

# KleinConnects

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

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## DR. CAIN'S CORNER

Staff and students across the district have been busy this semester. The four high school musicals and the FFA Project Show were huge successes, and last week's Paint the Community with Peace Week brought school and community together. Our area is growing and changing rapidly. In addition to the current construction of Mahaffey Elementary and High School #5, the district will build three additional campuses over the next few years: Intermediate #10, Elementary #33,



and an early childhood/Pre-K Center in the north. At the recent Board meeting, new attendance boundaries for Mahaffey Elementary School were approved. This campus opens during the 2016 - 17 school year. Attendance zones for High School #5, which is set to open for the 2017 - 18 school year, were also approved. I encourage each of you to take a look at those new zones and share them with friends and family.



## SCIENCE SANDBOX BRINGS LEARNING TO

## LIFE

### State-of-the-art technology provides hands-on learning experience

Topography is defined as the arrangement of natural, artificial and physical features of an area. In Klein ISD, the study of topography is taking place in classrooms. Students at Klein Forest have new technology that is bringing this learning to life.

Klein Forest science teacher, Alvin Moses has brought a new technology into his classroom that allows his senior level earth and space science students to enjoy a state-of-the-art, hands-on learning experience through a sandbox. Using an Augmented Reality (AR) sandbox, students interact with a miniature landscape, sculpting mountains, valleys, rivers and even volcanoes. [Click here](#) to continue reading this story.



## WHAT'S NEW

### Board of Trustees Meetings Available

Did you know that Klein ISD Board of Trustees' meetings are now available to watch online? Texas House Bill 283 passed, making public meetings of government bodies available to viewers online. This new law requires that all government organizations, school boards, and school districts make a video and audio recording of reasonable quality available after each meeting and then archive these recordings online for a minimum of two years. You can view the Klein ISD Board of Trustees meetings on our [YouTube](#) page. Click on the video to watch the Feb. 8, 2016, meeting.



Board of Trustees Meeting - Feb. 8, 2016



# DID YOU KNOW

## FFA show sets new participation record

Daily feedings, walking and grooming sessions, and weekend nurturing times are just a few of the things Klein ISD FFA students did to prepare their livestock before the big show.

The 47th annual Livestock and Project Show held at the beginning of the month was the biggest to date. This year, 415 students exhibited 687 projects, and the show proceeds totaled \$404,072 making this year's event the second highest grossing show in the Klein ISD FFA show history. [Click here](#) to continue reading this story. A complete photo album can be found [here](#).



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



**Jamie Philen**

**Ag Science teacher - Klein Oak**

Jamie Philen gets to spend her days working with students and animals year round.

Jamie Philen is a Klein Forest and Texas A&M graduate and has spent her nine years in the district as an Ag Science teacher at Klein Oak.



**Dawn Samuel**

**Counselor - Epps Island Elementary**

Dawn Samuel followed her love for helping students from the classroom to becoming the school counselor.

Dawn Samuel became a classroom teacher in 2000 after earning her Bachelor's degree and her Master's both from Prairie View A&M University. She taught

Along with teaching the floral design classes at Klein Oak, she is also in charge of pigs for the livestock shows, Klein ISD show, and other major shows, and serves as an FFA advisor.

"Being an FFA advisor entails many late night and weekend hours," she said. "But you really get to know the kids through all of these activities, and they become part of your family," she added.

Philen teaches seven periods during the day and checks on animals housed in the barn and pigs that are housed elsewhere. The spring means competition season, so that also means practices before and sometimes after school.

"What keeps me going is the passion that I have for this organization and my love for agriculture," says Philen. "There are a lot of things that kids can get involved in while in high school, but FFA has so much to offer them currently and in their future."

Philen is married to Klein Oak criminal justice teacher Jeff Philen and is the mother to daughter Jaycee.

kindergarten, first and second grades, and has served as a school counselor for four years.

This is Samuel's first year in Klein. She has already grown very fond of her colleagues and students at Epps Island Elementary.

"I make sure to interact with students each morning by sharing encouraging words with them," she said.

Her role as a school counselor includes supporting the students, parents, and staff through guidance lessons, helping them find alternative ways to solve conflict, and inspiring them to do their best. She also works with parents to provide resources to maintain a positive and healthy relationship within their families.

When not at work, Samuel enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband have been married for 15 years. Their son is a 2015 graduate of Klein Forest, and their daughter is a seventh-grade student at Wunderlich Intermediate.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Wunderlich Farm hosts Spring Festival



Wunderlich Farm will host its inaugural Spring Festival on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free event is open to the public and will feature frontier games, live music, a silent auction, local vendors, food, and drinks. Stop by the farm (18218 Theiss Mail Rt. Rd., Klein, TX 77379) and enjoy all it has to offer. Like the farm on [Facebook](#) to get the latest information and stories from Wunderlich Farm. Click on the image for more information.

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## { CALENDAR } OF EVENTS



### February 2016

- 26: Germanfest - Klein Forest
- 27: Wunderlich Farm Farmer's Market

### March 2016

- 3: Pizza with the Superintendent
- 5: Wunderlich Farm Spring Festival
- 7: Board of Trustees Meeting
- 9: VIPS Luncheon - Lemm
- 10: French Elementary Dedication
- 11: Vistas Clapout
- 14-18: Spring Break

### 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.

### AVA Orthodontics:

Klein ISD employees receive special offers on braces and Invisalign. Contact Cailyn at 832.617.2222 for more information.

**Nestle Toll House Cafe:** Klein ISD teachers, students, and staff receive 10% off the purchase of a cookie cake. [Click here](#) to learn more.

### InvesTex Credit Union:

It's time to make your move. Take advantage of great deals this season with low auto loan rates, low interest credit cards, and more. [Click here](#) to view the website.

### Melissa Watts Massage:

Klein ISD employees receive 25% off all services and gift certificate purchases all year long. Double your discount during spring, Thanksgiving, and winter breaks. [Click here](#) to learn more.

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



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