

# KATY EDUCATION



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Written by Stephanie K. Rice  
Photography by Suzi Issa

Ms. Katie and Ms. Katrina's Pre-K Class at Cross Point Preschool



# RED Shirting

## Should My Child Start Kindergarten or Wait One More Year?

**W**hen should my child start kindergarten? An easy question that is not so easy to answer. If, like me, you have a four year old that will turn five over the summer, and is therefore just squeaking in under the school district's September 1 cut-off date, you probably feel like the weight of your child's educational future is sitting squarely on your shoulders. Make the wrong decision, and your kid is doomed before they even get started! I am sure my own mother never considered holding me back a year (I have a summer birthday, and never once set foot in any sort of classroom prior to kindergarten --- imagine that!). But that was also when kinder-

garten was about singing your ABC's, learning the proper etiquette of the playground, and finger-painting. Today, kindergarten is an academic place enhanced by high stakes testing (think TAKS) so prevalent in our education system. Teachers around the country report that 48 percent of incoming kindergarteners have difficulty handling the demands of school (The New York Times Magazine, June 2007). It is of no surprise then that parents have begun to "redshirt."

**REDSHIRTING:** a term originally used by college athletes seeking a competitive advantage; now commonly used to describe the practice of delaying a child's entrance into kindergarten.



Catherine enjoys preschool

The hope of most parents is that by delaying school entry one year, children have more opportunity to mature and develop an academic, social and emotional skill set they otherwise would not have upon entering kindergarten. A Katy mom, Michelle McClintock, says her main reason for potentially holding back her

four year old son is fear that he will have to repeat kindergarten if in fact it turns out he wasn't ready. If she does decide to redshirt her son, she won't be alone. Research taken from The Center for Education Statistics (NCES, Special Analysis 2000) indicates close to 10% of all kindergarten age children are now redshirted, with the incidence highest for boys born later in the school year. In some school districts around the country, the number is even more inflated especially in middle to high income communities such as Katy (The Katy Independent School District does not specifically track how old a child is when they start school, but acknowledges the overall trend). Children who have been redshirted will most likely spend another year in preschool, probably in a "transitional/bridge" program doing what we did in kindergarten a generation or so ago.

### Reasons for Redshirting

There are many positive aspects in delaying a child's entry into kindergarten such as older kindergartners are closer to being able to read. Seventy-three percent of kindergartners who are six or about to turn six at the start of the school year pass reading proficiency level one, contrasted with fifty-six percent of children who have not yet turned five (Zill, Loomis and West, 1997). They are also closer to being able to do arithmetic with two-thirds having a proficiency level two in math (Zill, Loomis and West, 1997). Redshirted children also have advantages in motor skills, size and socialization. They seem to be more confident than their classmates who are younger. Older kindergartners take leadership roles within the classroom more often, have more positive feelings toward their teachers, and feel more valued than their younger peers. Likewise, older kindergartners were less likely to receive negative feedback from their teachers (Zill, Loomis and West 2001).

### What are the Cons of Redshirting?

Though redshirted children have an edge while in kindergarten, there is little evidence to support this carries over into later school years. Several studies have found that by grade three, the advantage had completely disappeared. Cindy Franklin, Early Childhood Intervention Specialist in KISD, tends to agree emphasizing "that each child reaches developmental milestones on different timelines. Just like infants learn to walk and crawl at different



Ms. Theresa/Ms. Amy's Pre-K Class take off into learning on their classroom space shuttle



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ages, children learn to read and write differently. But, in most cases, the cliché is true; every child is going to get there.”

Another alarming statistic against redshirting is based on a study that found the proportion to receive special education services is higher among redshirted children (May & Kundert, 1995). Perhaps these children did not receive intervention soon enough due to their delay in school, or possibly the special need was incorrectly identified as a lack of readiness to begin kindergarten in the first place.

### Making the Best Decision

Janine Phillips, Executive Director for Elementary Instruction in KISD, provides this encouragement to any Katy area parent wrestling with the redshirting decision. “KISD kindergarten teachers are masters at differentiating the needs of children in the classroom. Parents want what is best for their children, and so do we.” Ms. Franklin agrees with her colleague noting “the great thing about kindergarten in KISD is that teachers can teach the class in an appropriate and fun way.” However, both are quick to point out that the choice of when to start kindergarten ultimately rest with the people who know their child best – the parents.

So, there really is no blanket answer of when to start your child in kindergarten. The best thing any parent can do is to take an honest look at your child. Talk to their teachers if they attend preschool. Observe them in the classroom or on play dates. If you then believe your child would not thrive in kindergarten, you should probably wait. But if you are looking for a competitive advantage for your child, beware;

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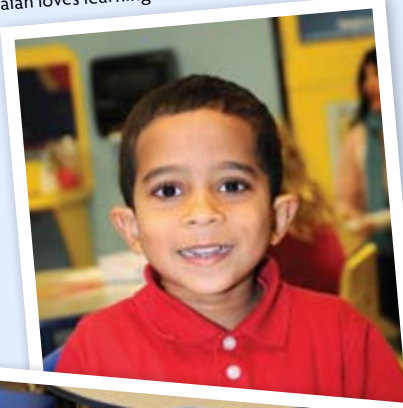
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success that comes easily can lead to boredom. And, if your child falls somewhere in the middle, it may be time to cut the purse strings lovingly and send them off to kindergarten. Ms. Franklin left me with this nugget of wisdom in closing our discussion, "try to make the best decision you can at the time and then LIVE WITH IT." Good advice. Thanks Ms. Franklin. **KM**

*STEPHANIE K. RICE is a Katy based writer faced with the decision of when to send her summer birthday twins to kindergarten.*



Brandon, Dylan and Jaiiah put together a puzzle



Mrs. Amy helps Catherine and Jazmin

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SEVEN LAKES  
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# SEVEN'S FIRST

## The Class of 2008



## Lucky things in Store for Seven Lakes' First Graduating Class

Pictured above: Chelsea Akard, Alyssa Maxwell, Sarah Ryan (kneeling), Peter Ye, Taylor Ward  
Back row: Cody Brehm, Ashley Withers, Brett Brewer

Written by S. Shetye Cypher  
Photography by Suzi Issa

It will be all smiles and cheers, and a few tears, at the afternoon commencement for Seven Lakes High School's inaugural graduating class. One by one, the roughly 401 Spartans, dressed in navy blue caps and gowns, will make their way to the podium at the Merrell Center.

"It's a once in a lifetime experience, literally," says varsity cheerleader Chelsea Akard. "It is going to be really cool to see Seven Lakes in 20 years and know that I was the in the first ever graduating class." Graduation will bring families and friends close as families will host parties and dinners.

"All of my family is coming in town because I am the first grandchild to graduate," says Ashley Withers about the approaching June 2nd graduation. "We will have a celebration with family and close friends."





### FIRST DAYS

Starting at a new school brought new feelings and challenges to the entering students. “I remember I wasn’t as excited on the first day, I was reluctant to leave my friends at Cinco Ranch and the Orchestra there. You were unsure of what you were getting in to,” says Orchestra member and academic competitor Peter Ye.

“I was so nervous my first day, but not having it be super crowded in the hallways made it easier for me,” adds Colorguard co-captain Cody Brehm. “People were so excited for us to be there, we weren’t just another class.”

In a school where usually a class becomes smaller by the time they become seniors, Seven Lakes has seen their class size grow due to all the new housing. “There were so many new kids from out of state, so I didn’t feel out of place moving here from Oklahoma. I met people the first day,” says yearbook member Sarah Ryan.

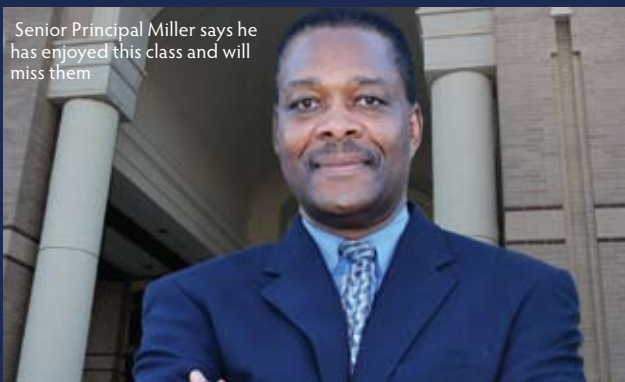
### GETTING INVOLVED

When a new school opens, extracurricular activities are wide open and any student can become involved in just about any of them. “Cinco was

really crowded, so the immediate thing we noticed was that the hallways were more open,” says Ye. “The best thing was there weren’t any clubs that were started and as sophomores we had a lot more opportunities available to us than we would’ve had.”

Athlete Taylor Ward adds, “It was nice to have a small population in order to become more involved in activities and sports.” Seniors saw extracurricular activities grow in the passing years and attained leadership roles early.

Senior Principal Miller says he has enjoyed this class and will miss them



“I started in Colorguard my junior year and became a co-captain now as a senior,” says Brehm, who is headed to Trinity University. “At Cinco it would’ve been hard for me to get to this position in such a short time.” In athletics, programs were working to get off the ground. “With football we were like the senior class for three years, so it was a challenge as far as leadership to get the football program going,” says athlete Brett Brewer, who is headed to South Dakota School of Mines on a football scholarship.

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## ESTABLISHING SL TRADITIONS

“One thing Ms. Whitbeck always said is that we’re starting the new traditions at our own school. Some of the kids that are coming after us will keep doing these things and we all thought that was pretty cool,” says Brehm. One new tradition being started is the ‘Walk of Fame’ where dedication bricks will be laid down outside the main commons. Bricks were purchased through Project Prom. Many students played a large part in the activities they were active in. “I definitely feel like I’ve added my personal touch to a lot of activities that I’m involved in, I feel like my participation as a leader has really contributed” says Ye.

## PROM PLANS

After fundraising with pizza sales, cookie sales, student parking and money carried over from Cinco Ranch High School, the senior prom is well on its way. With a theme of Masquerade, the senior class will be dancing the night away downtown at the Rice Hotel on April 26, following with Project Prom at Times Square Entertainment.

“I plan to go to prom with all of my friends in my group and have the time of our lives,” says Akard. Dr. Clarence Miller, who came from Katy High School, has been following the group as class principal through their time at Seven Lakes. “I have really enjoyed working with this class; there are so many talented students,” says Miller. “We will miss them next year; they have been such a mainstay.”

Some Seven Lakes Seniors celebrate with Senior Principal Dr. Clarence Miller



## A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

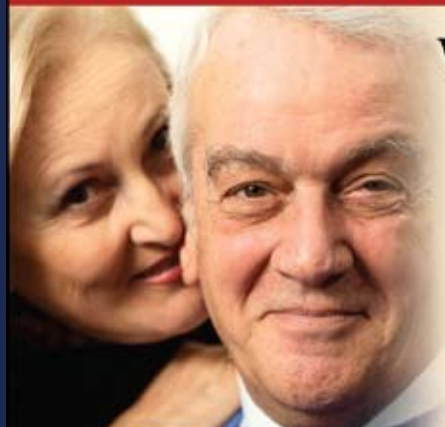
Memories of their times at Seven Lakes will be forever etched in their minds. “Having such a close bond with the lower classmen as well as my own class has been a great experience,” says Akard. “It feels like there is no label about what grade we are in, everyone is so close that it feels like we are all in one grade.” Being the first class brings a sense of seniority that only those students can know.

“The freshmen now really look up to us, we set the bar for them and they know there are a lot of seniors leaving and underclassmen will be taking over leadership roles,” says Ryan. “It’s amazing when you think back to sophomore year. It has grown so much. I feel like I see a new teacher every day.”

In the end, it is the path through high school and what future lay ahead that looms in their minds “The growth has been a sign that we’re growing up and pretty soon we’ll be going off to college; it was a wakeup call,” says Brewer. **KM**

*S. SHETYE CYPHER is a freelance writer who lives with her husband and son. She has lived in Katy intermittently since 1976. She has written for several Houston based publications and is also the Journalism teacher and Publications Advisor at Mayde Creek High School.*

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## SEVEN'S FIRST



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# SCHOOL REZONING

## A Fact of Life in Katy

Written by Stephanie K. Rice

**M**ost Katyites agree that Katy Texas is a great place to raise a family. Many people are lured to Katy primarily because of the reputation of excellence of the Katy public school system. Because Katy is considered a fast growth area, the Katy Independent School District (Katy ISD) finds itself in the challenging position of providing facilities for its students to attend.

### Thousands of New Students

With more than 3000, new students enrolling each school year, the district works with internal and external demographers to best determine where the future growth will be, and where to build schools. The southwest area is experiencing the most growth currently but future growth is also expected on the north side of Interstate 10 after the Grand Parkway is completed. Over the next 5-7 years, Katy ISD will add 17 new schools (11 elementary schools; 4 junior high schools; 2 high schools).

One critical piece of information worth noting is that even though Katy ISD works with the developers of new master planned communities when building schools, “there are no guarantees about where the children of future residents will attend schools,” says John Bailey, Chief of Operations of Katy ISD.

### Determining What's Best

Rezoning can be a very emotionally charged process for students and their parents. “Rezoning is like moving again for our children,” says Brandy Hodge, mother of three in a recently rezoned neighborhood of Cinco Ranch. But, it is a necessary part of life for families in Katy. “Katy ISD will continue to rezone out of necessity due to the growth of the area,” states Mr. Bailey. Some parents though believe rezoning decisions are based on “less friction for Katy ISD, and not what is best for kids,” says Roxanne Zieschang, mom of three. Mr. Bailey maintains he wishes it could be “a win-win for all, but the goal for Katy ISD really is what is best for the student.”



## Bus Transportation for All

One of the major objections to recent rezoning is transportation of the students specifically the state/condition of roads they must travel to/from school. “Did Katy ISD consider my child’s travel time will now be 15-20 minutes when it is currently less than five minutes, and will be on a road I consider to be dangerous?”, asks Zieschang. The school district maintains it does take into consideration many factors including transportation. Mr. Bailey says that the district strives not to “create a hardship on parent or child” therefore adopting the philosophy that “100% of students” are welcome to use Katy ISD school buses. Many districts in the greater Houston area require that to use buses students must live at least 1-2 miles away from the school, not so in Katy. “Children can live less than 1 mile away, and they are welcome to use our buses,” says Mr. Bailey. The roads that families and/or buses must use to reach the schools are also considered with safety always being a top priority of the district. “However, while Katy ISD is building facilities for 21st century students, some of the roads remain from the 20th century,” notes Mr. Bailey.

## Parental Involvement

Despite some recent controversies with parent committees, Katy ISD will continue to welcome parental involvement regarding rezoning issues. The district believes, and research supports, that a top quality community support system is imperative to a top quality school system. So, Katy ISD encour-

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# KATY ISD GROWTH

## 1997/1998

Katy ISD School Year 1997-98	28,398
Total Students	13,617
Elementary Students	6,966
Junior High Students	7,815
High School Students	

Number of Schools in Katy ISD 1997-98	17
Elementary Schools	6
Junior High School	3
High Schools	

## 2006/2007

Katy ISD School Year 2006-07	50,926
Total Students	24,452
Elementary Students	11,760
Junior High Students	14,714
High Schools Students	

Number of Schools in Katy ISD	27
Elementary Schools	10
Junior High School	6
High Schools	

Source: Katy ISD

ages parents to volunteer either through the principal of their school or by contacting Mr. Bailey's office directly. The selection process for parental involvement with the committees is random however. Parents who are selected to serve are requested to make recommendations to the Katy School Board that are "good for all kids, not necessarily their own children" asserts Mr. Bailey noting that all final decisions rest with the Board. Though most parents believe a parental committee is key, they question the current make-up of these committees. "Committee members should not have a child that is being affected, nor should principals with students involved in the rezoning be allowed to recommend parents," says Hodge. She believes the recent complaints regarding parents serving on rezoning committees could have been resolved if a conflict of interest was not present from the onset. Mr. Bailey noted the Board will be "evaluating the process" in the future, but is uncertain what the outcome will be regarding the parent selection process at this time.

## Change is Inevitable

Those families who have lived in Katy for some time may have already experienced the emotions associated with rezoning and growth. Though it might be difficult at the time, most students seem to weather the experience with success. As parents, we are fortunate our school system continues to be among the most highly regarded in greater Houston, and the state of Texas. As our area continues to grow, we will most likely need to continue to prepare ourselves for the inevitable fate of rezoning. Change is hard, but growth will demand us to be open to it. **KM**

STEPHANIE K. RICE is the Assistant Editor of Katy Magazine. She has two children and lives in Katy.

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**Debra Vaello**

Written by Jennifer Counter  
Photography by Suzi Issa



**Wayne Power**

These Katy veteran teachers are celebrating their 30th year at Wolfe Elementary

## Touching Thousands of Lives One Student at a Time

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With over three decades teaching at one school, Wayne Power and Debra Vaello are a fundamental part of Wolfe Elementary

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### In The Beginning

Imagine if you will, two recent college graduates, both with big dreams of landing their first teaching job. In walks Wayne Power, with his Navy background and his passion for athletics. “In 1976 I came to what was then Addicks Elementary, now renamed Wolfe Elementary. I was looking to get my foot in the door with teaching, but, I found myself staying year after year at this same school, because working with Elementary age children has always been so rewarding for me” explains Wayne.

Now fast forward a year and a half later and meet Debra Vaello, skilled in music instruction with a desire to teach “the little ones”. “Immediately, I was drawn to the intimacy of the small school setting- I realized early on that I enjoyed watching the children as they grew and matured year after year- I think that is why I have stayed at Wolfe all these years” says Debra.

# The kids love them both- they are true teachers!”

—Principal Leblanc, Wolfe Elementary

## A Tale for The Times



Who would have guessed that Wayne, a graduate from The University of Houston and Debra, a graduate from Sam Houston State University would have been team members at the same Elementary for over three decades? As amazing as it sounds- it is true! Both currently still teach at Wolfe Elementary and the effect they have had on those around them continues through the generations. “We have former students, whose children are now on our campus and the parents still talk about the impact Debra and Wayne had on their schooling- for

them to bring their children to the same school they attended means a lot to us as educators” Wolfe Elementary Principal, Dr. Jacob Leblanc exclaims.

“They were here when this was dirt- their longevity speaks to their abilities!”

—Principal Leblanc

## Lessons Learned

There is a Japanese Proverb that states, *to teach is also to learn*. When I interviewed Wayne and Debra, they both seemed to possess a special knowledge that comes from being both the student and teacher. “I remember when I first started and Mr. Wolfe was the Principal at that time. He said to us all one day, ‘We are here because the children are here- it is not the other way around.’ I learned at that moment, as a teacher, that the kids always come first- that was one of my greatest lessons.” Debra also shared with me the understanding teaching has taught her. “Teaching music to children has taught me that there is more than one kind of intelligence and that often the children that struggle in regular academic areas can excel in the arts- to see a child make that connection with music is magical for me!”

## Praise for Two of KISD’s Finest

To be acknowledged by your peers is a great accomplishment in any profession and there is no shortage of positive praise for Wayne and Debra in the halls of Wolfe Elementary. “Wayne’s dedication to the school and his students is amazing and Debra’s work with the kids and the special programs she prepares each year are phenomenal! says Wolfe Art Teacher, Shaney Schmitt.

Former student and now First Grade Wolfe Teacher, Sarah VanNieuwenhuse shares, “I loved going to Mrs. Vaello and Mr. Power’s classes- they were the kind of people that you could tell loved their jobs and their enthusiasm was contagious! It is a joy to work with them now and to be a part of this community that they stayed in for so long- I hope I can follow in their footsteps”.



## Still More to Come

Both Wayne and Debra plan to stay grounded at Wolfe Elementary for years to come. “At this time I have no plans to retire” affirms Wayne. Simply, Debra states, “It is hard to sum up the past thirty


An advertisement for Swampy's Cajun Shack. The background is a vibrant image of a seafood boil featuring crawfish, corn, potatoes, and shrimp. Text on the ad includes: "BUFFALO SHRIMP • FRIED GREEN TOMATOES • SHRIMP", "BOYS • MUFFOLETTA • FROG LEGS", "BAKED OYSTERS • FRESH FISH • COURTBOUILLON", "Spicy, cajun boiled CRAWFISH \$3.50 per pound (2 pound minimum)", "SWAMPY'S CAJUN SHACK", "Live Cajun &amp; Zydeco Music (weather permitting) • Fri &amp; Sat Nitel", "Happy Hour Specials (bar &amp; patio only) Mon.-Fri. 11am-7pm", "Sun.-Thurs. 11AM-10PM, Fri.-Sat. 11AM-11PM", "406 W. Grand Pkwy S. • 281-347-2847", "www.swampyscajunshack.com", and "© 2008 Katy Magazine".

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plus years into words, but what I do know is that I love teaching my students and everyday as I see them learn and they share their thoughts and their hugs with me, I know that this is where I was meant to be.”

The school is definitely blessed to have such fine educators on staff. “They are pillars in this community and they do wonderful things-it has been a pleasure to work with them both and I look forward to many more years to come”, states, Principal Lebalanc.

Wayne and Debra are a true testament that finding your lifework in the work that you do is one of life's greatest joys- hats off to them both for a job well done- year after year! **KM**

**“The most important thing I have learned from them is to have patience and to be passionate.”**

- Kelly Bernaix, Wolfe Elementary P.E. Teacher

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Wayne has been married for 33 years and has two children, 27 year old Scott and 25 year old Kelly. He has one grandchild, Jacob. Wayne enjoys spending time with his family, fishing and golfing.

Debra Vaello



Debra has been married for 32 years and has two daughters, 15 year old Audre and 21 year old Christen. She enjoys taking in scenic views of the mountains and the beach; reading and spending time with her family on their boat.

JENNIFER COUNTER, is a freelance writer. She lives in Katy with her daughter Lauren.

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# Wolfe Elementary

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## Wolfe Elementary Fast Facts

- School Mascot: Stars
- School Colors: Red, White & Blue
- Number of Students: 420
- Number of Teachers: 56
- Grade Levels: K-5
- School Motto: LEAP for the stars! Learning Empowers All People!

## Interesting Facts

Wolfe Elementary was named after Maurice Wolfe, a former teacher and principal, who taught at the school for over 30 years

- Student body is made up of families from over 18 countries
- Student body collectively speaks several dozen language

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**MRHS Students Take DC**

Ten Morton Ranch High School students recently participated in Close-Up, a week-long governmental studies program in Washington, DC. Students participating in Close-Up said that their favorite parts of the experience were meeting government officials, touring the Capitol, and visiting the national monuments. Pictured with Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX) Photo courtesy of Susan Magill.

**Hello Mayde Creek!**

Congratulations to the talented cast and crew of Hello Dolly, Mayde Creek's recent musical production. The show was a smashing success and enjoyed by all!



**Rylander Celebrates 100**

The Rylander Elementary rhinos celebrated their 100th day of school for the year! The first and second graders held a parade around the school and created "100 day" shirts. The shirts had to have 100 "things" on them to commemorate the big day.



**Taylor Loves Comedy Sportz**

Six local high schools participated in Comedy Sportz match held on Valentine's Day at Taylor High School. Teams included Katy High School, Mayde Creek HS, Faith West HS, Cinco Ranch HS and Taylor HS. Comedy Sportz is a national improv-game competition troupe with many local teams in the Katy area.

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### Katy Takes a Sentimental Journey

The Katy High Jazz Band invites the community to their 23rd annual "Sentimental Journey Dinner and Dance", featuring Big Band music from the 1920's and 30's, on Saturday, March 8 from 6 to 10 pm in the KHS Commons. Under the direction of Terence Gorton, guests are transported back in time by the timeless music of Glenn Miller and Duke Ellington in a nightclub atmosphere, complete with dance floor and disco ball.

### Houston Grand Opera

Laura Smolik, a Taylor High School junior, landed a role in the upcoming production of Mozart's The Magic Flute with the Houston Grand Opera at the Wortham Theater Center in Houston. Smolik, who has performed with the Houston Grand Opera before, will be singing the part of a genie in German. She has performed in 23 shows through acting, singing and dance in productions such as Suessical, West Side Story and The Nutcracker.



### Theater Students Steal the Show

Two Katy ISD students stole the show at the Texas Educational Theatre Association's (TETA) DesignFest each bringing home the only two state awards given for theatrical design, as well as each receiving \$1,000 scholarships. Brooke Marrero, a senior at MRHS was awarded the Edward Jones Scholarship for overall design technology and Gustavo Valdes, a senior at CRHS received the Texas Educational Theatre Association Founders' Award for overall lighting design.



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## Cinco Singers Extraordinaire!

Pictured are 27 of the 56 Cinco Ranch High School choir students who qualified and participated in the TMEA Region 23 Choir Clinic and Concert. Cinco Ranch's Chorale Varsity Choir was one of only four Texas choirs selected to perform at the Texas Music Teachers Association Convention in San Antonio recently. The choir is under the direction of Dorothy Wilson and Eric West.



## Art Students Take with Top Honors

Cinco Ranch High School advanced art students recently competed in the Scholastic Art Competition and walked away with top honors.



## Musical Sisters

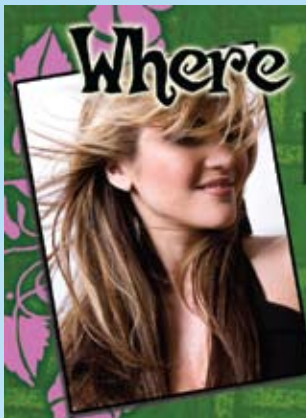
Rachel and Amy Luegering are not only sisters; they are All-State musicians and performed together in the Salute to Educators Houston Youth Symphony. Only 103 student musicians were selected from the greater Houston area to play in the youth.

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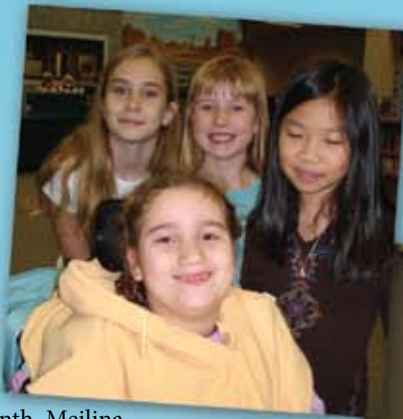


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**Pattison's Early Morning Book Club**

Pattison Elementary 4th graders at early morning book club. Pictured are front - Ottalie Garvin; rear - Eugenia Forgang, Ruby Smola & Quyen-Anh Doan. Having read *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, by Brian Selznick; they ate croissants, like the main character in the story did, while they discussed the book.



**Beckendorff Basketball**

Congratulations to Beckendorff Junior High's 7A girls basketball team who placed 1st in the West Houston Middle School tournament recently. The girls are coached by Kristi LeCronier.



**Seven's All-State Singers**

Three choir students from Seven Lakes High School were chosen as members of the Texas All-State Choir at auditions held earlier this month. Meilina Moore and Julia Rucker were both named to the Women's Choir and Caroline Badalamenti, a two-year All-State member, was named to the Mixed Choir. They performed with the All-State Choir at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention.



**Nottingham Country Elementary**

2nd Grader - Lexi McGrievy alone raised over \$895.00 for Diabetes Research by participating in the Diabetes Walk that was held at school. Students found sponsors to pledge them if they participated in the event.



**Taylor Senior Girl Accepted to West Point**

Lindsay Gordon, a senior at Taylor High School, accepted her nomination from Texas Congressman Michael T. McCaul, to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. She will play soccer and study mechanical engineering. Looking on are parents Doug and Merrilee Gordon, brother Drew Gordon, Taylor High School Principal David Kendler, Taylor Soccer coach Mark Kluppel, Texas Premier FC Soccer Trainer Dylan Glad and Soccer Manager Jeff Dismuke.



5th Grade Nottingham Country Elementary Students Dane Hopkins and Natalie McGinnis are chosen to receive KATY ISD's Council Award of Excellence in National Reflections Contest with their original musical composition entries.

**Comedy Sports at MRHS**

Comedy Sportz at MRHS is making their way through the competition season with laughter and fun. Meagan Crowe and Kirby McGriff; James Smith, Mallory Majcher, Daniel Wallace, Autumn Woods, Brittney Klein, Rico Gardner, and Lindsey Pickens; Ryan Smith, Tyler Stephenson, Andrew House, Trent Stephenson, and Lori Williams.



This year's contest theme was "I can make a difference by ...." Students throughout the area were invited to participate by entering something with regards to this theme in area of their choosing whether art, photography, film or musical compositions.

Dane Hopkins entered a guitar composition entitled "I Can Make a Difference by Music" and Natalie McGinnis entered a piano piece entitled "Helping in Small Ways" which talks about the little things one can do to make another's day a little better. Dane and Natalie will now be moving on to the next level in this National PTA competition.

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# WE LOVE OUR KATY AREA SCOUTS!

## Scouts Receive Religious Awards

The Webelos 12 den from Rylander Elementary's Pack 542, led by Randy Burcaw, has been working hard with their individual families to complete the requirements for their religious awards. Each scout had a workbook filled with various activities, projects, Bible lessons, and family lessons. They work with their parents and church clergy to fill all of the requirements and then are presented by their pastor or church leader with their religion's emblem.



Randy Burcaw, Hunter Burcaw, Kyle Smith, and Rex Brown

## Pack 542 Volunteers at KCM

Wolf Den 1 from Cub Scout Pack 542 at Rylander Elementary volunteered at the Katy Christian Ministries Resale Store on Mason Road. The boys and their families helped straighten out and reorganize the book store section of the shop.



Clayton Pappas, Clayton Becker, Andrew Welp

## Troop 925 Attends Merit Badge Day

Several boys from Troop 925 participated in the first Texas Skies District Merit Badge Day. This year's event was held at Holy Cross United Methodist Church in Katy, Texas. Life Scout Tommy Dante from Troop 925 assisted his father, Joe Dante, with the Home Repairs Merit Badge. Pictured is Tommy (far left) helping teach Danny Gaddis, Michael Iturria and Kory Johnson how to mend a broken hose. For more information on Boy Scouts and Troop 925, please contact ScoutMaster James Williams at 281-923-1651 or Asst.



## Scouts Renew with Katy Family YMCA

Cub Scout Pack 925, Boy Scout Pack 925 and Venture Crew 281 have renewed their charter with the Katy Family YMCA. Boy Scout Troop 925 now holds their regular meetings at the YMCA on Tuesday nights at 7:30PM. The Venture Crew also holds their meetings at the

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YMCA on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:30PM. All three organizations are looking forward to using the Day Camp facilities on Mason Rd. in the near future and making that location their permanent home. The Katy Family YMCA is located at 22807 Westheimer Parkway in Katy. For more information on Cub Scouting, please contact Debra Sosa-Lee at 281-650-1313 or Joe Dante at 281-395-3357. For more information about Boy Scouts, please contact James Williams at 281-923-1659 or Joe Dante at 281-395-3357. For more information about Venture Scouts, please contact Randy Robinson at 713-884-7920 or Joe Dante at 281-395-3357.

## Scout Fair 2008

Cub Scouts from Pack 545, chartered by JE Williams Elementary PTA, joined thousands of other Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, parents and visitors for Scout Fair. Pack 545 worked on activities at the Scout Fair such as Tornado bottles, magnets, and other items to help scouts earn the Science belt loop. The Scout Fair, sponsored by the Sam Houston Area Council Boy Scouts of America is the nation's largest, featuring 800 Scouting exhibits capitalizing on the theme "Race to Scouting".

Exhibits included demonstrations on pioneering, first aid, woodworking, sailing, computers, aviation, Indian Lore and other Scouting activities.

## Pack 548 Webelows Receive Arrow of Light

During the Blue & Gold Celebration held at Odessa Kilpatrick Elementary School, Pack 548 Webelows received their Arrow of Light during the crossing over ceremony. The ceremony was conducted by the Order of Arrow.



## SCOUTING NEWS

We love our boy and girl scouts. If you've got news to share, email [editor@katymagazine.com](mailto:editor@katymagazine.com)

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