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# NEWS BRIEFS

## **‘Empowering Children with Safe and Smart Lifestyles’**

Empowering children is the theme of the springtime Family Summit, to be hosted by Smithson Valley High School on Saturday, Feb. 18. All students and their parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the free event.

“Safe and smart lifestyles are the key to empowering our students and their families,” said Jamie Ezell, Comal ISD parent community liaison. “We have something for everyone at this event and we hope for a great turnout.”

The summit begins at 10 a.m. with a general session by Larry Baker, special agent with the Internet Crimes Against Children force of the FBI.

Breakout sessions follow that include such topics as: “Help Your Child be a Star Student on STAAR!” “Helping Your Child Develop Character, Integrity and Morality,” “How to Talk to Your Teens About THEIR World,” and “The Relationship Between Classroom Performance and Sensory Integration.”

Dr. Jodi Duron, assistant superintendent for academics and student services, will present a breakout session about end-of-course exams.

“It has been said that ‘knowledge is power,’” she said. “This is especially true when considering the changes to the new state testing program and the requirements associated with end-of-course exams. Parents and students are encouraged to attend this session so that they may gain a better understanding of how these tests will affect students now through graduation.”

Following a successful debut in the fall, free childcare activities will be planned for children from three years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Parents are asked to call 830.221.2169 to reserve a spot in child care. Middle school and high school students are encouraged to attend the sessions.

Lunch will be provided to all participants. The final session of the day begins at 1:30 p.m., however, Ezell emphasized participants attend the sessions that interest them.

“You can come and go,” she said. “Give it a try. You will be glad you did!”

For more information, please call Ezell at 830.221.2169 or email,  
jamie.ezell@comalisd.org

## **Student transfer application deadline is March 1**

In-district and out-of-district student transfer applications are available for the 2012-13 school year. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2012.

According to district policy, the reasons for in-district student transfers are these:

- A graduating senior who has attended school at least two years may

complete his/her senior year at the same high school

- A child of a full-time district employee may attend the school or high school feeder pattern where the parent works, but may not displace a resident student. If the campus where the employee works does not serve the grade level of the student, the student will attend only the school geographically closest to the parent's place of employment within the same high school feeder pattern.
- A high school student may attend another high school campus that offers a program not available at his or her residence campus. The current program available is culinary arts at Smithson Valley High School, beginning with the 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Siblings of students in special education who are placed in a program outside of their home campus may transfer to the same campus
- Siblings of students in the bilingual program who are placed in a program outside of their home campus may transfer to the same campus. This does not apply to students voluntarily attending dual language or Spanish immersion programs.

According to district policy, the reasons for out-of-district student transfers are these:

- A graduating senior who has attended school in the district at least two years (without tuition)
- A child of a nonresident full-time district employee. The student may attend

the school or feeder pattern where the parent works, but may not displace a resident student. If the campus where the employee works does not serve the grade level of the student, the student will attend only the school geographically closest to the parent's place of employment within the same feeder pattern (without tuition)

- A student whose family has a home under construction with proper documentation. The student may be enrolled at the beginning of the school year during when the home is expected to be completed (without tuition)
- A student with humanitarian considerations for whom denial of a transfer would impair the student's mental, physical, or emotional well-being, or his or her graduation potential or admission to the college or university of choice, with proper documentation (with tuition)
- A student who will be relocating to the district in the future, defined as more than one school year (with tuition)
- Beginning in 2012-13, a non-resident student that applies and is accepted into the district's Early College High School, provided his/her acceptance does not displace a resident student (without tuition).

The transfer forms may be downloaded here:

[http://www.comalisd.org/Staff/Student\\_Transfers.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Staff/Student_Transfers.asp). Please mail or fax your completed application to: Jeanie Mendez, Superintendent's Office, FAX: 830.221.2001. If you have questions, please call 830.221.2064 or [jeanie.mendez@comalisd.org](mailto:jeanie.mendez@comalisd.org).

## **School Board filing runs through March 5**

The annual board of trustees' election in Comal ISD is Saturday, May 12.

Candidates interested in filing for one of the three seats up for election may do so between Feb. 4 and March 5.

The seat in Single-Member District 1, currently held by Stephen Smith, Single-Member District 2, currently held by David Drastata, and Single-Member District 5, currently held by Carol Keller, are up for election.

An application for a place on the ballot is available at the Support Services Administration Offices, 1404 Interstate 35 North in New Braunfels, weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. For more information, please call 830.221.2000. Those interested in filing for one of the seats must be registered voters, live in the single-member district they are filing for, and have been residents of the district for six months.

This election will be the first for the new single-member districts, which currently await final approval by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The school board in December approved the new boundaries, which determine the voters of each of the seven single-member district positions on the school board. This process takes place every 10 years based on new Census data.

The maps, which are under review by the DOJ, are posted on the district website, [http://www.comalisd.org/Board\\_of\\_Trustees/Redistricting\\_Information.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Board_of_Trustees/Redistricting_Information.asp).

The pre-clearance submission includes a request to change the polling places for Districts 1 and 2 and to keep the polling place for District 5 at Bulverde City Hall. District 1

will be at Goodwin Frazier Elementary School and District 2 will be at Hoffmann Lane Elementary School. Formerly the polling location was Faith United Church of Christ for District 1 and Community Resource & Recreation Center in Canyon Lake for District 2. Reasons for changing polling locations are voter convenience or the locations no longer sit within the boundaries of the new district.

## **Parent Information Night for AC-Memorial ECHS**

Alamo Colleges-Memorial Early College High School (AC-MECHS) will be hosting a series of “Parent Information Nights” to the parents of 8th grade Comal ISD students. In partnership with St. Philip’s College, part of the Alamo Community College District, Comal ISD provides AC-MECHS for students interested in earning a High School Diploma, as well as, an Associate’s Degree or up to 60 college hours, at no cost to students or parents.

AC-MECHS blends high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma and the first two years of college. Interested applicants are encouraged to attend any one of the three “Parent Information Nights” to receive more information about the program. Students will apply for admission through their middle school campus counselor and the application deadline is Feb. 24.

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Jan. 31, the meeting will be at Canyon Lake High School; on Wednesday, Feb. 1, it will be at AC-MECHS; and on Thursday, Feb. 2, it will be at Smithson Valley High School. Information will include the application and

acceptance process and important deadlines. More information is available on the campus website, <http://www.comalisd.org/Schools/ACMECHS/>.

## **Outstanding Graduate nominations sought**

Comal ISD is currently seeking nominations for the 2012 Outstanding Graduate Award. Outstanding graduates are recognized every spring for their active involvement in the community, career achievements, and/or outstanding civic contributions. The number of people affected and the depth of the involvement are significant factors in evaluating the award nomination.

Outstanding Graduate nominations may be made by any person, whether a friend, relative, or someone familiar with an outstanding person who graduated from Comal ISD schools in 2002 or before. Nomination forms may be downloaded from the district website, [www.comalisd.org](http://www.comalisd.org) or by contacting, Martha Miller, 830.221.2066, [martha.miller@comalisd.org](mailto:martha.miller@comalisd.org).

Deadline is March 8.

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