

# School Scoop

NEWS FOR KATY AREA SCHOOLS



## Nottingham Country Elementary Surprise Visit

In honor of Brian Krauklis' 50th Aerospace mission, the KHOU Surprise Squad with Chita Johnson came to Nottingham Country to surprise their NASA Director. Not only did Chita come, but she also brought Clayton Anderson, a retired U.S. Astronaut. The Alpha mission astronauts and Krauklis were treated to an impromptu question-and-answer session with him.



## Katy High School Pays It Forward

Katy High School FFA participated in a national "Pay It Forward" service project called #AgItForward. The project is nationwide, as students complete a service project and then use social media to "tag" other chapters to challenge them to complete a community service project as well. The Katy FFA spruced up the landscape at the VFW Hall as their community service project and tagged the Cedar Park FFA Chapter in Texas and the Big Sky FFA chapter in Montana.

## Katy ISD Promise to Read

The Katy ISD Partners in Education Promise to Read program provides members of the business community the opportunity to read children's literature to elementary students. The program is part of a 17-year-old tradition that involves nearly 500 classrooms and dozens of Katy businesses.



## Beck Junior High Cover Contest

Beck Junior High school students entered their artwork for the school's directory cover contest. Eighth-grader Richard Wang was announced the winner and received a T-shirt, spirit wear cinch sack, and a box of chocolates.





## Randolph Elementary Dedication Ceremony

Randolph Elementary, which opened in August 2014 in Cross Creek Ranch, held a dedication ceremony in celebration of its namesake. The school was named after James (Jim) E. Randolph, a beloved coach and P.E. teacher who impacted countless students in Katy ISD before his passing in 2013 after a cancer battle. Principal Kristin Harper led the ceremony, Representative John Zerwas and Andy Meyers also participated. Bryan Michalsky, president of the Katy ISD board of trustees, unveiled a portrait of Randolph painted by Jamie Wells.



## Taylor High School Senior Taryn Fitzgerald

Taryn Fitzgerald signed a national letter of intent accepting a gymnastics scholarship to compete for Stanford University. Fitzgerald has maintained a 4.5 GPA while taking advanced classes. She is a member of the National Charity League Katy chapter, the National Honor Society, and the Spanish National Honor Society.



## Tompkins High School Orchestra

Tompkins High School Orchestra members recently participated in auditions where all eight Tompkins participants made all-region. Special congratulations to Jeffrey Zhu, Ping Rui Toong, Nicholas DeBattista, Joshua Hong, Dru Molin, Esther Lee, Alexis Mitrushi, and Hannah Kim.

## Beckendorff Junior High Parent Volunteers

The Beckendorff Junior High PTA launched weekly stores to be held during lunch periods. Pictured are parent volunteers Dawn Crabtree, Katie Roberts, Evelyn Follis, Yvonne Trevino, and Erin Baumgardner.





**First Robotics Competition at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch**

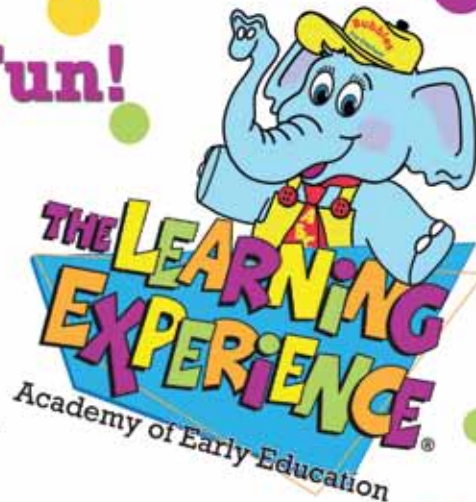
Students from five Katy ISD high schools recently showed off their FIRST Robotics Competition robots at LaCenterra at Cinco Ranch. Sponsored by the Katy Area Economic Development Council, students from Cinco Ranch, Morton Ranch, Seven Lakes, Taylor, and Tompkins high schools showed spectators their robots and talked about the upcoming Katy ISD Center for Imagination and Innovation.

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# School Notebook

## More News Nuggets from Katy Schools

### Schmalz Elementary Recognized

Schmalz Elementary was named a Reward School for High Progress by the Texas Education Agency. Schmalz is one of 380 Title 1 schools in Texas that earned this designation for the 2013 to 2014 school year. Schools that are named high progress are Title 1 schools in the top 25% in annual improvement and/or schools in the top 25% of those demonstrating ability to close performance gaps.

### Seven Lakes Varsity Cheerleaders

The Seven Lakes varsity cheerleaders raised over \$500 for The Pink Ribbons Project to honor Dawn Weiss, a cheer mom who recently beat breast cancer. The cheerleaders sported custom shirts that read "cheer for the cure" and "we support Dawn because her cancer is gone!"

### Katy ISD Education Foundation

The Miller Career & Technology Center was awarded \$9,546.10 through the Inspiring Imagination grants from the Katy ISD Education Foundation. In addition, the Mobile iPad Lab grant was chosen by BP for the BP STEM Grant.

### Seven Lakes Junior High

Students recently watched an edited version of the documentary film *Bully*. The film shows an intimate look at how bullying affected five children and their families. The school reminded students they play a vital role in promoting upstander rather than bystander behavior and having empathy for others.

## Important Dates

### for Katy Parents and Students

- Feb. 16 President's Day/School Holiday
- Feb. 20 Early Dismissal
- Feb. 23 Fifth Grading Period Begins (Sec.)
- March 9-13 Spring Break/School Holiday
- March 30 Fourth Grading Period Begins (Elem.)
- April 3 Good Friday/School Holiday

## News for Katy area schools?

Email [editor@katymagazine.com](mailto:editor@katymagazine.com) and visit [Katymagazine.com](http://Katymagazine.com) for more up-to-date school news. Please do not send photography protected by copyright.

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