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Attendees and Texas PTA speaker Sharon Goldblatt at True Colors workshop



VIPS Executive Board Members Anne Marie Barrios, Cynthia Rodriguez, Kathy Boudreaux, and Gina Cox

Free Community Workshops from Katy ISD



Attendees at Martha Hoover's presentation on preparing quick and easy meals

Written by Rebecca Bearden

Katy ISD in conjunction with Partners in Education and the VIPS Executive Board is presenting Discover U on Friday, October 24. Discover U is an annual volunteer and parent conference open to the public. This conference, formerly known as VIPS University, is in its eleventh year of offering fun and informative workshops to the community. The first VIPS conference hosted around 60 people. Last year, Discover U, after a revamp, hosted over 400 attendees.

The workshops fall into three exciting categories: self-help (Love Languages, Getting Back into the Job Market), parenting (Creating and Nurturing Leadership Skills in Your Children, Wildly Successful Parenting), and fun (Digital Scrapbooking, Understanding Birth

Order). The workshops are presented by members of the community, Katy ISD employees, local professionals, and motivational speakers.

Attendees receive access to five fabulous workshops, a continental breakfast, and lunch. Early registration is \$15 before October 10th, and late registration is \$20 before October 17th. The opening speaker for the 2008 Discover U conference is Dennis Mitchell. Martha Brown, the Partners in Education Specialist Assistant remembers, "Every year we have folks tell us that they'd always thought about coming, but that it was their first time and they were so mad that they'd missed all those years. It's lots of fun, and a great getaway!" KM

Don't miss out on these fun and informative workshops!

Wildly Successful Parenting -

If you want to be WILDLY successful you won't want to miss this wildly entertaining workshop!

Understanding Birth Order -

A fascinating overview of how birth order helps determine a person's personality.

Self Esteem - We'll give you some tips on how to get your kids feeling good about themselves through the ages and stages of growing up.

Internet Safety - Facebook, Myspace, and Internet predators. We'll help you keep your kids safe in cyberspace.

Getting Back into the Job Market -

An experienced Career Consultant will make re-entry into the job market easier with practical strategies to market yourself.

Pick and Choose - Join us as we teach you how to pick and choose the best fruits, vegetables, and meats for your family.

True Colors - We'll discuss how different personalities can work together and experience an exciting adventure into your own personality.

Party 101 - The Consequences of Drinking - We'll provide serious information every parent should know before hosting a student party at their home.

How to Raise a Well-Rounded Child So They Can Get Off Your Payroll and on With Their Life - Local and Fortune 500 business professionals will discuss what they look for in new hires and great employees.

Digital Scrapbooking - We'll show you how to become your very own book publisher by utilizing easily accessible programs online.

Love Languages - We'll help to decipher the five distinct love languages people use and teach you how to express your love in a form that others can identify with.

Finishing Touches - Whether it's a huge event or an intimate dinner for two, this will help you with food prep, recipes, plated foods, and table design.

Decorating on a Budget - A local designer will show you how to make something from the dollar store look like a million bucks in your house!

What are Colleges REALLY Looking For? - Join us as we dispel those mysterious collegiate criteria myths.

Creating and Nurturing Leadership Skills in Your Children - Two Katy ISD professionals will share their expertise in developing children with character and leadership qualities.

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KATY ISD OPENS *New* CAMPUSES

*Written by Cathy Sze
Photography by Lisa Mangos*



Bonnie Holland Elementary

Summer is over and the kids are back to school. However, not all of them returned to the same building they left in the spring. Katy Independent School District welcomes a few new elementary and junior high schools to the area. Meet the principals who will guide your children throughout the year.

MORTON RANCH ELEMENTARY

If you've driven north on Mason Road lately, you've undoubtedly noticed the new elementary. Located at 2502 Mason Rd., Morton Ranch Elementary is named in honor of the Morton family, who moved to Katy in 1896. Students who previously attended King,

Winborn, and Franz Elementary Schools will attend MRE under the leadership of Elisa Farris, the school's first principal. "My job is to take care of my staff so they can meet the needs of our children," says Farris. "It's all about the people. Learning and living together for the benefit of the children is at the heart of why I'm here."

THE MAVERICK LEGACY

As previous principal at Roosevelt Elementary School, Farris says working at a new school is much different. "This is exciting, challenging, and the best time I've ever had in education," says Farris. "It's quite an honor to be appointed to this role and to have the opportunity to create something completely new that has

never existed before. It's humbling and extremely rewarding." And so is the feeling of being a Maverick, the school's mascot. "We're thrilled to be Mavericks!" says Farris. "Our community spoke loud and clear that they wanted to create something very special by beginning the Maverick legacy and continuing to build on the 'brand' through each student's high school years. We'll undoubtedly 'Ride for the Brand,' that is Morton Ranch and KISD."

Farris has high hopes and dreams for her students and MRE. "My biggest dream is to create the kind of school that is joyfully humming with children, teachers, administrators, parents, and our community," says Farris. "We expect our students to be academically successful, but our real measure of success will be in the way these children go forth as people who love learning and choose a scholarly life for themselves."

BONNIE HOLLAND ELEMENTARY



Beware of the Huskies! Bonnie Holland Elementary, located at 23720 Seven Meadows Pkwy., will open its doors to Katy students who previously attended Griffin Elementary this fall. BHE is named in honor of Bonnie Holland, who currently serves as Assistant Superintendent for Governance, Legal Affairs, and Special Programs, and who's worked in the district for more than 25 years. Carra Fleming, former principal of Kilpatrick Elementary, will lead the Huskies as BHE Principal.

CARDIFF JUNIOR HIGH


Not only are new elementary schools popping up around Katy, but there are a couple of junior highs, including Cardiff. At 3900 Dayflower Dr., CJH gathers students who previously attended Mayde Creek and McDonald Junior Highs. Richard Hull, former principal of Mayde Creek Junior High, was immediately attracted to the principal position at CJH and is thrilled to have received it. "I had been interested in opening a new school and expressed my interest when the position became available," says Hull. "I'm really looking forward to working with the staff, students, parents, and community

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in developing the traditions and pride for Cardiff Junior High. I want the students to be proud to say they go here.”

A DIVERSE PACK OF COLTS

With numerous junior highs throughout KISD, one thing in particular will set CJH apart from the rest, and that is its unique group of students, the Cardiff Colts. “Cardiff will be a very diverse school,” says Hull. “We’ll work hard to embrace our diversity and build on each individual’s strengths.” And eventually seeing those individuals use their strengths is why Hull loves to teach. “One of the things I enjoy most is seeing my students be successful,” says Hull. “It’s great to run into a former student and hear about where they’ve been accepted to college, or to see them competing on TV, or to see them be the valedictorian of their graduating class. I’m proud of all of the students I’ve known over the years, and I hope that I’ve had at least a small positive impact in their lives.”

Cardiff Junior High



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WoodCreek Junior High, home of the Timber Wolves


WOODCREEK JUNIOR HIGH

Mavericks, Huskies, Colts, and now Timber Wolves. WoodCreek Junior High at 1801 WoodCreek Bend Ln. will welcome students from Beckendorff and Cinco Ranch Junior Highs into the new pack this August. Patti Shafer, previous principal of West Memorial Junior High, knows what an honor it is to lead students at WoodCreek. "Being named principal is indeed an honor and affords me the chance to succeed in an opportunity I've not had in my 32 years of experience in my career as an educator," says Shafer. "It's my goal to help students and staff consider the strengths they possess and what they're capable of achieving."

MAKING A DEEP IMPACT

Four new schools mean four new legacies and traditions to add to Katy, KISD, and the lives of Katy children. Shafer knows that building this early foundation of education will make a profound difference on each individual and undoubtedly build many life-changing skills. "Education is an opportunity for people to begin to understand their own self," says Shafer. "Confidence in our abilities is vital to acquiring our dreams." **KM**


CATHY SZE is a freelance writer for Katy Magazine and a recent graduate of Cinco Ranch High School. She currently lives with her family in Katy and will attend the University of Texas at Austin this fall.



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SCHOOL Happenings

Volunteers at Work

Bonnie Holland Elementary parent volunteers, Principal Carra Fleming and Mr. Brian O'Connor installed the new school's playground equipment this summer. The volunteers and Mrs. Fleming worked hard on a recent Saturday to have the playground in place for the students prior to BHE opening its doors for its inaugural school year. The community is excited for the upcoming school year, and the playground installation was just one of many big projects volunteers helped out with in order to have a great opening day.

Volunteers at Bonnie Holland Elementary prepare to install playground equipment at the new school.



Choir Students Sing at Local Celebration

Four Seven Lakes choir students sang the National Anthem and a few other patriot songs a cappella at the Grayson Lakes 4th of July parade and celebration. Meilina, Matthew and Caroline are Seven Lakes High School graduates Class of 2008 and will be attending college in the fall. Remington will be a junior at Seven Lakes this coming school year. All students were members of SLHS choir and made Region Choir as well. Meilina & Caroline also qualified for All State choir.



Pictured (l-r) are Meilina Moore, Remington Stanberry, Matthew Melancon, & Caroline Badalamenti.

CRHS Student Makes Perfect Score

Isaiah Smith, a junior at Cinco Ranch High School, was one of only 7 college-bound students in Texas and one of 172 in the U.S. and abroad to achieve a 36, the highest possible composite score, on the April 2008 national test administration of the ACT. About 25,000 Texas students and 490,000 from across the nation completed the ACT college admissions exam on this date.



Isaiah Smith

Exley Student Places 3rd in Art Contest

Julia Gonzalez, a third grade student from Exley Elementary School, won third place in the City of Houston Art Contest. She drew herself working with her father as a firefighter for the city of Houston.



Julia Gonzales with her award-winning picture

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VARSITY FOOTBALL 2008

KATY ISD

	CINCO RANCH	KATY	MAYDE CREEK	MORTON RANCH	SEVEN LAKES	JAMES E. TAYLOR
WEEK 0	SA Reagan Sat., Aug. 30, 4 pm Alamo Dome	Northshore Fri., Aug. 29, 7 pm Galena Park	Brenham Fri., Aug. 29, 7:30 pm Brenham	Tomball Fri., Aug. 29, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	OPEN	Cy-Springs Sat., Aug. 30, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 1	Cy-Springs Fri., Sept. 5, 7:30 pm Berry Center	Woodlands Fri., Sept. 5, 7:30 pm Wood Forest Stadium	HOMECOMING Foster Fri., Sept. 5, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Ft. Bend Travis Fri., Sept. 5, 7:30 pm Mercer Stadium	Dulles Thurs., Sept. 4, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Ft. Bend Austin Sat., Sept. 6, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 2	Cy-Ridge Thurs., Sept. 11, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	OPEN	Alief Taylor Sat., Sept. 13, 6 pm Crump Stadium	Langham Creek Sat., Sept. 13, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Foster Fri., Sept. 12, 7 pm Traylor Stadium	HOMECOMING Terry Fri., Sept. 12, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 3	Conroe Fri., Sept. 19, 7:30 pm Moorhead Stadium	Lewisville Marcus Sat., Sept. 20, 1 pm Waco ISD Stadium	Cy-Springs Fri., Sept. 19, 7:30 pm Berry Center	HOMECOMING Magnolia Fri., Sept. 19, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Northbrook Thurs., Sept. 18, 7 pm Tully Stadium	Houston Lamar Sat., Sept. 20, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 4	HOMECOMING College Park Fri., Sept. 26, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Beaumont Westbrook Sat., Sept. 27, 5 pm Durley Stadium	Terry Thurs., Sept. 25, 7 pm Traylor Stadium	Foster Thurs., Sept. 25, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Baytown Lee Sat., Sept. 27, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	OPEN
WEEK 5	OPEN	Cy-Bay Florida Sat., Oct. 4, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	OPEN	OPEN	HOMECOMING Conroe Fri., Oct. 3, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Baytown Lee Fri., Oct. 3, 7 pm Stallworth Stadium
WEEK 6	PARENTS NIGHT James E. Taylor (V) Sat., Oct. 11, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (H) Fri., Oct. 10, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (H) Fri., Oct. 10, 7 pm Rice Stadium	Katy (V) Fri., Oct. 10, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (V) Fri., Oct. 10, 7 pm Rice Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Sat., Oct. 11, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 7	Morton Ranch (H) Fri., Oct. 17, 7 pm Rice Stadium	HOMECOMING Seven Lakes (V) Fri., Oct. 17, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (V) Sat., Oct. 18, 2 pm Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Fri., Oct. 17, 7 pm Rice Stadium	Katy (H) Fri., Oct. 17, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (H) Sat., Oct. 18, 2 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 8	Mayde Creek (V) Fri., Oct. 24, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (H) Thurs., Oct. 23, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Fri., Oct. 24, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Seven Lakes (H) Sat., Oct. 25, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium	PARENTS NIGHT Morton Ranch (V) Sat., Oct. 25, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium	Katy (V) Fri., Oct. 23, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 9	Seven Lakes (H) Fri., Oct. 31, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	PARENTS NIGHT Mayde Creek (V) Sat., Nov. 1, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium	Katy (H) Sat., Nov. 1, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium	PARENTS DAY James E. Taylor (V) Sat., Nov. 1, 12 noon Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (V) Fri., Oct. 31, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Morton Ranch (H) Sat., Nov. 1, 12 noon Rhodes Stadium
WEEK 10	Katy (V) Sat., Nov. 8, 12 noon Rhodes Stadium	Cinco Ranch (H) Sat., Nov. 8, 12 noon Rhodes Stadium	PARENTS NIGHT Morton Ranch (V) Fri., Nov. 7, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	Mayde Creek (H) Fri., Nov. 7, 7 pm Rhodes Stadium	James E. Taylor (H) Sat., Nov. 8, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium	PARENTS NIGHT Seven Lakes (V) Sat., Nov. 8, 5 pm Rhodes Stadium

To purchase tickets for these games, please contact Katy ISD's athletic office or the school's athletic booster club.

Please verify dates/times with the schools as schedule changes may have been made after our print date.

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Katy Teens Take The Wheel

Tips for Parents of New Drivers

Written by Rebecca Bearden

The acres of parking lots attached to Katy high schools are a sure sign of the impact that young Katy drivers have in our community. Passing by any of these parking lots between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. can be a practice of patience as the droves of young people hit the streets of Katy. As fellow drivers, it's important to remember that young drivers will make mistakes. But as parents and family members of these teen drivers, it's essential to educate and set boundaries for teen drivers to protect them and other drivers.

Driving Schools in Katy

Courtesy Driving School
21924 Kingsland Blvd.
281-392-4646

Katy Driving School
23144 Cinco Ranch Blvd.
281-693-7483

Success Driving Academy
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"It's essential to educate and set boundaries for teen drivers to protect them and other drivers."



Experts recommend a safe used car to start with



Pick Your Method

The first step to ensuring your teen is a safe driver is to choose the drivers' education route that best fits your family's needs. Katy area driving schools work for many families. When picking out a Katy driving school, make sure they are state certified to teach young teen drivers. And because your teen is learning to drive, it's very important to make certain the school you choose for your teen has late model sedans that have high safety ratings. With instructors trained to educate young drivers and convenient hours, this option will cost parents \$365-\$390.





Car Shopping?

Check out these safe rides.

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-  Volkswagen GTI
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-  Mini Cooper
-  Honda Accord
-  Honda CR-V
-  Hyundai Tiburon

Top Choices under \$15,000

-  Nissan Sentra
-  Chevrolet S-10
-  Chevrolet Cavalier
-  Toyota Corolla

*compiled by carsmart.com.

Tip from Katy Parents!

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Teens with provisional licenses in Texas are not allowed to talk on cell phones or text message while driving

Minors Driving in Texas

The Texas Graduated Driver License (GDL) creates a specific provisional driver's license for drivers under age 18. Here are a few of the restrictions.

- ⓘ Must have an instruction permit for a minimum of six months prior to receiving their provisional license.
- ⓘ May not have more than one passenger in the vehicle under the age of 21 who is not a family member.
- ⓘ May not drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. (Except for some work or school related activities or medical reasons.)
- ⓘ May not drive while talking on a cell phone or text messaging.

Another option for parents with teen drivers is the hands-on approach. Guidance for parents choosing this path can be given by products such as Driver Ed in a Box. Some parents prefer this method of educating their teens because it's less time constricting and for some teens, a more comfortable way to learn to drive. Danielle Laine, a senior at Katy High School, was taught to drive by a relative. "It's easier to do it at home because you can do it at your own pace," says Laine.

Sign a Contract

The concept of the parent/teen driver contract is growing in popularity amidst a rise in recent years of avoidable accidents in which teen drivers were involved. The idea is for parents to form a pact with their teen to drive safely. Also included in the contracts are restrictions such as a driving curfew, specific terms for cell phone use while in the vehicle, permissible areas to drive in, and who can be in the vehicle with the teen driver. As with any contract, there's a section

included for punishments if these rules and conditions are not followed.

Teen Driving Technology

For parents who want more piece of mind when their young driver is out on Katy streets, the electronics market provides many products. A popular way to track where your teen driver has been is through the use of a GPS device. They're offered in a wide range of price and capability. Some of these devices run real-time feeds so parents can monitor their teen

driver's decisions on the road. Another feature included on various models is a record of the driver's speed. With capabilities of preprogramming the device to send a cell phone or email alert when preset speed limits have been broken, parents can further educate and instill good driving skills in their teenage drivers. For many Katy parents it's not an issue of an invasion of their teen driver's privacy, but rather a safe guard to better insure their young drivers are kept out of harms way.

Many states, including Texas, have adopted various versions of the graduated licensing program. This has been crucial in reducing accidents involving young drivers. And with Katy parents taking an active role in the education of their teenage drivers, the streets of Katy are a safer place for everyone. KM

REBECCA BEARDEN is a recent college graduate and office manager for Katy Magazine. She's the mother of a 4-year-old son and is terrified of the day he'll start to drive.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, teenage drivers and passengers are among those least likely to wear their seat belts. This statistic is a contributing factor for the high amount of teenage driver injuries and even deaths each year. Be an example for your teen. Always wear your seatbelt, and encourage them to do the same.