

*Superintendent Monica Simmons'*  
**November Newsletter**

November 30, 2022

Dear Jacket Community,

Welcome back from the Thanksgiving break! I hope each of you had a relaxing Thanksgiving week and enjoyed time with friends and family. It's hard to believe that we are now counting down to the end of the semester. We have just 15 days remaining, and I am looking forward to making every day count.

Over the next three weeks, we will all be facing different levels of stress: studying for semester exams, planning holiday gatherings, preparing for sporting events, and more. Amid the hustle and bustle, I want to encourage each of you to slow down and enjoy the moment. There are lots of incredible things taking place all over our district and we are fortunate to be able to share those things with you.

On Thursday, November 17, EFISD hosted our annual Thanksgiving Lunch and it was a huge success. This was the first time since Covid that we have been able to host this event and we would like to thank all the parents and community members for supporting this event. The food service department worked hard preparing a wonderful Thanksgiving Feast and we are thankful it was well attended.



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I am excited to announce that I have met with several of the local pastors in the community and that they will be partnering with EFISD on several events and activities.

Additionally, on each campus Student Ambassadors have been selected. They will represent their grade levels and will meet with me throughout the school year to discuss ways we can improve our schools and community.

The student ambassadors are:

**Elementary:**  
**3rd Grade - Hunter Malmay and Paris Marshall**  
**4th Grade - Jeremiah Thompson and Hannah Myre**  
**5th Grade - Brandon Leffall and Molly Nicks**

**Middle School:**  
**6th Grade - Addie Gowan and Cooper Guthrie**  
**7th Grade - Brannon Bueton**  
**8th Grade - Athena Green and Caden Farmer**

**High School:**  
**9th Grade - Amaya Benefield and KP Klingensmith**  
**10th Grade - Samara Daughtery and Athan Walton**  
**11th Grade - Talan Crain and Yzzy Brown**  
**12th Grade - Alton Simmons and Kyleigh Griffin**

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At the board meetings on November 17, we canvassed the election votes for the board of trustees and swore in new officers. Incumbent Julie Simmons kept her place and we welcomed two new board members Kimberly Baugh and Lynn Calhoun.

***We say thank you to ALL of our board members for the work they do.***

The board has recently adopted a new mission statement and vision statement for EFISD.

**EFISD Vision:** Preparing students today for success tomorrow.

**EFISD Mission:** The mission of the Elysian Fields ISD is to educate, engage, and empower all students in a safe and positive learning environment to discover and reach their greatest potential.

Additionally, the EFISD Board adopted student outcome goals at the last regular meeting for the 2022-2023 academic year with an emphasis in three areas: literacy, numeracy, and CCMR. Goals are set for a period of five years and reviewed annually for progress. These goals inform decisions around the work of the district. Regular updates are provided during board meetings and workshops.

***EFISD Board Members***

**Julie Simmons - President**  
**Ashley Caudle - Vice President**  
**Brad Ellis - Secretary**  
**Kimberly Baugh**  
**Lynn Calhoun**  
**Bradley Lewis**  
**Sean Swank**

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**We also have a few exciting school recognitions and victories of note:**

November 5th - UIL Math and Calculator teams both got 2nd as a team Saturday at Carthage's Invitational Meet! Keely Goelden placed 4th in Calculator and 6th in Math.

Calculator Team: Keely Goelden, Talan Crain, David Hutson

Math Team: Keely Goelden, Talan Crain, Jax Parker

The kids did well and we were missing some of our top kids who were at state cross country! They beat Tatum as a team; they are our primary competition at district!



From L to R: David Hutson, Talan Crain, Keely Golden, Jax Parker

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The journalism team attended JaM Day on Friday, November 5 once again this year. The half-day event, sponsored by the Department of New Media, Journalism, and Communication Arts, offers a great roster of challenging writing, reporting, on-air and online competitions as well as panel discussions to high school students from three parishes and Texas.

The following are results for Elysian Fields students:

**Media Writing:**

Cora Creech- 1st

Katelyn Anderson- 2nd

**Radio Broadcast:**

Jaicey Rich- 3rd

**Pre-Submission Media Writing:**

Cora Creech- 1st

Carmen Lawless- 2nd

Katelyn Anderson- 3rd

**Social Media Competition:**

Carson Davis- 3rd

**1st Place Newspaper!**



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## *Students of the Month:*

Case Hopkins and Mackenzie Young (Elementary)



Natalia Womack and Cooper Guthrie (Middle School)



Elizabeth Hutson and LeBron Simmons (High School)



## *Teachers & Jackets of the Month:*

Brianna Jones, Chad Commander, Vickie Thomas, Taylor Thomas, Donna Lovelace



Kindergarten recognized Community Service Worker week.



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The elementary held the Walk Across Texas Pep Rally on November 16. It was a huge success. Only Grades 4 and 5 participated in logging the miles they walked. Grade 4 won the competition!



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The volleyball team lost to White Oak in a playoff game on November 1. They played hard, but lost in three games. It was a good season for them. Senior player Kyleigh Griffin was named athlete of the week following the game. Her stats from the game included 14 Points, 2 Assists, 3 Rebounds, and 2 Steals. This was her career high in points!



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Senior Teresea Hall competed in the Region 4 UIL Twirling Competition on Saturday, November 6. She scored a 1 and is now State Bound!



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The High School hosted FAFSA Night on November 15. The Army, TSTC, Navy, Kilgore, ETBU and Panola College shared information about their programs.

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Vickie Thomas and the High School gifted and talented students hosted a Veteran's Day program on November 11 to recognize the veterans in our community and employed by our district.



***We send congratulations to all of the students who participated in these accomplishments, and we are proud of them.***

The district has a few big events coming up. On November 5, the Elementary School will host a Family Christmas Night 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. There will be an opportunity for students to have their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus, decorate cookies, hear Christmas read a-louds, and so much more. This event is for the entire family. Please come and join the fun.



## Breakfast with Santa

"EFHS Junior Class Fundraiser"

*Picture with SANTA*

Location: EFHS Cafeteria
Date: December 10 <sup>th</sup>
Time: 4 PM - 7:30 PM
Adults: \$7 Kids: \$5
Donations are welcomed!
Ugly Sweater Contest
Gingerbread Decorating Contest <small>(Please decorate at home and bring to the event for judging)</small>
Christmas BINGO
Prizes will be awarded for each!
Breakfast Burritos
Pancakes and Sausage
Orange Juice/Water
Hot Chocolate

On Saturday, December 10 the Junior Class students will be hosting Breakfast with Santa. It is a Junior Class Fundraiser. It will be in the High School Cafeteria 4:00 pm-7:30 pm. Donations are welcomed. Breakfast will be provided, pictures will be taken with Santa, and there will be several games for the kids. Please come out and support these students.

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The Jacket Nation Scholar Foundation's 12th annual \$5,000 Dinner and Silent Auction is being held on Monday, February 27, 2023 at Bear Creek Smokehouse. All funds raised from the event will be used to provide each graduating Senior planning to attend college or a technical school with a \$500 scholarship. All students that sell tickets will be eligible to have their name drawn for a second scholarship, and one lucky student will win an additional \$500. Tickets are \$100 each. The ticket is for 2 dinners at the banquet and the chance to win \$5,000. Random numbers are drawn throughout the night and the last number drawn is the winner of the \$5,000. Tickets may be purchased from any of the seniors or at the High School office.

I am grateful for the patience and cooperation everyone has demonstrated this semester! Happy Holidays and Season Greetings!

With Jacket Pride,

*Monica Simmons*  
EFISD Superintendent

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 2: AG Department to present the Southwest Mobile Dairy Class & Special Education Day
- December 3: Marshall Christmas Parade at 6:00 pm
- December 5: Elementary Family Christmas Night 5:00 - 7:00 & Band Field Trip to Longview to play at nursing homes
- December 6: Middle School Academic UIL Meet in Tatum Day 1
- December 7: Progress Reports issued
- December 8: Middle School Academic UIL Meet in Tatum Day 2 & Kindergarten Christmas Program at 9:30 in the Cafeteria
- December 9: First Grade Field Trip to Piney Park and High School All Region Auditions
- December 10: Junior Class Fundraiser "Breakfast with Santa" 4:00 - 7:30
- December 12: Regular Board Meeting at 6:00
- December 15: Christmas Band Conert at 6:00, Third Grade Field Trip to see The Nutcracker Ballet Performance, and Pre-K Field Trip
- December 16 - Kindergarten Grinch Day & Middle School Read-a-Thon Movie Trip
- December 19: First Grade Polar Express Day & Middle School Incentive Day
- December 20: Kindergarten Polar Express Day
- December 21: Elementary Christmas Parties & Early Release Day
- Christmas Break: December 22 - January 4
- January 5: Students return to school

### ***A special message from Mrs. Jana Sims:***

**I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for how our entire school and community came together to send off the Cross Country team to Regionals in style.**

**The following individuals are credited with the planning and execution of the joyous XC send off: Mrs. Lorie Lewis and her Cheerleading Squad, Mr. Chaye Massey, Mrs. Krystal Woodley, Ms. Shannon Canton, Mrs. Taylor Thomas, Coach Justin Crow, Mr. Ron Vereb & Transportation, Mr. Heath Cox & the EF Volunteer Fire Department, Mrs. Darlene Willie and the entire Culinary Arts class.**

**Likewise, I was most pleasantly surprised to see our Lil' Jackets in front of the Elementary School for the send-off. Individuals helping arrange this display of support were Mrs. Nikki Cox, Mrs. Debra Kassaw, Mrs. Lorie Lewis, Mrs. Connie Massey, Mrs. Sara Crow and Mrs. Donna Lovelace.**

**All season long the following parents have financially supported our training efforts with endless water and sports drinks: Mr. & Mrs. Heath Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Brad Simms, and Mr. & Mrs. Travis O'Brien.**

**Lastly, Mrs. Heather O'Brien generously blessed our Cross Country seniors with lovely gift baskets for Senior Night.**

**I am sincerely touched with all the love and support from our school and community and I knew you would love to know about this level of goodness in our hometown.**

**I am so very thankful for our Jacket Family!**

Sincerely,

*Jana Sims*