

# AT THE LAKES

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Newsletter for Families

February 2009

## A note from the Principal

Thank you for taking the time to view our first edition of "At the Lakes." First semester has been a memorable one. We opened our beautiful new school, only to see Hurricane Ike blow through! Fortunately, we sustained very little damage and are glad that our families came through well.

We are excited with our first semester successes. As Spartans we have "prepared for glory" and are seeing the results of the hard work of our students and staff. As TAKS testing time approaches, we are counting on our students to be prepared, focused on their education and ready to show that we can achieve academically. Please be sure to encourage your student to attend the tutoring offered and to prepare seriously for these exams.

I encourage you to view our on-line calendar and to use [www.cfisd.net](http://www.cfisd.net) to keep up with the events at Cy-Lakes. On February 21<sup>st</sup> we will have our "Catch the Dream" event to continue with our College and Career preparation. Please plan to attend!

Sarah Harty

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*You're invited!*

Please join us for

## *"Catch the Dream"*

A Cypress Lakes High School  
Community Event for parents and  
students attending Cypress Lakes,  
Thornton and Watkins

Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

12-5 p.m.

Cy-Lakes Campus  
5750 Greenhouse Road

"Catch the Dream" sessions will focus on preparing for the work force, college, and/or careers. You will be able to attend sessions of your choice on financial aid (loans, grants, scholarships), military options, college requirements, selecting a college, PSAT/SAT/ACT, and many more!

Learn ways to increase your child's academic success and ensure he/she is ready for life beyond graduation.

### **Interests, Majors & Careers**

(one of the "Catch the Dream" sessions)

Presented by

Rhonique Jefferson, M.Ed.

Academic Achievement Specialist

Cy-Lakes High School

*"Catch the Dream" schedule on page 3*

## CFISD Needs Bus Drivers

Contact-  
Human Resources - Transportation Department  
11430 Falcon Road  
Houston, TX 77064  
Phone: 281-517-2186

### ATTENTION PARENTS!!

IPC Teachers have their own website. Find out when the next test is or the homework that is assigned; get work for your child when they are absent or if they lost it.

Just go to [www.schoolandteacher.com](http://www.schoolandteacher.com) and enter your child's class number.

Coleman : 7993                      Rodriguez: 7995  
VanWinkle: 7997                  Gregg: 7994  
Simmons: 7996                      Kaur: 7998

#### SPRING 2009 BUS EVACUATION DRILL SCHEDULED

*Effective September 1, 2007, Texas House Bill 3190, requires that school districts provide school bus evacuation training for all students. The law requires conducting at least two training sessions per year for students, teachers and transportation personnel. The training will occur each semester during the school day and include a classroom lesson and a bus evacuation drill.*

The District has scheduled the Spring 2009 Bus Evacuation Drill for the following dates for students in grades Pre-K thru 12.

March 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Early Elementary</b> Campuses (Start time 8:10)
March 30 <sup>th</sup> – April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Late Elementary</b> Campuses (Start time 8:45 or 8:50)
April 6 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Middle School</b> Campuses & Carlton Center
April 20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>High Schools:</b> Cy Fair, Cypress Ridge, Jersey Village, Langham Creek, & Windfern HS
May 4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>High Schools:</b> ALC/ABC, Cypress Creek, Cypress Falls, Cypress Woods, Cypress Springs, Cypress Lakes, & Cypress Ranch

If you have any questions, please contact your school principal for assistance.

Thank You

## TAKS TESTING DATES

### 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**March 3, 2009**

Reading

**April 30, 2009**

Math

### 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**March 3, 2009**

English/Language Arts

**April 28, 2009**

Math

**April 30, 2009**

Science

**May 1, 2009**

Social Studies

\*\*\*\*\*

## TAKS Tutoring

2:40 pm - 4:20 pm

Monday - History

(10<sup>th</sup> graders)

Tuesday - Science

(10<sup>th</sup> graders)

Wednesday - English

(9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders)

Thursday - Math

(9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders)



## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Opportunities for Students

### College and Career Connection (CCC)

Join Cy-Lakes new organization dedicated to planning and exploring your future goals and opportunities. The CCC meets after school on alternate Mondays. Members will explore career and college opportunities.

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes meet in room 2515 every Friday morning @ 6:30 for Praise & Worship. All students are welcome! We are hosting a Love Clothes Drive Feb 2-13. All clothes, shoes, jackets, accessories, etc... are appreciated....

### Roots & Shoots Club

Information on Page 14

## "Catch the Dream"

Schedule

There are many exciting activities planned for children, students, and parents on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Sessions will focus on preparing for opportunities after graduation.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Food served during  
Mini "Health Fair"

(Health Fair continues until 5 p.m.)

1:00 - 1:50 p.m. Keynote Address by Linda Macias,  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Elementary Curriculum & Instruction

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Various "learning sessions"

Child-care provided with age appropriate activities.

Door prizes will be awarded!

This event is held in partnership with the TG Grant, National College Access Network, and Houston A+ Challenge, with funding from the Houston Endowment.

Upcoming

### "Saturdays for Success"

(TAKS interventions and  
credit recovery opportunities)

February 21, 2009 – English

April 18, 2009 – Math & Science

May 20, 2009 – Credit Recovery

**8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

lunch provided

Online released TAKS tests for practice

[www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/index.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/resources/release/index.html)

## News from the Counselors

### PGP (Personal Graduation Plan) TO BE USED FOR 2009—2010 COURSE REGISTRATION

CLHS 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be registering for next year's classes during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> using their PGP (Personal Graduation Plan).

What is a PGP?

- ~ It's similar to a 4 year plan
- ~ Students work with counselors to complete plan by listing 7 classes each year (4 core and 3 electives). Electives are chosen based on 16 career clusters. Students have chosen 1 career cluster that holds the most interest for future careers. Plan is put into computer.
- ~ Counselors periodically update students' PGPs as they meet with them and students' interests change.

How will registration work for next year?

- ~ Counselors will meet with students in groups, during the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, and discuss elective course opportunities, and core course opportunities (on-level, K/H level, AP, Dual Credit).
- ~ Students will be given copies of their registration forms for next year taken from their previous selections in their PGPs.
- ~ Students will also receive 2009-2010 Course Description Booklets. They may pick up handouts describing elective courses being offered next year, and applications for courses that may require them at the end of the meeting with the counselors.
- ~ Students will take information home to share with parents and return registration forms with additions and corrections noted.
- ~ Counselors will update students' course requests in their PGPs by March 27, 2009.
- ~ Students will receive a finalized copy of courses they are registered for in late spring. These should be checked by student and parent and returned with changes, if desired.
- ~ All changes must be submitted in writing by the last day of the spring semester - June 3, 2009.

# Freshman Parent Night

The Counseling Staff of Cypress Lakes High School invites parents of current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to an informative meeting on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. There will also be a presentation in Spanish in the Large Group Instruction room located upstairs near the library.

Information to be shared includes:

- ~what to expect in 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- ~registration process for next year
- ~graduation requirements
- ~AP & Dual Credit course offerings 10<sup>th</sup> grade & beyond
- ~Personal Graduation Plans
- ~Promotion Standards
- ~Community Service Opportunities
- ~Career & Technology educational courses
- ~Clubs & organizations
- ~and much more!

We hope to see you there!!

## Be Valorous~~Become a Mentor!!

The Partners in Education (PIE) Mentoring Program and Spartan Students and Staff of Cypress Lakes High School invite.....

**Who?** You!

**For What?** A CFISD mentor is a caring, trained, adult volunteer who is committed to helping students with their educational and personal development during the school year.

A mentor serves as an adult role model and friend to the student, providing a warm heart and a listening ear.

**Where?** Cy-Lakes High School

**When?** Approximately once a week for 30-60 minutes during school hours only, at a time which is convenient for both you and your mentee.

**Why?**

- Because one third of the school age children in the United States are at risk of failing, dropping out, or have an increased susceptibility to crime, drugs, teenage parenthood, violence, or chronic unemployment.
- Person to person relationships are the key to success
- Many of these students have difficulty forming trusting relationships with others
- In many cases, the extended family no longer exists for support, encouragement or direction

**How?** Contact Missy Raisbeck or Georgia Montgomery in the Cy-Lakes Counseling Department at 281-856-1638, or e-mail [mary.raisbeck@cfisd.net](mailto:mary.raisbeck@cfisd.net) or [georgia.montgomery@cfisd.net](mailto:georgia.montgomery@cfisd.net)

## 2009 AP EXAMS

AP exams will be administered May 4 - 15. All subject exams are given on the same day at the same time across the nation. Students can earn college credit at universities across the country based on AP scores.

Cy Lakes students enrolled in World History AP, Spanish IV AP, and French IV AP are receiving instruction to help prepare for their course's AP exam.

These exams will be administered at Cy Lakes High School and are scheduled by Collegeboard for:

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> - French Language at 12 noon

Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> - Spanish Language at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> - World History at 8:00 a.m.

The cost of each AP Exam is \$56.00 (original price is \$86.00 minus \$30.00 provided by Texas Grant). Students who receive free or reduced lunch qualify for a reduced price of \$8.00.

A student may take any AP exam offered by Collegeboard. However, if the student is not currently enrolled in the AP course, he/she must pay full price [\$86.00] for the opportunity to take the AP exam. Reduced exam costs are not applicable. Please see the Collegeboard website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for a listing of all AP exams offered.

Students may sign up to take an AP exam beginning February 19<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Admin. Red with Mrs. Dunn, Coordinating Counselor, before or after school and during lunches. Test fee(s) must be collected in full at the time of registration. Cash or personal checks (made out to Cy Lakes High School) will be accepted. Test fees are nonrefundable.

## **Cypress Lakes Preschool Registration 2009 - 2010**

Cypress Lakes Preschool Lab offers a unique opportunity to our community and our 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who are enrolled in the Early Childhood Professions class. We provide a preschool curriculum for 3 and 4 year olds living in the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District. Our high school students conduct preschool on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. beginning the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the school year and continuing throughout the year until the first week of May 2010. All children must be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1, 2009 to participate. For further information, please contact our principal, Sarah Harty, at 281-856-1605. Registration packets are available at the receptionist's desk and in Administration Red. Deadline for turning in the completed registration packet and \$50.00 registration fee is Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> by 1:30 p.m. There will be a waiting list for anyone who turns in a completed packet and registration fee after the deadline. As openings occur, wait-listed parents will be notified.

### **Scholars' Program - Participants Have Earned Their Invitations!!**

10<sup>th</sup> grade students, who scored a selection index of 154 or higher on the 10th grade PSAT taken last October, will be receiving an invitation in the mail to join the Scholars' Program. Students attend a 10 day, 40 hour summer class studying content and practicing strategies that prepare them for the junior-level October PSAT. The 154+ qualifying index score indicates that the student has potential to reach National Merit level on the PSAT test.

Students pay \$175.00 for the summer portion of the program. Students continue during the regular school day in the fall semester with an English certified teacher. A math teacher will work with the students 2 times each week up to the mid-October PSAT test date.

Participants may attend 3 Saturday practice tests sessions in September. Students receive Independent Study in English credit with K-level gpa points on their transcripts.

If your child scored 154+ on the PSAT selection index, his/her invitation is in the mail! We hope you'll take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

## COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

Location: Cy-Lakes Library, Room 2508 (in the back)

College and Career Specialist: Brenda Gauthey

Contact us: [Brenda.gauthey@cfisd.net](mailto:Brenda.gauthey@cfisd.net)

(281) 856-3837

### SERVICES:

The College and Career Center provides...

- Resources for students, parents & staff
- Computer access for planning, evaluation & research concerning college & career
- Student and parent workshops
- Guest Speakers/College and Career Representatives

### College Center Hours:

Monday: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Tuesday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Thursday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

\*\*\*Evening appointments are available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday by appointment only.

Please call (281) 856-3837 to set up an evening meeting with Ms. Gauthey.

## TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO NOW TO GET YOUR CHILD READY FOR COLLEGE

- 1) Get involved in your child's school. It can be as easy as going to parent/teacher meetings, talking to the teacher, or attending a school event. Your involvement will let your child know that you want them to succeed.
- 2) Make sure your student is in school every day, on time and ready to learn. Save your child's school projects and artwork. It shows you care and helps motivate them to do well in school. Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
- 3) Set rules and expectations for completion of work and study. Limit their time watching TV, playing video games, going online and talking on the phone until their assignments are done.
- 4) Know what's going on in school with your student. Encourage them to get A's and B's in all subjects.
- 5) Read, read, and read! The more they read, the more they learn. Encourage them to read things that they are interested in. Join them and read with them.
- 6) Talk to your student about his interests, abilities, talents and goals. Find out what they want to be when they grow up, and then learn with them what it takes to reach that job. Talk about your job, what you enjoy and what you don't.
- 7) Take your child on a field trip to a local university or college. This is a great way for children to become excited about attending college. All campuses offer free tours---call the college and schedule a tour, go for a picnic and walk around or go to one of the college events.
- 8) Find out what courses your child needs to take in high school to be ready for college. Talk with their counselor and the college specialist.
- 9) Attend a college workshop or college fair in your area.
- 10) Start saving for college. Attend a financial aid workshop.

Information from [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org) .

**VOLUNTEERING IN THE COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER:** If you would like to share your talents with us in the CCC, we would love to have you. Possible areas... computer skills, newsletter, website, guest speakers, workshop organization. The list is endless.

## Inauguration Day



Students created "blogs" to reflect on the swearing in of President Barack Obama while watching Inauguration Day telecasts on equipment set up in the Commons by the Library. Special thanks goes to the College Center for creating the blog site and to Jacqueline Kirby, Janice McNeil and Brenda Gauthey for helping supervise the laptop computers. The inauguration day blog can be found at <http://www.gaggle.net/blog/httpwwwgagglenetblogsYesWeCan>

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Science Olympiad on the Move!!!

Science Olympiad at CyLakes has definitely made a mark on the academic arena. Fifteen students, from 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade compete at each competition involving 23 different events. The events range from Health Science, Forensics, Electric Vehicle to Astronomy. At our first competition in Dallas, the students finished 23 out of 28 teams, not bad for a first appearance. At our second competition, the students went for GLORY! This competition was district-wide and included all 10 high schools in our district. Cy-Lakes received 7<sup>th</sup> place overall, dominating Cy-Springs, Langham Creek, and Cy-Ridge. In addition, out of 16 teams of students, we received 4 bronze medals. Marc Medrano and Jasmine Salazar received a bronze medal in Junkyard Challenge; Hollsman Gutierrez and Estefany Agudelo received a bronze medal in Electric Vehicle. If you are interested in being a parent helper with Science Olympiad or want information for your student please contact Ms. Rodriguez at [Kimberly.rodriquez@cfisd.net](mailto:Kimberly.rodriquez@cfisd.net) . Interested students may come by Rm #1264 at any time! Our current competitors striving for GLORY are:

Estefany Agudelo, Stephanie Allen, Hector Castillo, Mary Chin, Rishabh Dewan, Rishika Dewan, Anthony Diaz, Witold Dzwigol, Lauren Fairman, Hollsman Gutierrez, Ashley Hockaday, Kevin Kim, Marc Medrano, Caitlynn Morris, Taha Musaji, Trammi Phan, Rai Reyes, Jasmine Salazar and Chase Taylor.

## Lady Spartans Junior Varsity Girls Basketball

(as of 1/28/09)

**Overall record: 22-5**

**District record: 7-3**

**Waller Tournament: 1st place**

**Cy Fair ISD Tournament: 2nd place**

**Team Members** - Kenjenae Sanders, Jasmnine Cruz, Alandria Johnson, Ashlie Burney, Gabby Ortega, Karen Nguyen, Bryna Hix, Andrea Asibor, Jasmine Simmons, Stephanie Samudio,

**Head Coach: Michael Stengar**

**Asst Coach: Tanisha Simmons**

# BAND

Several students competed in the TMEA Region Band Auditions on December 13th. The Spartan Band is excited to announce the success of the following students:

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the following students performed with their respective Region Bands:

Kalie Pettit - Symphonic Band

Kevin Kim - Concert Band

Christa Mendieta - Freshmen Band

Alexandra Powell - Freshmen Band

Lauren Fairman - Freshmen Band

Matthew Gibson - Freshmen Band

Andrew Vu - Freshmen Band

Travis Peterson - Freshmen Band

Mitchell Coleman - Freshmen Band

Congratulations to these and everyone who tried out for the Region Bands!

On Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 45 students from the Spartan Band participated in the UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest at Northbrook High School. The students earned a total of 48 First Division medals for their efforts!

Students earning medals were:

Christa Mendieta

Jennifer Beltran

Lauren Fairman

Carlos Hernandez

Brandon Rupp

Rachel Pate

Stephen Walther

Nick Watts

Mario Hidalgo

Breanne Clemmensen

Lauren Hammond

Becca Langley

Taylor Rupp

Melanie Whalley

Jeramie Ashton

Kevin Kim

Tyler Fields

Matt Gibson

Andrew Vu

Travis Peterson

Daniel Herrera

Francisco Vargas

Chris Flores

Jeff McCraw

Zack Meyers

Jason Sitzman

Cody Mertz

Patric Farias

Kevin Haworth

Kyle Wishon

Mitchell Coleman

Robin Rodriguez

Thomas Harper

Heather Martin

Omar Rahman

Conner Sanford

and

Darius Young

Congratulations to these and everyone who competed! You all did a fantastic job!

## RODEO RIBBON WINNERS!

Blue Ribbon: Karina Montesinos

Red Ribbons: Cassarndra Banda, Allison Bolen, Tyra Burks-Johnson, Keith Nunez, Layla Bakhtiari, Kevin Chiu, Nicole Grady

White Ribbons: Hollsman Gutierrez, Greg Norton, Toni Montenegro, Giselle Perez, Jesus Perez

2009 Youth Art Participants (Will know results/winners on Monday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>)

DeAndre Cherry, Vianey Lara, Luis Segura, Tyrique Teno, Autumn Rainwater, Tim Sorth, Nicole Grady, Cassandra Banda, Gabrielle Ortega, Jacqueline Rocha

2009 UIL Regional VASE (Visual Arts Scholastic Event) will take place on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Blue Ribbon Winner.

The artist is Karina Montesinos.



## Cy-Lakes FFA's First Livestock Show News

Nine of our students showcased their market animals at the CFISD Livestock show January 29-31. Our FFA members did very well at the show, and a few that rose above the other market animals in their classes were **Travis Peterson** with his breeding rabbits, **Lauren Munoz** with her market gilt, and **Chase Murray** with his market barrow. Other FFA members to compete at this event were **Jacob Davis**, **Brandon Dawley**, **Robert Dyes**, **Eric Fernandez**, **Anthony Roccaforte**, and **Ryan Stibora**.

### ART

Below are copies of our art students working on a 10 X 10 foot square at the annual Via Colori festival a few weeks ago. It took 2 days to finish, but it was a success. We volunteered as artists to raise money for the Center for Hearing and Speech.



Those at the event were Artist, **Leeann Jackson**; and student Artists, **Fabian Garcia**, **Karina Montesinos**, **Nicole Grady**, **Cassandra Banda**, **Jacky Rocha**, **Moises Orozco** and **Eduardo Vazquez**.



Via Colori Festival

## Roots & Shoots Club

Cypress lakes High School has introduced a new club, Roots & Shoots. CLHS Roots & Shoots Club is an extension of the Jane Goodall Institute's global, environmental and humanitarian program for youth. In classrooms, community-based clubs and youth groups, Roots & Shoots members plan and participate in activities and service projects that promote care and concern for animals, the environment, and the human community. Through its diverse international membership, Roots & Shoots fosters respect, understanding and exchange among individuals of different cultures and countries. Since Roots & Shoots was created in 1991, more than 7,500 groups have registered in more than 90 countries. For more information, please visit [www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org).

The CLHS Roots & Shoots Club has over 15 members so far. This past fall, the club completed a very successful food drive that benefited the Covenant House located in downtown Houston. Students, along with CLHS personnel and the surrounding community donated over 2,200 items. This was the club's first major project. This spring, the club will be sponsoring a Pennies for Pets drive which will benefit the Citizens for Animal Protection Shelter located at 11925 Katy Freeway, Houston, Texas. The Roots and Shoots Club is dedicated to improving our school, our community and our world.