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NEWS BRIEFS

Nominees sought for Comal ISD district leadership team

The Comal ISD District Educational Improvement Council (DEIC) serves as an advisory committee to provide input to the superintendent throughout the school year. The committee comprises teachers, non-teaching professionals, parents, business and community members as outlined in board policy. Committee members serve staggered, three-year terms. The DEIC is seeking nominations for the 2011-12 school year.

If you are interested in serving on the DEIC, please contact Dr. Jodi Duron, assistant superintendent for academics and instructional services, 830.221.2000. More information about the site-based decision making process can be accessed from www.comalisd.org, on the link Board of Trustees Policies.

School Board workshop slated for Aug. 10

The Comal ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m., in a team-building workshop. The agenda includes setting the maximum tax rate to be advertised in a local newspaper, setting the date for the budget/tax public hearing and setting the date for the adoption of the budget. By law, the school board must adopt a budget before Aug. 30 and set a tax rate before Sept. 30. The August regular meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m.

Both the workshop and the regular meeting will be at the Support Services building, 1404 Interstate 35 in New Braunfels.

Insurance form required for extracurricular events

Parents of middle and high school Comal ISD students competing in all sports or other University Interscholastic League (UIL) extracurricular events are now required to provide health or accident insurance for their children or waive the right to do so.

A Parental Insurance Acknowledgement form is now available online at http://www.comalisd.org/parents/back_to_school.asp and through campus athletic trainers. Students will not be able to participate in any athletic or extracurricular activities unless the form is signed and turned into the child's school.

Comal ISD no longer offers supplemental accidental insurance through UIL, due to current budget constraints.

Student accident insurance will be available to purchase for families who do not

have insurance or as a supplement to the current policies.

Parents can either download these forms by clicking the link at http://www.comalisd.org/parents/back_to_school.asp or they can pick them up at any middle or high school campus, or at the Comal ISD's Central Office in New Braunfels.

Several different premiums and coverage types are available for parents who choose the student/athletic accident insurance plan. For questions, please call The Brokerage Store Inc., at 800-366-4810.

Free, reduced meals details released

Comal ISD announces its policy for providing free and reduced-price meals for students served under the National School Lunch Program. The Child Nutrition Department has a copy of the policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

Students from households whose income is at or below certain levels are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Foster children who are the legal responsibility of the state agency or court are eligible for free meal benefits regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside.

Federal Applications are being distributed to all households at the campus level. Applications also are available at the administration office in each school and online at <https://rocket.comalisd.org/>. Applications may be submitted anytime during the school year.

The information households provide on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified by the district officials at any time during the school year. To determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits, households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly Food Stamps)/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) only have to list their child's name and SNAP or TANF case number. Households that do not list a SNAP/TANF case number must list the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member, and the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the Senior Associate will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school. Such changes may make the students of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels shown above.

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Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.