

# Comal Independent School District

## NEWS BRIEFS

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### **March 11 marks deadline for 'Outstanding Graduate'**

Do you know a graduate of Comal ISD who is actively involved in the community or who has achieved extraordinary career status? You have an ideal opportunity to recognize that person with Comal ISD's Outstanding Graduate initiative.

The nominee must have graduated from Canyon High School or Smithson Valley High School at least 10 years ago (prior to 2001). Nominees should be actively involved in their communities, have achieved extraordinary career status, made outstanding contributions to a region or state, or a combination of these achievements.

Graduates selected for 2011 will be recognized at the Comal Education Foundation Academic Recognition Banquet on May 17 and will be added to the stellar list of Outstanding Graduates.

Deadline for nominations is March 11. For a nomination form, please contact Martha Miller, 830.221.2066, or [martha.miller@comalisd.org](mailto:martha.miller@comalisd.org).

### **Comal Budget Update covers possible timelines**

While the Texas Legislature is not expected to approve a biennium budget before Labor Day, Comal ISD, by law, must approve a budget by Aug. 31. That

conflict is but one of the challenges facing Comal ISD as the district budget is being developed.

Currently, district and campus administrators are “combing through staffing ratios and master schedules to determine potential staffing reductions,” said Dr. Marc Walker, superintendent of Comal ISD. “They also will be working on 2011-12 operations budgets and reducing them by at least 10 percent.”

At the March 31 regular school board meeting, contracts for teachers, nurses, counselors, librarians and administrators will be voted on so they may receive their contracts by the April 12 deadline.

“By early May, paraprofessional and support staff will receive letters of reasonable assurance, or will be told their positions have been cut,” Walker said. “I am sensitive to the fact that reductions of any positions have a clear and adverse impact on our employees and their families.”

More information about the budget challenge is available on the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org), under “Comal Budget Update.” An email address has been established for suggestions, input and questions: [budget@comalisd.org](mailto:budget@comalisd.org).

### **Canyon Lake High JROTC advances in competition**

Canyon Lake High School JROTC Leadership Team has advanced to Round 3 of competition for the second year in a row. This round will be conducted in Washington, DC in June against nearly 50 teams from districts throughout the country. Hawk Battalion team members J.D. Sanders, Tommy Jordan, Nick Sellers, and Marc Bolles competed against nearly 600 teams in Round 2. Alternates are Rosy Serrano and Cheslyn Garland. While in Washington, D.C. the team will be assigned to a group to develop a video on one

of the National Monuments. These videos will eventually be incorporated into the JROTC curriculum.

### **Canyon High students fare well in Latin competition**

Four Canyon High School Latin students garnered places against hundreds of students in the San Antonio area at the Area Junior Classical League Convention in early February.

Francine Stephens won 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Latin vocabulary and 9<sup>th</sup> Place in the Classical Decathlon. Tabi Austin won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the girls 100 meter dash and 9<sup>th</sup> Place in Latin Reading Comprehension. Austinn Pruneda earned a 6<sup>th</sup> Place in Ancient Geography and William Waller won 6<sup>th</sup> Place in Greek Derivatives.

All four students will attend the Texas State Junior Classical League Convention and Competition in Humble in late March. About 80 high schools and 21 middle schools from around the state bring roughly 2,000 Latin students to the two-day competition. Students compete in academics, fine arts, and athletics in addition to attending workshops and colloquia covering topics related to the ancient Greco-Roman world.

The Junior Classical League promotes interest in ancient Greek and Roman language, mythology, history, and literature, and their influence on modern languages and culture. There are competitions in academics, fine arts, and athletics.