

**BARNES, FAITH**

4-21-17

**To:** LARGENT, JAMES  
**Subject:** RE: Supt Weekly 4/21/17

On Apr 21, 2017, at 6:32 AM, LARGENT, JAMES <[JAMES.LARGENT@granburyisd.org](mailto:JAMES.LARGENT@granburyisd.org)> wrote:

Good Morning GISD,

- We had a special guest in GISD yesterday as **Hall of Fame QB Roger Staubach** visited GHS to visit in person with over a **hundred of our students** and many hundreds more via web conferencing. I was very impressed with our students as **they listened intently** to what he had to say, **asked great questions**, and **represented GISD very well**. As a person who grew up in the "**Staubach era**" it was a real honor for me to get to meet and visit with one of my childhood heroes. He was friendly, gracious, and just what you would expect (and hope) he would be. What an honor. And, for those wondering **why we didn't publicize this event**, we were under **strict orders from the NFL and the Pro Football Hall of Fame** not to do so. They wanted this to be a student event, not an adult/media event. Thanks to **Amy Wood and her staff**, and our **administrators** at all campuses for working behind the scenes with the Hall of Fame to make this happen.
- Our **administrator PLC** traveled to **AMS** this week to tour the **Outdoor Learning Center**. We had a great visit, saw AMS students working with elementary students, and got to witness the great interaction going on between our students from different grade levels. Thanks to **AMS for making this happen** and for the **students and staff who were involved**.
- Our **GHS Bands** had a **sweepstakes week** as we were rated Superior at the regional contest. Our band has quite a run of sweepstakes awards and always represent us very well at these contests. Congrats!
- Our **softball team** is in the playoffs after finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in district play. Congrats to **Coach Jayjohn, her staff**, and our players for their outstanding year and we look forward to the playoffs!
- Last night, we had our **employee banquet** where we recognized **years of service and employees of the year**. Thanks to **Wes Jones and our HR department** for putting on a great banquet. With their planning, we had an "**Academy Awards night**" with student entertainment, some good laughs,

and great food. It is always great to see employees **who have been in GISD for many years** being recognized, and to see employees **chosen by their peers as truly outstanding**. Congrats to all!

**Legislative Update:**

In a preliminary vote, **the House approved Rep. Dan Huberty's bill to inject \$1.6 billion into public schools and simplify complicated funding formulas**. Legislators must still take a final vote on the bill and the Senate and House will come together in a conference committee to come up with a compromise finance bill, as the Senate and House versions are very different. The House bill **increases the basic allotment, addresses transportation issues, offers new weights for students' with dyslexia and provides hardship grants** to districts affected by the ASATR (GISD is one of those districts affected). The bill **passed 134-16. Representative Lang was one of 16 representatives to vote against this bill.**

**The Senate, approved SB 640** this week by a vote of **23-8**. This bill would allow children who are **home-schooled to participate in UIL activities** at public schools. Essentially, a home school student could show up at GISD and decide they want to be in our band or play athletics or do other UIL activities, but otherwise not attend our schools. They would not have any attendance requirements, no-pass-no play would not affect them, but we would allow them to show up and pick the activities they would like to take part in. **Groups associated with public schools are opposed to this measure** for the reasons I just stated. I have said this many times; I have **no problem with people who choose to home school their children or send them to private school**. That is their choice and I fully support that choice. But, **when they make that choice, they also make the choice to participate in private and home school activities**. I don't believe you should be able to choose the parts of our school you want to be a part of, but stay home for the parts you don't like. **Senator Birdwell was one of 23 Senators who supported this bill.**

**Emails this week:**

**From Oak Woods:** On behalf of **Oak Woods 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers**, we would like to give **AMS a huge shout-out** for a wonderful day at the **AMS Outdoor Learning Center**. Your AMS students were very friendly and knowledgeable as we made our way through each **hands-on outdoor station**.

Thank you so much for having the day well-organized and fun. It was an experience that will likely make a lasting impression on our students. We would love to plan a visit each spring as a year-end review for STAAR Science.

**From a Community Member:** I wanted to say how wonderful and refreshing it was to see the effort being made to teach children the **importance of agriculture in our state**. What a great opportunity for our youth to have hands on experience in farming and ranching. I love the cooperation between **Baccus Elementary and the high school Ag Department**. What a great way to use resources we already have and volunteers from our community. A shout out to **Mrs. Davis at Baccus and Mrs. Overstreet from GHS** for their wonderful event.

**From Mambrino:** I just wanted to say a BIG thank you to **Officer Jones** for coming to hang out with first grade. The kids loved having him join us in our Easter egg hunt. They enjoyed showing him our new chicks. It **brightens the kids day when he stops in to say hi and see what they are learning**. Thank you for allowing him to hang out with First grade and make those **positive connections with our students**.

**From Emma:** I want to offer a huge **shout out and "thank you"** to **Stan Ore and the Technology Department** for taking care of our technology needs at Emma Roberson this week! Specifically, thank you for fixing my printer and for the work you did to make sure that my kids' learning and home practice opportunities with technology are optimized, realistic, and tailored to the specific needs of my specialized class. I appreciate the **problem solving, creativity, and proactivity GISD's Technology Department possesses!**

**From AMS:** Special thanks to **Bobby Ellingson and Britney Sparks** and the **GCA crew** for helping prepare for the **GISD employee banquet** last night. Great job!

From **Rich Teaching**, there are **two types of engagement**. The first is for **maintaining student energy**. You can modify any activity that seems too easy or too hard. Remember **you are the weather-maker in your classroom**. If you **sell the activity with enthusiasm** and have rapport with students, they'll give it a try. The other strategy is to **manage stress with de-stressors**. Too much and too little stress is ineffective for learning. Once you become more purposeful about **maintaining healthy student states and managing stress**, you'll have more time in your classroom because you'll spend **less time re-teaching and more time celebrating the learning**.

I hope you all have a great weekend and **GO PIRATES!!**

JL

**Dr. James M. Largent**

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