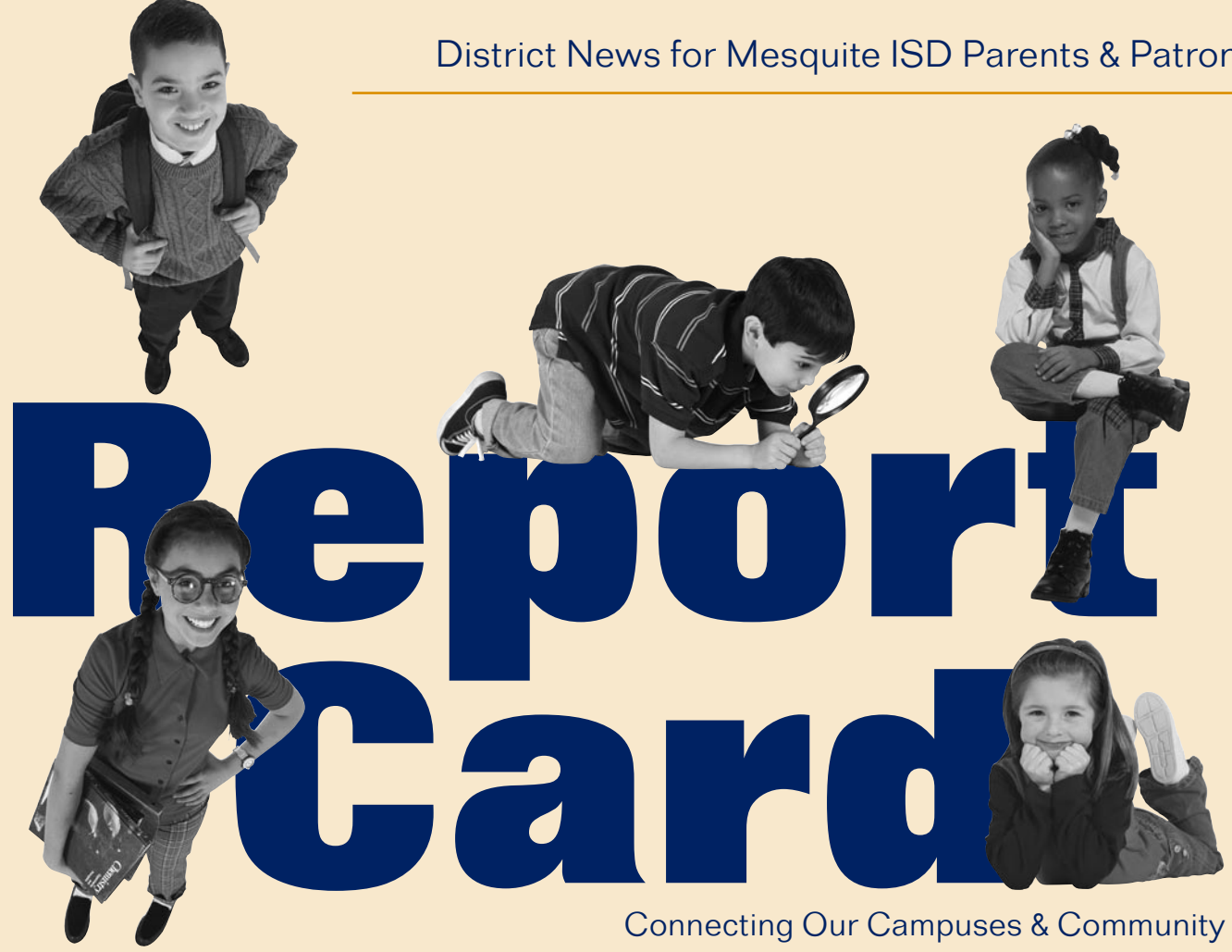




**in this issue**

- Bulletin Board** ..... 2  
See what's happening around the district.
- School Days** ..... 3  
Clip and save this condensed version of the 2005-2006 school calendar.
- Paying for Meals Online** ..... 4  
Make a note of the new Web address and the new features.



# Report Card

Connecting Our Campuses & Community

## Terry to Leave Legacy of Service and Leadership

Effective June 30, an exemplary 42-year career in public education will officially come to an end when **Dr. James Terry** steps down from Mesquite ISD's top post. Throughout his career, Terry has earned the respect and admiration of those in the district, the community and across the state.

Although he began his career in Beaumont ISD and taught for two years in Dallas ISD, Mesquite is where Terry's heart lies. He came to Mesquite ISD in 1967 as a math teacher and advanced to a variety of administrative positions within the district before becoming superintendent in 2001. When asked what he is most proud of in his career, Terry's focus remains on the district he has called home for the past 38 years.

"Seeing Mesquite go from a one-high-school town to a large suburban district while continuing to provide a quality education for its students has been an extremely rewarding experience," he says. "When I look back at my career, I am most proud to be associated with so many dedicated and talented employees who have worked in Mesquite ISD."

Mesquite ISD Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Linda Henrie** — who will succeed Terry effective July 1 — has strong praise for the leader she has worked alongside for 14 years.

"One of his primary goals has always been to recognize classroom teachers through the highest possible salaries and benefits that we could possibly provide," says Henrie. "He has a sincere and strong belief that our district's tradition of success and

the accomplishments we've attained are the direct result of the people we have in place here."

When Terry took on the role of superintendent in 2001, one of his first actions was to personally visit all the district's campuses — totaling 42 at the time — to share his focus and plans for the upcoming school year. Terry spent three consecutive days speaking to and meeting the administrators and staff of every campus. He shared the message that under his leadership, children would be "at the heart of every decision."

According to Mesquite ISD Board President **Gary Bingham**, it's Terry's rapport with staff members that sets him apart as a leader.

"Dr. Terry truly exemplifies the servant leader," Bingham says. "He is always conscientious to do the right thing in every situation, and he is able to relate to the classroom teacher in a remarkable way. He really is the 'teacher's superintendent.'"

Dr. Terry's recent focus has been to inform the community about the importance of school finance reform. In January 2003, he launched an aggressive local campaign to explain the current school finance system's limitations and challenges from Mesquite ISD's property-poor perspective. He and members of the Board and administrative team gave more than 40 presentations to local community organizations, civic groups and school



PTAs. They emphasized the need for the state legislature to provide more funding for public education in a way that is equitable for all Texas students.

Terry says, "Finding the resources to meet the ongoing needs of our students continues to be the greatest challenge for public education in Texas."

Terry and his wife, Fran, have two children and four grandchildren. They plan to continue living in the Mesquite area.



Following the announcement of his upcoming retirement, Mesquite ISD Superintendent **Dr. James Terry** gets a standing ovation from members of the Board, all of whom had high praise for his service to the district.

### Acceleration Testing Scheduled for Summer

Acceleration testing is for academically strong students whose test scores can verify that they have the knowledge of content and skills to skip a course or grade level not previously taken.

#### Elementary School Testing

Wednesday, June 1, 2005, &  
Thursday, June 2, 2005

Rugel Elementary

Kindergarten: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Grades 1 - 6: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Applications** for students who wish to be tested will be available April 13, 2005, from counselors at each elementary campus; they must be returned to the school counselor by May 4, 2005.

#### Middle School & High School Testing

Thursday, June 2, 2005

NMHS Library

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

High school students must bring photo identification with them to the test site.

**Applications** for students who wish to be tested will be available April 19, 2005, from counselors at each middle school and high school campus; they must be returned to the school counselor by May 7, 2005.

Students who order a test but do not take it will be charged for the cost of the test.

For more information, call Administrative Officer for Curriculum **Glenda Heil** at (972) 882-7441.

### Career Highlights

- MISD Superintendent 2001-2005
- Golden Deeds for Education Award, 2004
- Chairman of the UIL Legislative Council, 2001
- Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Administrator of the Year, 1999
- President, Mesquite Education Association 1976-77
- District Chairman, Boy Scouts of America
- Leadership Mesquite Graduate
- Advisory Committee, State School Board
- Region X Legislative Committee, Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)

# BULLETIN BOARD

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month in January, and on behalf of the 35,000 Mesquite ISD students, **NMHS Student Council President Allison Miller** thanked the Board members for their dedicated service.



Members of the **Vanston Middle School W.O.W. (Women of the World)** club prepare for their fashion show. The show raised money for the club's "Change the World" scholarship.



Young authors from **Moss Elementary** held a special tea to celebrate the publishing of their books.

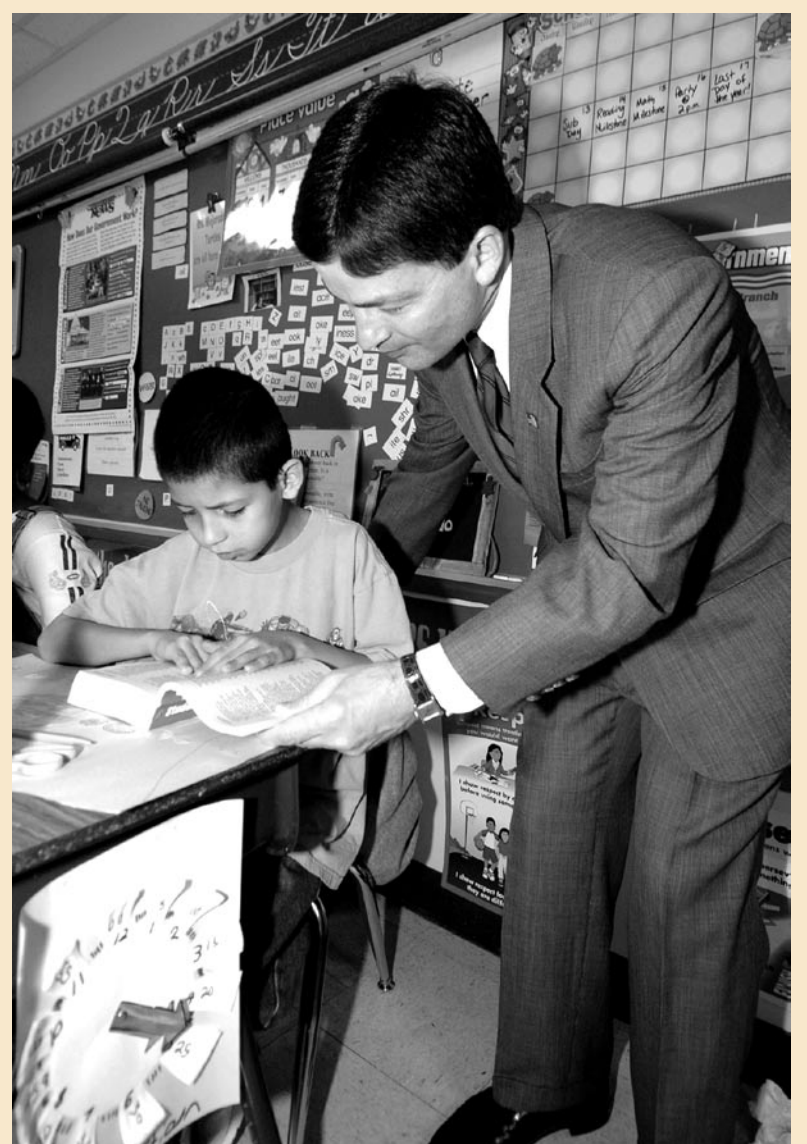


Mesquite ISD sought the opinions of community members regarding the possibility of adopting a standard dress policy. Patrons spoke directly with Board members and administrators during the three Parent and Community Input Meetings held in January.



As part of their 20th Century America studies, students at **McDonald Middle School** presented highlights from each decade.

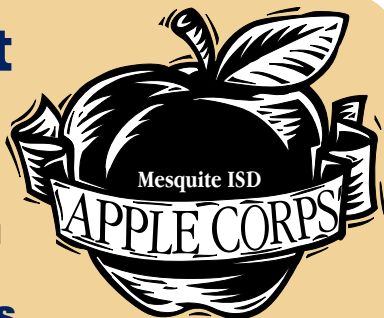
Congressman **Jeb Hensarling** presented students at **Galloway Elementary School** with dictionaries to help in their classroom studies.



Storytellers of Texas President **Jerry Young** gives Quest students some pointers on how to create a family tale.

# Mesquite ISD's Newest Apple Corps Members

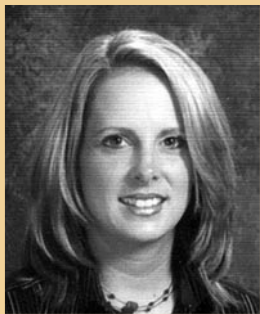
Apple Corps Teachers are nominated by their peers, approved by their principal and administration and inducted by the Board of Trustees.



## DECEMBER'S INDUCTEES



**Hamrick**  
Hodges Elementary



**Massey**  
Austin Elementary



**Pennington**  
New Middle



**Reynolds**  
Beasley Elementary

**Donola Porter Hamrick** teaches fifth grade at Hodges Elementary and has served in that role for the past 14 years. She says she decided to become a teacher because she wanted to feel that she had accomplished something every day. Donola explains: "I enjoy the opportunity to be a part of my students' lives. I also enjoy seeing the progress and growth they make and their enthusiasm for learning." She believes that teachers should be encouragers who give their students the tools and skills necessary to continue their education throughout their lives.

As a third-grade teacher at Austin Elementary, **Sheryl Massey** says she can't imagine anything more rewarding than being a part of helping a child to have a successful future. She says: "I let my class know my high expectations the first day of school. Children will rise to those expectations if they know someone believes in them." In the future, Sheryl would like to continue learning new, innovative ways to help children have a deeper level of thinking. She adds, "I'm excited about seeing former students become the problem solvers of tomorrow."

**Amie Pennington** became a teacher to feel that her everyday work would make a positive impact on others. Now in her eighth year in Mesquite ISD, she teaches sixth grade at A.C. New Middle School. She says, "What I enjoy most are the times when students are so involved that they don't even realize how much they are learning." She believes her job is to be sure every student has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. For the future, Amie says, "I would like to continue to work with new teachers and those working toward their certification to help pass on the passion for teaching."

**Kathy Reynolds** teaches sixth-grade at Beasley Elementary. This is her 15th year at Beasley and her 24th year in education. Kathy says, "My job is to sell kids on education—in other words, help them to buy into their future." She enjoys seeing her students get excited about learning new things. Kathy says, "I feel that my students are a gift I am given for a year, and my job is to enhance this wonderful present." She says that all the people involved in making Beasley a success and giving 110 percent simply add to her desire to give her all to the students.

## JANUARY'S INDUCTEES



**Borden**  
Rutherford Elementary



**Rayson**  
NMHS



**Schulgen**  
Cannaday Elementary



**Weeks**  
McDonald Middle

**Michelle Borden** is a product of Mesquite ISD, and this is her 15th year to teach at Rutherford Elementary. This sixth-grade teacher enjoys influencing her students to become what they aspire to be. Michelle says: "I want my classroom to be a motivating place that my students look forward to coming to every day. My job is to be an encourager and let every student know that he or she can." According to Michelle, her goal is to continuously create and learn new ideologies and teaching techniques to use in her classroom and to share with others.

**Misty M. Rayson** teaches a variety of computer classes at North Mesquite High School. This is her eighth year in education. When asked what she enjoys most about teaching, Misty uses the letters in the word "students" to explain: Seeing Teenagers Understand, Develop, Engage, Navigate, Think and Succeed. The technology teacher in her says, "I enjoy impacting students' lives 'one byte' at a time." Her teaching philosophy involves being a good leader. Misty explains, "In order to be a good leader, you must lead by example, show compassion, and lead from within the group—not from the front."

**Susan Schulgen** is a second-grade teacher at Cannaday Elementary. This is her 10th year to teach, but Susan admits she originally planned to be a pediatric physical therapist. She says: "When I began working with the children at Easter Seals, I realized that the children were what I enjoyed, not the therapy! So I changed my major to education." According to Susan, most of all she enjoys watching the children learn and discover things. She explains: "I enjoy seeing their eyes light up when they have discovered something new. It's the best!"

This is **Russ Weeks'** seventh year in education and at McDonald Middle School, where he teaches English and creative writing. Russ says, "I became a teacher because I wanted to show young people that reading and writing are essential life skills that can add meaning to our lives and provide ways of expressing ourselves that no other skill can." He enjoys hearing a thought, a response or an idea from a student or a group discussion between students. Russ adds, "I love learning, and I hope my students learn as much from me as I learn from them."



### Athletes Honored for Academics

The Texas High School Coaches Association named the following senior football players to this year's Academic All-State Team: **Cody Copeland, PHS; James Foster, NMHS; Brock Hesse, PHS; Jonathan Mallard, WMHS; Lekorie Pearson, WMHS; Chris Valladolid, NMHS; and Ryan Witherspoon, NMHS.**

### Students Selected for All-State Band

The following students were selected for All-State Band honors: **Jared Akins, PHS; Ryan Arvo, PHS; Amanda Davies, PHS; Scott Grant, PHS; Jimmy Peebles, PHS; Michael Scott, NMHS; and Matthew Woolly, NMHS.**

### Students Selected for All-State Treble Choir

The following students were selected for All-State Treble Choir honors: **Linda Lopez, WMHS; Caitlin Pickett, MHS.**

### Students Selected for All-State Orchestra

**Matthew Jones, PHS**, was selected for All-State Orchestra honors.

### District Spelling Bee Winners

- Grand Champion: **Andrew Ashmore, Kimbrough**
- 2nd Place: **Joseph Simmons, Rugel**
- 3rd Place: **Claudia Martinez, Berry**
- 4th Place: **Eddie Medrano, Price**
- 5th Place: **Brandon Summers, Tosch**

### Students Selected for All-State Orchestra

The People to People Student Ambassador Program selected **Sarah McGough, Vanston**, for the organization's trip to Europe this summer. The program provides opportunities for students to explore domestic and foreign destinations, learning about the history, government, economy and culture of the areas they visit.



### Important School Dates

- Aug. 15 ..... First Day of School
- Aug. 23 ..... M.S. Open House/Meet the Teacher Night; Early Release (Middle School Only)
- Aug. 25 ..... Elem. Open House/Meet the Teacher Night; Early Release (Elementary Only)
- Aug. 29 ..... H.S. Open House/Meet the Teacher Night; Early Release (High School Only)
- Sept. 12 ..... Teacher Staff Development
- Sept. 28 ..... Curricular Planning; Early Release (all students)
- Oct. 24 ..... Teacher Staff Development
- Dec. 20 ..... Early Release (all students)
- Jan. 4 ..... Teacher Preparation Day
- Feb. 3 ..... Teacher Staff Development
- Feb. 15 ..... Curricular Planning; Early Release (all students)
- March 6-10 ..... Texas Public Schools Week
- May 11 ..... Employee Recognition; Early Release (all students)
- May 25 ..... Last Day of School; Early Release (all students)
- May 26 ..... Teacher Preparation Day

### Holidays

- Sept. 5 ..... Labor Day
- Oct. 3 ..... Fair Day
- Nov. 23-25 ..... Thanksgiving Holidays
- Dec. 21-Jan. 3 ..... Winter Break
- Jan. 16 ..... Martin Luther King Holiday
- March 13-17 ..... Spring Break
- April 14 ..... Holiday/Snow Day
- April 28 ..... Holiday/Snow Day

### State Assessment Dates

- Feb. 21, April 4, April 18-21 ..... TAKS and/or SDAAI

Dates in BLUE are student holidays.

# Why Not Check Out MISD Community Ed?

Use it or lose it!

The day is wasted if someone hasn't learned something new.

We have all heard these sayings or perhaps even had these thoughts ourselves. MISD Community Education extends to all individuals the opportunities that education can bring. Our classes are open to everyone. Through MISD Community Education programs, adults and children learn new skills, develop hobbies, and have interesting social interactions. Our classes are fun, educational, and support "the lifelong learning experience!"

MISD Community Education began during the 1992-93 school year with 12 classes. It has continued to grow and expand. More than 200 classes are now offered in a classroom setting or online.

MISD Community Education is a self-supporting program within the school district, and funds are used to pay instructors, provide classroom supplies and publish the catalog. In addition, MISD Community Education proudly supports several community service projects.

The current catalog offers a variety of classes in job skill enhancement, art, music, computer, languages and parenting, as well as many other topics. Children's classes include after-school camps in art and music as well as other fun classes in cooking, magic, cheerleading and athletics.

To request a copy of our current catalog, call (972) 88-CLASS or log on to our Web site at [www.communityedclasses.org](http://www.communityedclasses.org).

## PAMS Lunchroom: New Web Address, More Features for Parents

PAMS Lunchroom, the online company that allows parents to make electronic deposits to their child's school meal account, has changed its Web address. The new address is [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com).

Parents who use [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com) can also view an itemized listing of their child's purchases by date.

The minimum required payment has also changed from \$25 per student to **\$25 per family**.

This service allows parents to set up automatic payment plans, view account balances and history, receive automatic notification on balance status and more. It's available for all Mesquite ISD students and campuses. Log on today to see all the features and conveniences of this online service.

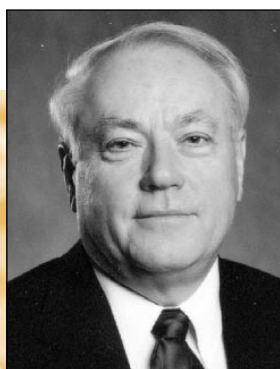
## Gold Performance Acknowledgements Give Schools Added Recognition

Twenty-eight Mesquite ISD campuses earned one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgements in December from the Texas Education Agency. The GPAs are measures of high performance created by the Texas Legislature or the commissioner of education.

"The Texas Legislature in 2001 created the Gold Performance Acknowledgement to publicly recognize districts and campuses for high performance in areas that are in addition to those used to determine state accountability ratings," Commissioner of Education Shirley J. Neeley said.

"The Gold Performance Acknowledgements give schools an extra pat on the back. We are proud of the schools and districts that are being recognized ... because they represent schools with strong instructional programs that go beyond the basics," Neeley said.

The following Mesquite ISD campuses received one or more GPAs: **Austin, Beasley, Berry, Florence Black, Cannaday, Floyd, Galloway, Gentry, JHHS, Kimball, Kimbrough, Lawrence, McKenzie, MHS, Motley, NMHS, Pirrung, Porter, PHS, Price, Range, Rugel, Rutherford, Shaw, Smith, Tosch, Vanston, and Wilkinson.**



### From the Desk of James Terry, Ed.D., Superintendent

## Time for TAKS

It's that time again — time for TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills). We've already completed the first round of testing; the next round will come in April. TAKS time is a difficult time for students

and teachers. There is a lot of pressure on both groups to perform and meet the state's expectations. In addition, the state continues to raise the standard for our students to meet. The test is rigorous at every grade level, and every day of preparation in the classroom is important.

TAKS is high-stakes testing, and some students have additional stress. For instance, third-grade students must pass the reading TAKS to advance to fourth grade. Beginning this year, fifth-grade students must pass the reading and math sections of the TAKS to go on to sixth grade. Finally, our 11th-grade students must pass the Exit-Level TAKS in English/

language arts, math, science and history before they can graduate.

As a parent, you can feel assured that our teachers are doing everything they can to prepare every student for the TAKS. As the state requires, our curriculum is aligned with the test, so our teachers are teaching the information and skills that students are expected to know and have.

So if teachers and students are doing their best, what can you do? There are several ways you can help your child to do his or her best on the TAKS.

**1. Be aware of the testing dates.** These are shown on our school calendar. Be sure your child is well rested and

has a good breakfast on test days. Avoid absences if at all possible.

**2. Encourage your child.** Because of the high expectations placed on them, students may be worried about taking the test. Help them to focus on doing their best without drawing attention to any negative consequences.

**3. Stay in contact with your child's teachers.** TAKS preparation is a year-long process. Find out which areas your child may be having trouble with. Ask what you can do to help him or her along. When students get support at school and at home, they're more likely to be successful in every aspect of their education.



Answers are just a click away.

Visit [www.mesquiteisd.org](http://www.mesquiteisd.org)

- School Locator
  - Enrollment Information
  - Links to Campus Web Sites
  - Employment Opportunities
  - School Calendar
  - Student Handbooks
  - TEA District & Campus Reports
  - Lunch Menus
  - Student and Campus News
- and much, much more!**

# Report Card

Vol. XVIII • Number 4 • February/March 2005

Report Card is published bimonthly by the Mesquite ISD Communications Department under the direction of the superintendent. Its purpose is to inform Mesquite ISD patrons about district programs, student accomplishments and other school-related information. Some postal patrons not served by Mesquite ISD receive this newsletter as a result of postal routes crossing over district lines. In an effort to save taxpayer money, Mesquite ISD uses bulk mail to deliver this newsletter to an entire postal carrier route. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for those who do not wish to receive this publication.

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