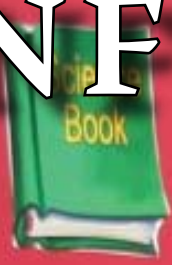


NFISD School Zone

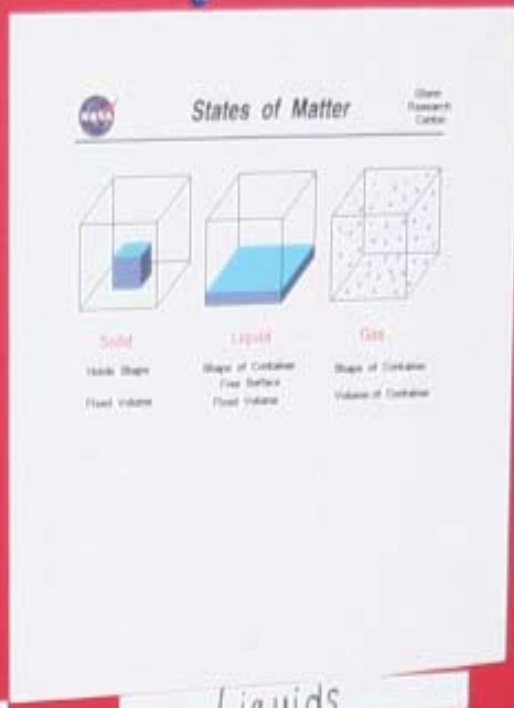
June 2010



Liquids

Gases

Solids



Solids

Liquids



Free summer school for NFISD students

- Home Access Center
- NFISD place 2nd in CSTEM
- NFISD honors top graduates





Men of Distinction

Donnell Cooper, a first-year chemistry teacher at North Forest High School and senior sponsor of the 2010 graduating class, chartered the Men of Distinction (M.O.D.) on the high school campus with one goal in mind: to help boys become men.

May 17th kicked off the 2010 Male's Initiative Week for the Men of Distinction organization at North Forest High School. Activities for the week included the "Suited and Booted Day", "College Day", "Career Day", "Hoop It Up", "Pep Rally and Step Off". NBA player, Mike James who currently plays for the Washington Wizards, even came to the high school to support the Men of Distinction during their week.

Since September, the young men have volunteered for several community service activities some including putting on a step show for kids in the Settegast community, planting more than 100 trees with the city of Houston, and hosting a career day at Forest Brook Middle School.



"We want to exceed expectations that we are like other clubs. I want these young men to be able to gain so much," Cooper said.

Cooper previously chartered the male group, Men of Distinction, at Yates High School in Houston Independent School District in 1985 and although the chapter is not active, there is an active M.O.D chapter at Wheatley High School, also in HISD.

Cooper said he has plans to assist with the organization's filing to become a 501 (c) (3) organization. He also hopes the organization will help students develop skills that can be used in college and in their professional careers, such as entrepreneurship.

"Many of my students are interested in owning a business. One of my students, Billy Covington presented his cake business in the 2010 ACT-SO Competition," Mr. Cooper said proudly.

The goal of the organization is to promote brotherhood, and unity on the campus, as well as throughout the community. The young men participated in beneficial membership process that teaches problem solving and builds self-esteem. The co-sponsors of the organization are 11th grade counselor Angela Roberts and Registrar Marsha Lindsay at North Forest High School.

Dr. Emily Bartley, a veteran teacher at North Forest High school said she is impressed with the young men who are a part of the group.

"I have seen those boys excited about school. They have been involved in some really good things. Mr. Cooper is doing a great job with them," Dr. Bartley said.

M.O.D plans to implement pro-

grams to redirect negative self images to positive and productive self perception.

“We believe that when a child is equipped with knowledge, sustainable skills, mutual respect, and pride they will inevitably produce successful human beings. We believe that with the right guidance a person can do anything,” Cooper said.

If a male student is interested in joining the organization, he must submit an application with three references from a teacher, peer, or mentor. The student is also required to have a GPA of 2.0 or higher and complete 40 hours of community service in a calendar year. Students must maintain their academic averages and continue to volunteer once accepted.

If you would like more information about the Men of Distinction, send an e-mail to donnell.cooper@nfisd.org.

NFISD honors top graduates

North Forest ISD held its annual Top Ten Luncheon on Tuesday, May 18, to honor the top graduates of North Forest High School’s class of 2010.

The luncheon was held at the DoubleTree Hotel IAH. The graduates were joined by the parents, school and district administrators, including Superintendent of Schools Dr. Adrain Johnson, and members of the North Forest ISD Board of Managers. Rev. Dr. Willie Jones, NFISD Board of Managers Vice-President, served as the guest speaker for this event.

These students will graduate, along with their classmates at 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, at the M. O. Campbell Center, 1865 Aldine



From left to right:
Valedictorian Joseph Frilot and
Salutatorian Una Dillard.

Bender Road.

Joseph Frilot is valedictorian of North Forest High School’s Class of 2010. He is the son of Clinton Frilot and Angela Johnson. His honors and awards include: Perfect Attendance, Most Outstanding Student, Top Student in Criminal Justice, Who’s Who among American High School Students, Highest Score in Decathlon, and the North Houston Frontier Scholarship. Joseph is also a member of Teens Are People Too. He was a librarian assistant, G-Force Peer Tutor, and a member of Truth Love Ministries. In the fall, he plans to attend the University of Houston, where he will major in political science and minor in pre-law.

Una Dillard is the salutatorian of North Forest High School’s Class of 2010. She is the daughter of Maceo Dillard, Jr. Her high school honors and awards include: November Student of the Month for North Forest High School, admittance to the Explorers Residential Fig Group, and a full scholarship to the University of Texas at Austin. Una received the award for Most Outstanding Young Person for the Young People’s Organization in 2009. She is a member of the Student Government Association, the Mighty Bulldog Marching Band, the National Senior Honor Society, C-STEM, and the National Society of Black Engineers. In the fall, she will attend the University

of Texas at Austin where she will major in mechanical engineering.

The other eight top graduates are Kadeen Lyons, Mariella Turcios, La’Tori Flowers, JaMarcus Payton, Jerry Gardner, Brianna Williams, Jessica Butanda, and Esmeralda Garcia.

NFISD to host Alumni Mixer



North Forest Independent School District will host an Alumni Association Kick-off Alumni Mixer at 6 p.m. on June 11 at Forest Brook Middle School.

The district is establishing an Alumni Association to create a life-line with its strongest support base-alumni. The Association will focus on fostering improvements in education, increasing financial support for academic programs and scholarships, providing service learning opportunities, and strengthening community involvement along with other objectives included in NFISD Strategic Plan.

Following the mixer, alumni who are interested in joining committees will schedule a meeting with the district’s executive team to nominate officers and begin working toward the development of the Association for the 2010-2011 school year.

For more information, visit our website www.nfisd.org, click Alumni Focus then Alumni Page. There you will be able to RSVP for the mixer as well as update contact information and learn more about the official NFISD Alumni Association.



Pictured above: 1-4 Students from K-12 entered their projects to win a gold medal at the District-wide Science Fair. (Also on cover) **5-8** Elementary Track & Field Day. **9-11** Superintendent of Schools Dr. Johnson was selected as a panelist in a community forum with the Secretary of Education Arne Duncan of the U.S. Department of Education, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, and other leaders in education.

ALUMNI FOCUS



Robert Prather, 2000 graduate of Forest Brook, reflects on his experience in North Forest as challenging. He said he acquired

skills that helped him survive beyond the classroom. Prather attributes Dr. Emily Bartley and Mr. Austin Hayward, both currently teaching in the district, for some of his success in high school.

Throughout his matriculation in the district, Prather was involved in activities such as the NAACP ACT-SO Competition, National Technical Association (NTA), NA-ASBE, and journalism in which he learned to develop graphics.

Shortly after graduation, he became the first Houston M.I.S. intern for Duke Energy, writing programs that transformed data into images (reverse aeronautics). He also wrote a pipeline simulation of Boeing 777 for training purposes for his “777 Project”, which reduced the cost of developing a flight simulator.

Prather graduated in Electrical Engineering from Prairie View A&M University, where he met his wife Mary Jane. He is currently finishing a memoir of his nuptial experience in Nigeria, Mary-Jane’s birth place.

During his career, Prather created a student information system for school districts, sold a program to NASA for an experimental lab, developed a simulator for the “Soul Plane” movie set, is the

webmaster for NAACP ACT-SO Houston chapter, and is currently the system programmer for North Forest ISD.

However, aside from his accolades, he is involved in the community in which he grew up in.

“It’s so important to me to provide the students in the district and in the community with tools for life,” Prather says. “I want to lift these young men and women up. They need positive role models in the community, not just athletes and entertainers.”

Prather said his ultimate goal is to motivate underprivileged students to get excited about math and sciences.

For more information about Robert Prather’s upcoming book, and his 777 simulators visit www.777simulator.com.

Parents able to view child's progress in new HAC system

Beginning in the fall 2010, all NFISD parents/guardians will be able to access their child's attendance, school schedules, homework assignments and report cards through the new online Home Access Center (HAC) system.

The Home Access Center is a secure browser-based student information system that allows users to receive up-to-date student information by logging onto the site with an assigned username and password.

Some of the features of the HAC system includes the viewer being able to view unofficial transcripts, up-to date class schedules, e-mail with students' attendance and grades, report cards and progress reports, and itemized class work with due dates and scores.

"The HAC system is a great resource for our parents, teachers, and students. It will hold all accountable to ensure that our students are in attendance and turning in assignments on time," says the Director of Curriculum and Instruction Rodney Louis. "It will also require the teachers to enter grades at least twice a week and the parent can check it as often as he/she would like."

The district requires users of the HAC system to sign a user agreement when registering for a username and password.

Robert Prather, the systems analyst for the district said other surrounding districts are already using

systems such as the Home Access Center and this is just another way the district is constantly seeking ways to improve.

For convenience, parents who have internet capabilities on their mobile device may also log-on to HAC to view updated information as it becomes available.

If parents or students do not have access to the internet, they may visit their child's campus to setup a free e-mail account or log-on to HAC.

If you would like more information about the Home Access Center contact 713.491.1017.

NFISD takes part in Summer Nutrition Program

An end to the school year does not have to signal an end to good nutrition. North Forest ISD will once again take part in the Summer Nutrition Program.

The Summer Nutrition Programs provide nutritious meals at no charge to all children ages 18 and younger at participating feeding sites. Several North Forest ISD campuses will serve as feeding sites. From June 8 through July 2, the following NFISD schools will be open for summer nutrition: North Forest High, Forest Brook Middle, Fonwood Elementary, A. G. Hilliard Elementary, Shadydale Elementary and Thurgood Marshall. Breakfast will be served from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m., and lunch will be available from 11



a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

The Summer Food Service Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to ensure that kids who rely on school breakfast and lunch programs for healthy meals throughout the academic year will get the nutrition they need during the summer, said NFISD's Director of Food Services Danny McDonald.

McDonald is encouraging maximum participation from the North Forest community, asking parents and guardians to ensure that their children make it to a campus during the meal times.

"It's open to the community. It's free and it provides us with a way to continue feeding children while school is out," she says.

All meals are free, and children do not have to be NFISD students or enrolled in summer school to benefit from the program. To participate, children ages 18 and younger can simply show up at one of the district's participating campuses. They do not need to register and no one will ask for proof of income or age.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 260-1026, (866) 632-9992 (toll free), or (202) 401-0216 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Free Summer school for NFHS to begin June 8



Students (K-5) who attended an NFISD Elementary Title 1 School-wide program during the 2009-2010 school year who require additional remediation to meet the state's performance standards are eligible for the extended year summer program.

Students who were in middle school (6-8) in NFISD during the 2009-2010 school year and failed, may take up to three courses to remediate their skills and to raise their yearly average.

The primary goal of the High School Summer Semester Program is to provide students in grades 9-12, with the opportunity to master or improve upon subject matter attempted during the school year. During the summer term, students who were enrolled in high school during the 2009-2010 school year and failed to acquire sufficient course credit may take a maximum of two courses to remediate their skills and to recover course credit. High school students must obtain a summer school program registration form from his/her high school counselor to qualify for enrollment in NFISD's Summer Program.

North Forest High School is offering free summer school for all elementary, middle, and secondary students in the district. The summer school is consisted of nineteen days of instruction which will begin on June 8 and end on

July 2. There will also be an Early Childhood Summer School which includes the Bilingual/ESL Program for students between 4-6 years old.

Summer school will be offered at three elementary schools, one middle school campus and the high school. On the elementary school level, summer school will be held at Fonwood Elementary, Hilliard Elementary, and Shadydale Elementary. Students in 6-8 grades may take summer courses at Forest Brook Middle School and North Forest High School for 9-12 grade students.

The cumulative course grades earned during the school year will be averaged with the same subject grades in summer school to determine whether a student passes or fails.

Elementary students who require additional help are eligible for the extended year summer program. The deadline to apply for elementary summer school is June 11, 2010. Middle school students may take up to three classes to raise their yearly average, while high school students are only allowed to take a maximum of two courses.

This is the first time the district will offer free summer school to secondary students who want to take electives or advanced classes during the summer, or who need to make up credits in core classes. Students who successfully complete credit retrieval classes over the summer break may be able to stay on target for graduation.

Credit recovery courses will continue to be offered to students during the summer months. Students in the 12th and 9th grade will be given priority so parents are encouraged to register their child for

summer school.

There are several summer school programs including the Optional School Year Program (OEYP) where students must attend 90 percent of the scheduled dates, the Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program, designated for special education students, Bilingual/ESL Summer Program for 4-6 year old at Thurgood Marshall, Supplemental Education Services where high school students may receive tutoring, and academic intervention, the Credit Recovery Program for high school students, and the University of Houston Enrichment Program.

NFISD places 2nd in CSTEM



North Forest ISD's vertical team, which included students from North Forest High School, Forest Brook Middle School and Lakewood Elementary School, placed second in the National CSTEM Challenge on May 8 at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Lakewood's Michael Lo worked with the NFISD team's elementary members.

"We were five points away from first place," Mr. Lo said. "Next year, we will go for the number one spot."

The National C-STEM Challenge is designed to connect elementary, middle, and high school students through feeder pattern schools with a project that allows them to



work cooperatively on problem-solving. The CSTEM Challenge integrates communication, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, social studies and art.

Students competed in a six-part challenge some including a Geographical Information Systems Challenge, the Creative Writing Challenge and the CSTEM robotics challenge.

In the robotics challenge students designed and developed remote-controlled and autonomous robots that had to complete a maze in the RowBot community.

Preparing for and competing in the Challenge provided students with opportunities to see how their work affects all aspects of life and teaches students about environmental stewardship.

Junior Reporters

Houston Bar Association Team Talks About Drugs and Alcohol in Lakewood



By: Anabelly Pacheco

Holding simultaneous presentations, 12 Houston Bar Association Teams went

to 10 schools in five different school districts to talk about laws and dangers of drugs and alcohol. This is a yearly project of HBA in connection with their Drug Education Program. Lakewood Elementary School was lucky to have Atty. Clarinda Comstock and Dr. Giselle Urrutibeheity. It was a very informative presentation, and the fifth grade students of Lakewood learned a lot from it.

Atty. Comstock talked about the laws governing drug use and abuse, while Dr. Urrutibeheity talked about how drugs and alcohol can harm our body. They showed the fifth graders a PowerPoint presentation, a video of juvenile detention, and slides of people suffering from damaged liver due to drug abuse, chewing tobacco, and people who got into accidents because of drugs. They also showed us how a healthy brain and liver looks as compared to the damaged ones.

The doctor and the lawyer also shared with us some details that we found very beneficial. Among other things, we learned that students could be expelled from school because of drug use and possession; that 16 – 24 is the shortest life expectancy of any age group; that we have to be 21 of age before we could take alcohol; and that 21,000 juveniles (aged 10-16) were referred to juvenile detention last year.

According to Dr. Urrutibeheity, we never should take other people's pills. Drugs can affect our internal organs, and we could get cancer or even die. She said we have a choice to make – live a perfect, healthy life or die.

Thurgood Marshall's in the News

By: Jaiden Beal



It was so much fun to be in the Spelling Bee Contest even though I came in 2nd place. I felt a little sad because a student

from Lakewood won 1st, but I'm feeling great now because I know I did my very best! It was held at our school on May 7th and students from Lakewood, Rogers and Hilliard came over to participate. We have been very busy with our schoolwork, taking test, writing in our journals and other activities. My teacher says we should be ready everyday for a pop quiz!

On Wednesday, we had the best Kindergarten Picnic ever! We went to Barbara Jordan Park and played games and ate and played again. We had a famous author Monroe Tarver, Imagia and the Magic Pearls to visit our school and talk to us about his book. Oh yes, he illustrated his book too and showed us some of his pictures. He gave us picture cards to keep for our memories.

We had a Cinco de Mayo program and you should already know the violins were the best ones on program. We even beat the cheerleaders! I was not happy to learn that our class did not win the Popsicle Party for the Mother's Day Card Contest. Maybe next time! Did you know the whale is the biggest animal in the sea? We learned that when we were reading our By the Sea book.

North Forest ISD
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Superintendent's Message

I am always excited and receptive when North Forest employees, staff, parents, local leaders and community members share ideas for making our district stronger. It is because I believe that helping our students is a common goal—one we share with pride.

In recent weeks, several individuals have shared ideas with me through e-mail and the Johnson's Journal link on the district's website. From extending the school year to offering social skills training for our students, the ideas have been varied and interesting. Some patrons have raised specific questions regarding issues such as what North Forest ISD is doing to prevent bullying on our campuses. Such inquiries have provided me with opportunities to not only update you on programs taking place within our district, such as the supplemental anti-bullying curriculum that has been taught to all fifth graders in North Forest ISD this year, but with the chance to engage patrons in the development and growth of our district.

For me, your interests signals a genuine concern for our students and a desire to work together to move North Forest ISD closer to achieving its vision and mission.

This monthly message to the community, my weekly messages to employees and the Johnson's Journal posts on the district's website are designed to elicit your feedback. I want to know what you are thinking. So please continue to share your thoughts and ideas because I am listening.

I can be reached by e-mail at superintendent@nfsd.org.

How did you enjoy this issue? E-mail us at danielle.saizan@nfsd.org