FEBRUARY 2019

Tomball talk

Not just a district, a destination.



WHAT'S INSIDE A LOOK AHEAD

TOMBALL

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- 12 Tomball Community Arts Showcase Celebration Event
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4_5

School Board Meetings Board Room 5:30 PM

11 10

Spring Break

21

Tomball Community Arts Showcase Celebration LSC - Tomball Library

5 PM

26

Two-Way Dual Language Parent Meeting #1
Rosehill Elementary

5:30 PM

Two-Way Dual Language Parent Meeting #2
Rosehill Elementary

5:30 PM

April 1

Two-Way Dual Language Parent Meeting #3 Rosehill Elementary

5:30 PM



What is Tomball Talk?

Tomball Talk is a monthly eNewsletter for Tomball ISD. Each issue will highlight the previous month's top headlines as well as awards, events and accomplishments.

Who is behind Tomball Talk?

Tomball Talk is edited and published by the Tomball ISD Communications

Department.

Have materials to submit?

If you have material (calendar events, news stories, numbers of note) you wish to submit, please email: allisonmcclain@tomballisd.net.

Nominate an Educator or Group for our Spotlights!

Do you have an educator doing amazing things on your campus or a group that has been actively engaged in the community?

Nominate that respective individual or group, accompanied by a few bullet points explaining why they deserve to be spotlighted.

Email nominations to allisonmcclain@tomballisd.net.

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ISD PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR



CHAD SCHMIDT - TOMBALL ELEMENTARY

Tomball Elementary School Principal Chad Schmidt earned the honor of the 2018-19 Elementary Principal of the Year.

"It's an incredible honor in just my second year in the district to be recognized by my peers. There are so many people who are worthy that I look up to, admire and respect in this district and in leadership roles. It is humbling and incredible to be recognized in this way," Schmidt said.

His commitment to education and putting students first has allowed him to excel at TES in just two years. His vision of excellence stems from his experiences as an educator at many different levels.

"Chad Schmidt leads his campus with a balance of high expectations coupled with a culture of support. He maintains positive relationships with his staff, students and parents," Dr. Valerie Petrzelka, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools said.

"The greatest thing about being principal at Tomball Elementary is the fact you get to interact with the kids each and every day. We have the best families and the best kids. They want to do their best, they want to learn and they want to be a positive influence in the adults' lives as much as we want to be positive influences in their lives," Schmidt said.

"Reaching Every Child, Every Day" is the Tomball Elementary vision and Schmidt leads the way in implementing that each day for his students on campus.

"The best part of my job is opening the car doors in the morning and saying, 'Good Morning', getting those hugs and high fives when walking the hallways, and having the kids say, 'Hey! Guess what I did?' or telling me what they did in class that day or having them ask me to read with them. That is the best part of my job.

With more than 20 years of elementary education experience, Schmidt brings a wealth of knowledge that has contributed to the successes at Tomball Elementary. He has built a community within TES that exemplifies support and represents a family-like environment.

"It's the best job in the world. It is not always the easiest job in the world but it is the best job. It's home and it's family. As we support our families, we are a family and it is a blessing to walk through the doors every day," Schmidt said.

When asked what initially interested him the most in being the principal at TES, Schmidt didn't hesitate one minute when describing what this community means to him.

"Learning is possible here at TES. We are fortunate to have a close-knit community that appreciates and supports the school system and that wants the best for our students. It was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up," Schmidt recalls.

He came to Tomball ISD to lead Tomball Elementary and within a short time, he has earned the honor of Principal of the Year. When asked what makes working in Tomball ISD so special, Schmidt was all smiles.

"Tomball ISD is one in a million. It really is. You have support from the highest levels. You have opportunity to make a difference in the ways you know you can. It's the only place I've ever worked in which the students drive what happens. We meet the students' needs both socially, emotionally and academically and you don't find that everywhere. It takes a lot of trust but knowing you are being trusted that way, is very motivating, encouraging and demands my best.



Tomball Star Academy Principal Kim McKinney was honored as the 2018-19 Secondary Principal of the Year.

"It was quite an honor. I do believe all of our secondary principals are fantastic leaders on their respective campuses and to me, I wish we could all share the honor as we all work really hard for this district. I thank them for this recognition and I'm very honored," McKinney said.

When Tomball Star Academy opened its doors two years ago, the district was tasked with hiring its first Principal to lead the charge.

'The initial draw for me was that there was the ability to think outside the box at TSA. Sometimes when you walk into a position that is already created, has an outline of what the school is supposed to look like, it can be a different experience than walking into a school that had no blueprint. I was trusted to develop a vision and run with it. We have been able to incorporate a lot of out-of-the-box experiences that haven't necessarily been done district-wide, some successful, some we have had to revamp, but overall, we have been able to meet the needs of the kids," McKinney

McKinney's ability to demonstrate leadership while also maintaining a personality that is relatable to her Star Academy students is evident and has provided her with one of the most rewarding jobs in her career.

"Being principal at TSA has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career in a lot of ways. This position gives me the ability to have my hands in everything. A lot of times administrators, especially at the upper level, lose sight of being able to build relationships with your students. In this job, I get to do all those administrative tasks but I also get to build relationships with kids which at the end of the day, when you see them and their successes, that's what it is all about.'

She demonstrates a passion for education, a passion for developing the students on her campus and when asked what is the best part of her job, it only required two words.

"The kids."

"Watching our kids grow and learn how to be successful in advanced classes, watching the little wins, seeing them achieve their goals, there really isn't anything better than that."

McKinney is no stranger to Tomball ISD, having served in the district for 14 years. She began her career as a teacher and coach and moved into administrative roles as an Assistant Principal at Tomball High School for four years before earning the Associate Principal title at THS for five years.

Now in just her second year leading the charge at Tomball Star Academy, McKinney has implemented an encouraging learning environment, supports her educators through a rigorous college-readiness curriculum while still maintaining her understanding of leadership in Tomball ISD.

"I've seen the district change a lot. The thing that has consistently drawn me to this district is the atmosphere that has remained to be a like a family. Even as we have grown as a district, transitioned throughout, that sense of family and sense of pride, has continued to be a draw for me. We continue to push the boundaries with academics and wanting our students to be successful not just academically but in life. There is a real push across our district to build the whole kid and I love that."



PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELORS CELEBRATED

Tomball ISD's Professional School Counselors are celebrated for the impact they have on students through academic support, social and emotional guidance and career development.

As part of the National School Counseling Week 2019, sponsored by ASCA, Tomball ISD recognized counselors from across the district who go above and beyond for students on their respective campuses.

National School Counseling Week 2019, "School Counselors: Providing Lessons for Life," was celebrated from Feb. 4-8, 2019, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week highlighted the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students each and every day.



The group of counselors were honored at the February Board of Trustees workshop meeting.

Professional school counselors are certified, experienced educators with a master's degree in guidance and counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program.

"School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing students' academic concerns, career awareness in post-secondary options and social/emotional skills," said Kwok-Sze Wong, Ed.D., ASCA executive director.

Counselors not only assist students in educational endeavors but now, more than ever, provide social and emotional support for students. They provide a positive environment that enhances the students' ability to properly manage the social and emotional demands of their

"Our role has changed and is now focused on taking care of the whole child and not just the academic portion of their school life. We really look at all aspects of their life and help them cope and develop in every way possible," Lead District counselor Jennifer McCready said.

"I think it has moved far beyond the paperwork aspect of just making sure they have all their classes they need to graduate. We really are talking to them about their goals and are helping them to become productive members of society," Kathy Hannan, Canyon Pointé Elementary counselor said.

Tomball ISD houses a Comprehensive School Counseling Program that ultimately contributes to the overall safety and security of a campus.

"Comprehensive school counseling programs help to increase student achievement and provide a much-needed resource for students, parents, teachers and administrators. School counselors are integral to student success," Wong said.

School counselors also provide students an avenue to explore talents and traits that may later relate to career development for their future. They continually help promote ways for parents to support their children through social, personal and educational growth and work with teachers to help guide students towards realistic goals.

"What I enjoy most is working with the students and their families and seeing them grow, change and flourish," Erin Thaemlitz, Creekside Park Junior High counselor said.

Not only do counselors provide support for students but for staff as well.

"We also always want our staff and teachers to know we are here to support them as well. It is important that our teachers know the things we do can't be done in isolation or alone. We work hard to collaborate with teachers on the social and emotional side of every child," Hannan said.

In Tomball ISD, the role of a school counselor has grown and changed, but in the end, supporting children and staff remain constant.

"Of all the professional counselors I've worked with in my career, the ones we have here in Tomball ISD are top-notch. We are committed to making sure our students are okay, to helping them grow and to help them succeed and achieve their goals," McCready said.

"Being a new counselor to Tomball ISD this year, I've been impressed with the camaraderie that we have as counselors and the support we have as our roles have changed," Thaemlitz said.

For their continued growth and willingness to adapt to changes, school counselors have been honored for their efforts.

"Tomball ISD advocates for us as counselors and that is very important to have when we strive to make a difference in children's lives," Jenny Fontenot, Willow Creek Elementary counselor said.



2018-19 SUPERINTENDENT STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora introduced her 2018-19 Superintendent Student Ambassadors.

The group of talented high school students represent all three high schools in Tomball ISD and showcase leadership, character and are actively engaged in their community.

READ MORE





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SPELLING BEE WINNERS

1st: Jessica Ho - Northpointe Intermediate (pic. left)
Alternate: Katherina Bellon - Creekside Park JH (pic. top right)

Bilingual Spelling Bee Winners 1st: Nina Obando - Canyon Pointe Elementary 2nd: Marco Parra - Canyon Pointe Elementary 3rd: Emiliano Lopez - Tomball Intermediate

(pic. L-R: Emiliano, Nina, Marco)

SUCCESS GOLF WAS A HOLE-IN-ONE EVENT!

Tomball ISD Student Support Services students took part in the Be An Angel organization traveling golf activity, S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Golf, presented by Insperity.

Student Council members, Best Buddies, and NJROTC helped with the event at Tomball High School.



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STUDENT STORIES

THS & TMHS Student-Athletes Dreams Come True on National Signing Day

Tomball ISD celebrated Tomball High School and Tomball Memorial High School student-athletes as they signed to continue their education and playing careers at universities across the nation on National Signing Day.









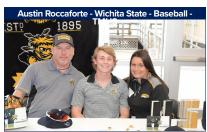


























TomballISD.net

TWO-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY COMING in 2019-2020!

www.tomballisd.net/TWDL/

The Tomball ISD Two-Way Dual Language Academy is a biliteracy program model that integrates native English speakers and native Spanish speakers. Students will receive instruction in both languages through the core content areas of Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies.

The goal of the Dual Language Program is to help students become bilingual, biliterate and bicultural while promoting high academic achievement.

AVAILABLE TO?

This program is available to incoming kindergarten students during the 2019-2020 school year across Tomball ISD (must be 5 yrs old on or before Sept. 1, 2019).

WHERE WILL THE PROGRAM BE LOCATED?

Rosehill Elementary 17950 Waller Tomball Rd. Tomball, TX 77377

** Rosehill Elementary is also a Year-Round Limited Open Enrollment campus. The Two-Way Dual Language Academy will be available to incoming kindergarten students living outside the Tomball ISD boundaries, upon application approval.

INTERESTED?

Parents of incoming kindergarten students must attend one of the parent informational meetings before applying for the Tomball ISD Two-Way Dual Language Academy. Applications will be available beginning April 1 for the 2019-2020 school year and will be due by 3:30 p.m. on April 19. 2019.

Parent meetings will be held on the following dates: Tuesday, March 26 (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.) Thursday, March 28 (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.) Monday, April 1 (5:30 to 6:30 p.m.)

All three meetings are scheduled at Rosehill Elementary School.



EARLY EXCELLENCE ACADEMY



Early Excellence Academy is coming to Tomball ISD during the 2019-20 school year and is open to full-time, Tomball ISD employees who are parents or guardians of children ages 3 years and 4 years old.

The Early Excellence Academy is designed to provide high quality childcare to the children of district employees by providing a strong foundation of literacy so that students will be well-equipped for Kindergarten.

Hours of Operation: 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Days: Operational calendar will change annually based on teacher work days.

2019-20 care will run from August 5, 2019 - June 12, 2020. The center will be closed on all teacher holidays which can be found on the Tomball ISD Instructional Calendar.

Tuition & Rates via Payroll Deduction

Weekly Tuition - \$185 Registration fee - \$75 Annual Supply Fee - \$150

Registration? An email will go out to all staff members regarding registration in April.

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#TISDMVT

Congratulations to our junior high schools' #MostValuableTeachers and thank you for being an #Irreplaceable teacher in Tomball ISD.



HELEN RODRIGUEZ | TOMBALL JH



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EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

NATALIE MACHALEK - TOMBALL ELEMENTARY



Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce, presented by Leo Corley of **Element Payment Services** FFBRUARY TEACHER OF THE MONTH

NATALIE MACHALEK TOMBALL ELEMENTARY

Has served 30 years in Tomball ISD Graduate of the University of Mary Hardin Baylor Spent all but one year in Tomball at TES Taught one year of K at Decker Prairie

Natalie Machalek has been a part of the Tomball ISD family for 30 years and currently serves as a Readina Specialist at Tomball Elementary. During her time in Tomball, she has taught PK, K, 1st and 2nd grade before becoming a Reading Specialist.

She joined Tomball after teaching two years in Arlington and one year at St. Anne's in Tomball.

What makes working in Tomball ISD so special?

"I have always loved working in Tomball schools because of the way decisions have always been centered around what's best for kids. TES in particular, fosters a caring, "kids first" atmosphere. The educators that make up TES, are innovative and relentless when it comes to student success."

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

"The most rewarding part of my job is helping students experience success in their reading. When I see the light bulb go off as students unlock the reading code, it's the best feeling there is!"



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BEKAH (HARRIS) BRYANT | THS, '02

Scenic Carpenter at the Alley Theatre

WATCH Bekah Bryant Takes Tour of The Carpenter Set

For Bekah Bryant, technical theatre in Tomball paved the way for a career behind the scenes.

It all started back at Tomball High School, Bryant, formally Bekah Harris, found a passion for technical theatre and never looked back.

"I took tech Theatre I, was good at building and really enjoyed it. I never had an interest in acting, like many in my field. Instead, I enjoyed creating art that thousands of people saw and admired," Bryant recalls.

It took one friendly invite from peer Christie DeBacker in high school to help shape Bryant's future in technical theatre.



"She was a tennis teammate of mine in high school and also in the production class. She invited me to hang out with the production kids, and that was a major game-changer," Bryant said.

From then on, Bryant's love for building, creating and managing were what paved the way for her career path she enjoys to this day.

Bryant built and worked on every show in high school and eventually became the main stage manager at THS. She also gained experience working the rentals that came through the Theatre, like The Nutcracker.

Bryant began her Tomball ISD career at Beckendorf Middle School in fifth grade, attended Tomball Junior High and eventually graduated from Tomball High School in 2002. She continued her love for technical theatre at the next level, attending Sam Houston State University. She studied technical theatre with an emphasis in technical direction and design. She worked stock all over while in summer school every summer, including the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston, UH and Utah Festival Opera Company.

She credits THS Theatre Director Clint Cottom for his advice and leadership.

"When it came to picking schools I had a lot of choices, but Clint Cottom made a strong argument for SHSU. Mr. Cottom believed in me and helped point me in the right direction," Bryant said.

After graduating from SHSU, Bryant was hired by the dance department as their first Technical Director, which she worked for a semester. With her expertise growing, she was hired by Crossroads School for the Arts and Sciences in Santa Monica, CA in 2006 and was the Technical Director for the Theatre Department for 10 years.

Following those 10 years, she resided in Australia where she took a little over a year off to raise her children. She then returned to the United States in 2018 and was immediately hired by The Alley Theatre in Houston.

The Alley Theatre is a Tony Award-winning theatre company in Houston. It is the oldest professional theatre company in Texas and the third oldest resident theatre in the United States. The Alley produces up to 16 plays each year in its newly-renovated Theatre, ranging from the best current work, to re-invigorated classic plays, to new plays by contemporary writers.

Bryant began as an over-hire carpenter with The Alley Theatre before moving into her current role as a full-time Scenic Carpenter. Along with that role, she also works as a Scenic Artist and an Assistant to the Technical Director.

Theatre in Tomball continues to provide students like Bryant an opportunity to fulfill a passion they love and turn it into a career. Her story speaks volumes to utilizing experiences in high school to create a future that you enjoy.

"I was lucky to have good influences in my life and all my experiences have led me to where I am today. Having a large, working theatre at my disposal in high school allowed me to be successful and provided me with the resources needed to excel and realize what I wanted to do in my career," Bryant said.



TOMBALL OMMUNITY SHOWCASE & GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION EVENT

- Enjoy art works presented by TISD students
- Live performances by LSC-Tomball students
- Interact with community leaders and members
- Details about the TCAS partnership announced
- Light refreshments served

Free and Open to the public

LSC-Tomball Community Library 30555 Tomball Pwy Tomball, TX 77375

Thursday MARCH 21 5-7 p.m.

Tomball Community Art Showcase (TCAS) is a partnership between Lone Star College-Tomball, Harris County Public Library/ LSC-Tomball Community Library and Tomball Independent School District.



LSC-Tomball Library



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tomball Community Arts Showcase Celebration Event
Thursday, March 21 • 5 pm • LSC-Tomball Public Library
Join us in kicking off a community arts showcase partnership.

Two-Way Dual Language Academy Parent Meeting #1
Tuesday, March 26 • 5:30 pm • 6:30 pm • Rosehill Elementary
Learn more about the new Two-Way Dual Language Academy.

Two-Way Dual Language Academy Parent Meeting #2
Thursday, March 28 • 5:30 pm • 6:30 pm • Rosehill Elementary
Learn more about the new Two-Way Dual Language Academy.

Two-Way Dual Language Academy Parent Meeting #3
Monday, April 1 • 5:30 pm • 6:30 pm • Rosehill Elementary

Learn more about the new Two-Way Dual Language Academy.

follow us on social media: @TomballSD







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DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY 2018		JANUARY 2019					
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TOMBA	ALL		1	2	3	4	5
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL	DL DISTRICT 6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 2018-2019 Cale	endar 13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15 16 1/ 18 19 20 21	20		22	23	24	25	26
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 First Day of Sch		28	29	30	31		
29 30 31 August 21, 201							
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S M T W T F S May 30, 2019		M	Т	W	Т	F	S
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11 Independence Day -		4	5	6	7	8	9
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26 27 28 29 30 31 Winter Break - Dec. 2 Spring Break - Marcl		25	20	21	28		
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Memorial Day - Ma	av 27						
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1 Staff Development/W					_	1	2
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 August 13-17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 August 20	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
October 8							
OCTOBER 2018 January 7-8		APRIL 2019					
S M T W T F S January 21	S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S
1 2 3 4 <u>5</u> 6 February 15, 1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 March 18	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 May 31	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 29 30 31 Early Release D	ays 28	29					
NOVEMBER 2018 All Schools: Oct. 5, Dec. 2	21, May 30		MA	Y 20	019		
S M T W T F S High Schools Only: Dec.	20, May 29 S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S
1 2 3 Make Up Days (if n	eeded)			1	2	3	4
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 February 18	12		14			17	18
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25 26 27 28 29 30 May 31	26	27					
DECEMBER 2018			JUN	E 2	019		
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22 March 8	16	17	18	19		21	22
		17 24	_				22 29

Approved by the Tomball ISD Board of Trustees February 13, 2018

Board Meeting Dates

Board Materials Due