

Comal Independent School District

NEWS BRIEFS

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Week of January 3-7, 2011

Final exam schedule for secondary students

Students in Comal ISD's five middle schools and three comprehensive high schools will be dismissed early on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday Jan. 14 for the final exam schedule. Buses will pick up at middle school and high school campuses at 12:45 p.m. on both days. Elementary school buses will run on a regular schedule. Students are encouraged to study for their finals, get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast before the tests. The second quarter of the 2010-11 school year ends on Friday, Jan. 14 and report cards will be distributed on January 21. In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Jan. 17 will be a student holiday and staff development day.

Board Recognition Month

Comal ISD joins other districts across Texas to celebrate the countless contributions of dedicated community leaders, our school board trustees. School board members devote hundreds of hours to lead our students to success. Setting aside time during the month of January is one small way to celebrate their service to our community and say, "Thanks for caring so much about the future

of every child in our schools.” Board members regularly face difficult challenges and make tough decisions with the overall goal of promoting student achievement.

‘Building Championship Families’

The 3rd annual Comal ISD parent/community summit, “Building Championship Families,” will be Saturday, Feb. 5 at Spring Branch Middle School. Admission is free to the daylong event and childcare and lunch will be provided at no charge. Some of the relevant topics include: “The Parent’s Playbook, Communication that Works,” “Internet Safety,” “Recognizing Anxiety in Children,” and “Winning Strategies for Digital Kids and Parents.” Larry Hill, head football coach and athletic coordinator at Smithson Valley High School, will present a session, “Motivating Your Team.” More details will be available at all Comal ISD campuses, as well as the district website, www.comalisd.org. You can reach Jamie Ezell at 830-221-2169 or by email at jamie.ezell@comalisd.org for more information.

Attendance Zones

The Comal ISD School Board, during the January 25 regular meeting, will consider new elementary school attendance zones to accommodate the opening of Kinder Ranch in August 2011 and the opening of an elementary school in the Indian Springs subdivision in August 2012. Kinder Ranch ES is located on Kinder Parkway near the intersection of Borgfeld and Bulverde roads, affecting the attendance zones for Timberwood Park, Johnson Ranch and Specht elementary schools. The elementary school in Indian Springs is located on the east side of US Hwy 281 in Bexar County. Its opening will affect the attendance zones for Johnson Ranch and Bill Brown elementary schools.

Input during public hearings conducted in December resulted in the final recommendations to the School Board. Changes will provide a more balanced enrollment at the elementary schools and will utilize transportation more effectively.

Copies of the proposed maps are located on the district's website, www.comalisd.org, as well as in the front office of Timberwood Park, Johnson Ranch, Specht and Bill Brown elementary schools. The board meeting will be at 6 p.m., on Jan. 25 in the district's Support Services Center in New Braunfels. If you have questions, please email boundaries@comalisd.org or contact your child's school.

Construction Update

New performing arts centers at both Canyon High School and Smithson Valley High School are nearing completion. Each center will seat an audience of more than 600; the new Canyon High School auditorium is located at the former Cougar Den site. New synthetic turf at Smithson Valley and Canyon High schools is in place and both projects will be completed soon. Canyon High's turf is Cougar red and Smithson Valley High's is a two-tone green with navy blue end zones. Canyon High School's \$47.7 million three-part renovation plan is almost complete. At Smithson Valley High, the third phase of its \$44.2 million renovation plan, which includes new JROTC locker rooms and classrooms, a new dance studio and a new culinary arts facility, is under way.

Demographic Update

Over the next five years, Comal ISD is expected to add 3,500 students with an estimated enrollment of 26,000 students by 2020, according to demographic

projections by Templeton Demographics. Enrollment has grown an average of 5 percent per year since 2006, with the addition of 3,700 students. Currently enrollment at the district's 25 campuses is 17,134. "While the Texas economy is outperforming all other states, San Antonio and Austin are both among the Top 10 cities in terms of employment growth," said Bob Templeton, president of Templeton Demographics. He estimated that housing starts will remain stifled until the second or third quarter of 2011.

The Top 10 subdivisions in Comal ISD in terms of housing starts are: Indian Springs/Preserve, Avery Park, Magnolia Springs, River Chase, Oak Creek Estates, Canyon Springs/Lakeside, Riata Terrace, Anyon Ranch Estates, Silverado Hills/Ridge and Belterra.

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