

To: AISD Board of Trustees  
Dr. James Monaco, Superintendent

From: Mr. Jeff Mulkey, Principal, Aubrey High School

Date: October 11, 2010

Subject: Board Communication

### **Band – Ron Chapman**

The Aubrey HS band is hard at work preparing for our UIL Region contest. That contest will be held at CH Collins on Oct 16th, and the band performs at 5:15pm. The band is anticipating making a First Division Rating and being certified to compete the next week at the UIL Area B contest. Area B contest will be held on Oct 23rd and will also take place at CH Collins. The preliminary performance time will not be set until after our UIL Region Event.

The UIL Area contest consists of two levels, preliminary competition and Finals competition. Should the band be among the top 7 or 10 bands (depending on number of bands in prelims) then they would compete at the Finals contest that evening with a chance of advancing to the UIL State Contest to be held in San Antonio. It is anticipated that the band should advance to the Area Finals, but you can never tell.

The band has made tentative plans for housing and buses at the UIL State Marching Contest should they advance to that level. Area "B" is by far the toughest Area to advance out of in the state. The worst any band from our Area has ever done in the past 8 years is 10th overall at State. The competition is incredible at 3A and we have a lot of work to be in that hunt.

In addition, on October 2nd, the AHS Band and Band Boosters held the Aubrey Marching Classic in our stadium. Twenty three bands competed for honors in a prelim and finals competition. While the AHS Band did not compete, they were adjudicated. We were informed that if we had competed, we would have placed 3rd with only Princeton and Atlanta HS nudging us out. Both the Princeton and Atlanta HS Bands were State Marching Finalist in 2008 - so, we were in good company.

That day the stadium was filled with well over 3,000 parents, students, directors and fans of marching band. There was not a seat to be found on the home side, and more than 60% of the visitors side was filled as well. The booster club raised in excess of \$10,000 for their efforts as well during this contest.

While it will extremely difficult for us to advance in 3A to the State level, we are working diligently every day for such to take place!! We feel confident that we will be in the hunt for UIL State Marching Contest again this year.

### **Science – Penny Wimbrough**

Biology - We are currently working on Ecosystem posters that they will present to the class.

Pre-AP Biology: They just finished their Ecology unit, during which they designed a new animal that is adapted to an ecosystem. They are studying succession by looking at a hay infusion over several weeks. Next week they will start their unit on cells.

Anatomy & Physiology: Just finished a debate on a new "law" that everyone below the age of 18 must cover 90% of their body during peak sun periods. They have been researching and preparing for the debate for several days and they gave quite an impressive showing at the debate.

### **Science & AcaDec – Alissa Trietsch**

Environmental Systems (sr's) we are talking about soil content, erosion, fertilizers and pesticides. They are now starting an individual project to construct a children's book to explain different content of the chapter that they will present in class.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry-Beginning Ch 5 which is simple machines and will begin their Rudy Golberg project which is a group project that will cover Ch 3, 4, 5 and 6 and is due at the end of Ch 6 (at the end of 6 weeks)

AcaDec will be going to Washington D.C. before Thanksgiving for their field trip.

### **Social Studies – Shaon Ranton**

World Geography is starting a unit on the U.S. and Canada. The students will prepare a poster of a state of their choice for presentation.

### **UIL Speech/Debate/Academics/Theatre – Chris Shoemake**

- The 2010-2011 UIL Squad is on its way to a great year. The competition will be intense and our kids are poised to be extremely successful.
- We will be hosting the Aubrey America Cup November 13-14. This is a great fundraiser for the department and our kids put in a lot of work to make it happen.
- The Theatre Department recently held auditions for the Fall play and had **70 Kids Audition!!!** We will be performing our production of *The Nerd* by Larry Shue of Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. It should be a hilarious evening of theatre and we hope everyone can make it to the show.
- All academic teams are hard at work and we are looking forward to improved success across the board.

### **English – John Vice**

English 1: We are beginning *Inherit the wind*. During this unit we will continue to look at character, plot development, purpose, audience, etc...but we will focus much of the unit on media literacy. We will analyze non-fiction reports on the Scopes Trial as well as political cartoons of the period. This will cover TEKS 12 especially comparing and contrasting how events are presented through a variety of media.

We will also continue to prepare for TAKS through practicing open-ended questions based on the play.

Pre-AP: We are beginning To Kill A Mockingbird and will be focusing most of the unit on understanding the novel genre. As always we will look closely at style, theme, tone, mood, figurative language, plot, irony, etc. In addition, we will introduce media literacy through a non-fiction study of the depression era, Jim Crow Laws, etc. We will compare the novel with the film and focus on director's decision throughout the film to enhance theme, character, etc... Of course we will have another essay based on a close analysis of the novel...and we will continue to work on open-ended as we study the novel

### **Math – Marissa Cabrales**

The math classes are in the process of giving the first benchmarks. We are using the Cluster tests from the Region 4 Curriculum.

Also, the algebra 1 classes have started on the Carnegie computer program. The students really enjoy working in the lab and getting instant feedback.

The Algebra 2 & 3 classes have also been using a free online program in the lab called Geogebra. It allows the students to input a certain function and the program will graph it for them. They can then manipulate the equation or the graph to meet different requirements. Understanding the transformations of functions is essential for these classes.

Parents have really been utilizing our web pages. We get emails and phone calls regarding our assignments or links. Parents like being able to have the information so they can help their child with organization. They also like knowing what their child should be working on at home.

For the UIL Math events, we have 10 competitors participating. They meet Monday after school for practice.

### **Ag & FFA – Tracy Yarbrough**

We had a large turnout for our annual Burger burn kick-off party.

The animal facility has been remodeled this summer and is almost complete and full of animals. It is really looking good and we have had a lot of compliments from parents and quest. State fair News.

We had an 8th, tenth and eleventh place with our market lambs.

We won 2nd in our class with a bench in the Ag mech show in the largest class of the show.

Ethan Saye had Three 2nd place and one 7th place with his heifers as well as 2nd in division.

We had a great state fair showing.

Coming up we have our National Convention trip to Indianapolis where some of our students will spend learning with students all over the nation.

We are looking forward to a great year!