

KleinConnects

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

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90 SECONDS WITH BRET

Each week Superintendent Bret Champion, Ed.D. updates us on the latest news happening across the district. These videos are available every Tuesday afternoon. Check out the highlights below:



Dec. 6, 2016



Dec. 13, 2016

[Click here](#) to see all the 90 Seconds with Bret episodes.



KIRSTYN'S KREW

Schindewolf student fosters goodwill by giving back

For Schindewolf Intermediate sixth-grader Kirstyn Jackson, Christmas is a time to spread happiness and cheer to those around her. Her organization, Kirstyn's Krew, is again giving back to local foster children in need.

In 2010 Jackson was placed in foster care. During that time she was selected to go on a shopping spree courtesy of Houston Texans long snapper John Weeks. During that experience Jackson realized she wanted to pay-it-forward and help other children.

Through donations and fundraising, Kirstyn's Krew has raised more than \$20,000. Through a partnership with Arrow Ministries, 50 kids will get to go on a Target shopping spree this holiday season. Jackson worked to raise some of the money herself by helping with chores, and asking family for donations. With the support of her grandmother, she has stepped up her fundraising efforts.



"She is learning to talk to people," said Velvet Philpot, Jackson's grandmother and legal guardian. "I'm very proud of her. She always puts other people first. If she can make an impact on just one child, then that's all it's about."

This year's shopping trip will take place at a local Target store. The kids will have the opportunity to pick out toys and items of their choice.

"When we go shopping, the kids are very excited," said Jackson. "I know there are more kids each year that go into foster care, and I want to keep helping each of them. I remember last year there was a little girl who was very shy. But at the end of the trip, she came and shopped with me. It was very nice."

When asked where she sees Kirstyn's Krew in five years she states that she hopes to continue raising money so that she can help reach more and more kids. She hopes to continue doing this even when she's older - "like 50," she said.

"Open your hearts and be generous," is her simple message.

Last year, Kirstyn was featured on [Fox 26](#) and this year she was highlighted in the [Community Impact Newspaper](#) - Tomball/Magnolia edition. To learn more about Kirstyn's Krew and how you can help, [click here](#).



WHAT'S NEW

Backpack Banter

After receiving so many great responses on his Entry Plan survey, Dr. Champion has created another way to work directly with a very important stakeholder; the students. Through Backpack Banter, Dr. Champion and students can stay directly connected with how they feel the district is working. Students will be able to submit their questions, comments, and feedback directly to Dr. Champion through their Klein ISD Gmail accounts. In a weekly video episode, he will take the time to address what our students are saying. We hope this new portal will help students understand that their voices really do matter. A pilot is scheduled to launch soon that includes 40 students, ten from each high school. This group will be the first to submit their questions to Dr. Champion and take part in the video series.



You can preview the Backpack Banter website [here](#).

DID YOU KNOW

A - F Rating System

During the 84th Texas Legislature in 2015, House Bill 2804 was passed which makes significant changes to the state public school accountability system, thus creating A - F rating labels for district and campus performance.

The new rating system will be formally applied to campuses and districts starting the 2017-2018 school year, however, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Commissioner must submit a report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2017, exhibiting the grade each district and campus would have received for the 2016 testing period.

The 2018 ratings assigned to each district and campus will include five domains:

Domain I	Meeting standards at satisfactory and college readiness levels on State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).
Domain II	STAAR annual improvement at satisfactory and college readiness levels.
Domain III	Reducing "academic achievement gaps among students with different racial and ethnic groups or socioeconomic backgrounds."
Domain IV	Academic attainments (other than STAAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School: including dropout and graduation rates, Career and Technical Education (CTE) sequence completion, Advanced Placement (AP) course completion, Texas Success Initiative (TSI) benchmarks and more for high schools; • Middle School: chronic absenteeism rate, dropout rates, and college and career preparatory instruction for middle schools; • Elementary schools: chronic absenteeism rate
Domain V	Three self-selected categories of the Community and Student Engagement (CASE) ratings.

For more information about the A-F rating system and a complete list of all indicators, please [click here](#).

Of course we know that any accountability label is a comma, not a period. Our schools are more than a rating.

We are excited to highlight the great things happening at our campus. To see some of the activities taking place, click on the links below for videos about the programs taking place at Wunderlich, Krahn, and Epps Island.

[Wunderlich Intermediate](#)

[Krahn Elementary](#)

[Epps Island Elementary](#)

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

That time of year for giving back



Rachel Heallen

Special Education Teacher - Grace England EC

She finds the time to not only serve her students, but those in her community as well.

Heallen has been serving students at Grace England Early Childhood Center for 11 years, and her spirit of giving does not stop there.

She also gives her time to volunteer at her church, Faithbridge, with the Meals on Wheels Program. She helps pack food that will be delivered to those unable to leave their homes.

Heallen also finds the time to volunteer with Beacon 12 as the Director of School Affairs. This organization helps families whose children have disabilities and chronic illnesses.

"I truly believe it is better to give than to receive," she said. "Not just during the holidays, but all year long."

She enjoys roller skating and even participated in roller derby for three years. She also enjoys playing bingo, baking, and going to see the Houston Rockets. She also loves spending time with her husband Randy and their 19-month-old son, Jonah, who she says is the light of her life.

"We are all greatly blessed with everything that we have, and I feel it is my responsibility to give back," she said. "I go above and beyond because it brings me joy to serve others and seeing them happy."

MISCELLANEOUS

New Contact for News

Do you have good news to share? We want to hear from you! We know great things are happening in our classrooms at all campuses across the district each and every day. We want to help tell those stories. Anyone can submit their news. Share with us your:

- campus achievements
- student and teacher awards
- exciting classroom activities
- special visitors
- special projects
- events
- anything else that is making an impact for students



In order to streamline the process, you can email your stories and photos to prnews@kleinisd.net. You can also complete the Good News form found [here](#). We look forward to hearing from you and telling your great stories.

{ CALENDAR } OF EVENTS

December 2016

19-30: Winter Break

January 2016

2: Staff Development

3: Classes Resume

9: Board of Trustees Meeting

16: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Klein ISD Police Street Smarts

Would you like to know more about situational awareness, know how to defend yourself if attacked, and learn tips and tricks to make your home and car more secure? Then check out the Street Smarts class. [Click here](#) for more information.



Giammalva Racquet Club:

Klein ISD employees receive exciting discounts offered by the club. Contact membership@giammalva.com or 281-370-5801 for more information.

ARCA Insurance Services:

Save up to 15 percent on auto insurance and save up to 30 percent when combining your home and auto insurance. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Heritage Texas Properties:

Klein ISD employees are members of the Heritage Select Affinity Program and receive discounts on the buying and selling of a home. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Kleinwood Vision:

Save \$40 off an eye exam and eyewear for Klein ISD employees and family members. [Click here](#) for more information.

AutoLab:

Klein ISD employees receive 10 percent off services performed at Auto Lab located at 9625 Spring Cypress Rd. Call 832-698-2384 for more information.

[Click here](#) for a full listing of employee discounts.

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