Parents, teachers, family, friends and the 2008 senior class of Hillsboro High School gathered on Friday, June 6, 2008, in the high school auditorium to celebrate 12 memorable years of challenge, growth and success.

The hour-long, student led graduation ceremony opened with a prayer by Jade Hennig. Dr. David Priddy, Hillsboro High School Principal, offered a warm welcome to all in attendance followed by the salutatorian address by Katherine (Kate) Blair and the valedictorian address by Luciana Mosca.

“All the hard work has paid off and now we have something tangible to show for it,” said Blair. Starting her academic days in pre-school with HISD, her favorite experiences centered around cheerleading. “Summer camp always united us as a team,” said Blair. “I loved the excitement and adrenaline of football games and the unity between the players, crowd and cheerleaders.”

Blair carried her competitive nature into her academic studies. “I often pushed myself more than my parents.” As class salutatorian, that drive has paid off. “It was hard work getting here, but it was worth it,” stated Mosca. Mosca’s amiable personality enabled him to make friends easily. “I’m excited about the road ahead. But throughout my school years in Hillsboro I really enjoyed meeting new people, making new friends and growing up together,” he reflected. “Graduation is bitter-sweet as I say goodbye to many wonderful people and look ahead to new friends and adventures.”

Mosca participated in the ACE program at Hill College where he took college classes during his junior and senior years and earned his associates degree at the same time he earned his high school diploma. “I made a lot of sacrifices, like giving up soccer and other things, but focusing on academics was the best decision I could have made. I’m glad I did it.”

Mosca looks forward to attending the University of Chicago and majoring in chemistry. His advice to underclassmen is simple: “Stay focused. Hard work always pays off.”

Following heartfelt speeches from Mosca and Blair, the Optimist Club presented recognition awards to these two students in honor of their academic accomplishments. Trenton Sanders, HISD junior, paid tribute to the class of 2008 by playing the school alma mater, and Leslie Hewitt initiated the official turning of the tassels. The ceremony closed with a benediction by Amy Jackson.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**
New HISD Board Member Jamie Siddons

HISD announces the appointment of Jamie Siddons to the district’s 2008-09 board of trustees. She has served as PTO president for Hillsboro Intermediate School and a member of the Ellis/Hill Board of Realtors, the Sesame Club and the Lions Club. Siddons attended Clark High School in San Antonio and earned a marketing degree from Texas State University in San Marcos.

She is married to Bill Siddons III and has a 12-year-old daughter, Shelby. The family attends First United Methodist Church. Siddons was born in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and lived in several cities in the state before moving to Texas, Florida and then back to Texas. She has lived in Hillsboro since 1989 and is a real estate agent.

Bobby Walker Completes Eight Years As Board Trustee

HISD expresses appreciation to Bobby Walker as he completes his service to the district’s Board of Trustees. His first term began in 2000, and since that time he has been proud to see the district gain financial strength and improved student performance.

“I have especially enjoyed working with the HISD staff. They are a quality group of people,” said Walker. “I’ve also enjoyed seeing the district improve and grow and provide a great place for our kids to get a quality education.”

Walker is a store manager for Tipton International. He has worked for the company since 1980. He has been married to his wife, Pat, for 29 years, and is the father of two HISD graduates - Matthew, 24, and Benjamin, 21. Walker and his wife are also graduates of the district.

Teen Forum Helps Students Choose College

For the fourth year in a row, the Teen Forum at Hill College is helping students learn how they can move past challenges and follow their dream of attending college.

Teachers nominated 40 students for possible attendance at this year’s event. Candidates worked to meet stringent criteria including attending all forum meetings, submitting required paperwork by the deadline, completing a poll of their peers, and exhibiting consistent good behavior.

This year 12 proud students met the standards and attended the April 22 forum which was held on the same day as the Hill College Spring Fling. Students began their day with an outdoor BBQ and firsthand view of the festivities. They then moved to the Bob Bullock meeting room where teens shared their questions and their peers’ questions with Hill College staff who offered information on financial aid, scheduling classes around a work schedule, transferring credits to a four-year college, and more.

“Many of our students face real obstacles to attending college,” said HISD parent and community liaison Judie Dibbern. “This forum provides practical solutions to their questions. Several who attended this year and in past years changed their minds and decided they can make it work.”

Hill College generously provided $1,000 scholarships to each teen forum member. The week after the event, college staff met with the students at the high school campus to help them start their online financial aid applications.

“This program is changing the future for these students,” remarked Dibbern. “I’m proud of them for believing in themselves and their education.”

Junior High Brings Home Gold And Bronze In Academic Olympics

On April 26, more than 300 students from 15 schools swarmed Hillsboro Junior High School as they hosted and participated in their first Texas Academic Pentathlon. Competing against 4A and 5A schools, Hillsboro students scored big in both individual and team competitions. With an Olympics theme, HISD seventh and eighth graders brought home the bronze, scoring third in the Super Quiz relay event.

“I feel proud of the way we represented our school,” said Dakota Williford, eighth grade team member. “Even though it was our first time competing, I think we did really well. Everyone did a great job.” Williford also took third place in the essay writing competition.

Amanda Carlyle, eighth grade, scored the gold in the Social Studies round, admitted, “I felt nervous at first, but once I started talking with everyone it became fun. My favorite part of the experience was meeting so many new people.”

“As event hosts, I was concerned that we might not have enough volunteers for the day,” said Bryan Spiritus, Hillsboro Junior High Assistant Principal. “But that was not the case at all. Community members near and far showed up to lend a hand.” By event time, the school had plenty of help including parents from the participating schools, students from Plano High School, and members of Hillsboro High School’s student council, track team, swim team and girls’ soccer team.

“I am proud of Hillsboro, the participating schools, and each and every student. It was a day for the record books,” remarked Spiritus.

High School “ACES” CONTINUED FROM FRONT

families will be required to pay these fees. “Some students are ready for more in their academic life,” said Amy Reyna, Hillsboro High School counselor. “The ACE program gives them the challenge they need to stay motivated plus an early start on advanced studies and their career.”

Reyna noted that the curriculum is extremely demanding, and students work very hard to qualify and remain in the program. “Those kids that make it through to the end have really accomplished something big. If they can complete this program successfully, they can probably do anything they set their mind to,” she said.

Four additional students entered the ACE program last fall.
New Band Director Is Music To Hillsboro Ears

It took 27 years for Kenneth Pointer to return home. Hillsboro is pleased he finally made it.

The Waxahachie native is thrilled to be back near family and his old stomping ground, and even more excited to take on the high school band director position at HISD. After graduating from high school a year early and leaving his home town to attend college at East Texas State University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in music education, Pointer spent the next 27 years instructing students at high schools across Texas.

His love for music started with piano lessons at the age of 12, followed by a passion for percussion for several years and eventually learning to play just about everything but the tuba.

In addition to teaching, Pointer plays the piano and organ at his church and is a member of the Waco Community Band. He’s also a member of the Percussive Arts Society, Texas Music Educators Association, Association of Texas Small School Bands, and Texas Bandmasters Association.

“I believe in giving students a solid foundation that can propel them forward into a successful music career or a lifetime of music appreciation,” he commented.

Pointer’s plans for the band involve developing greater passion and pride in students, parents and the community. He wants kids to take ownership of the program and start believing in themselves and what they can accomplish. His mantra, “The tradition begins now,” reflects his commitment to creating a program that is more visible in the community and highly respected statewide.

According to Pointer, an important part of reaching this goal is parent involvement. He is committed to building a strong Band Boosters group that will support and cheer students on to great achievements.

Pointer joins the Hillsboro community with his wife of 15 years, Stephanie, and his sons, Christopher, 13, and Trevor, 14. The boys are avid athletes, and his wife is a law enforcement professional. HISD extends a warm welcome to Kenneth Pointer and his family.
New Athletic Director Focuses On Athletics And Character

For Brad Boyd, coaching is a family affair. With a father, brother and sister who are professional coaches, and his wife, Leslie, who is an athletic trainer, holiday gatherings are more like a coaching clinic than a family reunion.

Boyd moves into the HISD athletic director position from Odessa High School in west Texas and brings more than 10 years of coaching experience to the district. Born in Garland, Texas, he grew up in different cities in and out of state where his father coached high school and college teams. Boyd attended the University of New Mexico and finished his degree at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene.

After college, he played and coached in Vienna, Austria, but felt called to use his ability to make a lasting impact on young people. So he entered the world of high school football coaching in his home town at Garland High School and went on to coach at MacArthur High in Irving, Texas, Crandall High outside Dallas, and finally Odessa High before coming to Hillsboro.

“One of my goals is to build self-esteem in these kids by giving my time, love and positive attitude,” said Boyd. “Football skills are important, of course, but I also want to instill skills into my players that they can use for years to come, whether they end up in a sports career or something else.”

Key ideals Boyd stresses are physical conditioning and development, discipline, peer relationships, respecting authority and effectively handling emotions. He teaches these concepts on a daily basis, posting them in locker rooms and the coaching office, and using issues and conflicts that arise as teachable moments where he can mentor and model living out the ideals in practical ways.

“Football is a great practice field for teaching important life skills,” remarked Boyd. “If I can teach them to win in football and life, I’ve done my job.”

“I love what I do. There is nothing else I can imagine loving more as a career than this,” he said. He’s very proud of his family’s coaching legacy, including his father, who he talks to daily to get coaching advice.

Boyd is married to Leslie, his wife of 4 years, and has a 3-year-old daughter named Brooke and a two-month-old son named Brody. He and Leslie enjoy swimming, skiing and tubing and plan to spend time on their boat at nearby Lake Whitney whenever possible.

“I’m extremely excited to be in Hillsboro, and I see tons of potential in our students,” commented Boyd. “I plan to have the best coaching staff in Texas and look forward to big things for Hillsboro athletes.”

HISD extends a warm welcome to Brad Boyd and his family!

Special Thanks

HISD Parent & Community Liaison, presented special awards and thank you’s to all the Hill College athletes who have served as mentors at Hillboro Jr. High School and at Hillboro Intermediate throughout the school year.


“Swede Trenkle is the driving force behind the Hill College athletes being involved with HISD and very instrumental in working out the opportunities for the athletes to be good role models for HISD students”, said Judie Dibbern. Lindsey Werntz and Kyle Kotrola have also mentored at Hillboro High School this year.

HHS Boys Soccer team won a total of five games and scored the most goals in a game, and a season, and earned the most victories. Gilberto Segura, Tomas Garcia, Manuel Fuentes and Gilberto Segura were named to the district first team and were named to the Centex best 11 players of Central Texas. Tomas Sanchez was named 2008 Centex Coach of the Year (Boys).

HHS Girls Soccer team won a total of five games and scored the most goals in a game and a season. Ana Ramirez and Randi Runkel were named to the district first team and were named to the Honorable mention Centex team.

Girls softball team are area finalists.
**Volunteers And Mentors Give To Students, Reap Personal Rewards**

More than 70 people attended this year’s volunteer and mentor appreciation luncheon and enjoyed Larry Dibbern’s famous spaghetti.

HISD honored a number of people at the event, including Hill College athletes who mentor at the junior high school, Hill College faculty who mentor at the high school, the top seven “Learn and Serve” high school students who work in classrooms across the district, and community members who volunteer in a variety of ways.

Hillsboro police mentors for the elementary school received special recognition, and words of appreciation were offered to PTO members from all district campuses.

This year, three mentors reached milestones in their service hours and received the coveted President’s Award. Recipients are:

- **Sandra Field**, Scheduler/Coordinator, Rhema Medical – Bronze Award
- **Blake Hargrove**, Business Management Instructor, MCC – Silver Award
- **Johnny Hernandez**, Retiree – Gold Award

“It has been my pleasure to serve as a HISD volunteer for five years,” said Hernandez. “There is nothing more rewarding to me than helping a young person stretch and grow and become all he/she can be.”

Thank you to our many volunteers who contribute countless hours and help our students reach their potential!

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**Business Community Visits Hillsboro Elementary Second Grade Classes**

Second Grade students at Hillsboro Elementary recently embarked on a writing/listening/communications project. They prepared questions and interviewed people from the business community. Pictured from top to bottom, left to right: Peggy Loder, Hillsboro Fire Dept. Paramedic, visited Michele Stephens’ class; Joe Cunningham, TB Bond pharmacist, visited Heather Landrum’s class; Andy Collins, president of Brandon Cabinets, visited Crystal Miller’s class; Robert Watts, director of the Hillsboro Chamber, visited Debbie Morgan’s class; Dr. Joel Machaelis, VP of Instruction at Hill College, visited Cassandra Sexton’s class and Tony Cain, Hillsboro Chief of Police, visited Michael Haley’s class. Not pictured is Lyndsey Werntz, Hill College Women’s Basketball Coach, who visited Jennifer Kolar’s class.

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**Two HISD Employees Celebrate 35-Year Service Mark**

Elementary school music teacher, **Glenda Brown**, and accounting clerk, **Isabelle O’Neal**, recently celebrated 35 years of service at HISD.

“I’ve had the privilege and joy of teaching music to many students over all these years,” said Brown. “Watching the children’s faces light up as they perform has been worth every minute.”

Brown was born and raised in Hillsboro. She has been married 28 years to her husband, **Isaiah**, and has two grown children – **Kevin Anderson**, 38, who graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and now teaches special education, and **Laci Brown**, 25, who lives in Hillsboro and will graduate this fall from Texas A&M in Commerce with a degree in early childhood elementary education.

“What I have enjoyed most about my time with Hillsboro school district is the great people I’ve worked with through the years,” said O’Neal. She is also a native of Hillsboro and has been married to her husband, Benny, for 21 years. They have two Daschund “children” who they adore – Buddy and DeeDee. The couple enjoys camping, Trade Days, Antique Alley, visiting with family and friends, and traveling throughout the Texas hill country.

Congratulations to **Glenda Brown** and **Isabelle O’Neal**, and thank you for your many years of dedication to our district and our students.

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**Join a Winning Team!**

Hillsboro ISD is seeking highly qualified applicants to work in an environment that focuses on student achievement. Our school district offers great opportunities for educators to grow and develop professionally. Come join our team in preparing all students for success!

Contact **Barbara Robinson**, HR Director, for application packet or further information:

254-582-8585, ext. 209, (email: robinson@hillsboroisd.org) or apply on-line through “Employment” link on district web page: www.hillsboroisd.org. Applications are available at the Hillsboro ISD Administration Office and Campus offices. Hillsboro ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
**Ag Science Day Helps Kids Dig In With Hands-On Experience**

2500 bottles of water, 957 students, 55 teachers and administrators, 30 staff members. Seven presenters, learning stations and projects stations.

It all adds up to ONE fun educational event.

On May 16, Hillsboro Intermediate School students hosted their elementary school counterparts at the first ever HISD Ag Science Day. Older students paired up with younger students and moved two classes at a time through seven demonstration areas and seven related project stations.

Opportunities included a planting season station with an accompanying learning area where students started their own Chia pets. The Food from Agriculture learning station taught students about food goods that are derived from corn, wheat, and other grains and then led them to an area where they made tortillas. The simple and compound machines tent showcased small and large John Deere tractors and then moved students to a spot where they made screws and wheels out of paper.

“The hands-on learning was invaluable for these students,” said Hillsboro Elementary School Principal Lynda Duncan. “And it’s great to encourage our kids to start thinking about what they want to do with their lives, even at this young age. Events like this one help start that important process.”

The intermediate students learned about agriculture and responsibility as they guided their younger elementary friends. “Our older kids really rose to the occasion,” said Airemy Caudle, Hillsboro Intermediate School principal. “It was amazing to watch my students step up and take responsibility for the child assigned to them. I’m very proud.”

The event was coordinated by HISD parent and community liaison, Judie Dibbern, and Ashley Sulak, Hill County Extension Agent, with assistance from many teachers, parents, volunteers and organizations including the Texas Farm Bureau, 4-H, and Texas Beef Council.

Thank you to all who made the Ag Science Day so memorable and successful!

**Skills Of Future Farmers Tested**

Agricultural professionals require numerous important proficiencies to be successful in their careers. The knowledge of HISD future farmers was put to the test this spring as the district took seven teams to the area FFA Judging Competition.

Students competed in several areas including agricultural mechanics, dairy cattle, farm business management, livestock, poultry, range and dairy foods. The contest tested and challenged students’ technical, leadership, interpersonal, teamwork and knowledge skills.

For example, in the range competition, students identified different types of grasses and their growth stage. The farm business management team solved complex math and economics problems relevant to agriculture.

Three teams qualified and continued to state competition where the dairy food team took 8th place. Students on the dairy team were Nancy Gannon (Junior), Lauren Neal (Freshman), Morgan Whitworth (Freshman) and Shirley Lyndsey (Junior).

Congratulations to these students and to all the students who participated in the competition.

**FFA Motto**

*Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.*
AROUND HISD

Ashley Sulak, 2008 Czech/Slovic Queen for Hill and McLennan Counties, presented a program on ‘heritage’ to Jennifer Kolar’s 2nd grade class at Hillsboro Elementary.

Andy Collins of Brandom Cabinet’s an HISD Partner In Education, presented a program to the PreK students at FES about “how cabinets are made”. The students are holding cabinet pieces that Mr. Collins put together like a puzzle for their understanding of the process.

Pictured to the right are the PreK students at Hillsboro Elementary who celebrated Cinco De Mayo by watching a demonstration about making gorditas. Juana Zavala and her daughter, Eira, showed the students how to make the dough, roll out balls, flatten them and cook them. Juana spoke to the students in Spanish and Eira translated throughout the demonstration.


Splash Day 2008!
The Texas Education Agency recently approved a flexible calendar for HISD’s 2008-09 school year. The previous 180 school days calendar is reduced to 170 for students achieving certain academic standards. The extra 10 days provide customized learning opportunities in small groups for students in need of additional assistance.

Unlike other districts that have used this strategy, HISD will schedule some of the extra days throughout the year instead of grouping them all at the end. This approach will allow teachers and administrators to identify and assist students in need early in the school year, giving them more time to bring students back up to the required level.

Approved flex days for 2008-09 are: October 3, November 7, January 16, February 20, April 17 and June 1-5.

For more information on next year’s calendar, visit hillsboroisd.org and click on the parent resources section.