

Tom Bean Middle School

≈ TEA Recognized Campus ≈



Succeeding Together...Whatever it Takes!



From the Desk of Mr. Smith...

Sept 2011

Parent Portal

**See your child's grades and attendance!
Very user friendly! Get your code from
the front office!**

Dear Parents/Guardians:
Welcome to another fun and exciting school year at TBMS! On behalf of the administration, teachers and staff, I would like to thank everyone for a smooth start to the school year. Our students have responded well to the beginning of the year transition. Our classrooms are full of engaging and high-level lessons—students are eagerly working to meet the rigorous academic standards that are provided.
TBMS continues to rate among the best middle schools both in Texas and nationally. It is among an academically elite group of schools as very few public middle schools in Texas receive a distinguished *GreatSchools* Rating of "Nine" (out of 10) for the 2011-2012 school year as well as an award of a "Perfect 10" from *GreatSchools* for the 2010-2011 year. *GreatSchools* is a national school rating service which provides information on school performance and can be reviewed by visiting the site: www.greatschools.org. The sustained high level of academic performance is a direct result

of the excellent work of our dedicated staff, students and community—thanks to everyone for making our middle school a *Great School!*
There are a few changes this year. We have added a portable building which added two classrooms. This will prevent our 6th grade students from having to travel across to the high school. We have added two new staff members to our team: Mrs. Reagan Wilson comes to us from Celina High School where she taught Spanish. She is teaching 7th grade Math and Pre-Algebra. Mr. Wes Chapman is teaching our 6th/7th grade Social Studies, PE and coaching our boys' athletics. Please help me in welcoming these two excellent additions to our staff! Also, we have installed a new AC unit in the gym for a more efficient cooling solution.

To keep you informed, we post this newsletter, the events matrix, and many other middle school events on our website: www.tombean-isd.org.

We thank you for your support and encourage you to stay in communication with our staff regarding your child's education.

Dewitt Smith, Principal
TEA Recognized Campus

Aim for Success is an educational organization that promotes the development of **self control, self respect, and self discipline**. Through live presentations, students are encouraged to develop strong, responsible character as they deal with sexual pressure. Students learn the wisdom of avoiding sexual activity until marriage. Parents are inspired to raise responsible children who know their choices have consequences.
Abstinence = Freedom to Succeed!

Upcoming Events:

- 9/12: Aim for Success Parent Night
- 9/13: Aim for Success Program
- 9/14: Progress Reports
- 9/15: FB Collinsville; TIE UP the Pirates
- 9/17: CC—Sherman Fun Fest
- 9/19: PTO Meeting-Library; VB Whitewright
- 9/22: FB Pottsboro; COLOR the Cardinals
- 9/23: Bully Prevention Seminar
- 9/24: CC-Pottsboro
- 9/26: VB S&S
- 10/1: CC-Celina
- 10/3: VB-Callisburg
- 10/5: Early Release; Report Cards
- 10/6: FB Gunter; Pep Rally; TEAR UP the Tigers
- 10/8: CC Denison
- 10/10: VB Pottsboro
- 10/13: FB Whitewright; Pep Rally; WIPE OUT WW
- 10/14: RADIOS Program
- 10/17: VB Gunter
- 10/20: FB S&S; SWEEP S&S
- 10/21: VB District Tourney; District Pep Rally
- 10/24: CC Pottsboro
- 10/25: Pictures Re-Take
- 10/26: Progress Reports
- 10/27: FB Bells; Pep Rally; POUNCE on the Panthers
- 10/29: Fall Festival
- 11/3: FB Leonard
- 11/4: Math Moves You-6th Gr
- 11/5: SADD Car & Bike Show

**Student planners—
Check it out, parents!**

PTO Meeting
MS Library -
9/19 3:30



Language Arts
Mrs. Stone's Reading 6th grade students are being introduced to poetry.

Mrs. Harrelson's 6th grade students are learning about subjects and predicates as well as different types of sentences. They are looking forward to a great year!!!

Mrs. Bannister's 7th grade students are reviewing capital letters and will begin editing with commas and punctuation. They will be writing critically and putting their new skills to work.

Mrs. Cummings's 7th grade Reading students have been working hard studying the best way to communicate. They began with a study of poetry. Students have been learning the different types of poetry and meanings and purposes of figurative language. They are learning to read below the surface to determine what the poet is trying to say, but more importantly, how to support their answers with evidence from the text.

This six weeks, it is reader's choice on books from the Library. Students are allowed to choose any book they want to read and take an AR test over the book. Just a reminder: 7th graders are required to read two books every six weeks and take a test over them. The first AR test was due September 7. Please help your child schedule time to read their library books. Independent reading practice helps your child develop comprehension skills and reading fluency. Your help is appreciated. I have really enjoyed meeting your children and look forward to a great school year.



TUTORING AVAILABLE!

Tutorial Schedule (Any = Any day with notice)

TEACHER	MON	TUES	WED	THURS
Bannister	Any			
Cummings	7:15	7:15	7:15	7:15
Hale	At HS-Any			
Harrelson	Any			
LeDane		Break	Break	Break
Minzenmayer	3:30		7:15	3:30
Owens		7:25	Break	Break
Rhodes	Any			
Roegner	3:30			
Smith	7:25		7:25	7:25
Stone			7:20	7:20
Weed	3:30		3:30	
White	7:25			7:25
Yates	Any			

Technology Applications

Ms. Yates's 8th grade students have learned the standards in proofreading, and have sharpened their eyes to catch even the slightest mistake! Internet safety has been an issue that has made them much more aware of what they do online! They are bringing baby pictures to school to scan and create their own life-story video with music. Next up is to make a Halloween movie—scary or not—to show their classmates and lower classmen.

Mrs. LeDane's 8th graders are learning genre and about to start on their own memoirs. Pictures brought to class have also been used for Technology class.

iOlé! from Finney and Bohannon

Spanish I students have been working on learning the Spanish alphabet and how to correctly pronounce words in Spanish. They will begin working on computers in the Spanish lab this week! Our goal is to have our students speaking more in the target language at the end of the year.

LIBRARY

The MS Library staff welcomes everyone back for a great year! Our annual Fall Book Fair will run Oct. 10–14. We will be open from 7:30–4. Parents are welcome to come in and browse—please check in at the office first. Just a reminder to students: textbooks need to be covered at all times. The library provides paper book covers or you may use nylon. Covering our books is required by the State to eliminate damage throughout the year.

Creative Writing

Mrs. Bannister's Creative Writing students are writing fantasy stories and cartoon strips.

ART

Mrs. Harrelson's Art students are looking forward to many interesting fall projects. They are currently working on making pencil holders. Projects in the near future include a pumpkin decorating contest, spirit sacks for the football team, and many other exciting projects.

A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others. **Ayn Rand**



Musical Notes

The Mighty Tom Cat Middle School Bands have been hard at work so far this year and we are very excited about the music we will be making! All beginning students have been learning their notes and rhythms and will soon be jumping on the instruments (not actually jumping on them)! The 7th/8th grade Advanced Band has been gearing up for the first pep rally. With such a great year behind them, they are moving so fast and sounding so great...be sure and come out and support our football team, cheerleaders, and band as they get pumped up for 2011! See you there!

Go Tom Cat Bands!

HISTORICAL MOMENTS

Coach Chapman's 6th grade Social Studies students were assigned a state to research which included labeling physical boundaries, political boundaries, climate, and a choice of either drawing the state flag, or stating a random fact about that state.

Mrs. Stone's 6th grade Social Studies students are studying North America.

Mrs. McAdoo's 7th grade History students are learning about the geography of Texas and creating power point presentations over Sept 11.

Mrs. Owens's 8th grade American History students are beginning the new year discovering why exploration in the 15th and 16th century is relevant to our lives today. Just around the corner we will be settling new colonies in North America.

Z A P !
Zeroes Aren't Permitted!



Science Discoveries

Mr. Boykin's 6th graders reviewed lab safety rules and enjoyed the Dancing Raisin Lab. They are studying physical and chemical properties, as well as categorizing, and measuring density and mass with a graduated cylinder and triple beam balance. The **7th graders** have completed lab safety rules, a Coke lab then will study energy flow in the environment.

Mrs. Roegner's 7th and 8th graders have successfully passed the safety test. They have been reviewing basic process skills that help establish accuracy when labs are conducted.

The **7th graders** will be working on how energy flows through systems such as photosynthesis and food chains. The **8th graders** will be working on their chemistry unit with the first part covering atomic structure and knowing how famous scientists worked on various atomic models.

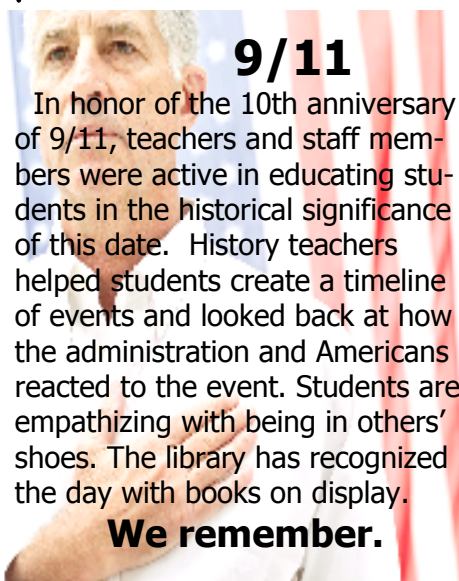
Learning Lab

Ms. Smith reports she is having an exciting time working in the Learning Lab this year. Students are from all grade levels and she enjoys each and every one of them. They are working on the four fundamental operations of arithmetic. Science is a subject they are studying as well. Students are working really hard!

9/11

In honor of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, teachers and staff members were active in educating students in the historical significance of this date. History teachers helped students create a timeline of events and looked back at how the administration and Americans reacted to the event. Students are empathizing with being in others' shoes. The library has recognized the day with books on display.

We remember.



Math Moves Us!

The **8th grade Algebra** class in **Mrs. Minzenmayer's** room have been studying functions, independent/dependent variables and domain and range. They will be working on functions for a while, but will also be reviewing basic skills like adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing integers. **Pre-Algebra** students have been reviewing rational numbers. They will also be working on scientific notation, algebraic expressions, order of operations, and squares/square roots.

Ms. Wilson's 7th Grade students are learning how to compare and order fractions, decimals, percents, squares, and square roots. They are beginning to learn about addition and subtraction of integers.

Mrs. White's 6th grade students have been working on decimal, fraction and percent conversions.

Sept Student/Teacher of the Month

Cheyenne Worley



Mrs. Harrelson

Ms. Rhodes

6th Grade LA - The 6th graders are learning about subjects and predicates and what it takes to write a complete sentence.

8th Grade LA - The 8th grade students are learning about the different genres in literature and will write their own memoir. They will soon begin a short story unit.

6th Grade Math - We are learning how to find equivalent fractions, decimals and percents.

GO TOM CATS!

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SADD Club Activities

Students are completing applications to join SADD and are starting the year off by repainting the paws on the parking lot. They have begun creating a paper friendship chain representing lives brought together within this school—we don't want to lose anyone thereby breaking the chain. A trip to the animal shelter has been discussed. Officers will be voted into place soon, and SADD members will be looking for community service projects in which to participate. Red Ribbon Week and Breast Cancer Awareness are two activities coming up in October. Students will be able to dress up according to days chosen by SADD members. Parents are needed as volunteers to help with activities such as our annual classic car show on Nov. 5 in Whitewright. See Ms. Yates for more details. Meetings are during break on Thursdays in Ms. Yates's room.

GO SADD CATS!

TEEN LEADERSHIP CLASS

We have started our year with the importance of organizational skills. After we get "organized" we will be sharing more about ourselves and how we can interact positively with one another.

Computer Character

While social networking sites can increase your circle of friends, they also can increase your exposure to people with less-than-friendly intentions. Here are some things you can do to socialize more safely online:

- **PROFILE PICTURE**—Is there anything about your picture that could get you in trouble? Remember, this picture will be public! And once shared, you can't take them back.
- **ACCOUNT SETTINGS**—Go through each option slowly and ask yourself—what is on my profile and who can see it?
- **INFORMATION/ABOUT ME**—What are you sharing about yourself? Delete anything that could be too much information, like where you live or go to school. Don't post a picture in a school shirt.
- **COMMENTS/WALL**—Delete any inappropriate comments, and don't forget to be careful what you post on others' pages.
- **ADS/APPS**—If you click on these or add them to your profile, you're allowing companies access to your personal information.
- **FRIENDS/CONTACTS**—This may include people you only know online. Go through each one and decide if you want to give them access.
- **PHOTOS/ALBUMS**—What kinds of pictures are you sharing? Who can see them?

—Netsmartz

PARENTS, PLEASE LOOK AT WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING ONLINE!!

SADD: provides a mission...

...to help young people say NO.

It's time to join!

Parents, help is needed!