

## CFISD taps into Schoolwires

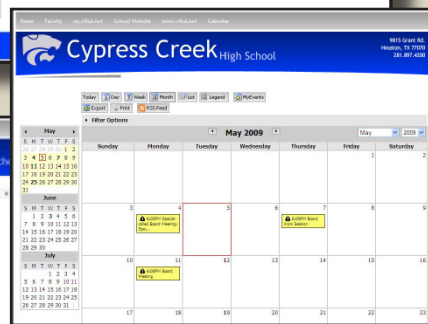
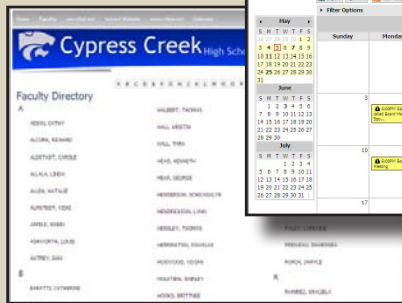
Teachers from Cypress Creek High School are the first to receive training for Schoolwires, a content management program that enables teachers and administrative staff on each campus to create their own personal web page.

The training for Cypress Creek teachers came about due to recent storm damage to the school's transformer. This caused teachers to be temporarily housed at Cypress Ranch High School. During this time, Principal Jim Wells decided that teachers from his school would benefit from staff development for the Schoolwires program.

"Although it was unfortunate that members of our staff were displaced because of the storm damage to our school, our teachers were able to benefit from something innovative in our district," Wells said. "I believe Schoolwires is a program that teachers will eventually appreciate because of its expediency."

Schoolwires contains numerous features that allow teachers to create their own web page, while also providing access to web pages of faculty in CFISD via a link called Faculty Web Pages, which is listed in alphabetical order.

"The district chose Schoolwires because it will provide a great way for teachers and campus staff to communicate with parents," said Becky Cook, director for instructional technology. "An added bonus is that teachers will be able to also use their webpages as an instructional tool for students, both during the school day



features, then presented step-by-step instructions on how to create a welcome page, downloadable documents and entries on their personal calendar.

Peterson facilitated the second hour of training as the staff worked on designing their pages. Nine technology helping teachers shifted back and forth from both classrooms during the training to provide teachers with technical support and troubleshoot minor issues.

The technology department is in the process of finalizing a comprehensive Schoolwires training plan that will be offered to all the schools as the 2008-

and after hours."

2009 school year draws to a close.

"Schoolwires is going to be a positive addition for Cy-Fair teachers as well as parents and students," said Erin Williams and Angela Schultz, Cypress Creek LOTE teachers. "We love that it will be consistent throughout the district. It is very user-friendly and has great features such as a calendar, an important documents page and even the ability to blog."

Additional services available from the Schoolwires program include the ability for teachers to store documents, post photos, embed videos, maintain a personal calendar, create online surveys, quizzes and forms, host a blog and much more.

"It is easy to use, yet robust in its abilities and features," said Leslie Francis, the district's webmaster and co-trainer for the project. "It also will translate into Spanish and Vietnamese with just a click of a button."

During the training sessions, Cypress Creek teachers were divided into two classrooms and received two hours of one-on-one training from Francis, Cook and Rena Peterson, instructional training specialist.

During the first hour, Francis and Cook provided an overview of the product's



Rena Peterson provides technical support on schoolwires to a Cy Creek teacher.