



APPLAUSE

LISD Reports Increase in Commended Students

Leander ISD announced that 97 students were distinguished as Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Program based on their strong performances on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). This is a 47-percent increase in the number of Commended Students from the previous year. [Read more.](#)

Mason Elementary Librarian Honored for Innovation

Tracey Rice, librarian at Mason Elementary, received the Editor's Choice - Build Something Bold Award by the School Library Journal. In keeping with Mason Elementary's accreditation as an IB Primary Years Programme school, Rice has transformed her library into a MakerSpace, where students can explore hands-on learning and connect their learning to the real world. Activities include arts and crafts, engineering, and technology, with an added focus on building cognitive skills, such as resilience, collaboration and creativity.



The changing functions of the library challenged Rice to reimagine the entire area... and she quickly realized they needed more room. She looked for ways to repurpose space they already had. Working with students, Rice explored ways to maximize library space, making it more flexible and student-led. With a "willing to fail forward attitude," Rice ensured that students have areas to explore media production, engage in small group lessons, and more – all in the school library. As quoted in the School Library Journal written about her award, Rice said the library has evolved "from a quiet place to read and do research to an exciting place to collaborate and create."

[Read more.](#)

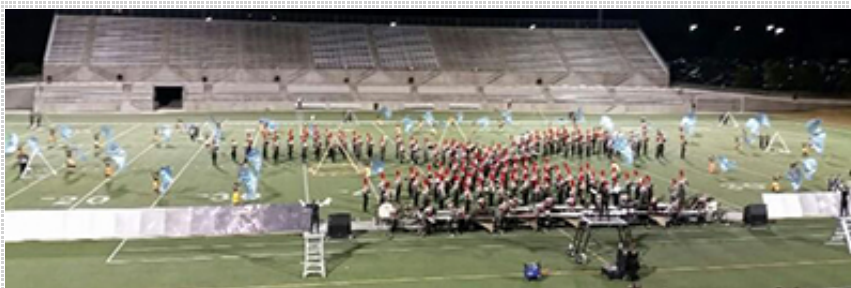
LHS Students Raise Awareness about Bullying

In this amazing project put on by IB art students, with the help of PALS and C2, Leander High School students are raising awareness about bullying and the power of kind words and affirmations. The moving displays will be hung in the school during the month of October.



LISD Bands Ace Regional Competition, Advance to Area

All five LISD high school marching bands earned First Division ratings from all of the judges at the UIL Region Marching Contest on Saturday, Oct. 17.



LISD's four class-5A bands will now compete in the UIL Area Marching Contest on Oct. 24 for the opportunity to compete at State. Good luck to the bands from Cedar Park High School, Leander High School, Vandegrift High School and Vista Ridge High School!

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Early Dismissal Wednesday, Oct. 28

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, elementary students will be released at noon, middle school students will be released at 1:20 p.m. and high school students will be released at 1 p.m. Lunch will be served prior to release. Morning pre-K students will be released at their usual time and there will be no afternoon pre-K classes.

Stopping the Flu is Up to You

The Department of State Health Services is urging everyone 6 months

old and older to get vaccinated against the flu. It is particularly important for pregnant women, young children, older adults and people with chronic health conditions, because people in those groups are at a greater risk of severe complications if they do get the flu. The flu vaccine is now available, and DSHS encourages people not to wait to protect themselves and their family by getting vaccinated as soon as possible. [Read more...](#)



LISD Reminds Families that **Missing School Matters**

Student absenteeism is a concern for school districts statewide, including LISD. It is estimated that Central Texas students are absent 2.4 million days of school each year. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, are a lost opportunity to learn. Families can help reinforce the value of education by keeping a few things in mind:

- Don't make others sick. If your child is ill, he or she should stay home.
- Try to schedule appointments when they are least disruptive to learning.
- If your child must miss school for a medical appointment, get a note from his or her doctor.
- Use the LISD calendar, available at www.leanderisd.org, to plan trips and vacations to line up with school holidays.
- Remember that every absence is a lost opportunity to learn.
- Absences cost your child's school about \$40 per day (per absent student) in state funding.
- Make school a family priority.

Community Invited to Have Coffee with the LISD Board

The community is invited to attend the upcoming "Coffee with the Board," hosted by the Leander ISD Board of Trustees, on Thursday, Oct. 29, 8:30-10 a.m. at Cedar Park Middle School (2100 Sun Chase in Cedar Park) in the library. "Coffee with the Board" is an informal opportunity for parents and community members to sit and discuss school-related issues with their elected school board officials. For more information on the LISD Board of Trustees, visit www.leanderisd.org.

CNS Seeking Part-time Employees

Leander ISD's Child Nutrition department is looking for part-time employees for school cafeterias. Come join

the energetic CNS team as we work together to nourish tomorrow's leaders! This is a great opportunity to work during the hours your kids are in school.

Job responsibilities include:

- Assist in preparation of foods following established Food Service methods and recipes.
- Set up serving line, condiments, etc.
- Follow assigned clean-up schedule.
- Perform other kitchen duties as directed.
- Operate cash register during breakfast and lunch.

[View current job postings.](#)

LISD Shares Information on Human Sexuality Curriculum through Workshops and Website

Leander ISD will be hosting several informational workshops that cover the Human Sexuality Curriculum presented by Austin LifeGuard (ALG), an abstinence-based curriculum provider. The ALG curriculum is presented to students in grades seventh through high school as part of the health curriculum. Information about the ALG curriculum, the presentation schedules and the informational workshops can be found by visiting the Leander ISD Human Sexuality Curriculum [webpage](#).

The ALG informational workshops are designed to give parents helpful tips for communicating with their children about human sexuality, allow them to review the district curriculum, explore statistics from health officials and ask questions of Austin LifeGuard and LISD staff.

Austin Life Guard Parent Workshop Schedule:

**all workshops will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately an hour

Date	Location	Room
October 28, 2015	Wiley Middle School	Library
November 18, 2015	Four Points Middle School	Lecture Hall
December 16, 2015	Cedar Park High School	Lecture Hall
April 13, 2016	Canyon Ridge Middle School	Lecture Hall
May 4, 2016	Henry Middle School	Lecture Hall

General information:

1. Participation in the human sexuality curriculum is voluntary. **Parents or legal guardians have the ability to "opt out" their student from the lesson by returning the form attached to the parent letter or with written request. Notification letters will be provided for parents three weeks prior to the lesson.**
2. Parents or legal guardians will be provided an opportunity to preview the curriculum documents and teaching materials at school by contacting your student's teacher, guidance counselor or Ray Langlois, ray.langlois@leanderisd.org, at the district office for information

about this process. In addition, Austin LifeGuard Curriculum can be requested to be previewed via the internet by going to the ALG [website](#) and clicking [Parent Preview](#) under the Parent tab.

For more information about these parenting workshops, or if you have questions about Austin Life Guard, please contact LISD Assistant Director of Whole Student Initiatives, Ray Langlois at 512-570-0383 or ray.langlois@leanderisd.org.



COLLEGE AND CAREER INFORMATION

Earn College Hours through ACC

Austin Community College's spring semester registration opens in early November for returning and new students. If you are interested in earning college credit while in high school, contact your campus Transition Coordinator for details.

Application Deadlines Coming Soon!

Don't forget to check deadlines for college applications. The first of the state university deadlines are UT-Austin and Texas A&M -- Dec. 1. Be sure to submit transcript requests for these schools by Nov. 1 as campuses are closed the last week of November for Thanksgiving and will not be able to process any last minute requests. In addition to the admission deadlines, don't forget to check the scholarship deadlines for the universities to which your student is applying.

Sign Up for the SAT and ACT

The deadline for the Dec. 12 administration of the SAT is Nov. 6 and the deadline for the Dec. 5 administration of the ACT is Nov. 5. Register early so you can get your first choice of the testing sites. Fee waivers are available to students participating in the free- or reduced-lunch program (see your child's counselor for details). Free test prep materials can be found at www.khanacademy.org.



SUPERINTENDENT'S COLUMN

LISD Superintendent Bret Champion thanks principals during National Principal Month. [Read more...](#)

[Dr. Champion's Latest Webcast](#)

View Dr. Champion's webcast where he addresses updates from the 84th Legislative Session.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October	
22	LISD Board Retreat, Support Services, 6:15 p.m.
28	Early Release
29	Coffee with the Board, CPMS, 8:30-10 a.m.
November	
5	LISD Board Meeting, Support Services, 6:15 p.m.
19	LISD Board Meeting, Support Services, 6:15 p.m.
23-27	School Holiday
December	
10	LISD Board Meeting, Support Services, 6:15 p.m.