



# SCHOOL BELL TIMES

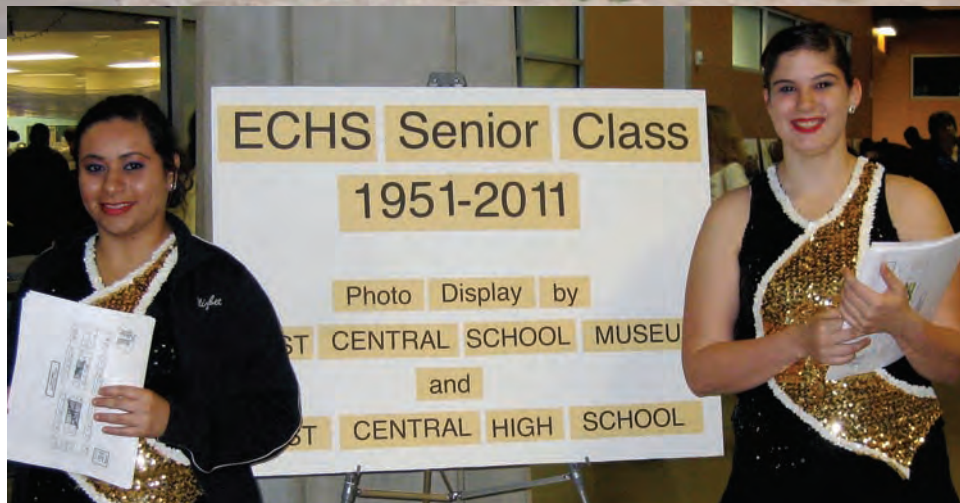
A quarterly news magazine since 1982 for residents of the East Central Independent School District

Spring 2011

## Ribbon-cutting celebrates newly rebuilt ECHS and 60th Anniversary

The East Central ISD community celebrated its newly-rebuilt East Central High School on March 28 with a ribbon cutting in the new outdoor amphitheater. Included in the activities were tours of the campus, student musical and dance performances, and a photo show of every ECHS class since the school's beginning in 1951.

Superintendent Gary Patterson and Board President Steve Bryant congratulated ECISD Project Manager Richard Rapstine, ECISD Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Finance Jim Selby, architects O'neil Conrad Oppelt (OCO) and General Contractor Bartlett Cocke for completing the project on time and under budget. Likewise, staff and students of the school were congratulated and thanked for their understanding and cooperation over the two-year project as daily classes continued alongside the demolition and construction.



Photos by Marguerite Lowak and Terri Real

A Tradition of  
Quality Education



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# School Board and Awards



## Message from Steve Bryant, President, Board of Trustees

The District recently experienced two great events within a one week time period. On Monday, March 28th, we dedicated the new high school academic complex. What an inspiring place to go to school! As I walked through the campus, I was amazed over and over again with the natural lighting, the size of the library, the appearance of the remodeled cafeteria and the way our architectural firm tied the entire campus together. Moving from the main building to the cafeteria or the gym or the career and technology building was easy and seamless. This project encompassed much more than the construction of a new building. Two-by-fours and paint alone do not create an exceptional educational complex where students excel in academic and extracurricular endeavors. The inclusion of the staff in the design, as well as the care with which our partners, OCO Architects and Bartlett Cocke Construction, were selected, helped to make this a successful project.

We still have funds remaining from the bond program that will be spent at the high school. In future issues of The School Bell Times, we will detail the additional work that has been completed over and above the original scope of the project. I believe that the community will be very pleased with the additional value delivered.

On Saturday, April 2nd, the East Central School Foundation held another very successful fundraiser. We very much appreciate the efforts of everyone associated with this event. The Directors of the Foundation and all of the volunteers did a wonderful job in the organization of this event. If you were unable to attend, please mark April 14, 2012 on your calendar for next year and plan for an evening of great fun.

The District continues to anticipate the final numbers for our 2011-2012 funding. Our administration has done an exceptional job of keeping staff and community informed as the news continues to filter out of Austin. We should all reflect on this the next time we are preparing for an election, and be more careful in selecting those individuals who are supposed to REPRESENT us in Austin and Washington, D.C. The Board of Trustees continues to remain steadfast in our resolve to have as little an impact as possible in the classroom.