

# Latest Buzz

Weekly Superintendent Update for the Flour Bluff Community!

Friday, November 19, 2021 - Volume 2; Edition 16

## Gratitude & Thankfulness - Velma Soliz-Garcia, Superintendent

The month of November usually serves as a time for us to reflect on the people in our lives and all things we are grateful for, a time of gratitude and thanksgiving. I can't think of any other place I'd rather live or work than in Flour Bluff because of the young people we serve, the colleagues we are blessed to work alongside to meet our vision and mission, and our community that is so supportive of all that we do!

As you read this edition of the Latest Buzz, you will see why I feel the way I do - our Hornet community is fantastic! I hope you each have a wonderful Thanksgiving Break surrounded by family and friends. The following Gratitude Acrostic Poem best describes the members of our Hornet community!

### Gratitude

Graceful and Grounded  
Respectful and Resourceful  
Attentive and Assertive  
Timely and Triumphant  
Insightful and Invigorating  
Unconditional and Understanding  
Dedicated and Driven  
Empowering and Exceptional  
-Author Unknown

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

## Calling all Student artists! Help Flour Bluff ISD create our Holiday Card!

Flour Bluff ISD is so excited to announce our 1st annual Holiday Card Design Contest! Students in Pre-K - 12th grade are welcome to participate in designing a great holiday card. All cards must be turned in to the student's teacher by 3:00 p.m. on November 29th.

The District will select one design, and the first-place winner will be featured on the front of the 2021 Flour Bluff ISD holiday card! The second-place winner will be featured on the District's website.

We have so many talented students here, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful artwork sent in! Good luck, Hornets! 🐝

**CONTEST OVERVIEW**

Flour Bluff ISD is excited to announce the 1st **Annual Holiday Card Design Contest**. Students in grades PreK - 12th are encouraged to participate. All cards must be turned in to the student's teacher by 3:00 p.m. on November 29, 2021.

One design will be selected as the 1st place winner and will be featured on the front of the 2021 Flour Bluff ISD holiday card. The 2nd place winner will be posted on the District's website. The card will be sent to local businesses, community leaders, and Flour Bluff ISD employees.

**CONTEST GUIDELINES**

- The design must be 8"x10" or 5"x7" and on white paper or cardstock.
- Must include both "Flour Bluff ISD" & "Together We Can...Inspire.Foster.Empower."
- The FB or Hornet must be included in the card design
- Artwork must be horizontal
- Artwork must be original or hand-drawn
- No glitter or stick-on embellishments
- Use crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, or markers
- The student's name, teacher, and grade must be clearly written on the back of the card in pencil

**Together We Can...**  
INSPIRE.FOSTER.EMPOWER.

**DEADLINE NOV. 29**

**FLOUR BLUFF ISD**  
FLOURBLUFFSCHOOLS.NET

## 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:

Tuesday, November 16 - Elementary Campus  
 Monday, November 29 - Intermediate Campus  
 Tuesday, November 30 - SDGC Campus  
 Wednesday, December 1 - High School Campus  
 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 will be held during December. Dates will be announced soon!

## Congratulations to our Flour Bluff Junior High Academic Team!

Last Saturday, the Flour Bluff Junior High Academic Team traveled to Mission, Texas, to compete against 18 other schools in UIL and TMSA events. Although they did not compete in any speaking events, our Hornets won the 7th and 8th-grade Sweepstakes and overall sweepstakes by nearly doubling the second-place team's score. It was quite the afternoon as they also won 66 out of 80 top ten in the Math and Science events. They swept the top 10 in 7th grade Number Sense and won 7 individual 1st places. Our Hornets did terrific; please give them a high five if you see them!



## Flour Bluff ISD Takes the Ocean Program to the water!

Flour Bluff ISD's Stephanie Huckabee received funding for the Texas Floating Classroom field trip for the Flour Bluff High School Aquatic Science students! This grant was awarded through the Department of Oceanography at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Texas Floating Classroom introduces students to aquatic science in a fun and memorable way aboard an actual boat. Initially commissioned by the Nature Conservancy, the Research Vessel Archimedes was built in Seadrift, Texas, by Haynie Boat Works. She is currently the largest Haynie boat in Texas, with a capacity of 30 passengers plus crew. She is 37' long, 13' wide, and composed of fireproof fiberglass. Her spacious cabin accommodates an entire class on cushioned benches, allowing authentic learning to take place in a "floating classroom" environment. Her upper deck is accessible to passengers and is a favorite spot for students to watch for dolphins and observe the deployment and retrieval of the trawl net and other scientific sampling devices. She is equipped with a full complement of scientific equipment for accurate observation of the marine environment and collection of specimens for onboard study, including plankton nets, microscopes, a ponar dredge, sieves, a Secchi disk, Dissolved Oxygen and temperature meters, refractometers, water quality test kits, and much more. A Scientific Collection Permit, issued by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, allows teachers to take specimens back to the classroom for further study.



## Students and staff are practicing Safety and Security Procedures

This month Flour Bluff campuses have been focusing on performing Secure drills.

Secure is called when there is something dangerous outside of the building. Students and staff are brought into the building and the outside doors will be locked. The school will display the Building is Secured Poster on entry doors or nearby windows. Inside, it will be business as usual.



### **SECURE! (Lockout)** **Get inside. Lock outside doors.**

#### **STUDENTS**

Return to inside of building  
Do business as usual

#### **ADULTS**

Bring everyone indoors  
Lock outside doors  
Increase situational awareness  
Account for students and adults  
Do business as usual

## Junior High Leadership Ambassadors Council thank our wonderful cafeteria staff!

The Junior High Leadership Ambassadors Council recently spent their morning serving our wonderful ladies who work in the cafeteria. The students thought it would be nice to reverse roles and show their appreciation by serving them lunch. We are so proud of our Hornets and the kindness and respect that they offer our staff!



## Wake Up Wednesday's created to help our students!

Mrs. Medley, Coach Elwood, and Mrs. Smith met with their High School Leadership Team recently. At this meeting, students expressed that Seniors are feeling overwhelmed with completing their FAFSA, Scholarships and College Applications. Our Solution... Wake Up Wednesdays!

<https://youtu.be/wZRIYjn-QnM>

You got this seniors, We believe in you!



## Intermediate school begins pre-athletic intermural basketball games!

Last Saturday, November 13, 2021 The Intermediate began the Pre-Athletic Intermural basketball games. This is a first for our district, making way for an earlier start to our already amazing Flour Bluff athletic programs. Thank you to the high school boys and girls basketball programs for helping make this such a huge success.



## Intermediate Junior Master Naturalists are helping to clean up our planet!

The Intermediate Junior Master Naturalists are helping reduce the amount of single-use plastic on the campus. Every morning breakfast is delivered to classrooms in single-use plastic bags. After four days of collecting, just look at how much waste was kept from the environment and landfill! Students and faculty will recycle some plastic bags, and students will use other bags for art projects.



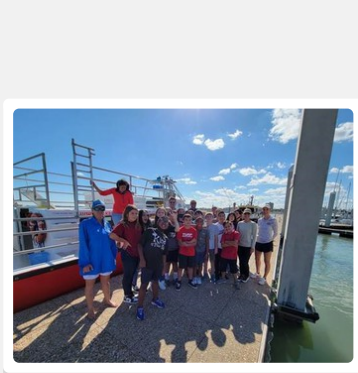
## Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night helps Flour Bluff Special Olympics Program!

Flour Bluff Intermediate recently hosted Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night, with all of the proceeds benefiting the Flour Bluff Special Olympics program. On Wednesday, November 17, a check for over \$600.00 was presented to the President of the Flour Bluff Special Olympics organization. From all of us here at Flour Bluff ISD, we want to thank everyone who helped make our Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night such a huge success!



## Intermediate Ocean's 6th grade class take to the water to learn first hand!

On November 15th & 16th, Ms. Katie Doyle and her Intermediate Ocean's 6th-grade students boarded the Texas Floating Classroom. Texas A & M-Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) Professor Dr. Dara Orbach, the TAMUCC media team members, and members of the American Cetacean Society provided lessons and hands-on learning materials to share with students. A special thank you to the Frazier family and Texas A & M -Corpus Christi for sponsoring this fantastic event.



## Elementary and Primary give thanks and celebrate with friends

Our Elementary and Primary kiddos had their own little Thanksgiving celebrations this week! From sharing their arts and crafts to sharing what they are thankful for this year, it was a real treat for our



## Flour Bluff Students help to give the gift of life!

Earlier this week, Flour Bluff High School hosted a blood drive. Many of our Hornets took time out of their day to stop by and donate. We want to thank the Coastal Bend Blood Center for coming out and helping our students to give the gift of life!



## Assessment 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 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
    - Assess the 2017 reading AND writing standards for EOC English I & II

- Some of our students were selected by the state 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. More information regarding this assessment can be found [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, with the exceptions of 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.



## TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS NEWS

Hello TACS schools!

Here are our notes from yesterday and 2/3 of today's SBOE meetings. You can also find the full agenda below as well. Our notes from yesterday's meeting are abbreviated as we also attended the Friends of Texas Public Schools event yesterday. We will continue to take notes throughout the week on the Board's meetings.

- [Full SBOE Agenda](#)
- [SBOE Committee of the Full Board Notes: November 17, 2021](#)
- [Committee on Instruction Notes: November 18, 2021](#)
- [Committee on School Initiatives Notes: November 18, 2021](#)

## Congratulations Miss Veith who receives Grant by TMEA!

The TMEA (Texas Music Educators Association) Executive Board approved up to \$800,000 in grants to benefit elementary music programs across the state. This grant program is a benefit offered exclusively to active TMEA members who teach elementary music.

Funds must be used by elementary music teachers (PK-5) to purchase music, music equipment, instruments, instructional software, and other music educational materials for use during this school year. We are excited to announce that FBISD had a grant accepted!

Marti Veith, one of our intermediate campus music teachers, will be receiving about \$900.00 of materials for the Intermediate K I and K II Music program. Congratulations, Miss Veith!

## UPDATES FROM HORNET ATHLETICS

# Sports Update: Go Hornets!

## Accolades

- Swimming hosting big TISCA Meet this weekend
- Football in playoffs
- Senior Punter Cade Dowd was nominated as a finalist for Special Teams National Player of the Week by Kohl's Kicking.
- Volleyball ended the season with a 34-6 record and a Regional Semifinalist for the fourth week in a row.

## Next Week

- Monday, November 22
  - HS Girls Basketball Home to Aransas Pass (JV 11:00 am, 12:30 pm)
- Tuesday, November 23
  - HS Girls Basketball Home to Laredo United South (JV 2:15 pm, Varsity 1:00 pm)
  - HS Boys Basketball Home to Laredo United South (Varsity 2:15 pm)
- Friday, November 26
  - Football Playoff Round 3 - Regional Semifinals

Click Here for More Athletic News

## COVID-19 UPDATE

### COVID-19 Update

The Flour Bluff ISD COVID-19 Testing Center reported from November 15 to November 17; they tested a total of 16 students and staff members at the FBISD Testing Center. The testing center reported no positive case during this time. As of November 17, we have a total of 1 active cases in the district. The 1 positive case is a student.

[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/>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break

December 2: Board Meeting

December 16: Hornet Learning Academy Graduation Celebration

## FBISD Calendar of Events

### Regular Meeting of the Flour Bluff ISD Board of Trustees

When

Thursday, Dec. 2nd, 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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