









# Holland Elementary School

Blazing a trail in learning Written by Mary Hogan | Photos Courtesy of Holland Elementary School

Roaming the halls of Bonnie Holland Elementary School, you immediately notice the warm, upbeat attitude of students and staff members. School pride shines through everywhere, from Igie the school's husky mascot who visits on Friday to BHE spirit shirts to students working away in the school's grade-level gardens outside. "We take such pride in what we do," shares Principal Carra Fleming. "Our school namesake Bonnie Holland is a true treasure and we truly want to honor her by being the best we can be at all times!" Since opening its doors in 2008, this Katy ISD campus, rated Exemplary by the Texas Education Agency, has offered students an engaging and quality learning experience.

## **Unique and Engaging Programs**

With "blazing a trail" as its school motto, Holland Elementary has done just that, implementing many unique programs for students. When Fleming shared her dream of having an outdoor learning area and grade-level gardens for students with the PTA, several members teamed up with Legend Pools owner Lee Stubbs and immediately got to work making that dream a reality. "We now have a beautiful learning space for all of our students outdoors," shares Fleming. "This is truly how our community operates at all times to support us!"

Innovation in learning doesn't stop there. In the school's Iditerod program, students can interact via a mobile

connection with mushers in Alaska and learn about the culture of sledding. With Eureka Science, a totally parent-run program, students get hands-on science lessons four times a year. The school's chess club and fifth-grade math club let students put their math skills to the test in competitions across the city. "We have a lot going on every day and are so happy to provide so many opportunities for our students," says Fleming.

#### **Acts of Kindness and Giving Back**

Along with subjects like math, science, and English, BHE students also learn the importance of giving back to their community and to others around the world. "Bonnie Holland Elementary prides itself on being a family with our community and pulling together for any Husky in need or reaching out across our state and world," Fleming shares.

Student council members have helped raise funds for earthquake victims through the Huskies Helping Haiti program, organized canned food drives for Katy Christian Ministries, and collected school supplies for schools impacted by Hurricane Ike. Gifted and talented students organized Dance for Disaster, a whole evening of dancing and learning about the customs of Japan that benefit the victims of the 2011 tsunami.

In the Read, Deed, Run program, students commit to running 26.2 miles, reading 26 books, and performing 26 acts of community service every year. When a student's sibling was born with spinal muscular atrophy, Huskies banded together to form the Savannah Smiles Marathon Group, raising awareness of and funds for the disease.

These acts of kindness and caring are just some of the many ways Holland Huskies are leading the way to a bright future. "What makes our students special is that they are so dedicated and loyal to our school and making it the best it possibly can be," says Fleming. "They work out conflicts proactively, and the way they conduct themselves is remarkable. We see so many future success stories, due to the leadership skills these kids possess!"

### **Husky Pride**

With dedicated teachers who are constantly finding ways to learn and grow and hard-working students who inspire educators every day, it's no wonder BHE has garnered attention and accolades galore. The campus recently earned the Texas Business and Education Coalition Honor Roll Award, for repeatedly earning an Exemplary rating from the TEA along with commended performance scores. This was the first year Holland Elementary was eligible for the prestigious award for sustained academic excellence. BHE was joined by only 4% of the 8,000 schools in the state in receiving the honor, along with Katy Elementary and Kilpatrick Elementary. Fleming shares, "To say that we are proud is an understatement!" **KM** 

MARY HOGAN enjoys being associate editor of Katy Magazine and is inspired by all the ways Katy students and teachers go above and beyond every day.

# B温度 Fast Facts

#### Colors

Royal blue, black, and silver

# Mascot

Husky

#### Principal Carra Fleming

#### Motto

Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and blaze a trail!

#### **Assistant Principals**

Linnea Griffith and Jason Brown

#### Enrollment

1,030 students

#### Location

23720 Seven Meadows Pkwy.

#### Phone

281-234-0500



