

# BULLDOG NEWS

UHISD

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 17, 2015

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to Union Hill I.S.D. for the 2014-2015 school year. The Union Hill I.S.D. School Board, Administration, Faculty and Staff will continue to place emphasis on academic achievement, high school expectations, mutual respect, and life-long learning for all students PK-Grade 12. We will continue to provide quality educational opportunities and resources to all students equally and to teach skills required to pursue a high education. Union Hill I.S.D. has received a Superior Achievement rating since the beginning of the Financial Integri-

ty Rating System of Texas in 2002. The district not only received a Superior rating, but scored a perfect score 70 out of 70. Union Hill I.S.D. has adopted a resolution to replace The High Stakes Testing Accountability System with a system that engages student learning, cultivates individual talents, and restore local control over student achievement. The Accreditation Statutes in the state of Texas have increased, Union Hill ISD believes in excellence for all, a high focus on academic achievement in math, reading, science, social studies, writing, foreign languages, fine arts, and athletics. Finally, Union Hill I.S.D. continues to maintain facility improvements and security measures to offer the safest environment possible with electronically controlled gates and doors with wireless cpu receivers and a sophisticated camera security system for all buildings. The district is continuing to develop and revise

safety procedures to ensure a safe environment for all campuses. We are extremely proud of all students and their accomplishments in academics, athletics and extra curricular activities. We are grateful to administrators, faculty and staff for their dedication and hard work.



## CONGRATULATIONS MR. DUFFEY!

We want to congratulate you on being selected First Place in the Conservation Teacher Award in this year's Area IV Conservation Awards Program. It is sponsored by the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Area IV consists of 51 coun-

ties and 37 soil and water districts.



*Watch out for the upcoming Journalism Team's encouraging words.*

*Clues for a major prize!*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

TESTING: 8th math	4/20
TESTING: 7th math, 8th social studies	4/21
TESTING: 7th reading, 8th science	4/22
UIL Academic Regional Meet at Tarleton St. Univ.	4/24-25
Regional Track Meet at Tarleton St. Univ.	5/1-2
Prom @ Silver Alley	5/9
FFA Banquet (6:00 P.M.)	5/12
Athletic Banquet	5/21
EARLY RELEASE	5/22

## New to Union Hill

Union Hill is proud to announce that our txGradebook parent portal application, txConnect, is now available. Parents may access txConnect from anywhere with an internet connection. A mobile app is also available for download. TxConnect provides parents with online access to their child's grades and attendance as well as alerts of absences or low grades. Please call or stop by your campus office to obtain a parent portal letter with your students unique Portal ID as well as instructions on how to create your account. Contact the High School at 903-762-2138 or Elementary at 903-762-2139



## High School Principal—Jason Crow

### DAWG'S UIL

Union Hill High School Students represented very well in the District Meet Friday, March 27, at NTCC. Complete District results for Union Hill are listed on [page 4](#).

Union Hill will be involved in the Region Meet at Tarleton State University in Stephenville on April 25, 2015. Special thanks to ALL students for working hard while preparing for the various contest.

Thanks to Union Hill Board of Education, Administrators, Academic Coaches, Parents, Faculty, and Staff for your support.

By: *Velma Clay*



This has been an outstanding year up to this point at Union Hill High School. We are currently working hard preparing for the upcoming STAAR tests and the teachers and students are pushing ahead each and every day. We have experienced success this year academically and athletically here at UHHS.

Athletically, we have had a memorable school year:

**Football**– High School and Junior High completed their first season playing 6-man football. The high school was one win away from a playoff berth and the junior high team was the district champion. The future looks bright for Union Hill Football.

**Cross Country**– In our first season of cross country, we quali-

fied both boys' and girls' teams for the regional meet, as well as sending 2 of our boy harriers to the state meet in Round Rock.

**Volleyball**– Competing in a very tough district, our girls fought each and every match and represented our school very well.

**Basketball**– All of our basketball teams competed each and every practice and game at a very high level. While the wins were hard to come by, the work that they put in at the high school and junior high level will pay off in the years to come.

**Baseball, Softball, and Track**– These seasons are full swing and the athletes are preparing each and every day the weather allows to put the best product on the field.

We also have been successful academically this year:

**Cross– Examination Debate**– UHHS sent 2 teams and 1 alternate to the state meet in Austin.

**One-Act Play and UIL Academic UIL**– These high school events are coming up soon and the students are preparing diligently in order to represent UHISD to the best of their ability. The junior high competed at their academic meet in December and we had many students come home with medals.

**Ag**– These students put in countless hours outside of school in order to show animals, compete on competition teams, or build projects for show. We have competed in Ft. Worth, San Antonio and the Houston Live Stock Show and Rodeo, and these are invaluable experiences to these students that reward their hard work.

As you can see, this has been a great school year up to this point. With the spring comes award banquets, athletics events, STAAR testing, and for the seniors...graduation. I am proud of each and every student and the things we are accomplishing. It is a great time to be a Union Hill Bulldog!!!!

## Ag News

Here in our very own Union Hill, our AG students excelled in a land judging contest bringing home numerous places! Cody Yandle brought home the FIRST place medal, Josie Heflin came home with SECOND, and Kasen Yandle took THIRD! (Riley Pate got participation) In area our AG students as one unit took 8<sup>th</sup> out of 24 other teams! Wow that's what you call working hard to achieve an amazing goal GO AG!!

In Area 6 our senior AG students came back with some wonderful results and points under their belt buckles! Jose Ledezma got a 100 out of a top score of 130, Caitlin Nurre scored a solid 93 also out of 130, and Peyton Barrett score a 70 out of 130!! Those are some amazing scores posted by our seniors; their long travels and hard hours of work are definitely showing in these competitions!! We are very proud of these guys and hope they keep up all the great work!

## Student Body at Work by Giovanni C. and Corey R.

As we talked to our student council, we got some feedback on how the student body can make a difference on our campus.

KayLynn Mowery, vice president, said student council is a way for students to express their concerns about the

school. Student council provides leadership, serves the student body, the school and community.

After some discussion about student council involvement in the community, KayLynn told us about how the council had raised money for St. Jude's, a chil-

dren's hospital, and how they produced a veteran's day program to show appreciation of our past and present troops.

Student council stated, "We are a big help but, we're just getting started in making a difference; so for years to come, a big difference will be made!"

## Outstanding Students - Senior Highlights

### Hayley Collier By Natalie S.

Senior, Haley Collier, is one of our outstanding students at Union Hill. She has accomplished many goals that she set for herself. Haley's motivation behind her drive to achieve success is attributed to her parents. She sees herself graduating from A&M Commerce University, as a teacher, making a difference in kids' lives and being able to make them happy.

She considers herself as an overachiever and spends as much time as she needs studying until she can fully understand. Some things that she enjoys doing are spending time with her family and friends, participating in church events, and going out for a run. As a little kid, she always wanted to do well in school and be the best she could.

Her main goals in life are to be happy and successful; she

believes she's on the right path. It took hard work, determination and never giving up to achieve this position. Haley's advice to other students is "Always do your best, and never give up. Don't settle for less than you deserve. And most importantly, believe in yourself.. Because if you don't, who else will?"



### Maria Bocanegra by Lizabeth A.

Maria Bocanegra, an 18 year-old senior at Union Hill High School, has become one of our most outstanding students. As a great student, Maria has accomplished many goals to earn this spot. What drives Maria to work hard is parents and cousins who have been pushing her throughout her education.

Her great abilities have come from late night studies at the library or even extra hours of class. All this helped her throughout her high school years, and also has helped her become an over achiever. Two of her main goals are becoming a great nurse after college, and 6 maintaining good grades. In years to come, she also plans on raising a family. With a busy schedule, Maria also enjoys spending time with her family and close friends. She likes running events in

school, such as cross country and track.

Maria Bocanegra never envisioned herself in the class position she is in. Her cousin inspired her to become somebody successful. After high school, Maria plans on attending TJC and becoming a very successful nurse. Her tips to students are to work hard and get up every time you fall.



## View From The 'TOP DAWG' by Jada F., Devann E., Hannah C.

Union Hill athletic director, Coach Carter, would like to enhance the UH Athletic program. He said that he would, personally, like to see golf added to the sport options.

When asked about the experience he's had with the Athletic boys he replied, "We've had great memories, and hope to have many more."

He mentioned that, "In order to be where they want, they have to let the coaches do what is required of them. The kids also have to want it and there has to be some support from home." Coach Carter stated that he can see a great improvement now from three years ago. Three years ago the work ethic was at a low point. However, now they have developed great work ethic, but still have a ways to go.





**UIL RESULTS:**

**Calculator Team:** Dwight Cook 3rd; Colton Wade and Adam Kuza;

**CX Debate:** State Participant: Datravn Duffey, Tyler Cook 1st;

State Participants: Josie Heflin, Colton Wade 2nd;

State Alternate: Dwight Cook, Valerie Sisk 3rd;

**Current Issues:** Jason Claborn 5th, Allison Vasquez 8th;

**Editorial Writing:** Region Qualifier: Haley Collier 2nd;

**Informative Speaking:** Region Alternate: DeJuan Miller 4th;

James Yandle 6th;

**Lincoln Douglas Debate:** Regional Qualifiers: Riley Pate 1st, Hannah Campbell 2nd, James Yandle 6th;

**Math Team:** Region Qualifier: Dwight Cook 3rd;

Region Alternate: Colton Wade;

Kasen Yandle 10th;

**Number Sense:** Region Qualifier: Colton Wade 4th; Dwight Cook 10th;

**Persuasive Speaking:** Region Qualifier: Josie Heflin 1st

**Ready Writing:** Region Alternate: Brianna DeSpain 4th;

Makaylah Downs 5th;

**Science Team 6th:** Kayla Campbell; Taylor Colbert; Dwight Cook; Sydney Ward; and Aubrey Buchanan;

**Speech Team 1st:** Datravn Duffey, Tyler Cook, Josie Heflin, Colton Wade, Dwight Cook, Valerie Sisk, Riley Pate, Hannah Campbell, James Yandle,

**Cross the Country, One Step at a Time**

by Jada F., Devann E., Hannah C.

*UH Cross Country team did very well in its first year of competition this school*

*year, 2014/15. The team's coach, Mrs.*

*Heflin, thinks that it's very important*

*that the parents and athletes are on the*

*same page. "In order for the athletes*

*to progress, they both have to have*

*higher expecta-*

*tions." Others believe that all there is to do in Cross Country is running, but*

*Coach Heflin assures us that "Cross*

*country is a sport where either you love it*

*or you hate it. The people who love it; however, love the freedom it gives them."*

*Coach Heflin says that her team's favorite time to run is at the meets. The excitement is not only thrilling for the runner, but also for the coaches. One thing that Coach Heflin assures is that she expects her varsity*



*cross country team to advance to state next year. In cross country, unlike other running events, the biggest competition is yourself.*

**Jr. High UIL Winners  
2014-15**

- **Lexi Latham: 3rd place-Social Studies**
- **Bryce Beene: 4th place-Social Studies**
- **Dalton A., Lexi L., Bryce B. : 1st place-Team Social Studies**
- **Shelby Downs: 5th place-listening skills**
- **Bryce Beene: 5th place-ready writing**
- **Madison Espinosa: 4th place-ready writing**
- **Lexi Latham: 3rd place-Social Studies**
- **Ana Mendoza: 1st place-dictionary skills**
- **Omar Aguillon: 2nd place-number sense**
- **Omar A., Hunter N., River S. : 2nd place-Team number sense**
- **Dalton Austin: 1st place-Social Studies**
- **Madison Jones: 3rd place-editorial writing**
- **Reanna Rogers: 5th place-editorial writing**

## Elementary Principal - Mr. Watson



Believe it or not, we are coming to the close of the 5th six weeks! WOW! We have had a very successful and exciting year so far. Our students 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.

The elementary school welcomes so many who have chosen Union Hill ISD as a place they want to work with students this year. Ms. Karyssa Helton our new 1st grade teacher is challenging her students with activities that will be remembered long after the year is over. With Ms. Cindy Lewis moving into the Math Intervention Specialist position, Ms. Jana Wilson joined our team as our 2nd and 3rd grade Math/Science teacher and is pushing students to limits that Albert Einstein would be proud of. Ms. Joanna Lambert is teaming with Ms. Wilson and is preparing students with language arts and reading skills for the future. Our new leader in 4th grade writing and language arts skills is Ms. Linda Williams. Mr. Tony Berg is with us challenging students in 5th and 6th grade math, to sharpen their problem solving skills to new levels. Also, shaping our students to be future athletic bulldogs, we are happy to have Coach Cliff Arakaki. Covering a whole array of

skills for our students is Ms. Candace Johnson, our new counselor and last but definitely not least is Ms. Michel Lain. Ms. Lain, the district librarian, is providing opportunities for all the students of the district to broaden their horizons through the experiences of books. As we begin the season of state assessments we all are striving to remain focused on the importance of the task at hand. In reading recently I ran across a brief story that I felt was something that may lend balance to this time of high expectations.

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of the World.

Though there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list.

The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. to see

2. to taste

3. to touch

4. to hear

She hesitated a little, and then added,

5. to feel

6. to laugh

7. and to love

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. Those things we overlook as simple and

"ordinary" are truly wondrous. A gentle reminder, this year, that the most precious things in life can be just in front of us.

Please continue to keep your sights set on the task at hand but also seek balance in all that you do.

### Teacher Feature By Ana Figliolia, Colton Wade, Dejuan Miller

Mrs. Lambert is a second and third grade teacher who loves her job. As a first year teacher, she loves the fact she can be home with her children every night and able to make a difference in her students' lives. "Being a teacher creates many memories" Mrs. Lambert says, but she most enjoys the stories from her students.

Mrs. Lambert's biggest goal in teaching is to be someone that the students look up to and trust, just as her third grade teacher was to her. She says that having children helps her have compassion and more practice with little kids. (cont. page 6)

(con't from page 5) Another goal of Mrs. Lambert's is to get the parents involved in their children's class activities. She says "some want to be involved already but it is still a very hard problem." But that is not the biggest issue she encounters as a teacher: STAAR Test, pressure, not enough time to test everything, are some of the problems she has to face during the school year. Even with all that, she is still in love with her job.

Although as a child Mrs. Lambert want-

ed to be a doctor, with her whole family working as teachers, her mind started to change over time. Then after teaching her first class, she soon fell in love with teaching small children. Inside her classroom one can expect to find noise, interactive learning that keep the kids involved, and of course, a lot of fun.



## UIL Results - Elementary

### 2nd gr.

Trystah Bullock-storytelling 4th place

Eli Mendoza-Chess 3rd place

Team Chess 2nd place-Eli, Jacob, Ashton

### 3rd gr.

Rylee Burns-storytelling 2nd place

Allie Gore-storytelling 3rd place

Natalee Finley -storytelling 1st place

Mykaylee Blackwood- spelling 5th place

Landry Davidson-spelling 4th place

### 4th gr.

Kimmie Johnson-spelling 1st place oral reading 5th place

Michael Colbert- chess 6th place

Daphne Neighbours-Art 5th place

Carlos Mendoza-, Chess 5th place

Caleb Powell- number sense 3rd place

Connor Heflin-oral reading 6th place

### 5th gr.

Elizabeth Strube-, listening 5th place

\*Team listening 2nd place-Keith P., Airen C., Elizabeth S.

Keith Powell- Listening 6th place Chess 1st place

\*Team maps, graphs and charts 3rd- Keith P., Braeden B., Ashton N.

Christiana Sanford- music 5th place

\*Team music 3rd place- Christina S., Airen C., Heavyn S., Hayden G.

Hunter Moyer-number sense 3rd place

\*Team dictionary 3rd place- Lucy D., Natalie J., Hunter M.

Lucy Davis-number sense 5th place dictionary 4th place

Cody Swaim-number sense 1st place

\*Team Chess 1st place- Braeden B., Ryan B., Keith P.

\*Team Number Sense 1st place- Hunter M., Lucy D., Cody S.

\*Team Social Studies 3rd -Elizabeth S., Ashton N., Natalie J.

Ashton Neighbours-Social Studies 2nd place

Braeden Bullock-Chess 4th place Maps, graphs and charts 6th place

Ryan Brown-Chess 6th place

Hailea Downs- oral reading 3rd place

Krisan Mowery- oral reading 6th place

### 6th gr.

Javier Hernandez- 6th place Social Studies

Lexi Sigler- Spelling 2nd place math 6th place

Cristian Aguillion- Spelling 5th place

Carson Bullock- maps, graphs and charts 5th place

Ryan Boersma- impromptu speaking 6th place

Dakota Moyer- number sense 1st place math 1st place

Gabby Vasquez- dictionary 4th place listening 5th place

Alex Mitchem- Art 1st place music 3rd place

Annalynn Andrews- Impromptu Speaking 4th place

Trent Bolt-maps, graphs and charts 4th place

Londyne Fort- music 6th place spelling 6th place

\*Team Spelling 1st place- Lexi S., Londyne F., Cristian A.

\*Team Number Sense 2nd place- Carson B., Ryan B., Dakota M.

\*Team Maps, Graphs, and Charts 2nd place- Trent B., Esteban M., Carson B.

\*Team Music 2nd place- Annalynn A., Alexandra M., Ryan B., Londyne F., Cash A.

\*Team Math 1st place- Dakota M., Samuel H., Lexi S.

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