

First Thing August 15, 2008

The first days of the 2008-2009 school year are behind us. The convocation sessions set the tone for the year. Our cafeteria staff provided breakfast and morning break snacks and they are deserving of many compliments. All of us appeared to be inspired by the disciplined presentation of colors by the WOHS AJROTC cadets and the spectacular performance of the Star Spangled Banner by Ms. Stacy Muniz.

The "Construction Theme" for staff development fit well with the renovations winding down at WOJHS. Compliments are in order for the custodial and maintenance staff that worked late Wednesday evening to have the auditorium and cafeteria areas of the building ready for use. It provides a good feeling to know that the West Oso ISD has staff that will stay and work until the job is done.

The overview of services provided served to remind us of the role that support staff daily. Mr. Hilmy provided an overview of harassment and also referenced bullying behavior of students. Employees are encouraged to refer to local policy FFI for more information. Principals will be providing additional information to the faculties on this topic. Mr. Richard Saucedo focused our attention on safety. He met with cafeteria, custodial, maintenance, and transportation staff Friday morning to provide additional information. Safety requires an alert mind set throughout the day. Safety requires a total staff approach. Safety may often mean watching out for each other and speaking a word of caution when needed. The introduction of new staff assisted with the vocals of Mrs. Jan Davis changed the pace of the morning. The several "dance troupes" had individual interpretations of movement with the Electric Slide which transitioned into the data presentation. Dr. Garza provided a data presentation of district and campus ITBS and TAKS performance for 2007-2008 along with campus and district ratings and "district" performance targets were expressed for the core content areas evaluated by the TAKS.

It is critical that we remember that performance targets are set for the district as a whole and for individual grades as well. All district staff are expected to work together to meet the needs of students. There are actions that individuals are to take and there are actions that collective groups are to take as we move toward building ever increasing outcomes for the students. Instructional staff focused on four (4) questions following lunch. These questions are intended to focus us individually and collectively on

rigor and relevance and on continuous assessment for ourselves and for the learner. Instruction in the classroom is expected to be relevant and of appropriate rigor to prepare our students to favorably compare with students from across the state. The role of reflection can not be over emphasized. Self-assessment by the instructional staff is indicative of keeping track of where one is in the process and knowing what is effectively being learned.

Trustees Approve Pay Increase

WOISD Trustees approved a pay increase for district employees on Monday, August 18th. Trustees approved a 3% pay increase for teachers, librarians, and RN's. A general pay increase of 3% based on the pay grade midpoints will be provided for all other staff. A balanced budget in of over \$20.9 million will be presented for approval on August 25th for the 2008-2009 school year. Appreciation is in order for district and campus administrators who worked during the summer months to develop and revise the budget until expenditures equaled projected revenues. Let's express our appreciation to our Board Members when we have opportunity to speak with them.

Coming Events

8-15	JV Football Scrimmage (Home) 5 p.m.
8-15&16	CCISD Volleyball Varsity (time TBA)
8-14 to 16	John Paul Tournament 9 th & JV Volleyball
8-18,19, &20	Campus Staff Development
8-19	Volleyball at TMISD F, JV, V 5:00 p.m.
8-21	JV Football scrimmage at Hebronville
8-21,22	Teacher Workdays
8-22&23	Volleyball CISD TBA F & JV
8-25	First Day for Students Board of Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.
8-26	Volleyball v Miller HS F, JV, V 5:00 p.m.
8-28	WOHS 9 th & JV Football v Port Isabel 5:30 & 7:00 p.m.
8-28, 30	Volleyball, Alice Tournament V (TBA)
8-30	Cross Country at Cole Park 8:00 a.m.
8-29	Varsity Football at Port Isabel

Quotations

"The vices we scoff at in others laugh at us within ourselves." (Sir Thomas Brown)

"Let no man think lightly of good, saying in his heart, it will not benefit me. Even by the falling of water drops a water pot is filled; the wise man becomes full of good, even if he gathers it little by little.