



Fall Marching Events Place Spotlight on GPISD

The Galena Park ISD Athletic Stadium was a busy place in October. In addition to the full schedule of high school and middle school football games normally played there, the sights and sounds of competing marching bands could be enjoyed as well.

On October 7 the fifth annual GPISD Marching Band Festival featured thirty-two outstanding performances by marching bands from the greater Houston area. Both Galena Park High School and North Shore Senior High marching bands served as host bands and performed in the event. This was one of the largest marching contests held in the state of Texas this fall and was a big success for the district.

On October 21 GPISD hosted the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Region XIX Marching Band Contest. Twenty-two marching bands from Region XIX participated in this event. There were seven Class 4A bands and fifteen Class 5A bands that were trying to earn a coveted *First Division* rating. GPISD band, under the direction of Mark Richard and

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Drum majors from North Shore Senior High "Sound of Thunder" Marching Band during UIL Area F Marching Contest

"Operation Keep in Touch"

"Student Spotlight"

As Normandy Crossing Elementary music teacher Cindy Herrera began preparing for their annual Christmas Musical, one of her students approached her after class upset because his father was being deployed over seas before Christmas and would miss their holiday program. As Mrs. Herrera spoke with the student she realized that, "We should be able to use the technology on our campus to send performances to our parents who are serving in the military and unable to come to their children's programs." She went right to the NCE campus technology instructional specialist, Stephanie Hatten, and together devised a plan to send the children's performances to their parents who are serving over seas; "Operation Keep in Touch" was born. A letter was sent home with the children that will allow parents to sign-up for the program by sending us the email address of the parent who is stationed over seas. All Normandy Crossing programs will be digitally recorded and edited with Movie Maker software by a

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select group of fifth grade students called “The Video Crew”. The finished product will then be sent to the parents who are stationed far away. “Being the parent of three children myself,” Mrs. Herrera says, “I can’t even begin to imagine how difficult it would be to miss their programs and be separated for an extended period. It is my sincere hope that seeing their children perform will help parents feel close to their children who are here at home.” ■



Drum majors from the Galena Park High School "Band of Gold"

(Fall Marching Events, continued from page 1)

Mickey Tate, was one of only two Class 4A bands to earn top ratings of *superior* from all three judges. NSSH band, under the direction of Shane Goforth, Christina Martinez, and Clay McNeill, received an overall rating of *superior* from the three judges and qualified for the UIL Class 5A Area Marching Contest.

On October 28 GPISD hosted the UIL Area F Marching Band Contest. Twenty-six Class 5A marching bands from Regions 9, 10, 17, and 19 participated in this prelims and finals event with the top five bands qualifying for the UIL State Marching Band Contest to be held in San Antonio at the Alamodome. The bands that advanced to the state contest were Spring, Brazoswood, The Woodlands, Klein and Clear Brook High Schools. North Shore Senior High placed fourteenth out of the twenty-six bands and gave an excellent performance to the home side capacity crowd at the end of the preliminary competition.

The Galena Park “Band of Gold” earns a First Division rating at the UIL Region XIX Marching Contest held on October 21 at the GPISD Athletic Stadium.



The undertaking of three marching events by one school district in one month is monumental if not unheard of. The resources of the entire high school and middle school band staff were used as well as volunteers from other district organizations. The GPISD Fine Arts office would like to thank the students, parents, and directors from Galena Park High School, North Shore Senior High, Cunningham Middle School, Galena Park Middle School, North Shore Middle School, Woodland Acres Middle School, Cobb Sixth Grade Campus, Freedom Elementary, and Havard Elementary for their time and hard work in making these events such a success. ■



The North Shore “Sound of Thunder” Marching Band advanced to the UIL Area F Marching Contest held on October 28 at the GPISD Athletic Stadium.

Fine Arts 2006-2007 Professional Conferences

TAEA: November 16-19, 2006

The Texas Art Education Association will hold its annual convention in Fort Worth November 16-19. The 2006 TAEA Convention will focus on classroom strategies, lesson planning and feature keynote speakers and museum opportunities.

TDEA: January 11-13, 2007

The Texas Dance Educators Association will hold its annual convention at the Marriott Westchase Houston, January 11-13, 2007. This year's Convention theme is "In your soul, you can dance forever." The Texas Dance Educators Association was created in 1979 to promote dance/dance team education across the state of Texas. TDEA currently serves over 300 members throughout Texas and the surrounding states.

TETA: January 17-20, 2007

The Texas Educational Theater Association will hold Theater Fest 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Houston, January 17-20, 2007. The deadline for pre-registering is December 15, 2006. Texas Educational Theatre Association was founded in October 1951. Preliminary meetings in 1950 and early 1951 had resulted in tentative plans for the eventual establishments of an organization concerned primarily with improving the status of educational theatre in Texas. The mission of TETA shall be to support, promote and expand educational theatre at all levels in the state of Texas by providing quality educational opportunities, a network of resources, a base for advocacy, and a forum for establishing standards, programs and projects that celebrate the importance of the theatre in the human experience.

TMEA: February 14-17, 2007

The 2007 Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention features workshops for band, orchestra, vocal, elementary and college educators; concerts by the finest musicians and two exhibit halls filled with booths representing all facets of the music education industry. Begun in 1920 as the Texas Band Teachers Association, the Texas Music Educators Association is an organization of more than 12,500 school music educators united by common goals. TMEA Clinic/Convention is February 14-17, 2007. The deadline to pre-register for the convention is December 31, 2006 (by mail or fax) or January 19, 2007 (online). ■



Ryan Heitzman

"Teacher Spotlight"

Ryan Thomas Heitzman is excited to make his teaching "debut" at North Shore High School. He has been performing and directing professional theatre in Houston and Chicago with companies such as Houston Grand Opera, Houston Shakespeare Festival, Houston Children's Theatre Fest, Main Street, Stages Rep, Theatre New West, Chicago's Shakespeare Inc., the famous Bailiwick Theatre of Chicago, among many others and was working with producers and actors from Steppenwolf and the Goodman Theatre. He had then decided to start his own theatre company with his new bride, called Audacity Theatre Company. When his wife was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis they decided to move back to Houston so that they would be close to family and the medical center. Still working as an actor in and around Houston, he stumbled across Region IV Teacher Track, and decided to pursue a career in education while remaining an active member in the theatre community. As he finished his alternative certification in theatre education and looking for a teaching position, he was cast in two local productions as well as a television pilot. He finally landed the job teaching theatre at North Shore, while still performing in a show.

Ryan will make his North Shore directing debut with the Mustang Player's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and is taking it to the technical limits. There will be a 22 ft. live rainfall as well as a 25x50 foot pond on stage! *A Midsummer Night's Dream* has a two night run December 1 & 2 at 7:00 PM in the North Shore Senior HS Auditorium.

His TV pilot shoots in December and is currently being funded by the Sci-Fi channel as a possible internet TV campaign being worked out, and he is working to bring his theatre company to Houston. ■



The North Shore Mustang Players presented "The General of Hot Desire" at NSSH 9/10 campus on October 6 & 7. Set designs were by Mr. Heitzman.

Joyce Weir

"Friend of Fine Arts"

This issue's Friend of Fine Arts is Joyce Weir, principal of North Shore Elementary School. Ms. Weir has spent all but one year of her career in GPISD and became principal of NSE in 1987. A graduate of GPHS, Joyce returned to GPISD after one year of teaching in Pasadena. Ms. Weir has a deep commitment to Arts Education at NSE. She has always taken a great interest in the music and art instruction that her students receive. It is one of Mrs. Weir's priorities for North Shore Elementary to have truly outstanding Fine Arts teachers, great facilities, and exceptional budget support for music and visual art.

Ms. Weir says, "It is my personal belief that the schools may be the only avenue available to many of our students to explore and develop an appreciation and knowledge of the various types of music and art". She adds, "Our students' lives and futures will become less bright and diminished without this opportunity to understand the beauty that can be found in this world through their association with music and art."

This commitment is evident in the school's two performing groups, the NSE Honor Choir and NSE Handbell Choir. Both ensembles rehearse all year long after school and it is not uncommon to see them performing at District functions that aim to spotlight extraordinary talent and dedication to music. Additionally, each grade level prepares for public performances throughout the school year. This month, North Shore Elementary will become the first campus in GPISD to outfit an entire computer lab with Prodikeys. Prodikeys are an all-in-one keyboard, which ingeniously integrates a 37-key, touch-sensitive MIDI piano keyboard with an ergonomically designed Multimedia PC keyboard. The accompanying music software is designed to guide and empower students to play, produce, and record music with computer assistance.

Three years ago, Ms. Weir added a full-time art teacher to her staff. Art teacher, Sarah Graham says, "She has encouraged me to have an after school art program. This year, she has allowed the art club – that consists of 4th and 5th graders – to decorate a car and enter the car in Houston's Art Car Parade. Also, she makes sure that the school's art program is efficiently funded. Finally, she recognizes the talent of the students and wants to showcase their talent by passing along to me information about local, state, and national

Joyce Weir, "Friend of Fine Arts" (continued)

art contests." In our Art room, young artists display the knowledge they have learned about art history, artists and art movements by creating unique and well developed artwork. That Artwork is then displayed in places such as the GPISD Rodeo Art Show in January, the GPISD Administration building, and in the school hallways.

Mrs. Weir lending her support to the Arts at North Shore Elementary translates to her students that music and art is important. Victor, a 3rd grader, said, "Art is important because as I get big, when I grow up I want to be an artist." ■

Fine Arts Calendar

"Upcoming Events"

December 2	Scholastic Art Contest (@ HCDE)
January 18	GPISD Rodeo Art Show (@ NSSH)
February 3	GPISD Vocal Solo & Ensemble Contest
February 10	GPISD Instrumental Solo & Ensemble Contest

TMEA Audition Results

High School All-Region Choir

Galena Park High School	22 students
North Shore Senior High	28 students

Middle School All-Region Choir

Cunningham MS	4 students
Galena Park MS	10 students
North Shore MS	20 students
Woodland Acres MS	3 students

Middle School All-Region Orchestra

Cunningham MS	2 students
North Shore MS	6 students

Middle School All-Region Band

Cunningham MS	17 students
Galena Park MS	2 students
North Shore MS	22 students
Woodland Acres MS	1 student