



*Home of the Pirates!*

SPRING 2011

# CRANDALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Congratulations Seniors 2011



**Valedictorian**



**George Robert Long, III**

**Salutatorian**



**Kirby Daniel Welch**

**District Web Site:**  
[www.crandall-isd.net](http://www.crandall-isd.net)

### CISD Board of Trustees

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## 26th Annual Black and Gold Academic Banquet

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, Crandall High School hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> An-

nual Black & Gold Awards Presentation. The night focused on the achievements of the senior students. Members of the Student Council, National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and UIL Literary participants were recognized. These organizations have sponsored several student activities several community service projects including Red Ribbon Week, the blood drives, adopt a highway, and the Crandall ISD Administration Open House at L.F. Raynes.

Dr. Long recognized recipients of the Teacher of the Year recognition for each campus. Mrs. Lynette Ghormley was presented the Goose Award, and Guy Eastep received the CISD Heritage award for his continued support and involvement in Crandall schools.

The evening concluded with the presentation of senior scholarships.

*Continued Black & Gold on next page*

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Black & Gold Continued from page 1

# Congratulations Crandall ISD Black & Gold Scholarship Recipients

<p>NAME: Evelyn Oluwayemi Akinyemi College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Student Council</p>	<p>NAME: Cameron Scott Gann College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Country Gardeners Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Anna Claire Patrick College: Texas A &amp; M University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Cornerstone AMS Crandall Athletic Booster Club Kaufman County Texas A&amp;M Booster Club</p>
<p>NAME: Ashley Marie Anchondo College: Undecided SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff WRA Architects</p>	<p>NAME: Cassandra Lea Girouard College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Charles Monroe Person College: University of Texas at Dallas SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Amy Kuver Memorial Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>
<p>NAME: Reid Allen Baker College: Undecided SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Daniel Steel Kim Baker Memorial Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: McKenzie Ruth Goodson College: Oklahoma Christian University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Gallagher Construction Home Bank of Seagoville Crandall Athletic Booster Club Crandall Student Council National Honor Society</p>	<p>NAME: Brandon Keith Pryor College: Undecided SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>
<p>NAME: Jacob Colby Blunt College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Carly Alene Hackler College: Amarillo College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff WRA Architects</p>	<p>NAME: Jordyn Ashleigh Rogers College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>
<p>NAME: Lauren Elizabeth Brewer College: Mary Hardin Baylor University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Trinity Valley Electric Co-op National Honor Society Crandall Gold Dusters</p>	<p>NAME: Colton Jacob Harlan College: Brookhaven College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Matthew Curtis Rose College: Stephen F. Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Carl Rose Scholarship Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>
<p>NAME: Brittany Gail Brumbelow College: Tarleton State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Wade Logan Harrell College: Tarleton State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Home Bank of Seagoville Borders and Long</p>	<p>NAME: Ricardo Jesus Ruiz College: Texas Woman's University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff WRA Architects</p>
<p>NAME: Dillon Tyler Bunch College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters</p>	<p>NAME: Tayler Larren Harris College: Texas A &amp; M University SCHOLARSHIP: Cornerstone AMS Crandall Athletic Booster Club Kaufman County Texas A&amp;M Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Lauren Chanel Shirley College: Brookhaven College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>
<p>NAME: Michael Brandon Carter College: University of Texas at San Antonio SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall/Combine Lions Club</p>	<p>NAME: Skylar Marshall Holley College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Blake Lee Smith College: University of North Texas SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall/Combine Lions Club Steve Howell Real Estate</p>
<p>NAME: Brittney Ann Cisnero College: McLennan College SCHOLARSHIP: Cecil E Downey Scholarship</p>	<p>NAME: Shelby Ann Hughes College: University of Texas SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Gallagher Construction Crandall Athletic Booster Club Crandall High School PTO</p>	<p>NAME: Savannah Madison Survil College: Wake Forest University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Daniel Steel Tre Vinson Memorial Crandall Athletic Booster Club National Honor Society</p>
<p>NAME: Jacob Anthony Controne College: Oklahoma State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Dakymbia Lavell Hughey College: Tyler Junior College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Katlyn Ann Sweet College: Texas A &amp; M University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall/Combine Senior Citizens Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>
<p>NAME: Michael Paul Cooper College: Oklahoma Christian University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Gallagher Construction Crandall Athletic Booster Club Crandall Student Council</p>	<p>NAME: Haley Grace Jackson College: East Texas Baptist University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Estephania Torres College: Sam Houston State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters</p>
<p>NAME: Rico Eric Cortez College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>	<p>NAME: Hailey Quinn Jacobs College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Tre Vinson Memorial</p>	<p>NAME: Brianna Leigh Vick College: University of Texas at San Antonio SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Gibson Discount Pharmacy Crandall Gold Dusters Trinity Valley Electric Coop.</p>
<p>NAME: Joshua Crain College: Undecided SCHOLARSHIP: Amy Kuver Memorial</p>	<p>NAME: Emily Anne Kirk College: Dallas Baptist University SCHOLARSHIP: Ron Rowland Memorial Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Austin Allen Wagoner College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>
<p>NAME: Stacy Marie Crawford College: The University of Texas at Tyler SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Crandall Day Care Crandall/Combine Lions Club Walsh, Anderson, Brown Crandall Band Boosters</p>	<p>NAME: George Robert Long College: Texas A &amp; M University SCHOLARSHIP: Amy Kuver Memorial Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club Kaufman County Texas A&amp;M Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Mallori Sharee Weaver College: Texas State University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT American National Bank Daniel Steel National Honor Society</p>
<p>NAME: Alexandra Lorraine Dennis College: University of Mary Hardin Baylor SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Gallagher Construction Kyle King Memorial Tre Vinson Memorial National Honor Society Trinity Valley Electric Coop.</p>	<p>NAME: Ricky Lynn Lopez College: Mountain View College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club Borders and Long</p>	<p>NAME: Kirby Daniel Welch College: University of North Texas SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Amy Kuver Memorial Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters Crandall High School PTO</p>
<p>NAME: Alex Taylor Dyson College: Texas A &amp; M University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall Athletic Booster Club Kaufman County Texas A&amp;M Booster Club</p>	<p>NAME: Robert David Wayne McClendon College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters</p>	<p>NAME: Zachary Bryce Wesley College: Texas Tech University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Student Council</p>
<p>NAME: Jake Alexander Embry College: Oklahoma Baptist University SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT David's Supermarket</p>	<p>NAME: Chante Shanice McDonald College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: Gibson Discount Pharmacy Crandall Student Council</p>	<p>NAME: Jackson Reneau White College: Blinn College SCHOLARSHIP: ACT/SAT Home Bank of Seagoville Crandall Athletic Booster Club Crandall High School PTO</p>
<p>NAME: Colby Dijon Farr College: Texas State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Athletic Booster Club Sylvia Marlar Lung Foundation</p>	<p>NAME: Nathan Garrett Moonshower College: Tarleton State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Methodist Men</p>	<p>NAME: Heather Brooke Wilson College: University of Texas at Tyler SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff</p>
<p>NAME: Amber Elizabeth Fields College: Stephen F Austin University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters</p>	<p>NAME: Tyler Shane Morgan College: Blinn College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Crandall Band Boosters</p>	
<p>NAME: Trisha Leighann Gaines College: Trinity Valley College SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall ISD Teachers and Staff Trinity Valley Electric Coop</p>	<p>NAME: Mallorie Jane Newton College: Tarleton State University SCHOLARSHIP: Crandall/Combine Lions Club Crandall Athletic Booster Club</p>	

## CONGRATULATIONS CHS ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM!

In its first year, the Crandall High School Academic Decathlon team qualified for state competition with their performance at the Region XII Academic Decathlon competition at South Grand Prairie High School. The team placed 6th overall out of 14 teams and took a 3rd place Bronze medal in the Super Quiz event.

The team was one of only 15 teams that advanced to compete at the small school state competition in San Antonio, Texas. Coaches James Herrod and Amanda Jouett are very proud of the Crandall ISD decathletes!



### Martin Elementary Students Celebrate Back to the Future Night!

The halls at Martin Elementary were beaming with proud 2<sup>nd</sup> grade parents and students Tuesday, January 25, 2011. The students completed biographies, with projects, of someone that was important to them or our country. Stories of Annie Sullivan, Michael Young, Christopher Columbus, and many more were shared.

Back To The Future Night was enjoyed by all!



### CONGRATULATIONS CHS SOCCER TEAM!

The Crandall Boy's Soccer team brought home the first trophy ever in the history of Crandall High School. The team competed in the Kennedale Soccer tournament and made it to the championship game. Although they lost to Argyle, they did an excellent job!

Congratulations to the team and Coach Dyson!



### New Chapter at Crandall High School SkillsUSA

An organizational meeting for the new CHS chapter was held on January 11, 2011. Officers elected are: Zach Wesley, President; Johnny Tang, Vice President; Bibiana Barboza, Secretary; Bryan Trail, Treasurer; Brendan Brownfield, Reporter; and Blake Snell, Parliamentarian.



*CHS SkillsUSA Winners*

The SkillsUSA contest was held in Waco this past February. Johnny Tang placed 1st in Computer Maintenance. Zach Wesley placed 2nd in Extemporaneous Speaking. Bryan Trail placed 2nd in Computer Maintenance. Bibiana Barboza placed 3rd in Computer Maintenance. Johnny Tang and Zach Wesley later represented Crandall ISD at the SkillsUSA State Conference in Corpus Christi. Congratulations students!

# Sara Linsley Named Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award Winner!



Junior Sara Linsley will represent the state of Texas as the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Award winner. This is the third

year in a row that a Crandall student was chosen for this honor. The Al Neuharth Free Spirit program selects, teaches, mentors and supports 51 outstanding high school students, representing each of the 50 states and Washington, D.C. They will participate in an all-expenses-paid journalism training conference at the Freedom Forum's Newseum, located on Pennsylvania Avenue between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. They will also be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship that will be paid to each student's college or university of choice in the fall of 2012.

The conference and scholarships are designed to inspire and encourage students to pursue journalism, to network with one another and to develop lifelong associations. The conference, hosted by Al Neuharth, includes full access to the Newseum, interaction with media leaders and journalists, hands-on training, tours of Washington's landmarks, plus fun and fellowship. The Free Spirit program began in 1999 and is funded by the Freedom Forum to honor Neuharth, the founder of the Freedom Forum, Newseum and USA TODAY.

"Free press, free speech and free spirit. These are the guiding principles of the Freedom Forum. The first two are easy to grasp. Free Press: the freedom to print or broadcast without censorship, and Free Speech: the freedom to speak without compromise. But a Free Spirit is harder to define," said founder Al Neuharth. "Free spirits dream, dare and do. A free spirit can also be a risk-taker, a visionary, an innovative leader, an entrepreneur or a courageous achiever who accomplishes great things beyond his or her normal circumstances. The Freedom Forum is committed to nurturing freedom across the USA. This is a great honor for Sara and for the CHS journalism program."

## Amber Huddleston Commits to Austin College



Senior Amber Huddleston committed to Austin College to be a Lady Roo Volleyball player this fall. Amber was a 2 year letterman for Crandall High and was named Co-Serfer of the district this past season. She helped her team to the area round of play-offs for the past 2 years. She'll join the Austin College team as an outside hitter and compete for a conference championship under head coach Ed Garza.  
*Congratulations, Amber!*

## Ricky Lopez Signs a Letter of Intent



On Friday, February 11, 2011, Crandall High School student, Ricky Lopez, signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Mountain View Junior College. *Congratulations, Ricky!*

## Lauren Shirley Signs a Letter of Intent



Senior Lauren Shirley committed to Brookhaven College to play as an outside hitter for their volleyball team. She comes into a successful program with the Brookhaven Bears having 4 national championships under their belt along with last seasons finish as NJCAA DIII National Runner-Up. *Congratulations, Lauren!*



## Crandall ISD Basketball Players Win Area Championship

The Crandall Pirates won the Area Championship game February 24-26th 2011.

It was the first basketball district championship in back to back seasons, making CISD school history. Including the shared title in '08, men's basketball now has 3 district championships in the last 4 years. Way to Go!

*Pictured Back Row L-R: Coach Short, Aaron Sweet, Cody Watson, Troy Rakestraw, Aaron Zamora, Jackson White, Kane Vinson, Dylan Brandwie, Brandon Johnson, Coach Hughes, Coach Sitton  
Front Row L-R: Reid Baker, Michael Cooper, Blake Smith, and Otis Smith*

## Walker Elementary Students Participate in Invention Convention



Grace Cox, Dominic Jaquez, Aman Hogan-Bailey and Mrs. Kiplinger



Emily Briones and Deja White

Walker Elementary 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students participated in the Invention Convention. Student participants had to invent a product and design a project explaining their invention. Votes were tallied for the "Inventor of the Year."

## Congratulations Gold Dusters!



The Gold Dusters traveled to Galveston for a National competition on March 25, 2011. The girls have spent countless hours preparing and the hard work paid off. They received a 1<sup>st</sup> division on all four routines by scoring a 92 or higher on each routine. They also won 1<sup>st</sup> in two categories and runner up in a third category. There were more than twenty teams attending the competition and the grading criteria at National is more stringent than regular competitions. The girls did a great job representing Crandall High School.

## CHS Band Wins Big at UIL



Thirty-seven students from Crandall High School participated in the Region 3 UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest at Mesquite High School. CISD students received 1st Divisions in nine out of ten ensemble; including a 1st Division for Jazz Band, the second year in a row. The total medal count for the event was 49 1st Divisions and 5 2nd Divisions. Five students qualified for the State UIL contest: Dillon Bunch, Meagan Crow, Melanie Daniel, Kirby Welch, and Jackie Stinson in two events.

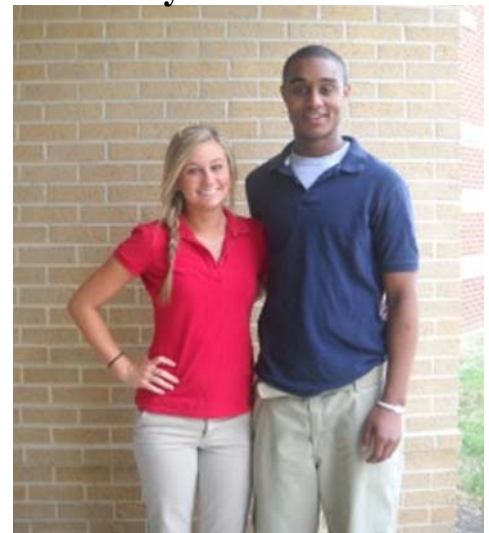
## Congratulations Powerlifters



James West finished 5th and Dillon Morrison placed 4th at the Regional meet in Rusk, Texas. Dillon was also awarded the Outstanding Bench award. Go Pirates!

*Students, James West (left) and Dillon Morrison (right) are pictured with Coach Howell*

## Congratulations Colby and Brandon!



**Colby Farr**  
**TABC All-Region Basketball Award**  
Colby Farr was selected to the 3A region II all region basketball team by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. Colby has helped lead the Lady Pirates to three consecutive district championships and an area championship this season. She also received the District 13-3A Offensive Player of the Year award for her efforts on the court during her senior campaign.

**Brandon Johnson**  
**TABC All-Region Basketball Award**  
Brandon Johnson was recently selected to the 3A region II - All Region boys basketball team by the Texas Association of basketball coaches. This makes three consecutive seasons a Crandall Pirate was selected to this team. Brandon did a great job leading his team to district and area championships this season. Individual Accomplishments 2011 TABC, All Region 2011, District 13 offensive MVP 2011, Bridgeport Tournament MVP 2010, First team All District

# Congratulations Lady Pirate Powerlifters!



The Crandall Lady Pirates won the 13-3A Powerlifting Championships this past weekend at Crandall High School. Individual winners were: Taylor Larsen, 1st place; Taylor Thomas, 1st place; Mary Gilcrease, 2nd place; McKenzie Goodson, 1st place; Paige Cook, 2nd place; Kelsey Koller, 3rd place; McKenzie Crow, 2nd place; Mallorie Newton, 1st place; Sierra McCoy, 1st place; Nia Wilson, 2nd place; Savoy White, 2nd place.  
Taylor Thomas was also named Outstanding Lifter for the meet.

## CONGRATULATIONS LADY PIRATES BASKETBALL 2010 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



### The Texas Education Agency, Epsilen LLC, and The New York Times Company to Collaborate on Innovative eLearning Portal

Nov. 13, 2009 – The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in collaboration with Epsilen LLC, and The New York Times Company, is pleased to announce Project Share, a new initiative to expand the development and delivery of high quality professional development in an interactive and engaging eLearning environment and provide access to online resources, online course content, academic networking, and professional learning communities.

Project Share will utilize a single online environment to leverage existing and new professional development resources for teachers across the state and build professional learning communities where educators can collaborate, share, and tailor professional development to meet individual needs.

Professional learning communities provide opportunities for educators to share ideas, effective classroom strategies and knowledge of current education research. Project Share will also provide opportunities for extensive interactions among teachers and students, showcasing accomplishments through ePortfolios, and new forms of evaluation through online student assessments.



### CISD Hosts 2011 Special Olympics



### CISD Teachers of the Year

Crandall High School  
Patrick Hartley

Crandall Middle School  
Kimberly Sanders

Wilson Elementary School  
Katie Cohen

Martin Elementary School  
Beth Albin

Walker Elementary School  
Abby Brock

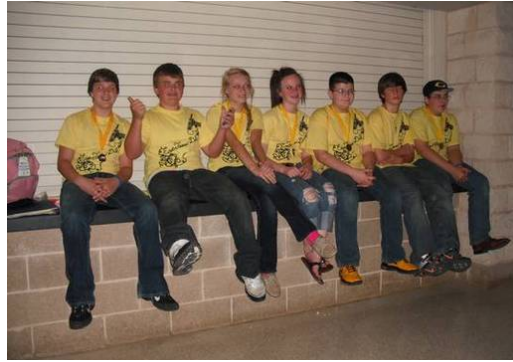


### Crandall ISD Taylor Thomas Wins State Championship

Taylor Thomas, pictured with Coach Barnett, after winning 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Texas High School Woman's Powerlifting Association State Championship in the 114 lb. weight class.  
*Congratulations, Taylor!*



Team managers are: Mrs. Elizabeth Phipps and Mrs. Shelli Megrue. Team members include: Gavin Phipps, Spencer Megrue, Austin Moore, Kaelyn Nicholas, Caitlyn Parsons, Alex Moreno, and Sarah Kennemer.



Team members are from left to right: Tyler Watson, Connor Beckman, Callie Coulter, Morgan Nugent, Andrew Berendzen, Brett Fox, and Graham Phlieger. Team managers are: Mrs. Karla Watson, Mrs. Dana Berendzen, and Mrs. Linda Coulter.



Team members are from left to right: Parker Gray, Shannon Josephson, Cameron Mills, Sarah Ueckert, and Aaron Stamper. Team managers are: Ms. Daphne Tunnell and Mrs. Kelly Mills.

## Congratulations Crandall ISD Destination Imagination Teams

### Crandall Elementary DI Team

Together for the first year the Crandall ISD Elementary Destination Imagination team competed in their first regional tournament on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at Poteet HS in Mesquite, TX.

### Crandall Middle School DI Team

Together for their third year, Crandall Middle School Destination Imagination team competed at the regional

tournament at Poteet HS in Mesquite, Texas on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Placing first in their age division for improvisation, they advanced to state level competition in Lubbock, TX. The team placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the state level.

### Crandall High School DI Team

Placing first at regionals in Mesquite, Texas at Poteet HS on Saturday, March 5, 2011 the High School Destination Imagination team advanced

to the state level of competition which was held in Lubbock, Texas. While making their sixth appearance at the state level, they secured another first place finish and advanced to the global tournament held in Knoxville, TN at the University of Tennessee. This will be the second trip to globals for the very talented and experienced CHS improvisation team. Students represent not only the state of Texas but also Crandall ISD.

**Congratulations! We are very proud of the Crandall Destination Imagination Teams!**

## Crandall High School Students Receive Student Achievement Award

Nineteen Crandall High School students received the "Texas Student Achievement Award" from the Texas ACT Council for their performance on the PLAN (the Pre-ACT) Assessment. These students are on target to meet or exceed ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks by graduation. ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks are empirically-based and identify the level of achievement necessary in English, mathematics, reading, and science to have a successful college freshman experience.

The students receiving this recognition from the Texas ACT council are:

Kaitlin Brown, Christopher Coburn, Ty Cook, Amy Cowan, Hunter Dil-

lon, Christopher Donawho, Jared Dunlap, Trever Dykema, Isabella Flores, Madison Hollaway, Dakota Hope, Peter Irvin, Dakota Jones, Jason Laird, Amanda Lloyd, Conner Martin, Mallory Pettijohn, Sara Reeves, Jaqueline Stinson.

The Texas ACT Council is made up of secondary and postsecondary educators who advise ACT, Inc. on the utilization of ACT programs and services in Texas schools and colleges. ACT, Inc. is the not-for-profit organization that provides assessment, research, information and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development and the publisher of the ACT Assessment. The ACT Assessment is the college

admissions test that is accepted by all colleges nationwide.

According to Karen Pennell, ACT Assistant Vice President and Southwest Regional Manager, "The Texas ACT Council recognizes those students who are making significant strides to prepare themselves for college by taking rigorous courses and meeting the PLAN (Pre-ACT) College Readiness Benchmarks. We also want to recognize that student PLAN (Pre-ACT) achievement is the result of a strong commitment by Crandall High School teachers, staff, administrators, and parents to increase college readiness for all students."



## Mrs. Christensen's Middle School Students Participate in Fairytale News Rehearsals

CMS students in Mrs. Christensen's Advanced Language Arts class read several fairytales and analyzed the characters. Students then wrote a news broadcast with several news stories involving the characters. The rehearsals were for the live broadcast that the students later performed.

# **New State Assessment System—STAAR—Begins in 2011-12 School year**

**By Pamela Crites, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction**

Beginning the 2011-12 school year, the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing will replace the current Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The first group of students expected to meet the State's new STAAR end-of-course testing requirements includes those students entering high school the 2011-12 school year as freshmen who are expected to graduate the spring of 2015.

Grades and areas tested in the STAAR system are as follows:

Reading: grades 3-8

Mathematics: grades 3-8

Writing: grades 4 and 7

Science: grades 5 and 8

Social Studies: grade 8

STAAR End of Course tests will be administered for the following courses:

English I, English II, English III

Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Biology, Chemistry, Physics

World Geography, World History, U.S. History

The new STAAR tests will be significantly more rigorous than previous tests and will measure a child's performance, as well as academic growth. The grade 3-8 STAAR tests in reading and mathematics, by law, must be linked to performance expectations for the English III and Algebra II end-of-course assessments. Expectations are based upon college and career readiness standards and vertically aligned across grade levels.

The end-of-course exams are a key component of the STAAR system, which is designed to help students meet college-readiness standards. These new exams are course-specific and more rigorous than the TAKS. At the current time, pending changes in legislation, students must meet standard on each end of course assessment or retake the assessment until mastery is met.

What does more rigorous mean? On STAAR, the questions are more complex and will require more thinking on the part of the student. The questions will be designed to measure a student's college and career readiness, starting in elementary school. The Texas Education Agency has identified for each grade or course a set of knowledge and skills to be assessed and emphasized called "readiness standards." These readiness standards will be defined by those skills considered critical for success in the current grade/course and important for preparedness for subsequent grades/courses, and ultimately for college and career. The majority of the test (60-65 percent) will concentrate on these readiness standards with another portion of STAAR (35-40 percent) assessing other skills for the current grade/course -- known as supporting standards.

Student performance will be reported using the following performance categories:

- Level III: Advanced Academic Performance
- Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance
- Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

Mastery on the STAAR and End of Course assessments will require a higher level of cognition, thinking and problem-solving skills across all grade levels. Educators will be working across grade levels and content areas to align instruction and formative assessment with new, more challenging STAAR expectations.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) provides more information about the assessed curriculum for each STAAR test at [www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/).

All secondary students entering high school prior to the fall of 2011 will graduate under the existing TAKS graduation requirements. Until the current 2010-11 9th grade students graduate from high school in the spring of 2014, high schools will be administering two assessment systems, TAKS and STAAR.



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**2011-2012**  
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**[www.crandall-isd.net](http://www.crandall-isd.net)**



**Congratulations S.T.A.R.S.  
Class of 2011!**

Crandall Alternative students attended the S.T.A.R.S. (Students Taking Academic Responsibility for Success) Banquet held on May 20, 2011 at the Crandall-Combine Community Center. Principal, Gail Barnes, and Alternative Center teachers hosted the event for S.T.A.R.S. students, and their family members. The students and their families were invited to attend the presentation and luncheon in celebration of the S.T.A.R.S. Class of 2011!



**Crandall Middle School Girls Helping  
Girls Host End of the Year Banquet for  
Little Sisters**

Crandall Middle School Girls Helping Girls hosted a banquet at the Crandall-Combine Community Center for their little sisters on May 24, 2011. At the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year select Crandall Middle School Girls were chosen by their teachers and principal to serve as mentors for younger female students throughout the school year. The partnership taught various leadership skills, community service, organization, and yielded many strong friendships.

# Congratulations Crandall ISD Speech & Debate



The team of Catherine Bradshaw and Zach Wesley, both seniors, qualified for the 2011 UIL CX debate tournament in early February. They competed over Spring Break in 8 rounds of debate to determine the 3A state champion. CHS entered the second day of the tournament bracket as the 16th seed and defeated the top seeds throughout the day to become the champions. Congratulations Catherine and Zach!

Left to right: Zoe Phipps, Delane Harig, Kayla Harig, Garrett Wesley, Catherine Bradshaw, Zach Wesley and Coach Jason Hamilton

CHS Cx Debate Teams traveled to Mabank for a district tournament. Zoe Phipps and Dealne Harig placed fourth. Garrett Wesley and Kayla Harig placed third. Zach Wesley and Catherine Bradshaw placed second. Zach was also named top speaker. Zach and Catherine will represent CHS at the state tournament in March. Kayla and Garrett served as the district alternates.

CISD was well represented in the recent UIL State Meet. Zach Wesley won gold in Informative Speaking. Garrett Wesley placed third in Persuasive Speaking. The team consisting of Zach Wesley, Garrett Wesley and Sarah Ueckert brought home the State AAA Conference Speech Team Award. Congratulations Students and Sponsors!

## Crandall ISD First Graders Perform the Musical "Go Fish"

Martin Elementary, Wilson Elementary, and Walker Elementary Students participated in the "Go Fish" Performances.



CISD elementary music teachers Mrs. Tara Fenton, Mrs. Stephanie Shing, and Mrs. Anna Hoffman, organized and arranged the first grade performances of "Go Fish." Walker, Wilson, and Martin elementary first grade students successfully memorized lines and musical numbers that were performed on stage for parents, teachers, family, and friends at their elementary campuses.

## Crandall ISD Hosts Life Skills Prom



On Friday, May 6, 2011 Crandall ISD hosted the 2011 Life Skills class prom. Four different school districts including: Mabank, Scurry, Kaufman, and Kemp, along with Crandall ISD students participated in the Life Skills prom. The prom was hosted in the L.F. Raynes Board room. Students were encouraged to wear dressy attire and prepare for a good time! Johnny Stuck along with student assistants organized and coordinated the music. Blake Snell served as the DJ. Coach Edge and the Teen Leadership students assisted and helped to make the event fun and successful!

# 38th Annual Kindergarten Circus

Martin Elementary, Wilson Elementary, and Walker Elementary Students participated in the 2011 Kindergarten Circus



## MARTIN ELEMENTARY KAUFMAN COUNTY FAIR WINNERS Congratulations, Students & Sponsor, Jessica Hooten!



**Quinten Baxter**  
Best in Category  
Reserve Champion  
1st Place Blue Ribbon



**Kayla Chaney**  
Best in Category  
Grand Champion



**Shelby Roberts**  
Best in Category  
Grand Champion

## Elementary Students Celebrate Storybook Parade!





### Congratulations to Retiring CISD Staff

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, Crandall ISD hosted a district wide retirement reception honoring Mrs. Tonianne Nelson, Mrs. Linda Shehee, and Mr. Doyle Cole. Mrs. Nelson, a Family Consumer Science high school teacher, has served the district 16 years in education. Mrs. Shehee is a Crandall Middle School teacher and has dedicated 25 years in education. Mr. Doyle Cole served in maintenance as a HVAC and refrigeration technician and has dedicated over 36 years to public education.

Crandall ISD warmly congratulates these retirees for their many years of service and dedication to children and public education!

### CISD Board of Trustees Approves Staggered Start for the 2011-2012 School Year

With the anticipated extreme reduction in funding from the state, multiple areas of expenditure reduction have been approved and others are under consideration. The Board of Trustees recently approved staggered start times for the 2011-2012 school year. Projected costs savings for the 2011-2012 school year include approximately \$180,000 for the next 3 to 4 years.

The anticipated arrival and dismissal times for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows:

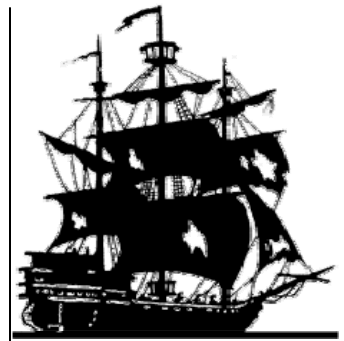
**Elementary Schools Grades PK-6**  
Start: 7:50am  
End: 3:00pm

**Middle School and High School**  
Start: 8:30am  
End: 3:40pm

Bus schedules will be published to the district's website this summer. In an effort to adhere to safety standards and avoid crowded buses, riders will be required to ride their assigned bus.

## Crandall

Independent School District  
P.O. Box 128  
Crandall, Texas 75114



### Pirate Breakfast

September 10, 2011  
High School Cafeteria  
10:00 a.m.  
**BREAKFAST**  
**\$8.00**

### RESERVATIONS MUST BE PLACED IN ADVANCE

Purchase Deadline is August 30th

Mail to:  
Kristin Reznicek, Coordinator  
P.O. Box 128  
Crandall, Texas 75114  
Office: 972-427-6000 x5840

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## NEWSLETTER

## LOCAL POSTAL PATRON



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