

KleinConnects

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

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DR. CAIN'S CORNER

If I started recounting all the great memories I have had in Clear Creek ISD, Fort Bend ISD, and for 36 years in Klein ISD, this message would go on non-stop. Let me simply say that the students, employees, parents, and community members that I have encountered have made my career a wonderful experience. There is no place like Klein ISD and the people here. This is a very special place.

I especially want to thank the Board of Trustees that took a chance on me in 2004 to serve as the superintendent.

Most superintendents in large, premier school districts like Klein have to work their way up the ladder, and by that I mean they typically serve in smaller school districts and then can move to larger districts based upon their record of accomplishments. So for me, with no superintendent experience, to become the Klein superintendent was a risk that the Board took, and an incredible opportunity for me. I hope that over these past twelve years I have served all of you in a way that justifies the decision that was made by that Board in 2004 and the Board members since that time. I can tell you without hesitation that this is the best job I've ever had.



degrees with a blue sky and a light breeze from the south. Please accept my best wishes for you and your family.

Sincerely,
Jim Cain

GETTING TO KNOW DR. CHAMPION

Welcome to Klein ISD

Dr. Bret Champion grew up in Goldthwaite, TX, a small city located about 100 miles north of Austin. Growing up in such a small town, Champion was able to compete in football, play in the band, participate in FFA, and perform in theater. He later attended the University of Houston where he met his wife Marcee.

He and Marcee have two sons who both graduated from Leander High School. The eldest, Alan, is currently attending the Colorado School of Mines, which is a public research university devoted to engineering and applied science. The youngest, Nicholas or "Nico" is attending Trinity University in San Antonio.

"They are both excited," said Champion.

"Nico, who is interested in education, he gets it. Although he does have a summer job with the YMCA and he is wondering where he will live," he added. "Our family really rallies around each other and is supportive. Kids are resilient and together we will make the adjustment."

[Click here](#) to continue reading this story.



WHAT'S NEW

Future Ready 21 device rollouts

Future Ready 21 is the latest technological initiative in Klein ISD. The passing of the 2015 bond allotted \$51 million dollars to go into technology with a portion of the bond designated toward the initiative. The objective of the program is to place a device in the hands of every Klein ISD student in grades 3-8 over the next five years. The program will also provide every two students in kindergarten through second grade with a device.



Fifth-grade students at Mahaffey and Klenk elementaries will begin the 2016-17 school year with Chromebook devices and will serve as the first 1:1 elementary campuses. Four intermediate schools, Kleb, Schindewolf, Ulrich, and Wunderlich, are also set to receive devices during the 2016-17 school year. Students at Doerre, Klein, Hildebrandt and Strack intermediates will receive devices for the 2017-18 school year. By the 2018-19 school year, all Klein ISD fifth grade students will receive devices. Fourth graders across the district will receive devices during the 2019-2020 school year, and delivery of devices to third graders will occur in the 2020-21 school year.



DID YOU KNOW

Two LEAD the SPARK grants awarded

During the recent Celebration Express, the Klein ISD Education Foundation (KEF) awarded \$74,500 in classroom teacher grants. Two of those were LEAD the SPARK grants totaling \$48,100.



Ehrhardt Elementary was the recipient of a \$24,000 LEAD the SPARK grant for its STEAM-Powered Reading program. The grant, sponsored by Campus Kids, LLC, was written by principal Charles Hall and will allow literary genres to come to life with science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) stations.

Schultz Elementary was awarded a LEAD the SPARK grant in the amount of \$24,100 which will be used to transform an underused space into a STEM science classroom. The grant, written by principal Sherri Davenport was sponsored by RBC Capital Markets, LLC. Through this grant, the campus will be able to transform an existing computer lab into flexible space where teachers can integrate STEM opportunities for students.

[Click here](#) to read more about the recent Celebration Express and [click here](#) to learn more about the Klein ISD Education Foundation's grant process.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

From A to Z



Lesley Aaron

Associate Principal - Wunderlich

Having served as an administrator for several years, Lesley Aaron enjoys coming first.

Lesley Aaron has served as an administrator in Klein ISD for six years, spending her last five at Wunderlich.

She is in charge of leading the PLC process and instructional initiatives and organization assessments on her campus.

"It's easy to enjoy your job when you work with amazing people," she said.

Her typical day includes PLC meetings, classroom visits, and working with professional development schedules.

"My number one priority each day is to achieve positive outcomes for our students and staff."

Being listed first in the alphabet has its perks she says.



Erin Zurovec

Math Teacher - Klein Oak

Erin Zurovec says sometimes being listed last in the alphabet is a good thing; other times, it is not.

Erin Zurovec has been teaching algebra in Klein for two years and says that the best part of her job is getting to know the students and seeing their progress.

"Being a high school math teacher requires a lot of patience and preparation," she said. "You must be great at time management as it can be difficult to balance out everything that needs to be done."

She starts her day by helping students with homework questions and then spends the rest of the day in her classroom. She stays motivated because she knows many of her students will do great things with the knowledge she is giving them.

Zurovec says her greatest skill is working with the students, staff and parents.

"Everyone starts to know your name," said Aaron. "In this kind of district someone always says, now there's a face to that name."

Aaron's husband is a pilot with United Airlines as well as a lawyer. She has two sons, Christopher, an Air Force pilot and soon to be a United pilot, and John, a petroleum engineer.

"I have loved my time in Klein because I've been surrounded by wonderful people and a supportive environment."

"I think you must have good relationships and communication skills with all three in order to be an excellent teacher."

Originally from the Austin area, Zurovec attended The University of Texas and graduated in 2011. Her first teaching job was in Midland, then she moved to Victoria, and has now settled in Klein.

"While I obviously love math, for most of my life I wanted to major in something involving English and writing, like Journalism."



MISCELLANEOUS

Wunderlich Farm's Heritage Day celebration

Come out to Wunderlich Farm's Heritage Day celebration on Saturday, May 28, 2016. This year's event will feature a 1940s theme complete with an authentic car show, era-themed activities, the Farmers Market, food, music, and much more. Come dressed in your 40s attire and celebrate with Wunderlich Farm! Click on the flyer for more information.



May 2016

- 18: Key Communicators Meeting
- 23: Board of Trustees' Workshop
- 25: Dr. Cain's Retirement Celebration
- 28: Wunderlich Farm Heritage Day



Spring Smiles Dental Group & Orthodontics:

Present your Klein ISD badge and receive \$200 off a CEREC Crown. For more

30: Memorial Day Holiday

information, [click here](#).

June 2016

- 1: Welcome reception for Dr. Champion
- 3: Inclement Weather Make-Up Day
- 4: Graduation
- 13: Board of Trustees' Meeting

Law Office of Joseph V. Gibson, P.C.:

Klein ISD employees and their spouses receive legal consultation and will preparation services for \$150 for each individual will. [Click here](#) for more information.

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.

Rhythm Music School:

Klein ISD employees who sign up for private music lessons receive \$25 off the registration fee. Learn more [here](#).

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

Win Schlitterbahn Galveston Island tickets!

Thanks for reading this edition of KleinConnects!

We invite you to answer the short questionnaire for your chance to win two tickets to Schlitterbahn Galveston. [Click here](#) for your chance to win!

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7200 Spring Cypress Road, Klein, TX 77379 · 832.249.4000

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