

OCTOBER 2018

Tomball *talk*

Not just a district, a destination.



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District Calendar

A LOOK AHEAD

NOVEMBER

1

Parent Prep Academy
Staff Development Center
5:30 - 7:30 PM

6

Election Day

12-13

School Board Meetings
Board Room
5:30 PM

19-23

Thanksgiving Break



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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STEAM CONFERENCE A HIT



In Tomball ISD, a focus on hands-on learning was evident once again as the 2018 STEAM Conference welcomed in over 350 TISD students, between grades 3-12, to Creekside Park Junior High.

The district event was a half-day conference designed to expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics through education and mentoring opportunities while also providing critical learning sessions for students interested in STEAM.

Building off last year's conference, Tomball ISD was able to add more student sessions, led by Tomball ISD professionals as well as business partners and college students, which were able to share their real first-hand experiences.

Throughout the day and across all grade levels, students were able to use their math skills to Escape the Math Room, build their own personalized Bristle Bots, extract strawberry DNA and practice creating games with coding to name a few.

Being able to expose students to a variety of learning paths will in turn, enable them to broaden their range of opportunities as they prepare for their future here in Tomball ISD. The STEAM Conference provides that exposure.

"We hope to continue to offer this type of event so that students can experience the fun that can come with Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Math," Ozuna said. "Our goal is to introduce them to career fields that they might not otherwise consider and open up potentially new paths for their future."

In addition to student learning opportunities and new to the event, the STEAM Conference incorporated a Parent Expo, which provided parents of TISD students a chance to learn about some of the opportunities available for their children.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to provide an outlet for parents to gain more insight into what STEAM is all about and how we incorporate it into our curriculum here in Tomball ISD," Jessica Ozuna, TISD Director of CTE said.

ABOUT CTE (CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION)

Career & Technical Education (CTE) is preparation for the future! The purpose of all CTE programs is to provide students with rigorous and relevant experiences that will prepare them and educate them on growing, high wage career fields! There's a misconception that these programs aren't for college bound students. CTE courses are for anyone. They're for anyone who will ever live on their own, manage a budget, have a career or who wants to be a successful adult.

NOTABLE MENTIONS



Michele Patton, executive assistant to the Chief Financial Officer, is a gifted acrylic artist that showcases her art around the city at various showcases, titled "Tomball Series", which highlights the beautiful city of Tomball. She is currently the 1st Vice President and chairperson of Demos and Publicity for the Tomball Art League.

To view her art, [CLICK HERE](#).

Congratulations to Tomball Intermediate School Principal **Dr. Bianca Shaughnessy** on earning her doctorate (Ed.D. in Educational Leadership with Superintendent Specialization) from University of Houston-Clear Lake.



Decker Prairie Elementary celebrated 35 years of educating children in Tomball ISD with a celebratory gathering on Sunday, Oct. 28.

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

**ALISON
POHLKOTTE**

TOMBALL JUNIOR HIGH

**8TH GRADE MATH
GIRL'S ATHLETICS**

Tomball Junior High School math teacher and athletics coach **Alison Pohlkotte** was honored as the Tomball Teacher of the Month, presented at the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce First Friday luncheon in October.



DESTINATION EXCELLENCE

TOMBALL HIGH HOMECOMING 2018

Tomball High School hosted its 2018 Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally on Main Street and at The Train Depot on Oct. 10.

The Cougars went on to earn a big 53-16 win over Waller at Tomball ISD Stadium on Oct. 12.



Homecoming King + Queen
Dylan Baker
Carly Croston

More pictures, [CLICK HERE](#).



TOMBALL MEMORIAL HOMECOMING 2018

Tomball Memorial High School hosted “Rock the Block”, a celebration to kick off Homecoming Week with a parade around campus on Oct. 17.

The Wildcats earned a 28-14 win over Cypress Lakes on Oct. 19.

Homecoming King + Queen
Matt Lopez
Lauren Wright

More pictures, [CLICK HERE](#).



ALLISON BEARDEN NAMED A PAEMST FINALIST

For her commitment to innovative education, Oakcrest Intermediate School sixth grade math and science teacher **Allison Bearden** was one of just six teachers in the entire State of Texas named a PAEMST Award Finalist, announced by the Texas Education Agency.

According to TEA, the 2018 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) recognize kindergarten through sixth grade mathematics and science teachers whose innovative methods bring teaching to life in the classroom.

PAEMST is considered the highest recognition a math or science teacher may receive for exemplary teaching in the United States.

[READ MORE...](#)



DESTINATION EXCELLENCE



PRINCIPAL PARTNERS DAY

In an effort to strengthen the relationship within the community, Tomball ISD welcomed in 21 Principal Partners to campuses across the district.

The group had the opportunity to spend time on campus with the principal, faculty members and students, while learning the day-to-day operations in Tomball ISD schools.

The program is in place to increase awareness and understanding of the strengths and challenges of schools within the district.

The group met at Cisco's Salsa Company for a luncheon, sponsored by First Community Credit Union.

[READ MORE...](#)

SCHOOL BOARD TOURS CAMPUSES

Tomball ISD School Board Members and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora took part in Board Walks, a newly designed opportunity that enabled this group to experience school life on a Tomball ISD campus.

The School Board opened its tour on Friday, Oct. 19 when they visited Creekside Park Junior High, Timber Creek Elementary, Tomball Elementary and Tomball High School.

The campus tours wrapped up on Friday, Oct. 26 when they spent the day visiting Oakcrest Intermediate, Wildwood Elementary, Willow Wood Junior High and Tomball Memorial High School.

Each campus had the opportunity to showcase their success.

[READ MORE...](#)



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Tomball ISD hosted its first two fall Community Conversations in October.

The community event welcomed in parents, stakeholders, community members to Adriatic Cafe and Craft Grill on October 15 and 18, respectively.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora and members of the Executive Team and School Board were present to provide feedback and answer questions during an informal conversation about Tomball ISD.



GROUP SPOTLIGHT

TOMBALL ISD PRINCIPALS



OCTOBER IS PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH

as proclaimed by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Martha Salazar-Zamora at the October School Board Meeting.
Thank you for the amazing leadership you provide for our students and teachers on each of your campuses.

(Front row L-R)

Dr. Bianca Shaughnessy
Tomball Intermediate

Bob Thompson
Connections Academy

Dr. Mindy Munoz
Creekside Park Junior High

Chad Allman
Tomball Junior High

Chris Scott
Tomball High School

Barbara Coleman
Canyon Pointe Elementary

Sherri Trammell
Creekside Forest Elementary

Lauren Thompson
Timber Creek Elementary

Greg Chappell
Rosehill Elementary

(Back row L-R)

Chad Smith
Tomball Memorial High School

Kim McKinney
Tomball Star Academy

Deanna Porter
Lakewood Elementary

Teresa Sullivan
Willow Creek Elementary

Samantha Hinson
Wildwood Elementary

Bob Frost
Willow Wood Junior High

Chad Schmidt
Tomball Elementary

Dr. JoAnn Colson
Decker Prairie Elementary

Niesa Glenewinkel
Creekview Elementary

Dr. Lee Wright
Oakcrest Intermediate

Not pictured: Darrell McReynolds, Northpointe Intermediate

NEED TO KNOW INFO

Deadline: Nov. 6

Tomball ISD Trustee Election

Tomball ISD Trustee Election Day is set for November 6.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

No Deadline

Tomball Scholarship Foundation

As a Tomball ISD employee, you have the opportunity to give back to the Tomball Scholarship Foundation through a payroll deduction.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)

SPORTS SHOUTOUT



**BEST OF LUCK IN THE
PLAYOFFS!**

TOMBALL MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

TMHS Volleyball, under the direction of new head coach Keia Torres and in its first year competing at the 6-A level, were Co-District Champions and earned a playoff berth following a 13-3 district record and a 25-12 overall record during the 2018 regular-season.

Up Next: TMHS will face Vista Ridge in a neutral site playoff match in College Station, Texas on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m.

TOMBALL HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

THS Volleyball, under the direction of head coach Cheri Wallace, tied for second in the district with a 13-3 district record, while owning a 29-13 overall record.

Up Next: THS Volleyball will embark on its bi-district playoff run when it faces off College Station at Magnolia West's venue. Game is set for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 30.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SCOTT McCracken | Tomball High School '03
Founder + Head Coach | Tomball Area Swim Club (TASC)

For Scott McCracken (THS '03), coming home and giving back to the community that supported him was always on his radar.

A record holder, a champion, a swimmer, a college graduate and a leader, McCracken embodied a winner.

He is a Tomball native and began swimming at the age of five for the Heatherwood Hurricanes. He took his young talents to THS, where he was a four-year letterman on the swim team, coached by Dr. Lee Wright, the current principal at Oakcrest Intermediate School in Tomball ISD.

"Dr. Wright was my swim coach all four years in high school and I would consider myself very lucky to call him a mentor and a friend," McCracken said.

To this day, McCracken is an All-American that still owns two school records at Tomball High School and because of those successful years, he landed at TCU on a swimming scholarship.

McCracken still holds the TCU school record in the 50 free and was an All-Conference performer for the Horned Frogs. In 2008, he achieved a world ranking of 35th in the 50 Meter Free and competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

His passion for swimming continued beyond his college years. He earned a degree in finance from TCU ('08) and felt like teaching and coaching was where he needed to be.

He returned home to Tomball and immediately made an impact in the community. Utilizing the swimming pool in the school district, McCracken wanted to build swimming in the community through a local swim club.

"When I swam for Tomball ISD we didn't have a pool of our own. We always travelled to local pools to practice and every high school program around us had a reputable club team. By the time I finished college, Tomball ISD had their own facility, but still no club team," McCracken remembers.

By bringing swimming to the community, he found his career path.

"I wanted to give young children a place to start and to give the high school swimmers a place at home where they could continue to hone their skills and not have to travel outside the district to do so," he said.

His loyalty to Tomball ISD remains strong.

"This is where I grew up, made friends, learned life lessons and discovered what I could do as an athlete and as an adult," McCracken noted. "Tomball ISD was there for me through it all and continues to be even now. The staff, teachers and coaches in the district have always been a huge support for me and now for my club team as well."

McCracken embodies what Tomball ISD is all about as a successful alumni and member of this established community.

"We work every day at providing a place for kids to thrive. At TASC, we teach our kids to set goals, that success is earned, and that the world is not actually about instant gratification. We give them a place to come each day where they can have fun, spend time with their friends and stay out of trouble. Our program will continue to work closely with the high school swim teams so that our district athletes are successful at the high school state-level competitions, with us in USA Swimming, as well as in life."



PHONE APP REMINDERS

Wondering how to download the new My-EOP app that replaces the colorful flipchart that was printed and located in various areas of the district? Check out this quick how-to guide. This app is a one-stop shop for all emergency information and contact numbers within our district.



My-EOP™

Instructions to download the My-EOP™ mobile application:

If you already have My-EOP downloaded, skip to step 4.

1. Search for My-EOP (or myeop) in the “App Store” (Apple iOS) or the “Play Store” (Android devices).




Note for iPad users: Select “iPhone Only” as a search limit in the App Store.

Apple:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-eop/id818004891?mt=8>

Android:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.gcckc.myeop>



2. Install My-EOP on your device.
 - Accept app permissions.
3. Open My-EOP.
 - Accept the terms and conditions.
4. Click on the menu button (), find a plan.
5. Enter your search term: **tomball isd**
6. Once your plan is displayed, click on the plan to download.
7. To gain access to the download, you’ll be asked for your password. Your password is **tomballeop** (CASE SENSITIVE)


Once the file is downloaded, you may enter the plan. From that point forward, when you open My-EOP, you will see that plan on your available plan list.

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DISTRICT CALENDAR

JULY 2018 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	 2018-2019 Calendar First Day of School August 21, 2018 Last Day of School May 30, 2019 Staff & Student Holidays Independence Day - July 4 Labor Day - September 3 Thanksgiving - November 19-23 Winter Break - Dec. 24-Jan. 4 Spring Break - March 11-15 Good Friday - April 19 Memorial Day - May 27 Staff Development/Workdays Student Holidays August 7-9 (New Teacher) August 13-17 August 20 October 8 January 7-8 January 21 February 15, 18 March 18 May 31 Early Release Days All Schools: Oct. 5, Dec. 21, May 30 High Schools Only: Dec. 20, May 29 Make Up Days (if needed) February 18 March 18 May 31 Reporting Periods End: October 12 December 21 March 8 May 30	JANUARY 2019 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
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Approved by the Tomball ISD Board of Trustees February 13, 2018

Board Meeting Dates

Board Materials Due