LONGHORN STAMPEDE

January District Newsletter

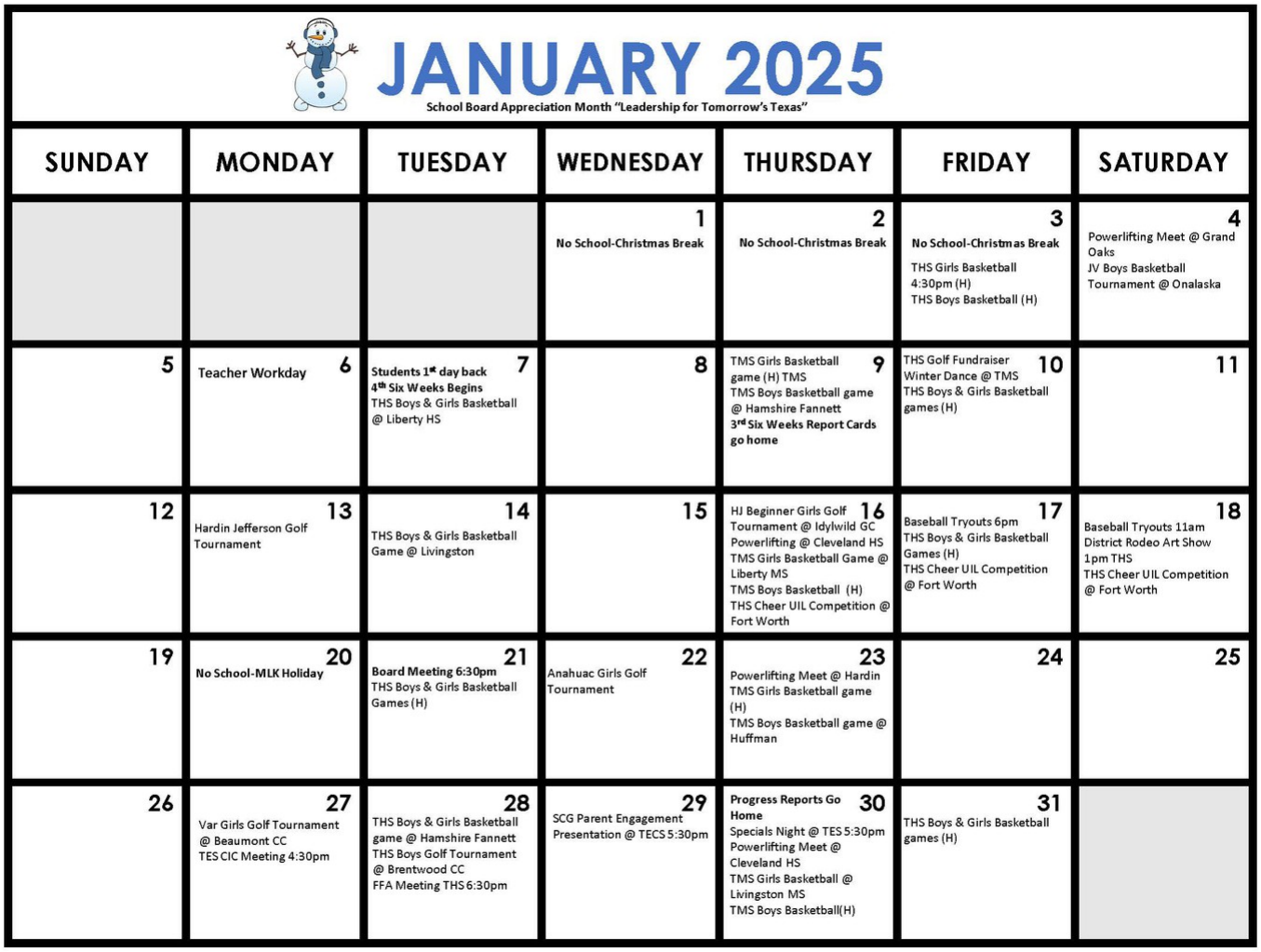
From the Desk of: Dr. Elna Davis, TISD Superintendent of School



A Fresh Start to a New Year and New Semester

Happy New Year, Longhorn Family!
As we enter 2025 and the second semester, I am excited and optimistic about the opportunities ahead. The new year brings a renewed sense of purpose, and I encourage each of you—students, staff, and families—to embrace this fresh start with energy and determination. We need your help and support to achieve our goals in Tarkington ISD. I challenge you to stay connected to what your child should be learning in each grade level/content and what you can do at home to support the learning in the classroom.
This semester is a chance to build on the strides your child's teacher has facilitated in the fall, guided by our *Strive-Thrive-Achieve* vision. Whether pursuing academic goals, strengthening relationships, or continuing to enhance our schools, the months ahead hold so much promise if we all stay involved, offer assistance, and support the hard work. Our teachers need your support with discipline and academics as we continue to strive to get better. You are your child's first teacher, a role with immense power and influence in which we may occasionally ask you to embrace on our behalf.
Thank you for your dedication, support, and continued feedback on making our district a place everyone can thrive. We want all students to enjoy and succeed in their K-12 experience. Let’s make 2025 a year of growth, achievement, and success!

Calendar of Events



JANUARY 2025

School Board Appreciation Month "Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 No School-Christmas Break	2 No School-Christmas Break	3 No School-Christmas Break THS Girls Basketball 4:30pm (H) THS Boys Basketball (H)	4 Powerlifting Meet @ Grand Oaks JV Boys Basketball Tournament @ Onalaska
5	6 Teacher Workday	7 Students 1st day back 4th Six Weeks Begins THS Boys & Girls Basketball @ Liberty HS	8	9 TMS Girls Basketball game (H) TMS TMS Boys Basketball game @ Hamshire Fannett 3rd Six Weeks Report Cards go home	10 THS Golf Fundraiser Winter Dance @ TMS THS Boys & Girls Basketball games (H)	11
12	13 Hardin Jefferson Golf Tournament	14 THS Boys & Girls Basketball Game @ Livingston	15	16 HJ Beginner Girls Golf Tournament @ Idylwild GC Powerlifting @ Cleveland HS TMS Girls Basketball Game @ Liberty MS TMS Boys Basketball (H) THS Cheer UIL Competition @ Fort Worth	17 Baseball Tryouts 6pm THS Boys & Girls Basketball Games (H) THS Cheer UIL Competition @ Fort Worth	18 Baseball Tryouts 11am District Rodeo Art Show 1pm THS THS Cheer UIL Competition @ Fort Worth
19	20 No School-MLK Holiday	21 Board Meeting 6:30pm THS Boys & Girls Basketball Games (H)	22 Anahuac Girls Golf Tournament	23 Powerlifting Meet @ Hardin TMS Girls Basketball game (H) TMS Boys Basketball game @ Huffman	24	25
26	27 Var Girls Golf Tournament @ Beaumont CC TES CIC Meeting 4:30pm	28 THS Boys & Girls Basketball game @ Hamshire Fannett THS Boys Golf Tournament @ Brentwood CC FFA Meeting THS 6:30pm	29 SCG Parent Engagement Presentation @ TECS 5:30pm	30 Progress Reports Go Home Specials Night @ TES 5:30pm Powerlifting Meet @ Cleveland HS TMS Girls Basketball @ Livingston MS TMS Boys Basketball(H)	31 THS Boys & Girls Basketball games (H)	

PDF **Jan Calendar.pdf** Download 462.8 KB

Strive ★ Thrive ★ Achieve

TARKINGTON ISD

Campus Updates



Early Childhood/Elementary

🖨 **Preparing Young Children for a Smooth Return to School After Winter Break** 🖨
The transition back to school after the holidays can be challenging for little ones, but a few simple steps can make it easier:
✓ **Ease Back into Routine:** Gradually adjust bedtime and wake-up schedules a few days before school starts.
✓ **Talk About School:** Remind your child about the fun activities, friends, and teachers waiting for them.
✓ **Organize Together:** Involve your child in packing their backpack and picking out clothes to build excitement.
✓ **Stay Positive:** Share your enthusiasm for the new semester and encourage them to look forward to learning and growing.

With a little preparation, your child will be ready to jump back into the classroom and thrive in the new year!

Upcoming Events this January:

January 13th - TIP Presentation to parents - 5:30pm-6:30pm
January 27th - Campus Improvement Plan Committee 4:30pm-5:30pm
January 30th - Glee Club Performance + Specials Night 5:30pm-7:00pm



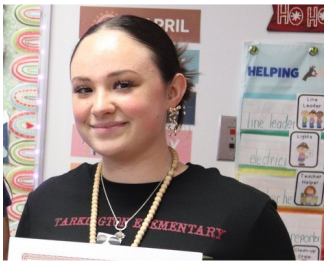
Erin Parma
TECS Teacher of the Month



Suzan Morgan
TECS Paraprofessional of the Month



D'Nina Dancer
TES Teacher of the Month



Bethany Smith
TES Para of the Month

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Tarkington Middle School

Gearing up for a New Year!
As we approach the home stretch of the school year, let's remember to put our best foot forward and finish the second semester strong! It's a great time to focus on doing your best in class, staying organized, and preparing for the exciting opportunities ahead.

TMS Bell Schedule - #3

7:25-7:45	Tutorials
7:50-8:43	1st Period
8:46-9:39	2nd Period
9:42-10:35	3rd Period
10:38-11:31	4th Period
11:34-12:11 **A Lunch**	12:14-1:07 **5th Period**
11: 34-12:27 **5th Period**	12:30-1:07 **B Lunch**
1:10-2:03	6th Period
2:06-2:59	7th Period
3:02-3:55	8th Period

53 Min Periods / No Shorthorn Time / 3 Min Passing Periods / 2 Lunches

A Few Important Reminders:

- **Start Time:** School starts promptly at **7:50 AM**—let's arrive on time and ready to learn!
- **End-of-Year Goals:** Stay committed to giving your best effort in academics, extracurriculars, and daily interactions.
- **Positive Habits:** Consistency matters! Keep up those study routines and make every day count.

Together, we can make the remainder of this school year a success. Let's strive, thrive, and achieve—every single day!



Brittany Ratliff
TMS Teacher of the Month



Heather Gray
TMS Paraprofessional of the Month

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SHAUNA EVANS
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Tarkington High School



Our students enjoyed some wonderful experiences off campus this cycle. Students had the opportunity to visit SFA, go to the Alley Theater to watch the Christmas Carol and do a variety of activities to spread Christmas cheer in the community.

2025, Here we come!

In January, we will be hosting our back to school grade level meetings as well as preparing for our CTE month in February. Students should also start thinking about their 25-26 schedule as course requests as those are just on the horizon.



Tayelin Grays
THS Teacher of the Month



JoAnn Baker
THS Paraprofessional of the Month

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THS ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
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SEAN MCCABE
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MICHAEL MCDONALD
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Department Updates

Athletics



2025 Golf and Softball Schedules are here! Click the links below to download.

Baseball: If your child is interested in baseball, tryouts are being held on January 17th at the baseball field at 6pm and on January 18 at 11am at the baseball field. For more information; please contact the head Baseball Coach, Mr. Corey Heidebrecht at cheidebrecht@tarkingtonisd.net.

Softball: If you are interested in playing softball in the spring and would like more information, there will be a sign up sheet in the front office of the High School. Tryouts will be on January 10th. For more information; please contact Coach Spoerle at jspoerle@tarkingtonisd.net

PDF **TarkingtonGolfSchedule2025.pdf** Download 293.5 KB

PDF **TARKINGTONHIGHSCHOOLSOFTBALL2025docx3.pdf** Download 123.7 KB

TOBY BELT
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
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Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

We are proud to share that benchmark testing has been successfully completed across all campuses! This accomplishment marks an essential step in our efforts to support teachers and instructional leaders as they analyze the data and make informed instructional adjustments to ensure student success on the upcoming spring STAAR exams.

A special shoutout goes to our testing coordinators, teachers, and instructional staff who went above and beyond to ensure a smooth testing process. Their commitment to accuracy, timeliness, and support for students during this cycle deserves a gold star!

We are excited to share updates to our Curriculum and Instruction website, designed to provide parents with easier access to valuable resources about their student's campus and academic journey. This updated site now includes detailed information about what students are learning at each grade level, along with overviews of curriculum standards, learning objectives, and key programs. Our goal is to ensure families stay informed and engaged in their child's education through these enhanced, user-friendly platforms.

https://www.tarkingtonisd.net/departments/curriculum-instruction

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AMI POTTS
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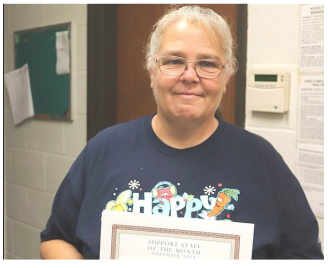
LATOYIA PEA
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Child Nutrition & Custodial Services



The Child Nutrition Department was able to bless more than 10 TISD students with Christmas thanks to all of those who supported the Christmas Kids fundraiser! We entered into a partnership with EcoLab and installed new dishwashers along with new chemical dispensing machines in all cafeterias throughout the district. New prep tables were installed to replace old damaged ones at TECS and TES.

The Child Nutrition Department will host the Food Handlers certification course for our newest staff members on Jan. 6, 2025 as part of the departments on going staff development plans. Work together to set New Year's resolutions that will help your child make healthy choices in 2025 — and beyond! Consider these possibilities.



Theresa Majors
Child Nutrition
Employee of the Month

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CRYSTAL MOORE
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Communications



January is School Board Appreciation Month throughout the state of Texas. The theme this year (set by the State of Texas) is "Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas. In TISD, we are very fortunate to have seven school board members who are committed to helping every student reach their full potential. Dwayne Stovall- President, Lane Gulledge- Vice President, Susan Rollins-Secretary, Kevin Johnson, Paige Bostwick, Jackie Flores, and Jason Ward devote hundreds of hours to service the District's students, parents, staff members and community. This month, join TISD staff and students in giving thanks to a board member. If you would like to send a thank you card or a note of appreciation; you may drop them off at the Administration building or mail them to:

TISD
72 CR 2268
Cleveland TX 77327
Attention: School Board Appreciation
All cards and notes will be collected and presented to the Board at the January 21 meeting.



Swearing in Elected Board Members

Jason Ward-Position 5
Jackie Flores-Position 6
Lane Gulledge-Position 7
Dwayne Stovall-Position 6
(as pictured left to right)



TISD School Board

Dr. Elna Davis-Superintendent of Schools
Lane Gulledge-President
Kevin Johnson-Vice President
Paige Bostwick-Secretary



January is...

School Board Appreciation Month!
"Leadership for Tomorrow's Texas"

STEPHANIE YOUNG
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
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Human Resources

Special Recognition

Stephanie Chambers is the first candidate to successfully complete the ELEVATE program! She received her BA degree from Indiana Wesleyan University on December 11, 2024 and will be a fully certified teacher in the 2025-2026 school year. We are extremely proud of Mrs. Chambers!

Sub Trainings

The HR department conducted the final substitute training for the first semester and had several attendees complete the fingerprint and observation portion of their training. If you would like to be a substitute in the district; please click the link below and fill out an application.
https://tarkingtonisd.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx
The planning stages of the academic calendar for the 2025-2026 school year will begin this month. More information will follow in the upcoming month.



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Maintenance

Maintenance is busy preparing the district's facilities for colder weather and installing new equipment. The department helped to install dishwashers at all 4 campuses, installed new coolers at TES cafeteria, installed new prep tables at TECS cafeteria, and scheduled fire alarm panel inspections.

🔧 **Maintenance Tips for a Safe and Cozy Winter!** 🏠❄️

As temperatures drop, keeping up with basic home maintenance can make a big difference. Here are a few tips to ensure your home stays safe and efficient this winter:

✅ **Check Your Filters:** Replace air filters regularly to improve air quality and keep your heating system running smoothly.

✅ **Seal Drafts:** Use weather stripping or caulk to seal doors and windows, keeping the cold air out and reducing energy bills.

✅ **Inspect Smoke Alarms:** Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure your family stays safe during increased heater use.

Our maintenance team works hard to keep our schools safe and comfortable—we hope these tips help you do the same at home!

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Attendance, PEIMS & Registration

🖨️ **Did You Know?** 🏫

Regular school attendance is essential for student success! Missing just **2 days a month** can add up to **10% of the school year**—that's a lot of lost learning time.

✅ Attending school every day helps students stay on track academically, build good habits, and thrive socially.

Let's work together to make **every day count**! 🗓
District attendance goal is 97% or greater. Currently, attendance is: **TECS 94.63%, TES 95.05%, TMS 94.44%, THS 94.57%** and overall **TISD 94.63%.** Parents and guardians, your partnership is key! Encourage your child to be present and ready to learn every day. Together, we can help our students **Strive, Thrive, and Achieve** this school year!

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Special Programs

TISD loves to find ways to provide Parent Engagement opportunities. The school counselors, in partnership with our Stronger Connections Grant, will be hosting 3 district-wide events this spring for our parents to attend. The topics for each month will vary, but will be applicable for parents of all grade-levels. Be sure to mark your calendars!

The following dates have been scheduled:
January 29 - TMS cafeteria 5:30 pm
February 26, 2025 - TES cafeteria 5:30 pm
March 26, 2026 - THS Commons 5:30 pm

When parents and educators work together to address the challenges students face, they help students' performance and improve the school environment. Come be a part of the solution, learn strategies, and information on hot topics, Be watching for more information to be posted on Facebook and our school website.

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AIMIE PATRICK
THS COUNSELOR
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School and Student Services

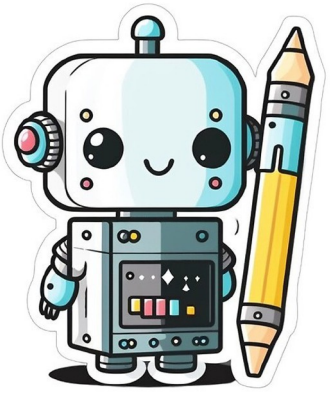
Texas law now requires school districts to distribute information to parents and guardians about the safe storage of firearms. Safe gun storage is critical to preventing suicide, unintentional shootings, and other tragedies. **In 2021, 4,613 Texans experienced gun-related deaths.** The Texas Department of State Health Services (SHS) reports that 55% of Texas firearms deaths in 2020 were suicides and that 59% of all suicides in Texas were by firearms. Suicide attempts involving firearms have a 90% fatality rate. **Restricting access to guns is critical in reducing acts of violence, whether as self-harm or towards others. Acts of mass violence and interpersonal violence often end in suicide.**

The Texas School Safety Center has provided the information below to help districts meet this requirement and inform the parents and guardians of the students enrolled in the district. Link to safegunstoragetexas.com resources.



CHRIS CONNER
DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL & STUDENT SERVICES
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Technology Department



Celebrating Our Tech Ninjas!

This month, we're shining a spotlight on the amazing work happening within the Technology Department. A big gold star goes out to our tech support team, The *Tech Ninjas*, for their outstanding efforts in ensuring smooth access to online learning tools and resources during this busy period. The *Tech Ninjas* act as a bridge between the classroom and the tech office, offering solutions that empower our teachers and help them access the resources they need to succeed. Their commitment to excellence makes a huge difference, and we are grateful for everything they do.

Exciting Tech Resources Coming Your Way!

Looking ahead, we've got some fantastic plans to help our staff level up their digital skills! The tech team has been rolling out a series of valuable tech tips for staff, covering key topics like **cybersecurity** and **using new classroom tech tools effectively**. But we're not stopping there!

We're currently working on building an **educational resource hub** for staff, complete with videos and tips to guide you throughout your Longhorn journey. **Coming Soon**—look for more details on how to access these resources in upcoming newsletters.

But wait, there's more! We'll be launching our **Tech Talk Series**, where we'll dive into some of the latest innovations in educational technology. You won't want to miss how these cutting-edge tools are transforming the way we learn. Look for it in our next newsletter.

It's an exciting time for digital learning, and we're thrilled to keep everyone connected as we continue to advance the digital experience for all! Stay tuned for more updates, and let's strive and thrive together!

Fun Tech Nugget of the Month:
Did you know the first computer virus, called the **"Creeper virus,"** was created in 1983? It didn't cause much harm—just displayed the message, "I'm the creeper; catch me if you can!"
While that may have been harmless fun, today's viruses aren't so friendly. So, if your computer starts acting up, don't assume it's just a "creeper" playing tricks! Stay vigilant, keep your tech skills sharp, and you'll be ready to fend off any virtual troublemakers that come your way!

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STEVE HORNE
TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST
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Transportation

Our transportation team works hard to ensure every student gets to and from school safely. Here are a few reminders to help make the ride smoother for everyone:
✓ **Be on Time:** Arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early to avoid rushing.
✓ **Stay Safe:** Wait at a safe distance from the curb/road and board the bus calmly.
✓ **Follow the Rules:** Listen to the driver and follow bus rules to keep everyone safe.
We're proud to provide safe and reliable transportation every day—thank you for partnering with us to make it a success!



Cedric Phillips
Transportation
Employee of the Month

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SARA DAVIS
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY
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TISD

January Birthdays



1 Heather Gray

2 Edward Heard, Cassandra Walulik

4 Jacob Brown

5 Rose Laird, Alice Thibodeaux

7 Carla Alaniz, Kimberly Castle

9 Dr. Davis, Holden Nichols, Sarah Stokes

10 Stasia Lambert

11 Kathryn Hudman

16 Shonna Evans, Sabrina Johns

17 Terresa Adams, D'Nina Dancer, Michael McDonald

18 Elaine Murrah, Connie Plummer, Tayelin Grays

21 Jared Romine, Carolyn Shelton

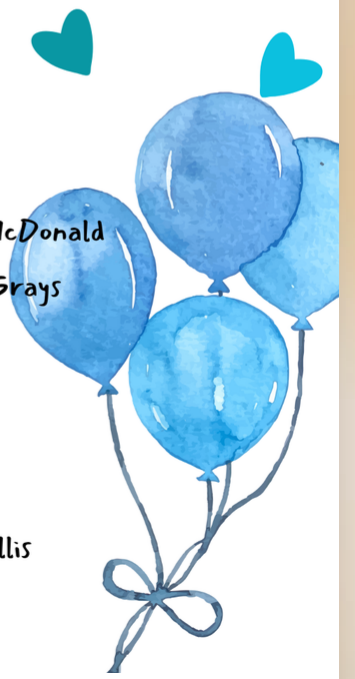
23 Jackie Owens

24 Morgan Tyler

26 Marilyn Dumas, Jerry Tilton

27 Amanda Cook, Brittany Keith, Kimberly Willis

31 Toye Grays, Marilyn Paige



Tarkington ISD

Stephanie Young, Communications Coordinator

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