



Education Commissioner Michael Williams Visits Union Hill ISD

By Velma Clay and Courtesy Reporter Phillip Williams



Education Commissioner Michael Williams included Union Hill in his schedule during his visits of East Texas School Districts on Friday, November 1, 2013. Other districts included on the schedule

were Tyler and Bullard.

Commissioner Williams observed teachers instructing students in several classrooms. He heard second and third grade math teacher Cindy Lewis pose questions to her pupils such as “When I calculate perimeter, what do I do?” and “What do we know about a rectangle?” During his visit in the Business Career and Technology Class, he observed and spoke with students working on various certifications. The students were excited about the conversations and interest shown.

Following the tour of the classrooms, Commissioner Williams spoke to a small audience. The commissioner shared with the audience that during a dinner for school superintendents, Union Hill ISD Superintendent Sharon Richardson had invited him to visit her rural Upshur County Campus.

The commissioner discussed the effects of House Bill 5 on education in the State of Texas. He said the course requirements for the five endorsements—five different high school graduation paths that students can select from which is similar selecting a college major—will be addressed by the State Board of Education in a few weeks. They are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math); Business and Industry; Humanities; Public Service; and Multi-Disciplinary. Commissioner Williams said state board members will address whether to require Algebra II in all five endorsements.

Commissioner Williams said high school graduation percentage is the highest it has ever been. He stated “You see administrators and teachers hard at work, and students hard at work learning, and you see that all over the state.”

It was noted by the commissioner that 4th and 8th grade African-American and Hispanic students in Texas outperform such students in other states in math and reading, but “we’ve got to outperform students in

Bangalore (India) and Beijing (China). That’s our challenge.”

Pittsburgh ISD Superintendent, Judy Pollan asked Commissioner Williams if he foresaw

a change in the accountability system for school districts. He replied, “I do indeed” as House Bill 5 has some directives in it. Williams stated the state tried to design one system that was more balanced.

Big Sandy ISD Superintendent Scott Beene told Commissioner Williams schools need more favorable comments as “our teachers are beat up a lot of times”, the way they feel. “Our teachers are bustling their rear ends,” as are students, and “I appreciate you standing up for us.”

Other school officials attending included Superintendents from Union Grove ISD—Brian Gray, School Board President Jody Day and East Texas Piney Woods CTE-Kelly Muffoletto Director; New Diana ISD—Carl Key; Union Hill School Board Vice-President—Mary Gipson. Also attending was Region VII Education Service Center (Kilgore) Executive Director-Dr. Elizabeth Abernathy.

Superintendent Richardson stated “I think the visit went very well. It was an honor to have him here.” in a written statement, she commended him for visiting schools statewide.

Before Commissioner Williams spoke, Superintendent Richardson briefed him on Union Hill ISD’s data. It showed that 70 percent of students go to college; 20 percent graduate on Distinguished Plan, 65 percent do so on the Recommended Plan, and only 15 percent on the Minimum Plan; 95 percent take Algebra II; average class size is 22 to 26 pupils; and 80 percent qualify for Financial Aid.

In a written statement, Superintendent Richardson expressed pride in the students; commended the administration, faculty and staff; and thanked parents and community members for their support.



Union Hill I.S.D. District Administrator Ms. Sharon A. Richardson-Superintendent



Welcome to Union Hill I. S. D. for the 2013-2014 school year.

Union Hill I.S.D. received the highest rating of “Met Standard” on Sharon A. Richardson Elementary Campus, Union Hill High School Campus, and Union Hill I.S.D. District.

This year, schools in the State of Texas were measured on four different Index Performance Standards: Student Achievement, Student Progress, Closing Performance Gaps, and Postsecondary Readiness. Union Hill I.S.D. scored (16 points — 30 points) higher than the target scores on the Texas Education Agency Rating Scale. Also, the campuses and district scored 100% on all System Safeguards: Performance, Participation, Graduation Rates and Federal Limits on Alternative Assess-

ments. Of the approximately 3,600 campuses across Texas, Sharon A. Richardson Elementary was among the 759 schools that earned distinction in all three areas.

Superintendent Richardson commends the work of the administration, faculty and staff. Major achievements have been made in all areas of academics, U.I.L., and sports. In keeping with the goals and objectives set forth by our Board of Trustees, Union Hill I.S.D. will continue to improve in all academic areas, focusing on math, science, and writing. Sincere thanks to our parents and community members for their loyal support. We look forward with enthusiasm, to all the exciting things we have in store for the 2013-2014 school year. We are extremely proud of our students—Great job!

Remember to seek information concerning our district visit our web-site www.uhisd.com or call Central Office (903) 762-2140.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Union Hill ISD has received a Superior Rating from the State of Texas for its financial performance for the 2012 school year. A school district's school rating is based upon an analysis of financial data for each fixed year. The Texas Education Agency reviews data from 20 indicators to determine a district's rating from sub-standard, standard, above standard to superior achievement. Union Hill has consistently received the highest rating—"Superior Achievement".

Superintendent of Schools, Sharon A. Richardson, stated that she is especially grateful to the Union

Hill Board of Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Staff for working as a team to accomplish this outstanding rating. Union Hill ISD continues to provide the highest quality academic instruction to meet the needs of all students. Also the district continues to maintain facility improvements and security measures to offer the safest environment possible. Currently, we are upgrading security which includes electronically controlled access gates and doors with wireless cpu receivers and additional camera systems.

UNION HILL HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES THEIR NEW PRINCIPAL

Mr. Jason Crow

A note from Mr. Crow,

As we prepare to enter our second semester, I want to take the time to say that the first semester has been a great success. The students are working hard daily to master their subjects and prepare for the upcoming STAAR exams in the spring. Please encourage those students that will be testing in the spring to continue to work hard and prepare themselves for this challenge before them.



Some highlights of our great student body:

- ⇒ Our athletic teams are working hard daily to put forth their best efforts each game night. They are learning the skills needed to be better competitors as well as better young men and women.
- ⇒ Our Junior High UIL team competed and placed very well in the district competition before Christmas break.
- ⇒ The Debate team, Mock Trial, and High School UIL students are preparing for their respective events this spring.
- ⇒ Our Ag and FFA students are preparing for their busy spring shows.
- ⇒ Our seniors are working hard to fulfill all of their graduation requirements, filling out college applications and scholarship information, and preparing to enter society as proud graduates of Union Hill ISD.

As you can see each and every day we are working hard to prepare the young men and women of Union Hill High School to be better prepared for what the world has in store for them. Please encourage your child to be in attendance and to put forth their best efforts each and every day.

Thank you for all that you do as supporters of Union Hill High School and Union Hill ISD.

Sincerely,

Jason Crow

High School Principal

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January 9, 2014

January 2014 is School Board Recognition Month

Union Hill ISD is blessed to be led by a great team of board members. Our board is unified in its desire to do what is best for our students, staff, and community, but most importantly they volunteer their time to keep our district moving forward year after year!

Thank you,

Union Hill ISD

Superintendent, Administration, Faculty/Staff and Student Body



Pictured left to right—Mrs. Sheila Johnson, Mr. Chuck Montgomery, Mrs. Mary Gipson-Vice President, Mrs. Bobbie Mauk, Mrs. Jackie Johnston-Secretary, Mr. James Grunden, Mr. James Parker-President, and Superintendent Richardson.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL—Mr. Brad Watson

A note from Mr. Watson,

Believe it or not, we are now over 12 weeks into school! WOW! We have had a very successful year so far. Your children are working very hard with the teachers to master the TEKS skills. We would like to say a great big thank you to each of the parents who are working hard at home to establish homework routines that enhance the student's opportunities for academic success.



During the next few weeks, many of our students will be working hard to prepare for the upcoming spring STAAR tests. We all know the importance of tests in society, but may wonder how we can relay this importance to our children without causing undue stress, also known as test anxiety. When a student feels overly pressured to perform to certain expectations on any type of assessment, whether the pressure comes from within or from outside sources, they may experience a type of mental overload. You can help to ease tensions that your child may feel in many ways:

- Encourage your child to do their best. Let them know that you believe they are successful, no matter how they perform.
- Talk with your child about setting goals that are attainable. This will help to set your child up for success one step at a time. When each goal is met, urge your child to set the next goal slightly higher.
- Share examples of your own successes and failures. Let your child know that even failures can be turned into winning situations by the way in which they are handled. If you learn something new from each failure, you are better equipped for challenges in the future!

We would like to leave you with this thought;

A carpenter uses a hammer and nails, a potter uses his hands and clay, a painter uses his paint and brush, and a musician uses tune and rhyme to create a masterpiece.

A teacher uses her heart and mind to create masterpieces in learning.

Your child is a masterpiece – unique, one-of-a-kind.

Thank you for sharing your masterpiece with us each day. We're looking forward to watching them grow in their learning

UNION HILL CAMPUS CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION POLICY

- ◆ Campus Crime Stoppers will be under the umbrella of Upshur County Crime Stoppers.
- ◆ Purpose of Campus Crime Stoppers is to give students, parents, and school staff a safe and anonymous tool to stop crime on the school campus and in the community.
- ◆ Campus Crime Stoppers will include the following school districts.

Big Sandy ISD

Gilmer ISD

Harmony ISD

New Diana ISD

Ore City ISD

Union Grove ISD

Union Hill ISD



Jone' Heflin
 Special Education
 Louisiana Tech and
 LeTourneau University
 Graduate
 Agriculture and Animal
 Science Degree

Richard Hutchings

Athletics, PE
 Union Hill ISD, Tyler Junior
 and Langston University
 graduate.
 Goal: I want to see Union Hill
 get back to its winning ways.



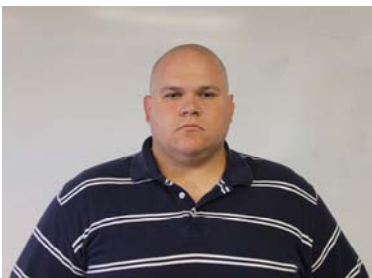
UNION HILL WELCOMES NEW FACULTY and STAFF



Brian Hall
 PE, Athletics
 Business Career High School and
 Wayland Baptist College graduate.
 Bachelor of Science Occupational
 Education Degree



Joan Howard
 Classroom Aide



Andrew Reynolds
 Government, Economics, Athletics
 Gladewater High School and Brigham
 Young University graduate.
 BA History Education
 Minor- Political Science
 I feel we are building a student body who
 have an eye on creating a brighter future.



Bruce Grider
 English, Athletics

UNION HILL ALUMNI CORNER featuring HENRY LAWTON

The Alumni Corner is featuring Henry Lawton, son of Mrs. Marie Taylor. Mr. Lawton graduated from Union Hill High School in 1982 and University of North Texas State in 1988. Henry Lawton works for ExxonMobil Cartus Corp as a Financial Control Analyst.

ExxonMobil participates in Partnership in Education with the Irving Independent School District. Mr. Lawton is the coordinator of Partnership in Education for ExxonMobil and works directly with Farine Elementary School serving as a mentor for ten years. He is responsible for recruiting mentors and volunteers for the program.

In addition to Partnership in Education, Mr. Lawton coordinates other projects for ExxonMobil including: 1) school supply drive at the beginning of the school year; 2) uniform drive; 3) Adopt-A-Family Program during the Christmas Holidays; and 4) Thanksgiving Dinners for families.

Henry Lawton and ExxonMobil have received Volunteer of the Year Award along with other awards from Irving Independent School District. ExxonMobil has also awarded Mr. Lawton several awards for his volunteer efforts.

Congratulations to Mr. Henry Lawton for going the extra mile in caring and sharing.

Note: Please send information about other Union Hill alumni so that we may include them in future issues. ClayV@uhisd.com or call 903.762.2138 Ext 206.

ELEMENTARY HAPPENINGS

UIL ACADEMICS Mrs. Debbie Kuza , Director

Union Hill students in grade 2 through 5 participated in District 18A UIL Academic Elementary District Meet at Sulphur Bluff on December 4, 2013. Union Hill ranked 3rd out of 6 schools.

CHESS Grade

3-Team 3rd Carlos Mendoza 1st

4-Team 1st Keith Powell 1st, Brayden Bullock 2nd

CREATIVE WRITING Grade

2-Allie Gore 2nd

DICTIONARY SKILLS Grade

5-Gabbie Vasquez 3rd, Annalynn Andrews 4th, Rylee Davidson 5th

LISTENING Grade

5- Team 2nd Gabbie Vasquez 4th, Ethan Pate 6th

MUSIC MEMORY Grade

3-McKenzie Davis 6th

5-Annalynn Andrews 3rd

NUMBER SENSE Grade

4-Team 1st Cody Swaim 1st, Lucy Davis 4th

5-Team 2nd Dakota Moyer 1st

ORAL READING Grade

4-Hailea Downs 2nd, Grant Campbell 6th

5-Sam Qualls 3rd

READY WRITING Grade

3-Kimmie Johnson 2nd, Makenzie Jackson 5th

4-Lucy Davis 2nd

5-Carson Bullock 5th

SOCIAL STUDIES Grade

5-Team 3rd Tre Venters 5th

SPELLING Grade

3-Team 2nd Kimmie Johnson 1st

5-Team 2nd Sam Qualls 2nd, Lexi Sigler 4th

STORYTELLING Grade

2-Allie Gore 1st, Devin Espinosa 3rd

3-Connor Heflin 1st



ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES.

(Information BY Hartsel McCellon)

- ♦ The Veterans Day Breakfast and Assembly was sponsored by the 5th and 6th grades under the guidance of Mrs. Connie Johnston.
- ♦ A Thanksgiving program featuring a traditional Thanksgiving dinner was presented by Mrs. Johnson.
- ♦ Pre-K took a field trip to the North Pole to see Santa and lights.
- ♦ A Christmas party featuring Mexico as theme was sponsored by Prek-K
- ♦ Pre-K parents dressed up as a story book character, reading to the students. Parents included Kellie and Billy Byrd, Robin Jones, and Erin McCoy.
- ♦ The Mobil Science Lab visit on campus was enjoyed by all students.



UIL ACADEMICS

Mrs. Velma Clay, District UIL Academics Coordinator,

District 18A UIL Academic Junior High Meet was held on Wednesday, December 5, 2013 at Sulphur Bluff ISD. Union Hill Junior High (6-8) ranked 3rd overall in District 18A. Special Thanks to Coaches Velma Clay, Marsha Alexander, Regina Parish, Sarah Hilliard, and Nathaniel Carter. Results for Union Hill are listed below.

ART Grade

6-Dana Mendoza 5th

CHESS Grade

6-Dana Mendoza tied for 3rd

7—Suzannah Sanford tied for 2nd

8-Team 1st Alexander McKinley 2nd, Carl Fletcher and Dwight Cook tied for 3rd

DICTIONARY SKILLS grade

6-Madison Jones 6th

8—Josie Heflin 3rd

EDITORIAL WRITING Grade

6-Kaitlyn Qualls 1st, Ethan Qualls 3rd, Jakobe Griffis 6th

7-Dawn Moss 5th

8-Josie Heflin 2nd, Jada Fisher 3rd

IMPROMPTU SPEAKING Grade

8-James Cody Yandle 3rd, Bethany Neighbours 5th

LISTENING Grade

6-Team 3rd Madison Jones 3rd

MATHEMATICS Grade

6-Team 3rd Dana Mendoza tied for 3rd, Kaitlyn Qualls 6th

7-River Scudday 5th

8-Team 1st Josie Heflin 1st, Parke Scudday 2nd, Dwight Cook tied for 4th

NUMBER SENSE Grade

6-Jakobe Griffis 1st

7-Team 3rd Omar Aguillon 4th, Riley Griffith, River Scudday

8-Team 3rd Dwight Cook 4th, Jamari White, Bethany Neighbours

ORAL READING Grade

6-Brianna Jackson 5th

READY WRITING Grade

6-Jakobe Griffis 5th

8-Josie Heflin 2nd, Samantha Collier 5th

SCIENCE Grade

7-Team 1st Patricia Latham 2nd, Brianna McIntosh 6th, Emily McCellon

8-Team 2nd Ashton Flinn, Lizabeth Aguillon, Aureliano Cisneros

SOCIAL STUDIES Grade

6-Team 3rd

7-Team 1st Shelby Downs 1st, Patricia Latham 4th, Bryce Beene

ADVANCED ACADEMICS—GIFTED and TALENTED

Mrs. Velma Clay, District Coordinator

Union Hill will participate in the Region 7 ESC Model United Nations (MUN) activities January 23-24, 2014(grades 5-8), January 28-29, 2014(grade 7-8) Leaders, and January 30-31, 2014(grades 9-12). Several students were selected for leadership positions out of more than 125 applicants. Students selected and their positions are as follow:

HIGH SCHOOL

Katelyn Grunden Chair World Health Organization (WHO)

Kayla Campbell Co-Chair United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

Hannah Bolt Committee Coordinator

Makaylah Downs Security Council Representative

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Josie Heflin Security Council President

Keely Penner Co-Chair United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

CX DEBATE NEWS

Union Hill UIL Cross Examination (CX) Debate Teams participated in the Pine Tree Pirates Tournament during the Christmas Break. Each team won 1 out of 3 rounds with Maria Bocanegra earning top speaker points in 2 rounds. The teams will participate in several other tournaments to meet the state rounds requirements. They will also compete in the District CX Debate Meet to be held at Union Hill on January 25, 2014. Team members are 1) Datravon Duffey and Tyler Cook, 2) Guadalupe Suarez and Hector Berrospe, and 3) Imelda Huerta-Aguillon and Maria Bocanegra. Coach Clay is very proud of the after-school time put in by these students as all tournaments are held on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

Union Hill Happenings



SOUNDS FROM THE BAND HALL By Chanee Hansen



The band has been very active performing and participating in various events including performing at home football games and marching in the annual Yamboree Parade.

According to Director Kelly Bennette, the band will have a lot going on starting January 14. Each Tuesday Mrs. Sherry Poteet will work with the band during class. Guest Band Director, Dr. Ken Wilbanks, will come and help teach the students how to play better the week of February 10th. Last but not least, March 5th the band will be having a UIL Concert on sight-reading.



FFA and Agriculture Corner By Jose Ledezma

The Agriculture Department has been involved in many projects under the guidance of Mr. Van Duffey, Sponsor.

Three show teams members went to the Four States Fair Show in Texarkana. Austin Browning placed 1st, Hannah Bolt placed 1st and Jose Ledezma placed 3rd. Helpers Peyton Barrett and Enrique Bocanegra were very instrumental during this competition.

THEATRE ARTS PLAY By Chanee Hansen

The 2nd period Theatre Arts Class put on a Christmas play for the elementary students in December. Chanee Hansen took the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" by Dr. Seuss and wrote it in play form for the class to perform on stage. The addition of Santa Claus was especially enjoyed by all the students. Performers in the play were Chanee Hansen, Mickey Brewster, James Hensley, Julia Martin, Akaysha Johnson, DeJuan Miller, Hector Berrospe, Martin Aguillon and some 5th and 6th grade students.



Mrs. Marsha Alexander is Director—Instructor.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS By Jone' Heflin—Sponsor

Elementary, Junior High and High School students did a community service project about the UPDATED law and cell phones on school campuses. It was brought to our attention that many parents were on their cell phones while in the student pickup line on campus. The new law states that you are not to be using a cell phone while driving a vehicle on a school campus when the lights are flashing. The previous law applied to the roadway but new law extended it to the parking lots and pickup lines.

High School students served as host and hostess for Commissioner Williams' visit on campus. They helped Mrs. Johnston with setting up, serving and cleanup for Veteran's Day Program. Students also sold candy cane grams to students and delivered them before Christmas break.

Elementary members chose visiting 2 local nursing homes as their community service project. Students sang Christmas carols and passed out homemade Christmas cards to residents of the nursing homes.



HOMECOMING CELEBRATION By Ti-Aira Fort

Homecoming days for the Union Hill Bulldogs were September 23—27. Union Hill family participated in the following activities: Monday—"Put 'em to Sleep!" pajama pants, t-shirts; Tuesday—Nerd Day; Wednesday—"Bandage 'em Up!" bandage up your "Fake Injury", dedicated to Coach Carter; Thursday—"Dog Commander Day", dress in camo for the "Dog Dynasty" (Duck Dynasty); Friday—Spirit Day, dress to support our Bulldogs. The Business Management and Business Information Management Classes presented several mini-commercials during the District-Wide Pep Rally in the stadium. The celebration climaxed with the crowning of Homecoming Queen, Amanda Gunn, and King, Guadalupe Suarez, by former Queen-Shanterrious Duffey and King-Javarrious Dixon. The Homecoming Court consisted of Duke Guadalupe Suarez and Duchess Amanda Gunn, Duke Pake Montgomery and Duchess Kelsi Colbert, Duke Dakota Dudley and Duchess Ti-Aira Fort, Band Sweetheart, Chanee Hansen and Amanda Gunn, Ag Sweetheart, Amanda Giles, Football Sweetheart, Hannah Bolt, Yamboree Duchess, Passion Johnson, Junior Class Duchess, Peyton Barrett, Sophomore Class Duchess, Alexis Elledge and Freshman Class Duchess, Nicole Griffith.



My Yamboree Duchess Experiences by Passion Johnson

The Yamboree Festival is celebrated each year in Upshur County. Young ladies are given the opportunity to represent their local schools as Yamboree Duchesses. I had the pleasure of representing Union Hill ISD this year. As the Yamboree Duchess, I participated in various activities such as Queen's rehearsal, All-Service Luncheon, the Queen's Coronation, Queen's Ball, Mother Daughter Brunch and two parades. I was exposed to new experiences and many new individuals.

I would like to thank my classmates, Union Hill Faculty, Staff and Administration for selecting me to represent our school in the Yamboree.

Veterans Day Observance

A breakfast and assembly honoring local veterans were held November 11, 2013. The activity was sponsored by the 5th and 6th grades under directions of Mrs. Connie Johnston with Specialist David Bailey, son of Union Hill Librarian, Mrs. Linda Bailey.



SPORTS WORLD

Volleyball

by Makaylah Downs and Jaycee Wolfe

Practice, practice, practice! Hard work and dedication was a key to our successful season of volleyball. We remember the slamming of bodies trying to reach a falling ball, and the encouraging talk on the court. We could've been better at rushing to the ball, but never failed to step off the court without bruises or skinned knees.

On the subject of us being a team? We were a family. We had several leaders that stepped up to the plate, but our ONLY senior, Katelyn Grunden, encouraged all 12 of us and really showed us what she had. We could not explain how much next year needs to be here. I'm ready to be united with my family again.



Union Hill High School Girls Basketball

The Union Hill Lady Bulldogs Basketball team is not afraid to meet the challenges faced on the court. They all work very hard to learn plays and hustle for the ball. Although the workouts are hard, all players feel that with determination and drive, play offs are in view. The Lady Bulldogs have a decent record at this time.



Union Hill High School Boys Basketball

by Austin Elson

Union Hill Boys Basketball started October 28, and so far practices have been fun but hard. We have

learned 2 plays and are continuing to learn more while improving the ones we already know. Our conditioning is hard, but Coach Grider has us do conditioning through drills, and it doesn't seem like we are conditioning. Our team is looking good. We have a lot of skillful athletic students that will help us throughout the year. The team members are Austin Elson, Broderick Wright, Pake Montgomery, Austin Browning, Bryce Venters, Colton Wade, Colby Wade, Daylon Brewster, Hector Berrosope and Martin Aguillon. As you can see, we have the size and strength to compete very well this year and possibly go to the playoffs.



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