



100th Day of School

In honor of the 100th day of school, first graders at Fairfield Elementary School had activities and lessons this week with the theme, "When I am 100". Student discussed what they would look like, how many children they would have, and other things that they think will happen when they are 100. The week's activities culminated with a parade of "100 year old" first graders (and teachers) through the halls of Fairfield Elementary School. The students provided entertainment for the Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, and second grade classes.

The Kindergarten class also celebrated the 100th day of school. They had a celebration that included songs and was followed by the annual "Hat Parade" for Prekindergarten, first, and second grade classes.



Re"cycle" Update

Fourth Saturday recycling is February 28th from 8:30am to 10:30am. Residents and businesses are encouraged to bring their paper, plastic, aluminum, tin and cardboard to the FHS bus loop on Post Oak Road to be recycled by Progressive Waste. Items do not need to be separated. Any questions, please contact Nicole Crawford at Fairfield High School.



Attached photo: Fairfield High School students show off the new bicycle rack. The bike rack, made from recycled plastic, was funded by TCEQ, Air Quality Advisory Committee, and the Heart of Texas Council of Governments. Thank you to the FISD Maintenance staff for assembling the rack for us.

Students shown (L to R) are DeErika Canady, Courtney Hood, Dennis Brantley, Caleb Scires, Haylee Bulger, Kirsten Marriott, Jeremy Wood, and Cole Bartlett. Jax Donohoo, in front.

Cross Examination Debate

FHS will send 3 CX Debate teams to the State Debate Meet in Austin on March 20-21 after winning the first 3 places in the District Meet. First place team, sophomores Cole Schick (TOP SPEAKER) and Nick Mooneyham; second place team, seniors Curt Frazier and Brandon Craddick; third place team, sophomores Haley Stone and Banner Monico.

CONGRATULATIONS DISTRICT UIL CX DEBATERS!

FIRST, Cole Schick (TOP SPEAKER) and Nick Mooneyham

SECOND, Brandon Craddick and Curt Frazier

THIRD, Banner Monico and Haley Stone

Photo: Top Speaker, sophomore Cole Schick. Photo by Kayla Mitchell.



DISNEY TRIP IS ALMOST HERE!

The Grand Band from EagleLand will be making their trip to Disney World over Spring Break. In the picture below, Band Director Bill Large talks to a group of parents about the upcoming trip.



Mock Trial at FJHS

7th grade Texas History classes participated in a mock trial the first week in February in Elizabeth



Partain's classroom. Santa Anna was the defendant and each class had to decide if Santa Anna was guilty of heinous war crimes and first degree murder or

if his atrocities were just a part of war. Although the trial was historically inaccurate, it was a great way to review the individuals and events of the revolution while learning courtroom procedures and debate skills.



Regional FCCLA Competition

At the regional FCCLA competition on Friday, the following Fairfield STAR Events competitors advanced to state!

Shivani Patel - 2nd place, Career Investigation, Jr.
Jessica Hill - 2nd place, Career Investigation, Sr.
Kamari Griffin and Jamesha Hatcher - 2nd place, Illustrated Talk, Jr.
Kierra Streefkerk - 1st place, Life Event Planning, Jr.
Shaquera Means and Brandon Craddick - 1st place, Life Event Planning, Sr.
Shelby Waltmon and Chloë Wilson, 1st place, Life Event Planning, Sr.
Austin Frasier - 3rd place, Sports Nutrition, Sr.

The following received medals for their achievement on FCS assessments.

Gold medal:

Carrington Roberts, Etiquette

Silver medals:

Ana Bonilla, Job Interview
Alexis Carter, Etiquette
Geonta Cotton, Job Interview
Skyler Daniels, Creed
Christina Ferguson, Job Interview
Jadelyn Govan, Job Interview
Kannon Grizzard, Consumer Math
Karisty Hopper, Consumer Math
Denis Izquierdo, Hospitality
Selena Muñoz, Etiquette
Jalon Thomas, Etiquette

Bronze medals:

Leslie Clem, Child Development
Alyssa Clifton, Creed
Ryan Coleman, Job Interview
Megan Copeland, Creed
Jennifer Espinoza, Consumer Math
Misael Galvan, Job Interview
D'Lynda Gatson, Job Interview
Jasmine Osuna, Job Interview
Kasidee Rumsey, Job Interview
Sean Spain, Job Interview

We were also recognized for a membership increase, and received an award for the most pre-registered members in the 4A division.

Teachers of the Year

Congratulations to the Fairfield ISD Teachers of the Year! These teachers were recognized at the Chamber of Commerce banquet in January.

District: Donna Housewright

FES: Mikki Riffenburg

FIS: Shetonia Scires

FJH: Darla Matthews

FHS: Susan Walsh

FJH Interact Club Visits Nursing Home

On Thursday, February 12th, the FJH Interact club made a trip to Fairview Manor, a local nursing home. The students took homemade valentines and other treats for the residents, and spent time talking with them to make them feel special!



Student of the Year

Caitlynn Stone, a senior at Fairfield High School, was honored as the District's Student of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet on January 22, 2015.



PHOTO: Senior Caitlynn Stone pictured with her mother and FHS teacher, Cheryl Stone, at the Chamber Banquet.

Eagle Eye Gazette

The Eagle Eye Gazette is a student created newspaper. This year we have 15 student editors. 3 in 3rd grade, 6 in 4th, and 6 in 5th, including an overseas editor who resides in Dubai for several months of the year with his family. The editors meet after school each Tuesday to write, edit, and type articles, as well as organize contests and plan paper related events, such as our current Post It Anti-bullying campaign. The editors are encouraged to not only write articles and stories, but to encourage and gather articles and stories written by other students. Our goal is for this paper to be created by ALL intermediate students. Once a paper is created (we do not have set deadlines, but try to get one a month out at minimum), students sell the papers for 50 cents a copy. This money is used to fund our field trip at the end of the year, where we tour a newspaper printing press and meet professional newspaper editors.... As well as play and eat.

Our editors include:

3rd grade

River Bonds (top salesman!) Sports Assistant Editor

Bragg Bonner- Comics Assistant Editor

Mason Daniel (Overseas Editor)

4th Grade

Rhynna Bonner- Special Columns Editor

Dalton McQuinn- Sports Editor

Blaise Monico- School Events Co-Editor

Ava Thompson- School Events Co-Editor

Lowgen Frasier- Assistant Contest Editor

Kalame Bonner- Assistant Contest Editor

5th Grade

Jordan Maciel- Story Editor

Nathan Dunlap- Comics Editor

Jeremy Kilkenny- Assistant Contest Editor

Gracie Jones- Art Editor

Hayden Frasier- Assistant Contest Editor

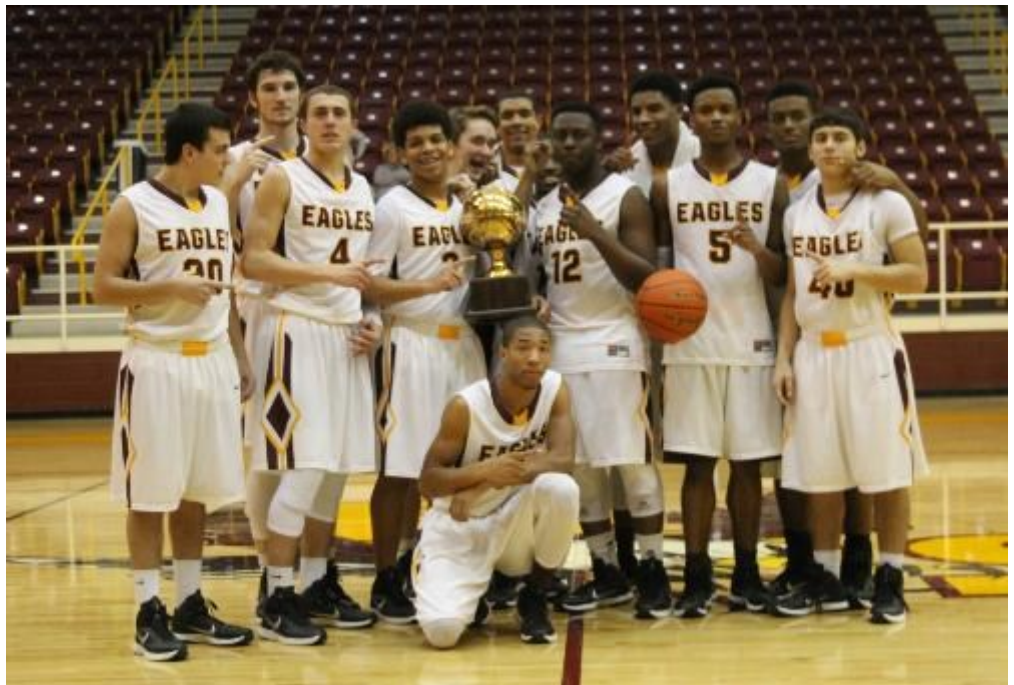
Tate House- Contest Editor

Boys' Basketball First in District

The Boys' Basketball team finished first in District 18-4A. They were undefeated in District play. The Eagles played China Spring in the Bi-District round on Tuesday, February 24th. Although the weather was cold outside, the Eagles heated up the gym in their overwhelming victory. The bleachers were filled with excited fans, led by the "Terrible Towels" who made lots of noise to keep up the excitement.

Pictured: left to right, Jake Wilkinson, Jarrett Carpenter, Cam Adams, Dominic Brackens, Ben Wilson, Dedrick Garner, Keishaun Cunningham, David Ransom, Charles Oliver, Cam Hicks, Caleb Scires, Noah Mireles, and Rahiem Hayes, front center.

Photo by Kourtnee Awalt.



SNOW!!!



Fairfield ISD Board of Trustees Calls Bond Election.

At a Called Meeting on February, 23, 2015, the Fairfield ISD Board of Trustees ordered a bond election for the purposes of maintenance, technology and transportation. This election will allow the district to purchase new school buses, update technology resources, and address maintenance issues in the district. As an example of the need in the District, FISD currently has 30 buses. Of those 30 buses, 23 are at least 10 years old and 16 are 13 years old or older.

As detailed in a previous article, FISD is preparing for the loss of over \$2 million in state funding known as Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction, or ASATR. In 2011, the Texas legislature eliminated ASATR funding effective September 1, 2017. Consequently, FISD is making financial preparations to meet the needs of the district in the face of such a significant shortfall.

Raising bond funds is one way to meet these needs. In the previous article, I addressed the “cost” of being a Chapter 41 district subject to “Robin Hood”. Approximately 35% of Fairfield ISD’s general (M&O) taxes are sent to Austin as a requirement of Chapter 41 of the Texas Education Code. The Texas Education Agency then sends those funds to other districts in the state. Bond (I&S) taxes, on the other hand, are not subject to this “recapture” from the state and 100% of those funds stay in the District.

When you consider the 35% “recapture”, it means that large purchases from FISD’s general (M&O) funds are more expensive than from bond (I&S) funds. What do I mean? As an example, let’s look at the purchase of a bus. A bus is approximately \$95,000. In order to have \$95,000 in the general (M&O) funds, the District actually has to collect almost \$145,000 in general (M&O) taxes. Of that \$145,000 in general (M&O) taxes, 35% or about \$50,000, is sent to the state and FISD can “use” the other \$95,000 to buy a bus.

However, if FISD purchases the bus from bond (I&S) funds, the District only has to collect \$95,000 in bond (I&S) taxes, since it does not send any of that money back to the state for “recapture”. The same scenario holds true for technology updates and maintenance updates. Using bond funds for large, necessary purchases is very cost effective for districts like ours that surrender M&O taxes to the state.

The next question is, “What does this mean to me, a homeowner in Fairfield ISD?” Barring an increase in the value of your property (which FISD does not control, it is the Freestone Central Appraisal District and Navarro Central Appraisal District who determine values), you will not see an increase in your property taxes. How is this possible? The District has some bonds from the construction at the elementary school and high school that will be paid off in the next few years. By calling for a new bond now, the District is able to maintain the current bond (I&S) tax rate at the same level, but bring in additional funds for the projects mentioned above. The rate actually would go down after the 2015 tax year, which could result in a reduction in taxes (barring an increase in property value).

The bond election will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015. Polling locations will be:

Streetman City Hall, 204 Main Street, Streetman, TX

Butler Community Center, 1628 FM 489 East, Fairfield, TX

Southern Oaks Volunteer Fire Department, 120 Southern Oaks Drive, Streetman, TX

Fairfield City Hall 222 S. Mount Street, Fairfield TX

Early voting will be held each weekday/workday at the Fairfield Independent School District Administration Office, 615 Post Oak Road, Fairfield, TX, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 27, 2015 and ending on May 5, 2015.