at the opening of the Houston Aeros hockey game at the Toyota Center in downtown Houston on Jan. 14, before a crowd of around 9,000 hockey fans.

TMS Receptionist Debbie Pedigo announces the graduation of her daughter, LeAnne Pedigo, from the University of Houston on Dec. 20. LeAnne earned a degree in Interpersonal Communications, graduating Magna Cum Laude with honors.

Timberwood Middle School math teacher Melissa Stoltz has been nominated for the Disneyland Teacher Award.

TMS PE coach Janet Carrier and daughter La’Toya Scott will be graduating from Prairie View A&M University on May 7. Janet will graduate with a Masters’ in Administration and La’Toya will graduate with her Bachelors’ in Psychology.

Congratulations to Maplebrook nurse, Donna Liptak, who participated in the Houston Marathon.

Best wishes to the Oaks on its 25th birthday! Many former teachers and students joined Oaks in celebrating its birthday!

Timbers’ Lauren Martin, a student in Laura Smith’s fifth grade class, earned a perfect score on the year’s first WordMaster Challenge, Gold Division. Nationwide only 125 fifth graders earned perfect scores.

Jack Fields music teacher Jennifer Young will play Elektra’s attendant in Mozarts Idomeneo at Houston Grand Opera’s Wortham Center Jan. 28-Feb. 13.

Summerwood librarian Tonya Ashcroft received her National Board Certification in Library Media.

Summerwood secretary Cheryl Williams’ son, Derek, is a Navy SEAL and was recently awarded SEAL Team 3 Sailor of the Year.

Congratulations to RMS nurse, Mindy Schroeder, who participated in the Houston Marathon.

Wedding Bells

Kingwood Middle science teacher Amanda West and KMS athletic coordinator John McGee were married on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004. Amanda is the daughter of KMS choir director Diane West.

Summerwood third grade teacher Laura Risley announces her engagement to Bryan Patrick.

KMS science teacher Lynnette Rodgers announces the Dec. 19 wedding of her son, Matthew White.

Humble 9th English teacher/basketball coach Kara Liggett announces her Dec. 18 marriage to Alan Orgain in Burk Burnett, Texas.

TMS Para-educator Jackie Joseph announces the Dec. 31 marriage of her son, Roderick Joseph to Charmaine Ollie.

Summerwood Elementary PPCD teacher Anne Margaret Stock announces her Nov. 20 marriage to Frankie Gomez. Anne Margaret is the daughter of Pine Forest Elementary Special Ed teacher Susan Stock. Both bride and groom are 1999 Humble High School graduates.

Records/Doc. Development Supervisor Vickie Rosier announces the engagement of her daughter, Tamara Rosier, to Dustin McGrew of Cleveland, TX. A March wedding is planned.

Elm Grove first grade teacher Jan Walker was married New Year’s Day to David Franklin and has moved to Arizona.

Humble Elementary fourth grade teacher Stephanie Bokemeyer announces her Feb. 19 engagement to Joshua Brown.

Humble Elementary fourth grade teacher Emily Smith announces her engagement to Joshua Vinghaus. A spring wedding is planned.

Bear Branch second grade teacher Nancy Penola announces the engagement of her daughter, Bethany, to Matt Schneider. A summer wedding is planned.

District mail clerk Verlan Wilson and construction secretary Glenda Wilson announce the Nov. 20 wedding of their daughter, Sara, to Justin Jameson.

Bear Branch fourth grade teacher GeeGee Edwards announces the engagement of her daughter, Taylor Dennis, to Mark Renninger. A July wedding is planned.
targets. Replacing the traditional “chapter tests,” the newly formed assessments are given at the end of each block of learning in science, math, social studies and English.

Once students take a test, results need to be available immediately so that teachers will know what they must do to help students who did not meet the target goals for a particular block. Edusoft, a software program that analyzes assessment data, is being pilot tested at Humble Middle School this year. The software quickly gives teachers the feedback they need to be proactive in forming individual plans to help their students.

If the pilot test is successful, the software may be distributed to other campuses in the future, Orth said. In addition, Humble ISD recently named Kim Klepecyk as the Benchmarks Assessment Coordinator. She is assigned to help teachers throughout the district work their way through the new testing process.

Orth noted that seeing teachers work together on developing tests has been rewarding, but an invaluable outcome is that teachers begin to share ideas and information on how to meet the needs of individual students.

“I’m very optimistic about benchmark assessments,” she concluded. “During the training we offered for our teachers, a lot of them gave feedback on how they were excited about developing assessments differently. I think they see value in determining where students are in the learning process at any given time.”

We are sad to announce the death of HHS social studies teacher Jason Braunstein. Jason taught at Humble High since 2001. He resigned in December for health reasons and passed away January 4.

Sympathy to Melinda Gardner, Oak Forest Kindergarten teacher, on the loss of her father.

Condolences to Nancy Lowe, Para-educator in Basic Skills at Pine Forest, on the loss of her mother.

Sympathy to Jane Hough, Elm Grove nurse, for the loss of her mother.

Condolences to Crystal Livingston, HHS English teacher in the loss of her grandmother.

Sympathy to Misti Vice, HHS government teacher on the loss of her grandmother.

Condolences to Diane Henley, HHS secretary, on the loss of her mother.

Sympathy to Donna Lay, Adaptive PE Teacher at TMS, on the loss of her father.

Condolences to Sharon Meurer, Oaks Elementary first grade teacher, on the loss of her mother.

Sympathy to Matthew Schwer, TMS math teacher, in the loss of his grandmother.

Condolences to Cindy Breeding, KHS math teacher, on the loss of her mother-in-law.

Sympathy to Loweta Jorgensen, KHS math teacher, on the loss of her father.

Condolences to Sherry Ford, TMS applied skills teacher, on the loss of her mother.

Sympathy to Maria Rodriguez, Structured Learning Center office professional, and Charles Rodriguez, HHS Spanish teacher, on the loss of their father-in-law and grandfather.

Prayer Request for Zackary Cook, 17, son of TMS math teacher Michelle Cook. He has a heart valve defect requiring intervention and eventual replacement.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to the mother of Debbie Sherman, P.E. teacher at Maplebrook, who is recovering from surgery.

Get well wishes to Susie Barker, Maplebrook kindergarten teacher who is home recovering from surgery.

Elementary art teacher Terry Kelly broke her shoulder while hanging art work.

Hidden Hollow fourth grade teacher Karen Hostettler is recovering at home with a broken ankle.
**Wedding Bells**

Bear Branch second grade teacher **Jane Marvin** announces the engagement of her daughter, Kimberly, to Troy Smith.

PreK grant facilitator **Dawn Meador** announces the Sept. 26 marriage of her daughter, Miranda, to Matthew Mahoney. Miranda is a ’98 graduate of HHS.

**New Arrivals**

H9 librarian **Louise Lankau** announces the Dec. 29 birth of her grandson, Michael Anthony Chase. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Professional Development Coordinator **Sirtrenia Turknett** announces the Dec. 13 birth of her granddaughter, Samantha Rose Belle. She weighed 8 lbs. Mother Melanie is a Kingwood High School graduate.

**Troy Kite**, HHS Boys Head Basketball Coach, and **Danell Kite**, HHS counselor announce the Dec. 1 birth of their son, Caleb. He weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz.

Humble High aide **Sharon Joplin** announces the Dec. 17 birth of her first grandchild, Zachary Blake. He weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz.

Elm Grove basic skills teacher **Jill Lossman** announces the Dec. 4 birth of her grandson, Carter Santiago Ruck. He weighed 9 lbs., 2 oz.

Humble Elementary counselor **Debi Layne** announces the birth of her granddaughter, Camille. She weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz.

Humble Elementary principal’s secretary **Anne Parker** announces the Dec. 22 birth of her grandson, Brandon Wright. He weighed 6 lbs., 2 oz.

KHS English teacher **Paige Davis** announces the Dec. 22 birth of her son, Jackson David King. He weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz. Jackson’s grandmother is KHS assistant principal **Belinda Zoet-King**.

KHS science chair **Gary TenEyck** announces the Dec. 16 birth of his granddaughter, Emily Nicole Baird. She weighed 8 lbs., 14 oz.

**Summerwood second grade teacher Elizabeth Townsend** announces the Dec. 12 birth of her daughter, Meredith Leslie. She weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz.

Community Development office professional **Eva Jarrett** announces her engagement to Alan Leisenheimer. A March 12 wedding is planned.

H9 biology teacher **Sarah Berard** announces the Dec. 9 birth of her daughter, Ali Elizabeth. She weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz.

RMS athletic coach **Wednesday Burke** announces the Nov. 16 birth of her son, Marshall Thomas. He weighed 7 lbs., 14 oz.

Shadow Forest fourth grade teacher **Rhydonna Anthony** announces the Dec. 28 birth of her son, Rylan Cade Anthony. He weighed 5 lbs., 15 oz.

**Sharing, Serving, Learning**

Humble ISD custodians collected over 100 toys for Humble Area Assistance Ministries Christmas gifts for children in need.

Woodland Hills Elementary conducted a school-wide service project in which classes “adopted” a class at another Humble ISD school to provide paper products and refreshments for Christmas parties. Some classes collected enough to also provide playground supplies like balls and sidewalk chalk.

A student in Stephanie Anthes’ fifth grade class demonstrated his spirit of sharing and service in a wonderful way. Zachary Hanka won a cash prize for high gift-wrap sales in a PTA fundraiser. Instead of pocketing the money, the fifth-grader donated his prize money to the service project.

“Each morning, we announce students who are caught exhibiting good character traits,” said WHE Assistant Principal **Sarah Ballard**. “Zach asked that instead of announcing his name for the donation we include his entire class because they had all contributed something to the project.”

Timberwood Middle reading teacher **Quintina (Tina) Domino**’s seventh grade class read their way to serving children in need. In a program sponsored by Scholastic Book Club, the class read over 100 books by Dec. 31, earning 100 books that will be donated to needy children by Scholastic Book Club. The class received a certificate of congratulations from Scholastic.

**Celebrations**

Timberwood Science teacher **J. Kyle Schellinger** and his wife, Linn, observed their 30th wedding anniversary on Jan. 4.
The following story was written by Humble ISD Safety Coordinator Doug Monk.

Life is full of little ironies, isn’t it? Go figure, the Safety Coordinator’s wife has her wallet stolen the day after he sends out a memo about tightening security on our campuses. In fact, someone asked me if I had done it myself just to test the security in her school. Alas, I wish it were that easy. I would like to offer a few tips that I learned the hard way a few weeks ago.

At 2:45 p.m. a man walked into a back, unlocked exit and went into the first room he came to—my wife’s. Her purse was in the bottom right hand drawer, in the back, covered with paper. The pencil drawer was closed which activated a latch, locking the rest of the desk drawers. The individual knew to open the pencil drawer first in order to unlock the rest of the drawers. He leisurely rifled through her belongings, found her purse, took the wallet, was confronted by the assistant principal, and fled the scene.

He got away with all of our credit cards, driver’s license, address, phone number, her social security number, the children’s social security numbers, their schools and phone numbers, relatives’ addresses, friends’ phone numbers, and of course, various and sundry coupons. There were witnesses to his crime and his flight, including parents waiting in line to pick up their children. I was called within minutes of the crime and was able to act quickly, but not easily, which brings me to a few pointers.

First, deny the thief access to your belongings. So many times during building walk-throughs I see purses, wallets, and other personal property literally sitting in the open. If the last two theft incidents in our district are any indication, these people see a target-rich environment. They have brazenly walked into public school buildings with many people around and stolen personal property. Let’s deny them the access to our property. Lock it up or lose it...today.

Second, make a list today of all your credit cards and customer service phone numbers. I found that customer service numbers now make it very easy to report stolen cards. It only takes a few minutes, if you have a list of information handy. Include your checking account number(s) and bank customer service numbers. You may want to include your driver’s license numbers and social security numbers for you and your family or significant others. There are probably many other things that you could think of to put on this list. The key is that you make one.

Third, as soon as you know you have been ripped off, act quickly and calmly. Call and cancel or put on hold all of the credit cards and other accounts. I found that the credit card companies will allow you to cancel one card on an account and not the entire account itself. The bank also allowed me to put an alert on my checking account as opposed to canceling the entire account, not to mention that it is a good idea to have overdraft protection. After canceling these items, it took 7-10 working days to get replacement cards. The key is speed here. In recent cases, thieves have used stolen cards within an hour of taking them.

Fourth, identity theft is now a common occurrence. Your social security number can facilitate identity theft. How do you protect your number? Well, in the above incident, the thief had access to three social security numbers; my wife’s and my children’s. Three nation-wide consumer reporting agencies can place “fraud alerts” on your social security. If you call one, it automatically notifies the other two. It is a very simple process done over the phone. The three companies are:

- Experian: 1-888-397-3742
- Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
- TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289 (I used this one)

Once I called and reported the compromise of our social security numbers, they sent me a verification of the alert and stated that it was valid for 90 days. I also asked a Harris County Sheriff what the likelihood was that a street thief would use a social security number for identity theft. He replied that in most cases he has seen, street thieves are not savvy enough to know what to do with social security numbers to steal identities. I put the fraud alert on mine anyway. I must stress that you do it quickly.

Fifth, prepare yourself mentally for such an occurrence. Picture in your mind what you will do within the first few seconds of the theft. If you see the culprit, quickly memorize outstanding features such as hair color and length, height, age and clothing. Next, call our district police immediately because they can really reach our schools quickly. If you do not have immediate access to the above information, notify someone who does so they can act quickly or get to the information yourself so you can.

You may want to chase the individual (I did). The police and I do not recommend this. The thief may have the ability and weapons to do you harm; so let the police give chase. Our district police also have a personal, vested interest in these cases and take personal care in prosecuting and investigating them. We experienced this first hand in this incident. I was also very concerned about a follow-up robbery because the thief had my address. The police officers I have spoken to stated that this is a rarity. If the thief steals your keys, especially to your house, this is a different story. It is advisable to notify local police about key theft so they can take action to safeguard you and your family.

We can take proactive and reactive measures to counteract the damage that thieves in our midst can do. Remember, deny access to your property, lock it up or lose it! Make a list of important financial or personal information and store it in a safe, yet accessible, location. Respond quickly if you are a victim of theft. The thief can use your credit card or steal your identity within minutes of his/her vile act. Notify the social security protection agencies listed above quickly. Finally, picture in your mind, pretend if you will, what you will do to prevent theft of your belongings and how to respond if it actually happens. These are just a few ideas from recent, personal experience. You probably have others, so let me know if you do at 281-641-8187.
KHS staff raises funds for Terri Plagens

KHS history teacher and head girls golf coach Terri Plagens has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is going through chemotherapy. After chemo, she will have a double mastectomy, followed by radiation and five years of hormone therapy. A foundation established in her name is selling T-shirts to help with the expenses and treatments not covered by insurance.

A silent auction will be held Jan. 28 at KHS during the Kingwood/Humble boys basketball game. The auction will begin at 5 p.m., concluding at the end of varsity half time. Please attend the auction and support both HHS and KHS Basketball teams.

For more information contact Ashley Earhart or Kellianne Olson through district Groupwise.

Humble Ninth Mardi Gras Fundraiser

Le Krew du Chat of Humble Ninth invites you to the Second Annual Zydeco Ball and Gumbo Cook-off Friday, Feb. 4 in the H9 cafeteria and courtyard.

The Cook-off begins at 5 p.m. Entry fee is $25, and students participate free. The Ball is 7-11 p.m., featuring Louisiana accordionist Cedryl Ballou and the Zydeco Trendsetters. Admission is $5.00 and includes both cook-off and ball. Tickets will be available at every campus.

Each campus may nominate one woman and one man for Mardi Gras Krew King and Queen. For information, contact Guy Michael via email, or at 832-605-4897.

Dance Lessons available at the CLC

Short-term discipline director Budd Todd is teaching dance classes on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the CLC beginning Feb. 1. Learn to two step, waltz and more. It’s free to employees and family, so email Budd Todd for more information and to get enrolled!

Humble ISD staff welcomes new employees

Maintenance welcomes new employees George Elasko and Billy Bassett to Maintenance on Demand.

Cipriano Guerra transferred from Grounds to HVAC as air quality technician.

From the Family

KHS staff raises funds for Terri Plagens

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Raise $ with Rodeo Tickets

Get your boots shine and your “Yee Haw” ready for the 56th Annual Humble ISD Rodeo Feb. 11-12 at the Humble Civic Center Arena Complex. Activities include the carnival, BBQ cook off, arts and crafts vendors, bucking broncos and bulls, and more.

All of the funds raised benefit the Humble ISD Education Foundation and will be dispersed this year in Innovative Education grants.

The rodeo is also a great way for schools to earn extra money! Campuses will receive a package of pre-sale rodeo and carnival tickets. For every pre-sale rodeo ticket a campus sells, they will be given half of the value of that ticket! Pre-sale tickets are $8 for adults and $6 for students. If a campus sold 20 adult pre-sale rodeo tickets, they would get an $80 check from the Foundation! Be on the lookout for your package of tickets and instructions from Eva Jarrett in Community Development.

Grant Applications due

The Humble ISD Education Foundation has released their 2005 application for the Innovative Education Grant program. Grant applications and guidelines can be downloaded from the Foundation’s website at www.humbleisdfoundation.org. The deadline to turn your application in is Thursday, March 24th so start thinking today about an innovative and creative educational project you can ask the Foundation to support!

Be sure to attend one of the Foundation Grant workshops on Tuesday, February 22nd from 5:00 to 6:00 or on Wednesday, March 2nd from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Both workshops will be held in Room 240 at the Administration Building. Please email or call Jerri Monbaron to RSVP.
H-E-B’s Excellence in Education Awards were created to celebrate and recognize the contributions of public school professionals whose leadership and dedication inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities. Parents, students and colleagues are strongly encouraged to nominate their favorite teacher, principal or school district.

Teaching Awards

• **Rising Star Award:**
  Less than 10 years of classroom experience. One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $5,000 cash prize plus a $5,000 grant for his/her school.

• **Leadership Award:**
  10 to 20 years of classroom experience. One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $10,000 cash prize plus a $10,000 grant for his/her school.

• **Lifetime Achievement Award**
  More than 20 years of classroom experience. One elementary and one secondary teacher will each receive a $25,000 cash prize plus a $25,000 grant for his/her school.

In addition, 30 regional finalists will be awarded $1,000 each plus $10,000 for their schools.

Principal Award

One elementary school, one middle school and one high school principal will each receive a $10,000 cash prize plus a $25,000 grant for each of their schools.

A total of 15 regional finalists will be awarded $1,000 each plus $2,500 for their schools.

District Award

In Celebration of H-E-B’s 100th Anniversary, the 2004 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards will also include a $100,000 district award.

In addition, five regional district finalists will be awarded $5,000 each.

More than $500,000 in cash prizes

The H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are judged in cooperation with The Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.

Eligibility

All public school districts and state certified, full-time public school teachers and principals currently within the H-E-B service area are eligible for nomination.

Nominee Information *(please print)*

• Public classroom teachers grades pre-k through 12.

Teacher’s Name: _____________________________________
School Name: _______________________________________
School Address: _____________________________________
City: __________________ State: ____ Zip: _________
School Phone No. ____________________________________

Nominee Information *(please print)*

• Public school principals with a minimum of 5 years experience.

Teacher’s Name: _____________________________________
School Name: _______________________________________
School Address: _____________________________________
City: __________________ State: ____ Zip: _________
School Phone No. ____________________________________

Nominee Information *(please print)*

• Public school districts.

Teacher’s Name: _____________________________________
School Name: _______________________________________
School Address: _____________________________________
City: __________________ State: ____ Zip: _________
School Phone No. ____________________________________

Nominations must be postmarked by Feb. 11, 2005. Your nominee will be sent an application packet to complete and return if he or she is interested in participating. Applications are also available through the H-E-B Business Center of from your local store manager. For more information, visit www.heb.com.