



SINTON ISD
A TEA
RECOGNIZED
DISTRICT

SINTON ISD PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT NEWSLETTER EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SHARE THE VISION

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- District Goals
- College Cul-
ture
- Grades/
Attendance
- Teacher
Trainings

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Goals 2

MEP Col-
lege Cul- 3

VSI 3

Welder 4
Events

Sinton 4
Elem. News

TAKS 4

Art 4

Balanced 4
Literacy

FASFA 5

TAMUCC 5

A&H Show 5

C.I.S 5

Blood Drive 5

FFA 5

EMS 6

Census 6

A Note from the Superintendent

Excellence in Education Share the Vision!

Recently, in preparation for a presentation I was giving I prepared a list of all the new initiatives we have begun in Sinton ISD during the past two years. I believe this is a very impressive list that you and this community can take pride in. I want to share with you these initiatives which are aligned with our five School Board Members-Superintendent District goals. However, our partnership with our parents is our most important initiative. Thank you for your support and congratulations for being a partner in such an outstanding school district.

Goal 1: Ensure safe schools for all students and enforce student code of conduct throughout all Sinton campuses.

- Safety audits completed at all schools;
- REMS Grant partnership with ESC-2;
- Fencing at Smith Middle School;
- Camera surveillance enhanced at all campuses;
- Card swipe initiative at central administration building;
- Superintendent Listening Sessions; **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Teacher Listening Sessions; **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Student Listening Sessions; **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Revised Goals, Mission Statement, and Vision Statement; **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Development of Sinton ISD Core Beliefs; **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Sinton ISD Behavioral Expectations; **(Goal 2)**
- Consolidation of Student Handbook; **(Goal 2)**
- School-Reach Phone Communication System;
- Implementation of Rapid Report System;
- DPS safety officers assigned to Sinton ISD daily;
- Composition of safety priority list for implementation;
- Development of Comprehensive, Specific, Strategic Plan: The Road to Excellence in Education. **(Goals 2, 3, 4, 5)**
- Swipe card entry system for SHS ag. Gate.

Goal 2: Achieve exemplary status on AEIS; meet AYP and PBMAS standards; eliminate performance gap among subgroups and ensure that all students reach their full potential.

- Texas Education Agency "Recognized District"
- Texas Education Agency "Recognized High School"
- Awarded \$840,000 T-STEM Grant
- Awarded \$85,000 per year Pre- Kinder Grant
- Awarded \$55,000 teacher mentoring Grant
- Consolidation and Realignment;
- Partnership with Craft Training Center;
- Development of AYP Task Force;

- Professional Learning Communities (Sinton HS and Sinton Elementary);
- Academic Teaming at Smith MS;
- Pirate Academy at Sinton HS;
- Balanced Literacy at Welder and Sinton Elementary;
- Assessment (DRA, Dibbles, MClass) at Welder and Sinton Elementary;
- Expanded classroom libraries at Welder and Sinton Elementary (Leveled Readers)
- Optional Flexible Schedule Initiative
- Classroom technology upgrades at Welder and Sinton Elementary (Four computers in every classroom and teacher laptops);
- SMARTBoards in every math, science classroom in S.I.S.D.
- Smith MS Discovery Center;
- Special Education Department Reorganization;
- Heavy emphasis on inclusion in general education setting;
- Reorganization of San Patricio Juvenile Detention Center;
- No Senior Left Behind (Graduation/Completion Program and TAKS remediation classes embedded into master schedule at Sinton HS);
- Two additional Science labs at Sinton High School;
- Pirate Pathways (Creating small learning communities: Ag. Science, Advanced Academics-Early College –Dual Credit, Skilled Vocational-Craft Training Center, Health Sciences-TSTEM)
- Establishment of Middle School Counseling Center.
- Creation of the San Patricio County Superintendent Collaborative. Allowing SHS students to take courses at other area high schools not offered at SHS.

Goal 3: Provide professional development opportunities for staff and create an environment that values staff and maximizes student achievement.

- Expanded training through Collette Consulting for the implementation of Balanced Literacy at Welder and Sinton Elementary;
- Mentor Program;
- Masters Stipends;
- Stipend increases for Department Heads, grade level Section Leaders and Academic Decathlon;
- Teacher of the Year and Teacher of Promise Program;
- Janie Vela Leadership Training;
- AIMS collaboration for math staff development;

Goal 4: Maintain and follow a comprehensive plan that ensures the prudent use of all resources.

- Implementation of Sinton ISD central receiving system;
- Financial campus audits;
- Refinance of Sinton Elementary debt;
- Development of policies and procedures and training for club and organization accounts;
- Passage of Rollback Election.
- Savings of \$250,000 on elimination of administrative positions

Goal 5: Ensure facilities create the best educational environment for teaching and learning.

- Campus operations committees;
- Development of campus safety priority list.
- Building two multi-purpose Science Labs @ Sinton HS
- Passage of \$7.5 million Bond election
- New Welder Elementary
- New Baseball and Softball Fields
- Pirate Stadium Upgrade
- Expansion of Weight Room

“Set your goals high,
and don’t stop till
you get there.”

-Bo Jackson



“College Culture” The Migrant Education Program (MEP) Maps the Way

The Secondary students of Sinton ISD who qualify for the Migrant Education program were recently challenged to set some goals and make some college plans for the future. Mr. Arismendi, Mrs. Mercier and the Office of Federal Programs met with the High School students to survey their interest and knowledge of college. It turns out that the majority of these students already have some strong ideas about attending college after High School. Plus, the Middle School students were also surveyed by the School counselor, and their desire to attend college is just as strong.

The “College Going Culture” at any school is marked by the indicators of students:

- Completing High School
- Applying for College/University
- Researching Career Pathways
- Applying for financial aid
- Believing they can succeed in college
- Participating in support programs; and
- Being encouraged by parents to attend.



To be prepared for college it is necessary that students take a serious approach to their studies now. This includes:

- Enrolling in rigorous courses with an emphasis on English/Science/Math.
- Enrolling for required classes for their graduation plan
- Parents getting involved in student learning; and
- Students meeting with and talking to their High School Counselors often.

One way parents can get involved with their child’s education is by asking them questions daily about how school is going. However, to get a response from your child, sometimes requires creative questioning strategies. Try asking them questions like: What was your highlight today? Then let them talk. Ask: “What was your lowlight?” This will get them thinking and talking some more. A parent can learn a lot when they listen to these thought out responses, rather than the typical: “What did you learn in school today,” which is usually followed by: “Nothing.”

High School students need to apply. This can be done easily on-line using the common application which is at www.applytexas.com. High School students should also take the college entrance exams:

ACT www.act.org
 SAT www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/reg.html
 THEA www.thea.nesinc.com

The counselor can explain which would be best for your child, and can also assist with payment for the tests. Another good tool is the career inventory which helps students identify their areas of interest and strength. Both the HS and MS counselors can arrange for the students to take the ACT Plan Inventory.

Currently, the Office of Federal Programs is looking at providing an educational field trip to some colleges to learn about the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP); the TRIO Programs (support services for college youth and a talent search program); and to create some vision (to see themselves in the future as a Texas College Student).

Submitted by Brayde McClure
 Director of Federal and Special Programs
 Sinton ISD

"A college is a place where pebbles are polished and diamonds dimmed."

-Unknown



Parents, access your child's grades online 24/7 with VSI

At Sinton ISD parents have access to their child’s grades 24/7 using our VSI (View Student Information) system. If you would like to access your child’s grades online just stop by your child’s campus and pick up the information sheet which will have all the details on how to get started. For technical support with VSI you can call the technology department at 364-6981. Thank you for your support and for being a partner in your child’s education.

Welder Elementary

For the past couple of weeks Welder’s 1st and 2nd grade students have been studying and exploring with different types of art. The results of their efforts will be on display during Welder’s **Art Extravaganza** next Tuesday night, January 12th from 6-7 in the cafeteria. The student’s art will be judged on January 11th and 18 pieces of art work from each grade will be selected to enter the Visionario contest at the Art Museum of South Texas

The **NNAT** will be administered to all Kindergarten students at Welder elementary by the end of January. The NNAT is part of the GT Screening tools that are administered to all Kindergarten students.

Also, the Middle of the Year TPRI will be administered to all students during the weeks of Jan. 18 – 22 & Jan. 25 – 29.

February 2

Welder & Sinton Elementary Math & Science Family Night @ Sinton Elementary 6-7 PM

February 4

Spring Pictures

Sinton Elementary News

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Gifted/Talented students of Sinton Elementary would like to invite their parents and families to an “Invention Convention” on Monday, January 18th at 6:00 pm. We look forward to sharing our work with you!

Family Math and Science Night will be held February 2nd from 6-7 at Sinton Elementary Gymnasium. Come out and enjoy hands on experiments, demonstrations, and math fun hosted by Welder and Sinton Elementary teachers.

"A college is a place where pebbles are polished and diamonds dimmed."

-Unknown

TAKS Testing Right Around the Corner

We have been working diligently to prepare your students for upcoming state assessments.

Your students will participate in TAKS testing on the following dates:

3rd Grade		4th Grade		5th Grade	
April 27 th	Math	March 3 rd	Writing	April 6 th	Math
April 28 th	Reading	April 27 th	Math	April 7 th	Reading
		April 28 th	Reading	April 29 th	Science

Heather Zimmerman, Sinton Elementary, Principal

Visionarios

Flint Hills Resources and The Art Museum of South Texas are pleased to announce the 2010 Visionarios Youth Art Contest for students in grades 1-12. This juried competition encourages young people to participate in art and provides an opportunity for them to be recognized for their efforts. This will be Sinton ISD’s 8th year to enter the competition. Awards ceremonies is January 30, 2010 at The Art Museum of South Texas, admission is free on that day. We anticipate an very high number of turn out of participants Students are also working on their up coming A&H Show art work at the end of January and our Visual Arts Scholastic Event in late February to be held this year in Tuloso-Midway. We are looking to a number of creative mural that the art department will be starting on later in the month and the Art department encourages all to stop by and see them at their various stages. “Remember drawing is a skill a hand eye and like any skill it must learned through practice and repetition.”

Balanced Literacy

Balanced Literacy Trainings for the month of January will be held on January 12th and 13th for the Welder Teachers. On January 12th Sinton Elementary 4th grade teachers will receive training on Writing in preparation for the upcoming TAKS Test. On January 14th, Sinton Elementary staff will receive training. On January 19th and 20th Smith Middle School will receive training for Balanced Literacy. Through continued training SISD is always striving for EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION.

Carol

Reagan



FASFA

Preparing for college is an incredibly exciting affair for SISD seniors and parents. While your student may be quickly narrowing down their school choices; nailing down the financial aspect of college may require more effort on your part.

SISD counselors and representatives from Del Mar College will be on hand in the SHS Library Computer Lab Thursday, February 11th to assist parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FASFA. This application is key in helping you and your student be eligible for federally funded grants and loans that might help your college-bound student cover expenses from tuition, to books, and even room and board.

This is a great opportunity for parents to interact with SHS counseling staff to complete the FASFA forms. Help is available all day February, 11 until 6 p.m. Please bring income tax information and W-2 forms, along with any of your student's college entrance information to help in completing these forms.

TAMUCC Rep Visit

Representatives from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will be on the high school campus January 21st to talk to students about the Island University. Students will get information on enrollment, scholarships, and TAMU-CC in general. Please encourage your student to join in this event and learn about one of the great universities the Coastal Bend has to offer.



San Patricio

A&H Show

January 27th-29th

On Thursday, January 28 and Friday, January 29 Sinton I.S.D. will be following an early release schedule for both students and staff. Welder students will be released at 12 noon and all other campuses at 12:15pm

C.I.S Parent Meeting

Communities in Schools is hosting an open Parent Meeting January 20, 2010 in the high school cafeteria. A representative from the Women's Shelter will be on hand with information about the variety of different programs they offer. Food and drinks will be provided; we hope to see you there!

Blood Drive

SHS is hosting a Blood Drive January 15 from 9 am to 4 pm in the Sam May Gym. The entire Sinton community is encouraged to come out and donate blood to help SISD win the area competition for most units of blood donated. Not only will you be helping Sinton become recognized for our generosity, you will be helping save lives in your community.

FFA

The New Year brings much excitement for Sinton FFA and Jr. FFA members. In just 2 ½ weeks these students will showcase their talent, hard work and dedication put in throughout the last few months and in some cases the past year at the 60th Annual San Patricio-Aransas Counties A&H Show. Exhibitors representing Sinton ISD and the FFA program will exhibit their livestock projects from January 27th-29th. The A&H show concludes on January 30th with the Auction Sale. This year the Sinton FFA is proudly represented by 32 FFA members with 76 entries in the show and 30 Jr FFA members with 67 entries.

FFA is a dynamic youth organization within agricultural education that prepares students for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. FFA was created in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America; however, the name was changed in 1988 to reflect the growing diversity of agriculture. Today, more than 500,000 student members are engaged in a wide range of agricultural education activities, leading to over 300 career opportunities in the agricultural science, food, fiber and natural resources industry. Student success remains the primary mission of the FFA.

The letters FFA stand for Future Farmers of America; however, the Future Farmers of America organization shall be known and shall do business as the National FFA Organization. Over the past 82 years, FFA and agricultural education have grown to encompass all aspects of agriculture, from production farming, agribusiness and forestry to biotechnology, marketing and food processing.

The original idea for the organization was developed after courses in vocational agriculture were established by the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917. In the early 1920s, Virginia formed a Future Farmers club for boys in agriculture classes. This innovation caught fire across the country, which led to the establishment of the national organization in 1928.

Over the years, the FFA has seen many changes. In 1965 the New Farmers of America, the organization for African-American agriculture students, was merged with the FFA. More new members were admitted in 1969 when delegates voted to allow girls into the organization. The 1970s and 1980s introduced new programs and changes to keep pace with the evolving membership and its diversity.

The National FFA Organization is a driving force in developing leadership in today's youth. Active participation in career development events, chapter meetings, award and recognition programs, committees and service and community projects provide FFA members with opportunities to develop personal leadership skills. The organization motivates young people to make positive contributions to their homes, schools, communities, country and world.

E. Merle Smith Middle School

SINTON ISD

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January

4th EMS teamed with SHS to participate in a professional development workshop to learn Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies. Teachers at EMS have embraced the strategies and are already putting them in place in their classroom.

7th SBM/PTO meetings we will also recognize Mrs. Shirley Koether and Mr. Richard Zapata for their outstanding work as school board members as January is School Board Recognition Month; scoliosis testing

18th MLK Day: teachers will be celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and the Civil Rights Movement in individual classes; 8th grade gets to travel to the high school for the MLK presentation.

19th ICF Grant Sponsored Reading Night for Students and Parents 5:15-6:00 p.m. serving dinner in EMS cafeteria and 6:00-7:30 will be the Family Reading Project

20th EMS Faculty Meeting with SVM to learn about the new T-Stem Grant

27th EMS Faculty with honor School Board Members Mrs. Shirley Koether and Mr. Richard Zapata with a breakfast at the South Campus teachers lounge from 7:15-8:00 a.m.

Linda Harrison

Textbook Adoption

The public is invited to review the Reading Textbooks that are up for adoption.

Date: January 28-29, 2010

Time: 8:00 am – 12:00 am

Where: SISD Central Receiving

322 S. Archer

Sinton, TX 78387

364-6817

10 Years, 10 Questions, 10 Minutes

The 2010 Census is Coming!

We approach the end of another year, but also a decade. And with the passing of each decade, we have the beginning of a new.

Recently, our office attended an educational conference where one of the presentations featured staff from the US Census Bureau. Their purpose was to provide a little history on the US Census, while at the same time, prepare people to get out the word that the Census is a critical source of information which drives the services of our country, states, counties and local communities.

Personally, I was struck by a significant example given which clearly explained the need for 100% participation. We were asked to remember a time that we had to go to the emergency room. To remember the experience in terms of the number of people who were there and needed help, how long the wait was, and how apparently understaffed the facility was. This was actually a clear memory for me.

Then, it was pointed out that Emergency Medical Centers (EMC's), among many other things, are staffed according to the "counted" population. Therefore, since only 60% of the population – on average - returned their census data, the staff reflected not the true population, but only the "counted" population. And this led to an overcrowded/understaffed center.

Since the U.S. Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years (beginning in 1790); and since the 2010 Census will define who we are as a nation, affect political representation and direct the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding, let's all help to get the word out, to be counted fully and to harvest the benefit that will come to improve our basic services.

Submitted by Brayde McClure
 Director for Federal and Special Programs
 Sinton ISD

