



# Denton High School

*"In the Ultimate Pursuit of Excellence in Education"*

DHS PTSA Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Six Weeks Edition

March 2008

1007 Fulton Street  
Denton, TX 76201  
(940) 369-2000  
Fax (940) 369-4953  
[www.dentonisd.org](http://www.dentonisd.org)



- Farewell to Jamie Covey.....page 2
- Parent Classes! .....page 2
- Visit the Library.... .....page 2
- Latin Trip .....page 2
- Stock Market Game .....page 2
- Band News .....page 2
- Yearbooks!... .....page 2
- Academic Decathlon... .page 2
- UIL Academics .....page 2
- Job Seeker Workshop .....page 3
- Laureate Awards .....page 3
- Orchestra .....page 3
- UTA Calculus Bowl .....page 4
- Art Happenings! .....page 4
- Sophomore class ....page 4
- Java Cafe ..... page 4
- Student Council ..... page 4 & 5
- Math Team News .....page 5
- Calculus: The Musical ....page 5
- IB.....page 6
- Notes from the nurse .....page 6
- Parent Tips .....page 6

Broncos, *From the principal...Mr. Darrell Muncy*

Public educators measure the school year based on test dates and student holidays. That having been said, the ELA TAKS test is quickly approaching and spring break is just around the corner.

The ELA TAKS test was Wednesday, March 5, 2008. We altered the bell schedule allowing students plenty of time to concentrate and focus on the test at hand. It was an un-timed test so those students needing more time were sequestered and provided a quiet place to complete the exam. **This is our first year to offer students who pass the TAKS test a final exam exemption in the class that correlates with the passed TAKS. If they pass the ELA TAKS test, they do not have to take their English final; pass math TAKS – no math final. Science and Social Studies; ditto. It is our goal to motivate all students to do their best on the state test. Go for it!**

Spring is always an incredibly busy time of year on high school campuses across the state. All spring sports are in full swing along with our fine arts groups prepping for their up and coming UIL contests. Our academic team is also getting ready for the district meet held this year at Guyer High School. For more information on all the various groups and their competition times please check our website or call Holly Stratton at 369-2000.

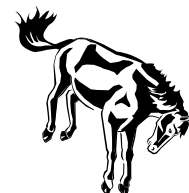
We are in the process of designing and planning the construction phases that will soon overcome the campus. The renovation and construction may start as early as late spring with most areas of DHS getting a face lift. Although the visual aspects of our school may be changing the same great traditions and standards for academic excellence will remain. It is really exciting to see the future of DHS expanding excellence.

If you have not had the chance to see the newly renovated Renaissance International Garden, please come by and check it out. Mrs. Kim Thaggard and *Renaissance* have done a great job on a much needed face lift. Mr. Mark Behning's Construction Systems Class also pitched in and helped out with the DHS waterfall. Enjoy a soothing afternoon in the garden. It is a must see!

Please check out some events in the not-too distant future:

**Spring Break.....March 17 – 21, 2008**  
**Bad Weather Day.....March 24, 2008 (Holiday)**  
**Saturday TAKS Tutorials**  
**March 29 (Last ELA Saturday)**  
**April 5, 12, 26, 2008**

See you soon,  
Darrell





## Farewell to Jamie Covey

On February 20, 2008, we had a pep rally in honor of one of our best teachers. Jamie Covey, ASL teacher, is off to Iraq for the next year, and we could not let her leave without showing her how much we love and appreciate her.

When asked if they wanted to participate, everyone was thrilled and honored to play a part. The DHS Band, Orchestra, Choir, Fillies and Cheerleaders put on a spectacular show. The Band, Orchestra and Choir dedicated the Battle Hymn of the Republic to Jamie, and the Cheerleaders wrote and performed a cheer just for her. The Fillies danced to the song "Seasons of Love." Indeed the performers were in their element, so throughout the rally, the audience repeatedly reacted with standing ovations and cheers.

A highlight of the show occurred when some of the faculty and administration danced to the Village People's "In the Navy". Poor Jamie was handcuffed to a chair as the "Shore Police" ticketed her for some infraction. Jamie was a good sport and danced along as best she could while the audience howled in laughter.

Through all of this the media was in force, capturing every minute of the event. The cameras from the different television stations and newspapers were everywhere as controlled chaos reigned in the packed gym.

Jamie and her family were escorted out of the gym to the Library as the Band and Orchestra played "Anchors Away." Once in the library the staff, faculty and students could say goodbye and give Jamie a hug. Some tears were shed because we will miss Jamie while she is gone, but we will be right here when she comes back in about 365 days

~Mrs. Cristina Galindo - LOTE Department Head



## UIL Academics

The UIL Academic District Competition will be held at Guyer High School on March 29. The DHS Academic teams have been preparing since September. This year the students have had the opportunity to participate in invitational meets at Flower Mound and Ryan High School. We look forward to participating in the District meet. Students or teams who place 1st, 2nd and 3rd will compete in the Regional contest in San Angelo on April 11-12, 2008. Winners at Regional will move on to the State Competition in May. We wish the students the best and hats off to the coaches who have worked so hard.

~Carol Hyatt



## Academic Decathlon

The Academic Decathlon Team went to the regional competition the last week of February. This was our first year to compete as a team (all the students were competing for the first time). Brittany Hamilton placed first in interview category with a perfect score and Somak Das placed first in the math competition.

The other team members were Jake Gwilliam, Lee Chen, Colleen O'Donnell, Taylor Belt, Dinora Padilla, Danielle Dubose, and Sadie Stanley.

Please congratulate them all.

~Jennifer Phillips

## Visit the Library!

The DHS library is open until 6 p.m. on Monday evenings for students who need to work on computers, do research, do homework or just want a quiet place to read.



### Parents' ESL Classes! (English as a Second Language)

ESL Parents' classes will start again on Tuesday, January 8 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in room 105 at Denton High School. Mr. Slade teaches the class and Mrs. Sutton and Communities in Schools provide child care and tutoring opportunities to children and teenagers.

### Clase de inglés para padres

La clase de inglés para padres empezará de nuevo el martes, 8 de enero de 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. en el salón 105 en Denton High School. Mr. Slade enseña la clase y Mrs. Sutton y "Communities in Schools" cuidan a niños y proveen oportunidades para apoyo académico para adolescentes. ~Will Slade



### Latin Trip to Italy and Greece

Latin students are leaving for a trip to Italy and Greece on March 12th. We will be gone for 10 days, visiting Rome, Capri, Brundisium, Pompeii, Sorrento, Athens, and Delphi!

~Mrs. Sarah Hustwit



### The Stock Market Game

Mr. Todd Simpson's economics classes are participating in the stock market game again and have high hopes for winning some cash. Last semester we had a team finish 7th out of 287 teams nationwide. Kids are learning a lot and having a lot of fun!



### Band News

Bronco Band Golf Tournament - March 29th -  
-Entry Fee \$100 per player  
Bronco Band BBQ Dinner - April 5th \$10  
DHS Jazz Band Concert - April 24th - Admission FREE  
DHS Spring Concert - May 23rd - Admission FREE



### Order Your Yearbook!

The yearbook staff has finished their final deadline. The students have created a chronological book with tons and tons of great pictures of Homecoming, classes, groups and sports. Only a limited number of yearbooks will be ordered. **Don't let the time slip away. Order your DHS student a yearbook today!**

Parents can mail checks to DHS Yearbook for \$65.00

attn: M. Stevens

1007 Fulton, Denton, TX 76201.

(checks made out to DHS Yearbook).

~Marilyn Stevens



### Job Seeker Workshop

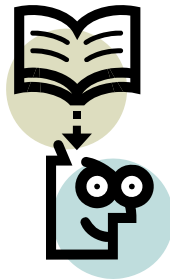
First Time Job Seeker Workshop  
 April 26, 2008  
 North Branch Library  
 9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 2:00

#### Workshop is free but registration is required

Learn how to successfully land your first job at the *First-Time Job Seeker Workshop* on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a. m. to noon at the North Branch Library. Marcus Bourland, Ryan High School business education teacher, will provide tips on creating resumes, answering interview questions, and dressing for success. Mr. Bourland will also provide personalized help with resumes from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Whether you are a recent graduate looking for your first full-time job or just interested in finding a position for the summer, you are sure to benefit from attending this workshop. The *First-Time Job Seeker Workshop* is free and open to the public, but registration is required. For more information or to register, call **940.349.8752**.

#### Schedule of Events

- 9:00 – 10:00-Resume Writing Tips
- 10:00 – 11:00-Interview Skills Basics
- 11:00 – 12:00-Dressing for Success
- 12:00 – 1:00-Lunch Break –on your own
- 1:00 – 2:00-Personalized resume help with Mr. Bourland



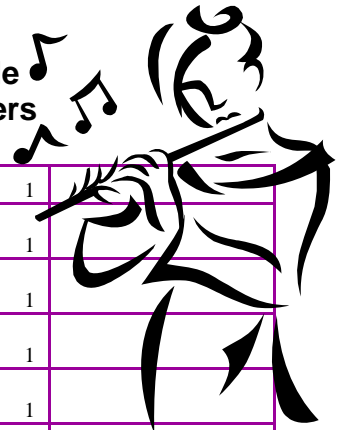
### The Laureate Awards

The English department will be having its annual Laureate Awards ceremony Tuesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in the DHS cafeteria. The intent of the Laureate Awards is to recognize and honor our many students who put forth effort in Pre-AP, AP, Regular, Resource, and ESL English classes. Each teacher will be recognizing two top students from each of his or her subject levels (such as English I, Creative Writing, AP English 4, ESL 3, etc.). In addition, each teacher has the option to give out an additional award of his or her choice (such as Most Improved, Best Attitude, etc.). At this year's award ceremony, the English department anticipates recognizing 81 young people. Parents of each recognized student will be sent a special invitation to attend the ceremony. A program with a paragraph recognizing each student will be passed out at the ceremony, and each student will be individually called up to the front to be presented a certificate and a specially designed medal. All students will then have their pictures taken with their English teacher and given a copy of the picture. Also, cake and punch will be served to all who attend. Several administrators will be in attendance, and Mrs. Gwen Perkins, associate principal at DHS, will give a brief opening speech. The English department sincerely hopes that this ceremony will be a great opportunity to recognize many young people who do not otherwise receive much recognition and to further encourage these students to continue in their pursuit of academic excellence.

~Janice Wohlgemuth



### DHS Orchestras 2008 Solo and Ensemble Superior Ratings Winners



Fran Cacal - Viola Solo	1	
Julian Chalou - Viola Solo	1	
Brisa Peacock - Violin Solo	1	
Jessica Sanchez - Violin Solo	1	
Vivi Tamprateep - Violin Solo	1	
Tyler Burggren - Cello Solo	1S	State Bound
Julia Di Fiore - Cello Solo	1S	State Bound
Nadia Eimandoust - Solo	1S	State Bound
Mandy Elmore - Bass Solo	1S	State Bound
Peter Hu - Piano Solo	1S	State Bound
Peter Hu - Violin solo	1S	State Bound
Gabe Klein - Violin Solo	1S	State Bound
Sylvia Li - Violin Solo	1S	State Bound
Julia Moen - Cello Solo	1S	State Bound
Patrick Montler - Bass Solo	1S	State Bound
RJ Ponder - Cello Solo	1S	State Bound
Christine Ryu - Violin Solo	1S	State Bound
Bergel/Burggren/ Hu Trio	1S	State Bound
Di Fiore/Moen - Cello Duet	1S	State Bound
Nadia Eimandoust/Sabrina MacKenzie - Duet	1S	State Bound

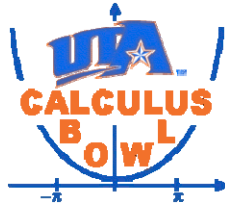


### Mrs. Weldon demonstrates new technology

Rhonda Weldon (DHS math) received a grant this year that provided her with one of the new *Interwrite Pads*. The *Interwrite Pad* uses wireless *Bluetooth* technology, a data projector and computer software. The classroom becomes “interactive,” allowing teachers and students to see and work on problems together.



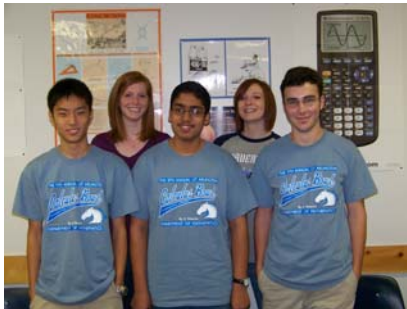
## DHS MATH STUDENTS COMPETE AT THE UTA CALCULUS BOWL



February 15<sup>th</sup> found DHS Calculus students Taerim Kim, Susan Conover, Somak Das, Garnett Ford and Andy Burtch competing at UT Arlington's Calculus Bowl. The Calculus Bowl is a Jeopardy like contest where all the questions are calculus problems. Teams compete against each other and the clock, with the correct answer in the shortest amount of time getting all the points. The DHS Calculus Team, competing against teams from 19 other schools, finished a very respectable third in each of their two preliminary rounds.



Mr. Fred Mueller, Denton High's calculus teacher, reports that much fun was had by all exploring advanced math in an action packed, exciting and very challenging competitive environment.



### Sophomore Class Cleans Up!

Members of the Sophomore class participated in the Great American Cleanup on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The event was sponsored by Keep Denton Beautiful. They worked for three hours, combing the disk golf area of North Lakes Park. The students and parents collected over 20 bags of trash as well as construction fencing, lumber, carpet, and one live fish (the fish was repatriated to the lake). This is the second year that the class has participated in a community service project.

~Michelle DeAngelo



### Student Council

**Drug, Alcohol, Safety and Health Committee works with local 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders** Communities against Spit Tobacco (C.A.S.T.-Kids) are funded by the Texas Cancer Council and are part of the Spit Tobacco Prevention Network (STOPN). STOPN provides training to high school leadership students who then make presentations to local 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Denton High Student Council went through the training on February 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be going to several DISD schools this spring to share graphic images, startling statistics, and useful tips to help convince our younger students to abstain from spit tobacco products. Seniors leading this project are Fredrick Warzwick, Lexie Spoor, Nate Miller, Chase Eager and Paige Flowers.

~ Beth Hughes



### Art Happenings

Art One classes have a huge thank you for Mrs. Terri Vogds, and the Denton Quilt Guild. Mrs. Vogds spent a week in early February in Mrs. Valery Smith's art room helping get them started in a wonderful art quilt project. Mrs. Vogds also collected fabric donations from members of the Denton Quilt Guild, who were very generous with colorful cotton fabric scraps. The students learned about the history of quilt making, saw a variety of beautiful quilts made by Mrs. Vogds, and learned a variety of quilt making techniques and processes. Students have also learned how to dye fabric, utilize artistic composition skills and develop sewing skills with this fiber project and look forward to applying a variety of embellishments including beads, sequins and charms to complete their quilts.

Mrs. Smith is already looking for more fabric for next year because the students involved in this project have been very enthusiastic and successful at creating their works of art. A special thanks to Karen Brooks at Pass Time quilt shop in Gainesville for her generous donations as well, and to everyone who donated fabric for the project.

~Valery Smith



### Java Café

Java Café is a monthly open mic night sponsored by the Denton High School Creative Writing Club. DHS students and teachers gather over hot chocolate, coffee, and biscotti to read some of their favorite authors and share original works. Tommy Rose and Olivia de Guzman, co-owners of the Art Six Coffee House in Denton, have opened their patio to the event and generously supplied sound equipment.

DHS senior Nathan Piatt, who was recently selected for publication in a national teen poetry anthology for his poem "Two Pennies," enjoys the opportunity to read his work in front of a public audience.

"It's free publicity. You get your name out into the world as a poet," Piatt said. "You get experience with public speaking as well."

DHS drama students also add levity to the evening by leading some of their peers in improvisational games. As a result, audience members and patio patrons of Art Six have been treated to sophomore Devaki Dave's impression of Tom Sawyer's drugged cat and senior Makayla Price's antics as Wile E. Coyote.

Students, parents, and community members are welcome to stop in and even read a piece should they feel so inspired. Art Six is on the corner of Bryan and Scripture Streets near UNT. Our next Java Café will be on April 1 starting at 7:00. No foolin'!

~Chris Puente

## DHS MATH TEAM TAKES TOP HONORS

The DHS Math Club and UIL Math Team began the season with a big win, taking top school honors at the Paschal Invitational Meet. Competition was stiff as DHS students prevailed over 150+ others from 17 area schools. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Math Relay Prize went to the team of Taerim Kim, Somak Das, Trevor Davila, Peter Hu, and Eric Willis.

Individual awards were also abundant. DHS students held down 4 of the top 5 spots in the Advanced Math Contest: 1<sup>st</sup> place Taerim Kim, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Hee Jun Kim, 4<sup>th</sup> place Andy Burtch, and 5<sup>th</sup> place Somak Das.

Many other awards came home to DHS. In the Novice Math Contest: 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to Peter Hu, 3<sup>rd</sup> place to Sylvia Lee, and 5<sup>th</sup> place to Aimee Cloutier. Advanced Number Sense: 2<sup>nd</sup> place Peter Hu, 4<sup>th</sup> place Andy Burtch, and 5<sup>th</sup> place Trevor Davila. Novice Number Sense: 4<sup>th</sup> place Vivi Tamprateep, 5<sup>th</sup> Somak Das, and 6<sup>th</sup> place Lee Chen.

Congratulations go to all of these hard working DHS Math Club competitors. The DHS Math Club is sponsored by Mr. Fred Mueller and Mr. Daniel Koren.



## CALCULUS: THE MUSICAL

March 3<sup>rd</sup> marked the historic day that *Calculus: The Musical!* came to the DHS auditorium. Over 150 DHS math students, along with 200+ students from other schools, as well as parents, grandparents and professors from both UNT and TWU were enthralled by Marc Gutman and Sadie Boman's captivating performance.



*Calculus: The Musical!* is a superbly performed comic review of calculus history set to music by the Beatles, Gilbert & Sullivan, Madonna, Petula Clark and even Eminem. Everyone cheered, laughed and applauded as advanced math topics were parodied. Students saw that math can be fun.

With Mr. Muncy's enthusiastic support the "Musical" was brought to DHS by Mr. Mueller's calculus classes and the DHS Math Club. A big thank you to Ms. Trapp and the DHS Theater Department for their help in bringing Song, Dance, Theater and of course calculus to the Denton High School stage.



## DHS Student Council earns Sweepstakes for 7<sup>th</sup> straight year

Congratulations to the DHS Student Council, a Texas Association of Student Councils' Sweepstakes council in 2007-2008, the seventh consecutive year to earn this distinction. In order to receive the highest award given by the state association, the council had to be commended in five areas: Drugs, Alcohol, Safety and Health (senior Fredrick Warzwick, chair); Energy and Environment (junior Ryan Davidson, chair); Pride and Patriotism (senior Lucy Croft, chair), Community Service (senior Seth Ramey, chair), and Outstanding Student Council (senior Garnett Ford, chair). The DHS council will be honored at the state convention in Arlington on April 18<sup>th</sup> where they also have been selected to present their outstanding Environment project, The Renaissance International Garden. Student Council advisors are Beth Hughes and Kimberly Thaggard.

## IB Program APPROVED!

Denton High School has received the official approval to offer a program that provides a rigorous college-prep academic curriculum to juniors and seniors.

International Baccalaureate of North America has notified the school that they have been “welcomed” into the international community of IB World Schools as a Diploma Programme (DP).

Denton High is now part of small, but elite group of about 40 Texas high schools to offer this challenging academic program. There are only 500 high schools nationwide that offer IB. Overall; there are 1,571 IB schools in 125 countries worldwide.



### Nurse Notes

“Drugs Can Break your Heart”

The most commonly abused drugs seen in our area high schools:

- \* Underage use of the legal drugs: alcohol & tobacco
- \* Use of illegal drugs: marijuana
- \* the inappropriate use of legally obtained substances: ordinary household chemicals used as inhalants, and over-the-counter/ prescription medications.

It is now thought that more teens abuse prescription drugs than any other illicit drug, except marijuana – more than cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine combined.

Parents need to be aware that teens are finding easy access in their own homes from the medicine cabinet and via the Internet.

A youth counselor for a nonprofit intervention center, said parents should know a growing number of teenagers are using the Internet to buy all sorts of drugs. He said teenagers are getting drugs by entering restricted Web sites with passwords they swap at parties. A research article published recently in JAMA, found that minors successfully received cigarettes for 93.6% of credit card purchase attempts and for 88.9% of money order attempts. Age was never verified for any of these deliveries. Parents can find a wealth of resources several sites: [www.theantidrug.com/resources](http://www.theantidrug.com/resources). and [www.drughelp.org](http://www.drughelp.org) Other helpful contacts: Pinnacle Diagnostics 898-1787 (Walk- In drug testing) 1501 N. Elm, Denton, TX



Cindy Yousko  
RN- DHS School Nurse  
369-2021



### Tips for Parents

Did you know that every day, 2,500 kids between the ages of 12 to 17 try a painkiller for the first time? \*

Did you know that prescription drugs are the drugs of choice for 12 and 13 year old children? \*

Teenagers are abusing prescription medications at an alarming rate. Admissions in drug treatment facilities for prescription painkiller abuse/dependency increased more than 300% from 1995 to 2005. Obtaining these drugs is often as easy as opening the bathroom medicine cabinet. Codeine from mom’s root canal, left-over muscle relaxers from dad’s back injury, sister’s old antidepressants, brother’s ADD/ADHD pills and **many over the counter** cough/cold medicines pose a potential danger to your child. Here are some examples of the dangers that may be lurking in your medicine cabinet:

**Painkillers** – Vicodin, Tylenol with Codeine, OxyContin, Percocet

**Depressants** – Klonopin, Nembutal, Soma, Valium, Xanax

**Stimulants** – Adderall, Concerta, Dexedrine, Ritalin

**OTCs** – Coricidin HBP Cough and Cold, Robitussin, Vicks Formula 44

70% of children aged 12 and older who abuse prescription painkillers say they got them from relatives and friends. Children assume these drugs are somehow safer than other drugs because they’re so easily obtained and are prescribed by a doctor. They often underestimate the dangers associated with abusing these drugs.

#### Know the Facts:

Abuse of OTC cough and cold medications can cause blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, coma, and even death. Stimulant abuse can lead to hostility, paranoia, heart failure, and death. When abused, depressants and painkillers impair motor skills, judgment, and ability to learn, which increases the risk for injury.

#### MIXING THESE DRUGS CAN CAUSE RESPIRATORY FAILURE AND DEATH !

Here’s what you can do to address this issue in your home:

1. Safeguard all drugs/medicines. MONITOR quantities and CONTROL access.
2. Set clear rules for teens about ALL drug use, including the importance of NOT sharing medicine and always following the prescription label.
3. Be a good role model by following the labels on your own medications.
4. Properly dispose of old or unused medicines in the trash.
5. Ask friends and family to safeguard their prescription drugs as well.