

The LONGWOOD Letter

January 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

News For The Residents of Longwood

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Gifted and Talented Students
Recognized by Duke Talent Search*

Front row (l-r): Will Aimone, Jackson Gilbreath,

Jake Fredrickson, Chris McKee, Will Echols

**Middle row (l-r): Travis Vick, Ben Holman,
Allison Sommers, Madison Clark, Kristin Beach**

**Back row (l-r): Shason Briscoe, Andrew Rincon,
Noelle Horan, Mariza Lashley, Ashlyn Boone**



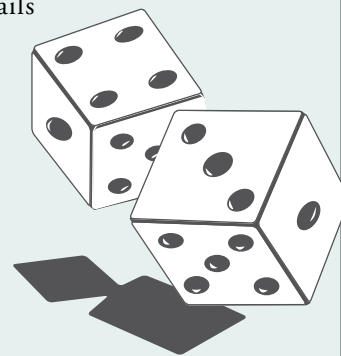
The Duke Talent Search is in its 30th year and is the largest program of its kind in the nation. This program identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending middle school. Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Assessment college entrance examinations. Taking the SAT or ACT in seventh grade gives students an opportunity to practice and become familiar with the exams that play a major role in college admissions. Students' early experience with the college entrance exam is helpful in preparing them to take the test in high school. All talent search participants receive resources and publications to assist the students' educational growth.

"WHAT HAPPENS In Vegas ..."

The 2010 S.N.A.P. (Senior Night After Prom) Committee of Cypress Creek High School will host a Las Vegas-style Parent Night Out on Sunday, February 21st, 2010 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. This fun evening, featuring dinner, casino games, silent and live auctions will be held at Parkway Chevrolet, 25500 Hwy. 249. Tickets are \$25 per person, and include dinner, \$3,000 casino money and 2 drink tickets. The event is open to everyone – being a Cy Creek parent is not required. For casino night tickets and/or contributions, please contact Jeannette Harris at 713-560-6666 or jharrissix@comcast.net.

A 2010 Cougar Blue Camaro will also be raffled off during the casino night in support of S.N.A.P. Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. You do not have to be present to win. Contact Mike Wilson at 832-496-2748 or mew0954@sbcglobal.net for raffle tickets. Details

about the
2010 S.N.A.P.
are at www.cycreeksnap.org.



LONGWOOD LETTER

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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EMERGENCY	911
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Ambulance.....	911
Constable	281-376-3472
Sheriff - Non-emergency	713-221-6000
- Burglary & Theft	713-967-5770
- Auto Theft	281-550-0458
- Homicide/Assault	713-967-5810
- Child Abuse.....	713-529-4216
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence.....	713-967-5743
- Runaway Unit	713-755-7427
Poison Control.....	800-764-7661
Traffic Light Issues	713-881-3210

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD Administration	281-897-4000
Cypress Fairbanks ISD Transportation	281-897-4380
Cypress Fairbanks Senior High.....	281-897-4600
Goodson Middle School	281-373-2350
Hamilton Elementary.....	281-370-0990

OTHER NUMBERS

Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Harris County Health Department	713-439-6260
Post Office Box Assignment – Cypress	1-800-275-8777
Street Lights - CenterPoint Energy	713-207-2222
- not working (Report Number on Pole)	
Trash Removal	281-446-2030

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Cy-Fair Project Prom Cow Plop

Thursday, January 14, 2010

4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Cy-Fair Rodeo Association Exhibit Hall
11206 Telge Road

Tickets are \$10 each.

Field is plotted for 800 squares.

Winner of the "Plopped Square" wins
\$1,000 American Express gift card.

Four surrounding squares each win \$100
American Express gift card.

Winners need not be present to win.

For more information or to buy tickets, call

Mary Cilia

at (281) 682-1228,

Sheila Schneider at (281) 536-8864,

or Renessa Champagne at (281) 384-0680

www.cyfairprojectprom.org

Official Rules: Field is plotted for 800 squares and will be marked off in a grid formation with chalk prior to the event. Each numbered ticket will be assigned a random square prior to the event and the squares will be marked with a number. A map of squares will be posted at the event and on the Project Prom website prior to the event. If cow's plop covers more than one square, the square with the most plop wins. The official judge will determine the winning square and their decision is final. If cow does not plop by 5:45 pm, winner will be determined by drawing.

All proceeds go to Cy-Fair 2010 Project Prom

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LONGWOOD LETTER

NORTHWEST FLYERS TRACK CLUB

The Northwest Flyers Track Club will host its annual free information / registration breakfast on Saturday, February 6, 2010, for all boys and girls, and their parents, interested in joining for the 2010 track season. The breakfast starts at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The breakfast is the annual opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2010 summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches and staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic team.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track organization, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, discus, shot put and javelin. The Northwest Flyers has approximately 285 members, boys and girls. The club was founded 23 years ago by Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the Northwest Houston area.

The Northwest Flyers is a member of the "Win with Integrity"

program, a partnership between USATF and the American College of Sports Medicine. "Win with Integrity" brings elite track & field athletes and school-aged kids together to promote healthy lifestyles, keeping active, and living with integrity through the sport of track & field.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org> or contact Linette Roach at (281) 587-8442 or linette.roach@sbcglobal.net.

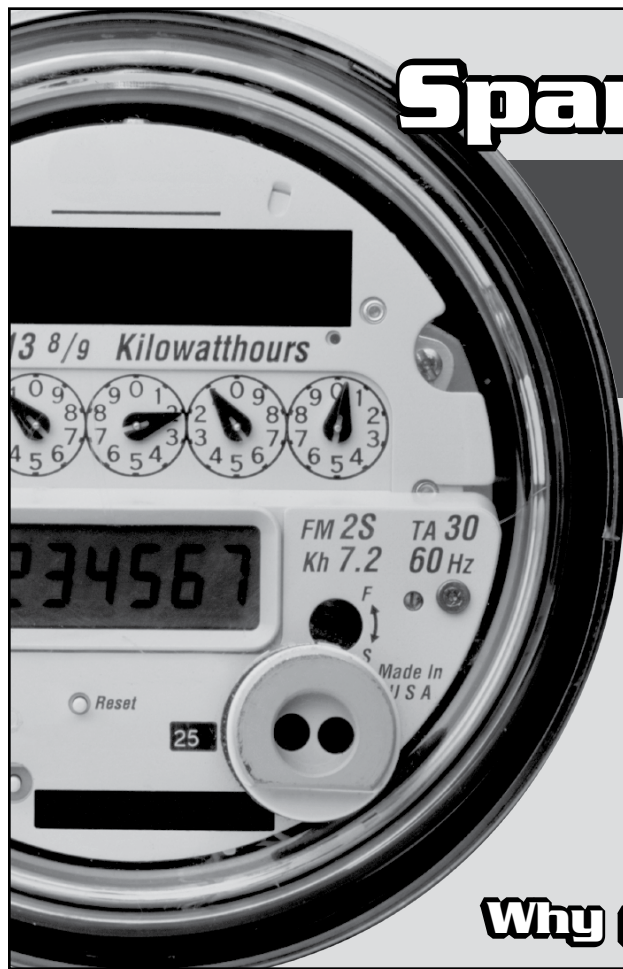
"Adventures in Mothering" at The MET



MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers, a program led by mothers themselves and designed for mothers with children ages birth to 5. These mothers all have a shared desire...to be the best mothers they can be!

For more information on meetings in Fairfield, please contact Renate Wheeler at renateqw@yahoo.com. They will meet on the second and fourth Fridays during the school year.

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THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION

Cy-Fair Express Network

Event: Cy-Fair Express Network, **When:** January 28, 2010
Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, **Where:** Houston National Golf Club • (281)304-1400, 16500 Houston national Blvd • Houston, TX. 77095

Networking and Business Luncheon: The American Business Women's Association Cy-Fair Express Network invites you to their monthly networking meeting and luncheon. Lots of fun, networking and giveaways. Bring plenty of business cards.

Reservations: Contact Anya Lucas at (713)459-2331 or anya@lucascare.com, or go to www.cyfen.org for more information. Please RSVP by Friday, January 22.

CYFEN is an ABWA Express Network organization providing opportunities to network with other professionals in the Northwest Houston area, and offers professional development and educational advantages through ABWA. CYFEN meets the fourth Thursday of each month (except November and December), and visitors are always welcome.



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IMPORTANT PREVIEW DATES FOR 2010-2011

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010 -

Kindergarten Open House (6-7 PM)
K-12 Prospective Family Open House (7-8:30 PM)

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010 -

K-12 Parent Open House (9-11 AM)

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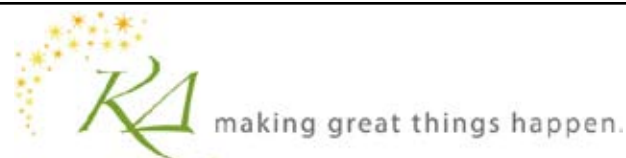
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Attention Kappa Delta Sisters ...

The Houston Northwest Kappa Delta Alumnae Association holds meetings the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.kdhnwaa.com for all the details.

290 CYPRESS

Business Networking Group

The 290 Cypress Business Networking Group meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am at Cypress Station Grill located at 26010 Hempstead Road. Behind the Target shopping center at 290 and Spring Cypress. The group is open to all business owners and professionals who want to increase their exposure to the residents of Cypress and the surrounding areas. Job seekers are welcome. There is no cost to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, please call Ken Parker at 281-384-1562 or visit our website at 290Cypress.com

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Meet Lisa

Submitted by Tracy Eilers, Executive Director,
Adoption Coalition of Texas



Lisa is a 13-year-old girly girl. She loves to be pampered and is a people person. She is very outgoing, energetic, loving, and kind. She counts singing and dancing among her favorite things and loves to keep busy. Lisa looks to learn from all her experiences and move forward with her life. She is a joy to be around, is funny, sweet, and grateful for all that she's been given. She's hoping there will be more things to be thankful for, like being adopted into a loving family. More than anything, she's ready to stop hoping for a family and to start loving one. For more information about adoption, please call Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825. For more information about Lisa, email gracelindgren@adopptexas.org

The Adoption Coalition of Texas is a nonprofit organization (operating under the Austin Community Foundation), created in 2003 to focus on finding forever families for children languishing in the foster care system. Adoption Coalition of Texas partner agencies include Arrow Child and Family Ministries, Child Protective Services, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Marywood Children and Family Services, and Pathways Youth and Family Services.



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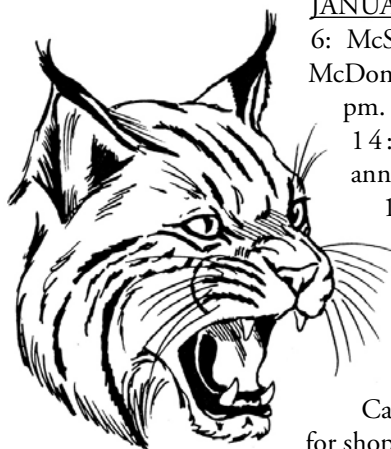
www.DrRubinFootWellness.com

Cy-Fair High School Project Prom 2010

Plans and Fundraising for Cy-Fair High School Project Prom 2010 are well underway. Many parents and supporters have already been involved in planning for a fun, safe all night lock in to be held after prom. Here is what is coming up in the next few months. If you would like to become involved or make a donation to support project prom please visit the website at cyfairprojectprom.org. Here is what is coming up in the next few months.

JANUARY:

- 6: McSenior Night at the Crossroads McDonalds located on 1960 from 5-8 pm. 10% of all sales donated
- 14: Cow Plop – Winner announced
- 15: McSenior Night at the Huffmeister/Cypress N. Houston McDonalds from 5-8 pm.
- 25: General Meeting, 7-9pm in the Cy-Fair High School Cafeteria. Doors open at 6:30 for shopping with the many vendors.



FEBRUARY:

- 3: McSenior Night at the Crossroads McDonalds from 5-8pm.
- 11: Carrabbas Dinner to Go Orders are picked up.
- 15: McSenior Night at the Huffmeister/Cypress N. Houston McDonalds from 5-8pm.
- 22: General Meeting, 7-9pm in the Cy-Fair High School Cafeteria. Doors open at 6:30 for shopping with the many vendors.
- 26: Denim & Diamonds – Dinner, dance and silent action

Search and shop with “Goodsearch.com” and “Goodshop.com”. CyFair Project Prom make money every time you search the web or buy on the web.

We currently have an arrangement with Randalls and Kroger for a percentage of your grocery store receipts. For Randalls cards, go to Courtesy Booth, and ask for the GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM CARD, use charity #3347. For Kroger PLUS cards (Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program), print to use this PDF Form, go to: http://www.cyfairprojectprom.org/Documents/PP_bar_code.pdf. First, present the letter (PDF Form) with Cyfair Project Prom barcode to your cashier upon checkout to scan. Second, your Kroger Plus Card must be scanned, then you will be enrolled.

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LONGWOOD LETTER

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD - PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Mentor Training at the Berry Educational Support Center

Fri., Jan. 8, 2010 (9:30 – 11:30 am)

Tues., Jan. 12, 2010 (6 – 8 pm)

A mentor is a suitable role model committed to serve as a guide and a friend while helping a student with his/her educational and personal development. We ask for a commitment of approximately one hour a week for a school year. You'll meet only on campus & during school hours. (Appointment times may be flexible)

To reserve your seat and materials, please send an email with your name and the date of the training to: vipsrvp@cfisd.net. Reservations are required.

Questions? Call 281-894-3952.

Adults Only Please

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LONGWOOD LETTER

LONE STAR COLLEGE-

CyFair "Perspective"

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES

Spring semester weekday classes begin Jan. 19 with weekend classes starting Jan. 22-24. It's not too late to register for spring as well as some late start and continuing education courses. Lone Star College-CyFair provides a variety of options such as weekend, evening, online or new CORE Fridays (one-day-a-week) courses. For information, call 281-290-3200 or 832-782-5000 or go online to LoneStar.edu.

FREE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATIONS SET

Take a tour, learn about campus programs, meet with an advisor, choose a schedule and register for spring classes at LSC-CyFair's free New Student Orientations. Morning, afternoon and evening sessions are available. Sessions will be held at the Barker Cypress campus at 9191 Barker Cypress Jan. 5 -7 and Jan. 12-14. Sessions are free, but students must pre-register online at LoneStar.edu/cyfair-orientation to receive a confirmation with room location and parking information. Call 281-290-3430 or e-mail cfoutreach@lonestar.edu for information.

A SEASON OF ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy a variety of choral, music and theatre performance this spring including "The Good Times are Killing Me" Theatre; "MusicNCo" Symphonic Band; "World Music Festival" Choral; "The Wager" Theatre; "Make Mine Jazz" Jazz Band and "Musical Review" Choral. All performances are held in the Center for the Arts on the Barker Cypress campus at 9191 Barker Cypress. For tickets and information call 281-290-5201 or go to LoneStar.edu/boxoffice.

L.I.F.E. LESSONS IN JANUARY

The Learning, Inspiration, Fellowship and Enrichment (L.I.F.E.) programs are free and held Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Lone Star College-CyFair Branch Library (Room 131.) Programs in January include: yoga talk in "Are You Wind, Water or Fire?" Jan. 13; basics of an old-fashioned compass in "Find Your True North" Jan. 20 and life in the universe in "Are We Alone Out There?" Jan. 27. Call the library at 281-290-3213 for L.I.F.E. program information or go online to LoneStar.edu.

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LONGWOOD LETTER

A SENSIBLE PLAN FOR COLLEGE FUNDING

How you fund college expenses is divided naturally between using your money, and by using other peoples' money. This sounds simple but each scenario requires understanding of the long-term impacts. In this article we are going to focus on free money, and on "Tax Scholarships," where the Federal Government helps you send your child to college through tax savings and other methods.

Recently the federal government boosted financial aid for higher education, including various tax breaks. An expanded version of the Hope Scholarship tax credit appeared called the American Opportunity tax credit. The new credit can save taxpayers as much as \$2,500 in tax, or \$5,000 for two collegians, and a refund of \$1,000, if you satisfy certain rules.

Remember that you can't claim the American Opportunity credit for expenses paid with withdrawals from a 529 plan. So you may wish to limit 529 withdrawals so some college expenses are paid with other money, to allow the use of the new tax credit. Some students won't qualify for the American Opportunity credit. Fortunately, a Lifetime Learning tax credit provides a maximum annual credit of \$2,000 for tuition and fees, subject to rules.

The tax advantages of 529 plans are many. A down year for stock funds, combined with a poor year for many bond funds, has driven

down the value of many folks' 529 accounts. People with younger children can keep contributing and look to a rebound. Parents of college and pre-college students, though, may have few options other than using 529 plan withdrawals to pay for higher education. Having said that, it may be better to pay for college from cash flow or from cash reserves. This delays liquidation of 529 assets as long as possible, allowing for a recovery. Remember to reimburse yourself from your 529 plan before the end of the calendar year in which the expenses were incurred.

If the market does not come back in time for your needs, you still have options. If you have other funds that can cover college bills without disrupting your financial plan, keep the money in the 529 as long as feasible, in hopes of future tax-free growth. Of course, if a child is finishing school and there is no younger sibling who could use the funds in the future, then you should spend down your 529 funds. Tax tip: parents of college-bound children should realize net losses in their taxable accounts to lock in tax benefits. The proceeds can be reinvested in 529 accounts so that any future gains from today's low levels can be withdrawn, tax-free, to pay for college later on; perhaps in graduate school. Check with your financial coach and tax advisor for full details. - **Rich Keith**

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