

- 2nd Annual Baseball Alumni Game
- Senior High Beta Club is on the move!
- Spring Testing Calendar
- Elementary Grade Level News

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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2

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DECEMBER, 2009

Notes from the Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Blue Ridge ISD continues to strive to provide a quality education for our students. The additional technology resources that are presently being added in the elementary classrooms will complete the district-wide installation of In-focus projectors, Mimio touch projectors, etc. These instructional resources will be utilized by our teachers to enhance the learning experi-

ences for students. The additional technology has created a wave of excitement within our schools.

I will continue to work towards providing the best education possible for our children. I expect a graduating senior from Blue Ridge ISD to have the background to compete with anyone for a higher education, skills training, and when seeking employment. While this may be an optimistic outlook, if we don't believe it then it will not

happen. I believe in the ability of our faculty/staff to prepare our students for success.

I hope the holidays are filled with joy and laughter for our students, staff, parents, and community. Blue Ridge is a great place to raise a family.

From my family to yours,

Have a Merry Christmas

Todd Lintzen



BLUE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Academic Support

Brenda Vaughan, Sherrye Richardson, and Tiffani Johnson

At **BRISD** we offer academic support to students needing additional reading support as well as English language learners. The programs and strategies used in our classrooms include the *Wilson Reading Program*, *Academic Centers*, *Working with Words*, and of course the *CEI Lab*. All five components of reading are addressed through these activities. Those components are **phonemic awareness** (small units of speech), **phonics** (symbols that represent sounds), **fluency** (the words per minute read correctly), **vocabulary** (understanding the meaning of words), and **comprehension** (understanding of written texts). Keep these components in mind when you're helping your child at home to sound out words, spell, and comprehend the written word. Encourage your child to break words into syllables and tap each syllable as it is being pronounced (pic/ture). Encourage writing by having him/her write your shopping or "to do" list. Younger children should be encouraged to sound out each word and use inventive spelling if needed (*kar-uts* for carrots). They will learn rules later to help them know the correct letters to use. Of course read to your child, with your child and listen to your child read to you. The more experiences children have with reading, writing and listening to words the more successful they will be.

Blue Ridge Elementary-Rebecca Rollins, Principal

Wow!! The first semester flew by. I am so proud of the hard work and progress from the students at the elementary. Our students finished the semester with the annual Christmas program which was fun for all. The students have earned 4,267 points toward their 15,000 point Accelerated Reader goal. I am thrilled with the number of students checking

books in and out of the library everyday. The elementary students also participated in the UIL competition in December. The elementary had nine students who placed in the competition. This semester we will be making plans for our Open House and Science Fair. This event will be held in March. The Science Fair will be open to all students in Pre-K through 8th grade. We hope all of our students will participate. More details about this event will be available in January. We will continue working toward our AR goal and the water balloon reward. Please review math facts, telling time, and counting money with your child at home. We have found that many of our students are having a difficult time with these skills. Please continue to read with your student's everyday. The only way to become a better reader is to practice daily.

Grade Level News

Kindergarten

The 100th day of school will occur in January, classes have been practicing counting to 100. On the 100th day we will have a "celebration" to show that we are 100 days smarter now. We will have hands on activities planned across the subjects.

In Social Studies we will be discussing historical figures and patriotic holidays. Historical figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington and Abraham Lincoln will be introduced through the use of Literature and video streaming.

In Science, students will be observing and recording changes. Students will track the weather and temperature daily. We will focus on trees and how they are part of a system. Classes will explore making things work and revisit the Earth's patterns, cycles and changes.

First- We will be continuing our adventure in Superkids, learning about long vowels, recognizing plots in stories, and writing our own stories. Our spelling words have increased in difficulty and require more practice at home. In math we are practicing our addition facts and story problems.

Second- Second graders will be studying influential people of the past and present in social studies. We'll be studying about natural resources such as rocks, water, gases, and plants in science. In math we'll continue our study of money and begin studying fractions in order to make the connection between fractional parts of a whole and cents being a fractional part of a whole dollar.

Third- The third grade class will be working hard in January! In math, the students will continue working hard on multiplication and division. Practice those facts! We will also hope to see some great poets emerge, as Mrs. Stroup's language arts classes will be working on poetry. Matter is still all around us! Students will continue to learn how to measure matter and how to change it, in science.

Fourth- 4th grade will be having a great time reading graphs and understanding data. We will understand the value of tables and graphs while we enjoy building and understanding a life size graph of the items that we sold during our November fundraiser! We look forward to seeing all the interesting things that the Blue Ridge community chose to purchase from us! A big Blue Ridge Thank You for helping us with our science trip for next year! Mid January we will begin measurement with elapsed time and volume.

Blue Ridge Middle School

Junior High Cheer

The Junior High Cheerleaders had a great season and will be closing out their year with our annual trip to the Salvation Army this week. Each cheerleader, manager and mascot is responsible for an angel. They are always very happy for our arrival because donations have been down over the past few years. Afterwards, the girls will be treated to lunch at Chili's as their reward for a job well done. It is a great time of visiting and being together as a team. Everyone will take a much needed break, but then it's back and working toward tryouts in March. See you then!!!!

Stacy Norton

Technology Summary

One of our main focuses to start off this year has been to improve our technology in our school district. A technology team has been meeting for the past year to help in moving forward with this process. In the past few months we have added nineteen new projectors in all core area subjects in our 5th through 12th grade classrooms and we are in the process of adding fourteen projectors in our Elementary. Our Math, Science and ELA Departments are also receiving a Mimio device that allows them to do interactive presentations with our students using their whiteboards and the new projectors. We are excited about moving forward and we have a team going to the Technology Conference in February to get new ideas to help move our school forward to help meet the needs of our twenty-first century learners.

Technology Committee

Our Ten Day Intercession

Our students will enjoy the opportunity to qualify for our Ten Day Intercession again this year that will run the last ten days of school from May 26th till June 9th. Student in grades 3-12 who pass all sections of TAKS on the first assessment and are not in attendance problems may be exempt for these days. The results for these tests will be coming in around the third week of May so we will send out information about your child qualifying at that time. The schedule of TAKS testing for our 3rd – 5th Graders this year is included in this newsletter.

Danny Henderson

Jr. High Middle /School Student Council

The student council hosted a can food drive for the Blue Ridge community during the month of November. Each class was encouraged to bring items for their class donation box. We are proud to announce that we collected over 800 cans. The food was donated to the Blue Ridge food pantry. Congratulations to the 8th grade class for bringing the most cans. They will enjoy a spaghetti lunch prepared by the student council on Friday Dec. 19th!!! Student Council decorated a float for the Blue Ridge City Christmas Parade of Lights. While it was quite cold it was great to be a part of our cities festive celebration. The student council officers have adopted an angel for Christmas. They will go shopping on Dec. 15th to purchase gifts for their angel. The kids have worked hard raising money and have also made personal donations. They hope to make someone's Christmas a little merrier!!!

Our Middle School and Jr. High student council will be hosting a fund raiser beginning at the end of January. Our goal is by the end of the school year to have raised enough money to buy a large entrance rug for our Jr. High building. We are also looking forward to the faculty vs 8th grade basketball game. The 8th grade scraped by and beat the faculty in volleyball so the faculty is hoping to even the score with a victory in basketball!!

Thank you

Judy Phifer

BLUE RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL LADY TIGERS NEWS

Congratulations to the 8th grade volleyball team – DISTRICT CHAMPIONS 2009

Congratulations to the 7th grade volleyball team – DISTRICT RUNNER-UP 2009

A great job this year by the Lady Tigers and Coach Morrison and Coach Williams!

The Lady Tigers are continuing this success in their basketball season as well!

So far, they are undefeated in district play. Please join us in cheering them on to another district victory and continued success! Go Coach Williams and Lady Tigers!

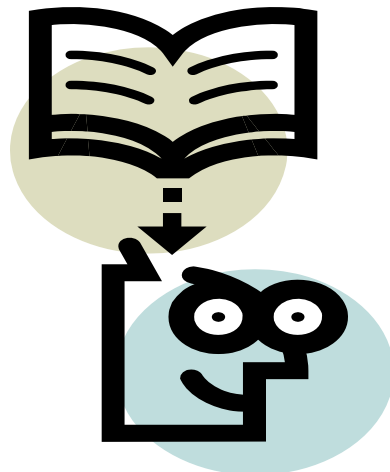
| <i>Date</i> | <i>Opponent</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Time</i> | <i>Teams</i> |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| 01/07 | Wolfe City | Away | 4:30 | A/B |
| 01/09 | Pottsboro Tourn | Away | TBA | A only |
| 01/11 | Collinsville | Away | 4:30 | A/B |
| 01/16 | Trenton Tourn | Away | TBA | A only |
| 01/21 | Trenton | Home | 3:30 | A/B/C |
| 01/25 | Celeste | Away | 4:00 | A/B/C |
| 02/01 | Bland | Away | 4:30 | A/B |
| 02/08 | Wolfe City | Home | 3:30 | A/B/C |

Spring Testing Calendar

There have been a few modifications to the 2009-2010 testing calendar for this year by Texas Education Agency. First, the students in the third grade in Texas will take one administration of Reading ONLY, as well as one administration of Mathematics. This group of students will not be a part of the SSI (Student Success Initiatives) grade levels. The SSI grades are those students who are required to take multiple administrations if they do not Met Standard on the first administration. The SSI grades on the spring 2010 administrations of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) will be fifth grade, eighth grade, and Exit Level grades only.

Second, the test administrations are scheduled for a later date this spring. Tests will be given in March for 4th and 7th grade writing and 10th and Exit Level ELA. The months of April and May will have numerous testing dates for students in grade three through Exit. Blue Ridge ISD will keep you informed prior to these specific dates.

Diane Williams



TAKS TESTING 3-8 and STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE

*Highlighted areas are Students Success Initiative areas

| | 3rd Grade | 4th Grade | 5th Grade | 6th Grade | 7th Grade | 8th Grade |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| March 3rd | | Writing | | | Writing | |
| April 6th | | | Math | | | Math |
| April 7th | | | Reading | | | Reading |
| April 27th Math | Math | Math | | Math | Math | |
| April 28th | Reading | Reading | | Reading | Reading | |
| April 29th | | | Science | | | Science |
| April 30th | | | | | | Social Studies |
| May 18th | | | Math (retest) | | | Math (retest) |
| May 19th | | | Reading (retest) | | | Reading (retest) |
| June 29th | | | Math (retest) | | | Math (retest) |
| July 30th | | | Reading (retest) | | | Reading (retest) |

- *** Students in grade 5 (reading and math), grade 8 (reading and math) **must demonstrate proficiency in the subjects required in order to advance to the next grade.**
- *** Three testing opportunities and accelerated instructions will be given.
- *** Students who do not pass may only advance if a Grade Placement Committee decides to unanimously decided to advance.

5th and 6th Grade

First in Math Update

The fifth and sixth grade students are once again working at the First in Math website. This website is a great resource to help your child build their basic skills and enrich their math experiences in other categories. It provides many fun and exciting bonus games and more are added as your child moves up through the skill set levels. To date, the four teams have earned a combined total of 52,675 points. We have three teams that are state ranked for their grade level. Our 6th grade Iota team is ranked 12th while our 6th grade Sonar team is ranked 31st. In the 5th grade, our Neutron team is ranked 90th. Our 6th grade individual players who are state ranked include Taylor Blakeslee in 40th place, Christopher Bowling in 59th place, and Selena Gibboney in 66th place. Our team leaders for our school are Taylor Blakeslee, Angel Dotson, Nathan Grosse' and Nick Kappala. Congratulations to our leaders and all of our students who are working hard to improve their math skills. Keep up the good work.

BLUE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Senior High Beta Club

The Blue Ridge Senior High Beta Club is an active club with thirty-eight members in 9th – 12th grades. These students have met specific academic criteria to be a member and they have responsibilities to serve both the school and community to acquire service hours. The officers for the 2009-2010 Beta Club are President, Addison Williams, Vice President, Aidan Williams, Treasurer, Tye McKinney, Secretary, Lacie Mayes, and Historian, Shelby Harbour.

During the fall semester this organization held their Beta Induction Candle Ceremony in November. Various members of the Beta Club have performed in a skit during Red Ribbon Week on the Blue Ridge Elementary Campus, taken part in the Blue Ridge Middle School Veteran's Day Ceremony, have joined Blue Ridge Middle School Beta Club in sending small items to a nursing home in Farmersville, listened and evaluated Trenton's candidates for state offices, and assisted the PTO organization with the Santa Shop. The Senior High Beta Students will be sponsoring a HUGGS, "Help Us Gather Great Stuff", competition against Trenton's Beta organization in January. All stuffed animals collected will be distributed to our volunteer fire department and surrounding departments as needed.

The club has a number of spring service activities planned. The responsibility of these students academically, in their character actions, and in service participation is such an asset to the school and community. Blue Ridge ISD is excited about their leadership and potential to assist in all types of opportunities and projects.

The Senior High Beta Club students will be attending the State Beta Convention in January. Many club members will be traveling to San Antonio on January 15, 16, and returning on the 17th. This organization is diligently working to earn the necessary funds to sponsor this trip. Thank you for your support with Beta Baskets, special school attire days, and participation in all the other Beta sponsored activities.

Senior High Beta Sponsors

Diane Williams, Dana Flowers, and Sharon Baker

It is hard to believe the school year is half way over already. The year has passed by very fast and we are as a school working hard to help our kids be the best they can be. Please continue to encourage your child by working with them on their homework, checking with their teachers on their needs, and supporting the school as a whole. You are a key part of your child's success in school and without you our efforts would be much harder. Thanks for your help and God bless you this holiday season.

Chane Rascoe Ed. D
Principal Blue Ridge High School

NEWS FROM THE ATHLETIC DEPT

BLUE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



Blue Ridge High School Football

A special thanks to all the fans and parents who volunteered to make the 2009 season a memorable one! Congratulations to the following members of the 2009 varsity football team.

Blue Ridge athletics is pleased to announce new head boys basketball coach **Jason Wilson** —**bio-** **Hometown:** Dodd City **College:** Southern Arkansas University **Experience:** 9 years **Previous Schools:** Dodd City, Bland .Come support your tigers as basketball season is well underway.

2009 All-District Results

1st Team

- Bradley White - DL
- Cody Mills - DB
- Armando Vasquez - OL

2nd Team

- Kolton Dickerson - DE
- Armando Vasquez - DL
- Alex Rainwater - ILB
- Zach Rainwater - OLB
- Trevor Agan - OLB
- Jake Price - DB
- Tyler King - TE
- Bradley White - OL
- Cameron White - OL
- Brennan Smith - RB

Baseball
February 20, 2010 will be the 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Baseball Alumni Game starting at Noon. The costs are \$15 to play in the game, and \$15 to participate in the Home Run Derby that will immediately follow the game. Anyone interested in playing should be at the Blue Ridge Baseball Field around 11:00 am on the 20th. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Todd at matthew.todd@brisd.net.



BLUE RIDGE LADY TIGERS NEWS

It was a history making year for the Lady Tiger Volleyball team this year as they advanced to the Area Playoffs. It was a very successful and fun year for the girls and we are looking forward to next year and continuing the winning tradition. The Lady Tigers experienced a very fulfilling year with participation in the Susan G. Komen Race for breast cancer cure and the Pink Out night with Lindsay ISD for awareness of cancer and in honor of a young girl with cancer. We say good bye to a large group of senior girls and it has been a pleasure to have them represent and compete for the Blue Ridge Lady Tiger Volleyball Teams! Every senior on our team received district honors and that says it all for their hard work and dedication!

District 11A Volleyball All-District 2009

Defensive Player of the Year – Torie Anderson

Co-Setter of the Year – Lacy Belk

Newcomer of the Year – Cora Davis

1st Team All District – Bailey Blacketer

2nd Team All District – Cortney Pope

Tiffany Stults

Honorable Mention – Haleigh Pierce

Academic All District – Torie Anderson

Tiffany Stults



LADY TIGERS BASKETBALL

The Basketball season is in full swing and looking great! District games begin Tuesday, December 15th. The Lady Tigers are looking for another playoff spot under the direction of Cody Carlisle and J.D. Williams. Good Luck Lady Tigers!

| Date | Opponent | Location | Time | Teams |
|----------|--------------------|----------|------|-------|
| 12/15 | *Sam Rayburn | Home | 5:00 | JV/V |
| 12/18 | *Celeste | Away | 5:00 | JV/V |
| 12/28-30 | Leonard Tournament | Away | TBA | VG&VB |
| 01/02 | *Trenton | Home | 1:00 | JV/V |
| 01/05 | BYE | | | |
| 01/08 | *Bland | Away | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/12 | *Collinsville | Home | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/15 | *Wolfe City | Away | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/19 | *Sam Rayburn | Away | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/22 | *Celeste | Home | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/26 | *Trenton | Away | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 01/29 | BYE | | | |
| 02/02 | *Bland | Home | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 02/05 | *Collinsville | Away | 4:30 | JV/V |
| 02/09 | *Wolfe City | Home | 4:30 | JV/V |