

Latest Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for the Flour Bluff Community!

Friday, December 3, 2021 - Volume 2; Edition 17

Velma Soliz-Garcia, Superintendent

We are quickly wrapping up (no pun intended) the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year - nine days left for our students! Our Hornets are swarming all over the state of Texas, competing in academics and athletics! We are truly blessed to serve these young children who aspire for greatness! We are also blessed to have educators that devote a lot of time to these young scholars not only in the classroom but in co-curricular and extra-curricular events! We thank them for their service to our young Hornets! This edition of the Latest Buzz highlights many of our Hornets and their successes!

We hope to see you tonight at the Class 5A Region 4 Championship game!

Be safe & strong! Be committed! Bee a HORNET!

Join Flour Bluff ISD for our Tree Lighting and Santa Send Off!

On Monday, December 6th starting at 5:30 p.m., the Hornet Town Square will transform for the holidays! Flour Bluff ISD will partner with Nueces County ESD #2 and host its First Tree Lighting Ceremony to kick off the Annual ESD #2 Christmas Parade.

The tree will be lit for the holidays and stay up until the Christmas break. The Tree Lighting Ceremony was made possible by Grace Community Church, which donated the Hornet Town Square tree. There will be student performances by the High School Choir, the Band Booster Club will have hot cocoa and popcorn for sale, and student art will be on display.

Nueces County ESD #2 is in its 59th year of hosting the community Christmas Parade which kicks off several evenings of passing out gifts to our community. On Monday, December 6th, the Volunteer Fire Department will have their official Santa send-off starting at Hornet Town Square at 6:00 p.m.



Flour Bluff ISD students create our 2021 Holiday Card!

Before Thanksgiving, we launched our Hornet Holiday Card Contest and invited all students to enter!

Please help us congratulate our first place winner, 8th grader Bellatrix Garza and our second-place winner, 4th grader Khylynn Baxter!

The District will feature Bellatrix's card on the front of the 2021 Flour Bluff ISD holiday card. Khylynn's card will be posted on the District's website! What an excellent job all of our Hornets did who participated in this contest!



Superintendent's Listening and Learning Sessions Scheduled for Fall 2021

Superintendent Soliz-Garcia started the Listening and Learning Sessions during the Spring 2021 semester. The initiative will continue this school year as we share the state of the district and gather feedback from employees, parents, students, and community members. The following sessions have been confirmed:

Monday, December 6 - Jr. High Campus
 Tuesday, December 7 - Nutrition Department
 Wednesday, December 8 - Primary Campus
 Monday, December 13 - ECC Campus

Superintendent's Listening and Learning Sessions for parents and community members are listed below!

Wednesday, December 8 - Coffee Waves Flour Bluff @7:00-9:00AM
 Monday, December 13 - Flour Bluff ISD Athletic Classroom - 6:00-8:00 PM
 Thursday, December 16 - Island Joe's Coffee - 7:00-9:00 AM

Way to go Sports Information & Marketing Students!

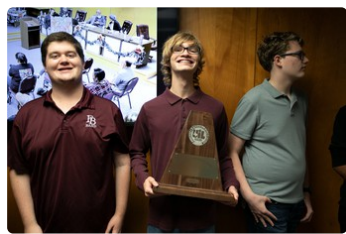
Congratulations, Sports Information & Marketing Class!

Flour Bluff ISD's own Sports Information & Marketing class was just featured in the *15th Annual Bragging Rights 2021-22* special issue of *Texas School Business* magazine. The magazine is now live online, and you can read and share it using the following link:

https://issuu.com/tasanet/docs/tsb_br_2021-22?fr=sMmJmMTE3ODM5MDk

December Board Meeting Recognizes Students and Supporters

Flour Bluff ISD's December board meeting was filled with many people to recognize! Our new Chief, Eric Gonzalez, was officially sworn in, U.S. Coast Guard- LTJG (Lieutenant Junior Grade) Jon Sheaffer represented the U.S. Coast Guard at the board meeting. He was also the aircraft commander (Pilot in command) for the High School football game flyover. The Junior High Choir was recognized for their Region Choir Contest for Junior High/Middle School. Our High School Marching Band was recognized for the students who advanced at District Band Tryouts and Meredith Gayanilo, who made it to the Region Orchestra group! The District also recognized and displayed our first-place holiday card design winner, 8th Grader Bellatrix Garza!



Flour Bluff ISD has been awarded Decodable Texts by the TCLAS Grant

Decodable Texts

Flour Bluff ISD has been awarded Decodable Texts per the Texas COVID Learning Acceleration Supports

(TCLAS) grant. Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st Grade teachers, interventionists, and special education teachers (at the ECC and Primary campuses) will each receive:

- Program Guide
- Lesson Manual (55 lessons)
- Flash Cards
- Music CD
- 53 Full Color Decodable Books
- Student Workbook
- Rewards (1 for each lesson)

- Program introduction videos/training modules for educators
- Virtual lessons for students
- Decodable book "read along" interactive videos for students
- And the ability to print lesson manuals, full color books, student activity book, and flashcards

These materials are expected to be delivered in the Spring of 2022. We look forward to adding these beneficial resources to our FBISD classrooms!



Safety and Security Update

The district safety and security committee met this Thursday, December 2. The School Committee is a working group of parents, teachers, local law enforcement, FBISD Board Members, and the Superintendent. This committee advises the district to help create and maintain a safe and secure school climate and culture for staff and students.

Cyber Safety for Parents

On December 9, 2021, Agent Heath Hardwick with Homeland Security will conduct a presentation on what parents need to know about Cyber Safety. The presentation will be at the Flour Bluff High School Teaching Theater on December 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. All parents are encouraged to attend. The Flour Bluff National Honor Society will watch all children in the high school cafeteria.

This event is a terrific opportunity for families to understand Cyber Safety and precautions.

Wake Up Wednesday is a hit with our students!

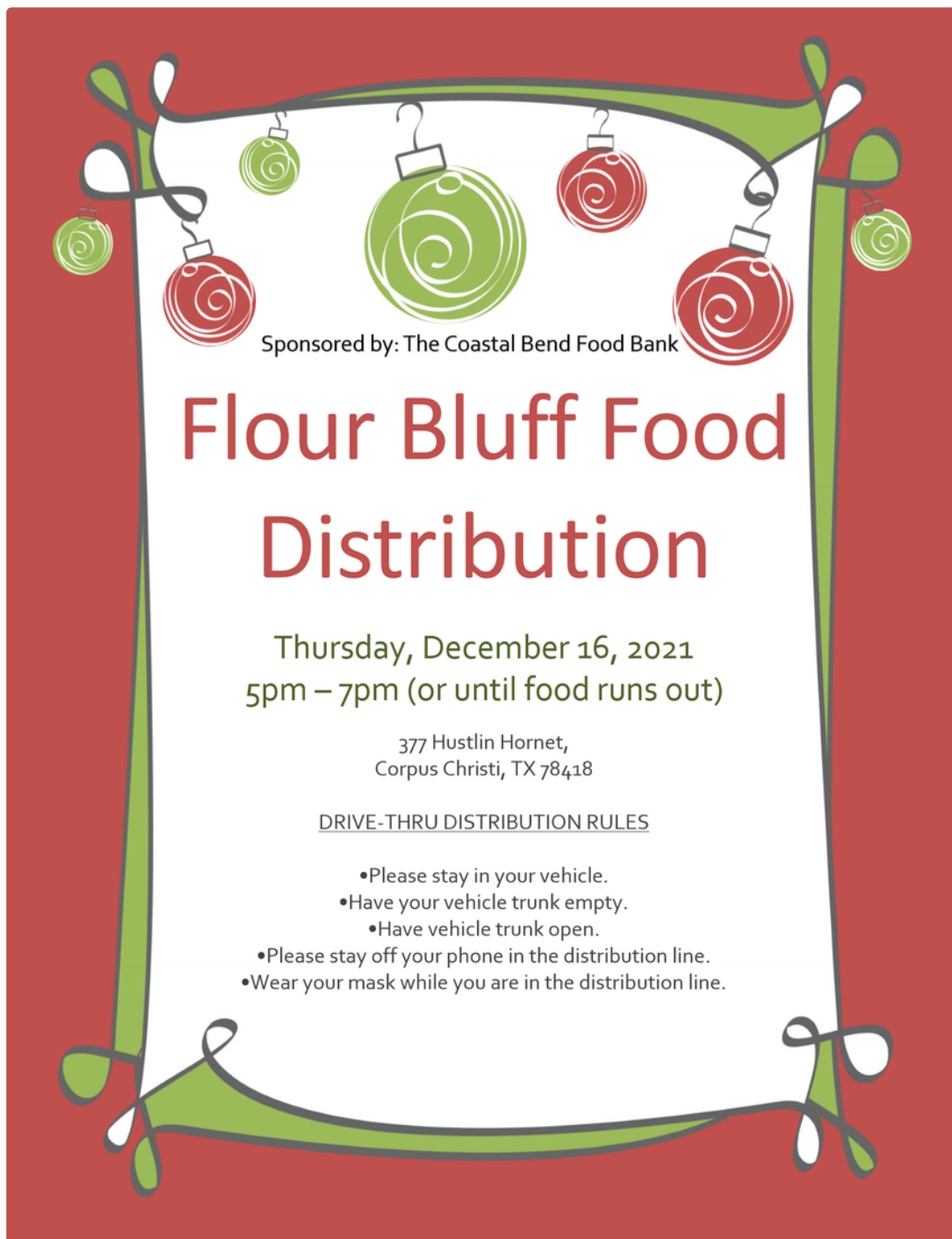
Free doughnuts and coffee were available for Wake-up Wednesday, which started today!!

The HS Student Leadership Team asked for help on behalf of all Seniors, and our counselors answered the call! Counselors were on hand to help students with FAFSA, College Applications, and Scholarships! We want to send a big thank you to coffee waves flour bluff for the delicious coffee this morning that helped make our morning great!



Flour Bluff Food Distribution

On Thursday, December 16th, Flour Bluff ISD will host a food distribution opportunity at 377 Hustlin Hornet. The event will be available until the food runs out. The Coastal Bend Food Bank sponsors this event!



Corpus Christi IceRays visit Flour Bluff ISD!

On Wednesday, December 1, 2021, players from the Corpus Christi Ice Rays made a special visit to the Intermediate Campus! They talked about how Class, Pride, and Heart have helped them succeed on and off the ice. Way to give back to the community, young men. Go Ice Rays!



Oceans Students head to the water for a kayaking field trip!

On November 30 and December 1, sixth-grade Oceans students went on kayaking field trips with Dr. Orbach from Texas A & M Corpus Christi, Captain Whitney of the Texas Floating Classroom, as well as parent volunteers. Students had a memorable educational experience. A huge thank you to everyone for helping make this event such a success!



Intermediate Campus welcomes Diana Lopez!

Friday, December 3, 2021, author Diana Lopez visited the Flour Bluff Intermediate campus! Mrs. Lopez has written multiple novels; two of those novels take place here in Corpus Christi, Texas. She shared her inspirational story on her journey to becoming an award-winning author with our students! What an honor it was to have Diana Lopez on campus today!



Great accomplishments from our students at the Hornet Learning Academy!

Flour Bluff Hornet Learning Academy will host the next graduation celebration on December 16 at 10:00 AM. We proudly celebrate Hailey Mullican and Ashton Whittaker as our next Hornet Learning Academy graduates.

Exciting news for January 2022! The Hornet Learning Academy will open a second classroom to accept 20 students for the AM session and 20 students for the PM session.

Assessment & Dyslexia Updates

Assessment Information

- FBISD Interim Testing is occurring throughout October, November, and December at all campuses; click on the following link for the Interim testing schedule: [FBISD Interim Testing Schedule](#)
- The upcoming December 2021 End-of-Course assessments will be online during the following dates:
 - December 7-17 for Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History
 - December 7 for English I
 - December 9 for English II
 - December 10 for Make-Up Sessions for English I & II
- This academic year will be the last year for the STAAR 1.0 assessment, meaning the current version of STAAR with all question types as multiple choice. The STAAR 2.0 assessments will begin with Spring 2023 assessments; 70% of question types will be multiple-choice, while the remaining questions will have new item types. See the [ead4ward assessment and accountability summary](#) for more information.
- Reading & Language Arts (RLA) Assessment Program Updates:
 - The 2021-2022 RLA Assessment updates for grades 3-8 can be found at the following link: [3-8 RLA Test Design Schematics Comparison](#).
 - Important changes for this year include:
 - Assess ONLY the 2017 reading standards for grades 3-8
 - Field Test 2017 reading and writing standards

- The state selected some of our students to take the STAAR 2.0 Field Test between February 7-18, 2022. These students include:
 - 3rd-5th grade Spanish Reading & Language Arts (RLA)
 - 6th grade Reading & Language Arts
 - 8th grade Math
- Additionally, a sample of FBISD 9-year-olds will be selected to participate in the NAEP Assessment on February 2, 2022. Parents can find more information regarding this assessment [here](#).
- House Bill (HB) 3261 requires state assessments to be administered online by the 2022-2023 school year. This transition will require nearly all students to be assessed online, except for students taking the STAAR Alternate 2 assessment and students who require accommodations that cannot be provided online. Beginning December 2022, all STAAR and EOC assessments will be 100% online. The technology department will be developing a plan to support campuses' needs for additional devices.
- House Bill 4545 - Students who do not perform satisfactorily on the Spring 2022 STAAR and EOC assessments will be required to receive 30 hours of accelerated instruction either during summer school or in the following school year.

Dyslexia Updates

On September 4, 2021, the State Board of Education (SBOE) gave final approval for updates to the Dyslexia Handbook. The updated Dyslexia Handbook will go into effect in the coming weeks (20 days after filing as adopted with the Texas Register). As of today, the updates have not been filed with the Texas Register; information will be provided to the district once this occurs. For now, we will continue following our current processes and procedures for dyslexia referrals and testing.

Once the Dyslexia Handbook updates go into effect, we will have new procedures for evaluation. In the updated handbook, the sections on evaluation for dyslexia and dysgraphia have moved to a single pathway for identification under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

This change means that anytime we suspect a student has dyslexia or a related disorder and may need dyslexia intervention services, we must seek parental consent for a Full Individual Initial Evaluation (FIIE) under the IDEA. We must seek informed parental consent under the IDEA and include proper prior written notice and be accompanied by the notice of procedural safeguards. The district must notify parents and guardians of the procedural protections and rights afforded to them and their children under the IDEA.

Using a single pathway to identify dyslexia and related disorders ensures we will fulfill our child's obligations under the IDEA. The FBISD Dyslexia Teachers will continue to help evaluate dyslexia in collaboration with our Diagnosticians and Licensed Specialists in School Psychology (LSSP) once the updates are filed with the Texas Register.

UPDATES FROM HORNET ATHLETICS

Sports Update: Go Hornets!

Athletic Accolades

- Hornet of the Week – Luke Ewing - <https://athletics.flourbluffschools.net/2021/11/27/hornet-of-the-week-luke-ewing/>
- Lady Hornet Basketball Team Undeclared in District
- Boys Basketball Starts District Tuesday

- Senior Linebacker and Team Captain Ben Escamilla was named 1440-Keys Student Athlete of the Week.

NEXT WEEK IN HORNET SPORTS

- Tuesday December 7
 - FBHS Girls Basketball @ Victoria East (9th/JV 5PM, V 6:30)
 - FBHS Boys Basketball Home to Victoria East (9th/JV 5PM, V 6:30)
- Wednesday - December 8
 - 7th Grade Boys Basketball Home to GP (A 5PM, B 6:15)
 - 8th Grade Boys Basketball At GP (A 5PM, B 6:15)
- Thursday - December 9
 - 8th Grade Girls Basketball Home to GP (A 5PM, B 6:15)
 - 7th Grade Girls Basketball At GP (A 5PM, B 5PM)
- Friday - December 10
 - FBHS Boys Varsity Basketball @ SA Reagan Tournament
 - FBHS Girls Basketball Home to GP (9th/JV 5PM, V 6:30)
 - FBHS Varsity Football State Semifinals
 - Radio Broadcast - 1230 AM, 95.1 FM (sportsradiocc on Tunein App)
- Saturday - December 11
 - FBHS Boys Soccer Scrimmage @ Hidalgo
 - FBHS Girls Soccer Home Scrimmage vs Boerne and Los Fresnos

[Click Here for More Athletic News](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

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The Flour Bluff ISD COVID-19 Testing Center reported from November 29 to December 3, they tested a total of 10 students and staff members at the FBISD Testing Center. The testing center reported no positive case during this time. As of December 2, we have 9 active cases in the district. The cases are all students.

[Click here for the latest COVID-19 case numbers and other district data.](#)

To keep up to date on the latest information surrounding COVID-19, visit

<https://flourbluffschoools.net/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>.

From <<https://flourbluffschooolsnet->

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UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17: Teacher Planning Day

December 20-31: Winter Break

January: School Board Recognition Month

January: National Mentoring Month

January 3: Teacher Prep Day

January 4: Teacher Planning Day
January 4: Special-Called Board Meeting
January 5: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period Begins
January 5: 4th Six Week Grading Period Begins
January 17: Martin Luther King Day
January 27: Board Meeting

FBISD Calendar of Events

Regular Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Thursday, Jan. 27th 2022 at 6pm

Where

Central Office, Board Room

Special Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Tuesday, Dec. 14th, 6pm

Where

Central Office, Board Room



CONTACT INFO


 Facebook

 @FlourBluffISD

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need clarification on any items presented in the weekly publication of the Latest Buzz. Board, faculty, staff, and parents can reach me at 361.438.0160.

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