

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

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

Date: January 17, 2012

Subject: Board Communication

### **UIL – Jeff Whitmire**

The UIL Academic/Speech/Debate participants just returned from the Princeton Spring tournament with six medals in academic and speech events. Our recent participation in the Gainesville-Lindsay invitational netted 23 total medals.

Our academic coaches continue to coach their teams in preparation for the March District contest in Argyle.

We also hosted the Winter Classic Tournament at AHS in December, hosting 14 schools and over 100 student competitors in speech, debate and academic events. We received feedback that was unanimously positive from the coaches and judges that were involved.

Thanks to all of the coaches and students who are making great progress this season

### **Science- Penny Wimbrough**

We are beginning the Thermodynamics unit in Physics and PreAP Physics. This is the unit the students learn how heat moves, how it can be utilized to do work, and the laws of thermodynamics.

Chemistry – We are beginning our unit on Stoichiometry. Classes are going to investigate limiting reactants during a lab where students make a certain amount of solid silver.

Biology is currently working on a unit on classification. They are classifying organisms using dichotomous keys. After this Unit they will be working with microorganisms. They will be isolating bacteria from around the school.

Pre-AP Biology: They are currently working on creating their own dichotomous keys using pictures of fictitious animals. They are also working on their 4th six weeks project

which is a presentation and research paper on a bacteria or virus of their choice. They will present this to the class using power points that incorporate many forms of technology.

Pathophysiology and AP Biology are looking forward to their field trip to UT Southwestern medical center on 9 February.

Pathophysiology is getting ready to begin their unit on inflammatory response to disease. They are also working on a project where they are comparing diseased and healthy slides of tissue.

AP Biology has begun their Genetics unit. They will be transforming bacteria by inserting a jellyfish gene that will make them glow under UV light; they will then isolate the protein from the bacteria. They are also going to cut DNA using restriction enzymes

### **Theatre – Donald Gipson**

Auditions for the One Act Play were held for the High School and Middle School in early December and we are now underway with the rehearsal process. I am looking forward to a successful year with both groups.

The High School's selection for the 2012 U.I.L. One Act Play competition is, "By the Bog of Cats," by Marina Carr. "By the Bog of Cats," is an Irish play loosely based on Euripides "Medea," dealing with themes of revenge, pride, and abandonment. I have been very impressed with the quality of work our students are putting up this early in the rehearsal process.

The Middle School will be competing with "Charlotte's Web." This is my first year directing the Middle School students and I really appreciate the amount of energy and passion they are bringing to the production.

The Middle School will have district competition on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at NCTC in Gainesville.

The High School will have district competition on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at Grayson County College in Dennison.

### **English – Dawn Dooley**

- TAKS Practice
  - Multiple Choice practice and strategies

- Open-Ended Question practice and strategies
  - Autobiographical Narrative essay practice and strategies
- Evaluating Persuasive Writing
  - Logical fallacies
  - News articles vs. editorials
- Writing Persuasively
  - Write persuasive essay
- Vocabulary
  - SAT Level
  - Prefixes/suffixes/affixes