Seussical Draws and Delights Big Crowds
with an entertaining story and music that spans generations

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When it comes to multiplying resources, HHSO Is really knows how to step up a little dust. Over the past four years, HSSD staff has partnered with the community and local contractors to complete an impressive list of much-needed facility renovations throughout the district.

It all started in 2009, when HSSD formed a committee of parents and other community members and tasked the group with evaluating district facilities. After careful assessments of each campus, the committee submitted a comprehensive report to the board of trustees with recommendations for facility improvement that would increase student safety and/or positively impact academic achievement. In response to the report, district leadership determined to make the necessary renovations as efficiently as possible. To get the most out of every dollar spent without compromising quality, HSSD maintenance staff completed as many improvements as possible. More complex renovations were entrusted to highly skilled local contractors.

“I am extremely proud of the commitment and perseverance of our staff and the local contractors who partnered with us to complete these renovations,” said Superintendent Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease. “By building some improvements ourselves and working with local contractors on the remainder, we were able to trip the value of every dollar. This ultimately allowed us to construct $12 million of improvement for only $4 million.” Gilcrease added, “Thanks to the cooperative efforts of everyone involved, we completed these improvements without compromising raises for teachers or requesting additional taxes.”

Jeremy Schneider of Silver Star Concrete expressed pride in his company’s involvement with the renovations. “We have worked hand-in-hand with the school district to design and install expansion projects including the new high school field house and baseball/softball complex, the parking lot at HHS, and the renovations in progress at the Ag shop and woodshop buildings,” he said. “Because the school district entrusted these projects to local businesses, they were able to maximize available funds to get the most return on investment for students and simultaneously invest in the local economy. It’s a win-win all the way around for the community.”

Larry Barker of Barker Plumbing was also impressed by the collaborative approach to the renovation process. “I have proudly served the Hillsboro community for 36 years,” he said. “The entire process of construction is normally very tedious, but since this team consisted of professionals with every day, we already knew and trusted one another—which made everything that much more efficient,” he said. “We all worked very closely with one another and with staff—we even got feedback from teachers and coaches—to make sure that the end result was exactly what was needed.” Barker added, “From a post-construction perspective, a major ongoing benefit to the district is that every contractor is just a phone call away. If there is a problem at one of the facilities, we will be right there to help them.”

David Russell of Russell Construction echoed his small business counterparts. “The fiscal responsibility demonstrated by the school district throughout the entire process is a tremendous benefit to taxpayers as well as students because they received high quality renovations for almost one third of the projected cost,” he said. Russell is particularly proud of the new field house and ball fields at the high school. “We really didn’t have sufficient athletic facilities for our kids,” he recalled. “Now, everything they need is located on campus, and I believe it will impact our whole athletic program in a very positive way.”

As the dust settled from these projects, Dr. Gilcrease expressed gratitude for everyone involved. “This is an excellent example of community members and local businesses partnering with district staff to determine the most efficient way to improve our school buildings so that our students have an excellent environment for learning. However, there are more projects still to be completed. We will continue to work toward our goal until the completion as money is available. Paying as you go causes you to go slower, but the projects are paid for when we are done.”
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Improvements focused on safety

In the last four years, Hillsboro ISD’s commitment to improving safety and security at Franklin Elementary School has yielded positive results.

Safety was increased when the three main buildings were connected for the first time. Previously, to enter the main building, students had to walk outside through breezeways far lunch or to reach the library. Now the campus is more secure, and bad weather no longer puts a wet or chilly damper on learning.

Another upgrade was the replacement of the old awning in front of the main building. The new awning, with a lower ceiling, provides better protection from the weather and includes a ramp with access to the building for those with disabilities.

With a campus-encircling fence and new sidewalks to make for a safer and more comfortable day for students—and parking lot improvements in progress—student and teacher safety and morale are high.

Raud she pre-kindergarten teacher Vicki Ellison, “In the past, there were low water places in the sidewalks, and our kids would come in with soaked shoes and pants legs. Now they come in dry and happy, and ready for a great school day.”

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New Playground Fence and Campus Sidewalks

Sometimes campus improvements are necessary for obvious, and relatively common reasons like overcrowded classrooms or student security. Other times, the reason is less common—and even obscure. The latter was the case when Hillsboro Elementary School (HES) installed its new playground fence.

“There’s a field behind the school and some days we wouldn’t be able to go to recess because there would be a fox on the playground,” explained HES first grade teacher Danielle Spencer.

Of course, the fence also prohibits entry from outside visitors who haven’t first checked into the office. And the new sidewalks throughout HES help prevent accidents and make getting around easier for wheelchair-bound students.

Spencer said the teachers are excited about these upgrades to their campus because it makes their jobs a little bit easier.

“Providing the best and safest environment for learning is a primary focus for us,” she remarked. “When the school building is safe, that’s one less thing we have to worry about for our kids. We’re able to direct more of our energy on teaching.”

HILLSBORO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

A Beautiful Campus from the Inside Out

Built in 2001, Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) is a beautiful campus that reflects effective and thoughtful planning, starting in the parking lot. Equipped with ample parking and convenient student drop-off and pick-up areas, the campus fosters student safety and efficient traffic flow.

The HIS campuses underwent facilities improvements in 2013; however, HIS was not in need of any specific improvements.

“Our campus is so well designed,” commented Ann Teel, HIS librarian. “From the centrally located stairwell to the sprawling playground to the strategically placed library, this space is very conducive to learning.”

“The library truly is a librarian’s dream because it’s both large and purposefully located at the end of the hall, with no traffic and little noise. It’s a great place for kids to explore the world of books and learn to love reading,” said Teel.

Outside of the library, the students have many opportunities to learn beyond their classrooms including three computer labs, three science labs, an art room and a broadcast room.

“Every morning, sounds of a live broadcast fill our classrooms,” commented Teel. “The show, produced entirely by a group of students known as the TechSperts, is a great platform for students to gain valuable planning and communication skills,” said Teel. “And it’s just another example of how the HIS campus is equipped to promote learning.”

HILLSBORO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Improved Student Pick-up/Drop-off Area and Lunchroom

Student pick-up and drop-off at Hillsboro Junior High School (HJHS) is now more efficient and safe thanks to a newly developed area on the side of the school, with a direct entrance to the lunchroom.

“In the past, students were dropped off at the street in front of the school,” said HJHS teacher Angel Andrews. “Now they can be safely dropped off right in front of a school door complete with a covered awning, which is great during inclement weather.”

The interior of the school also received an upgrade, with the expansion of the lunchroom. The larger space alleviated overcrowding and congestion, making student supervision easier.

“The lunchroom is now an inviting and airy space, with a huge glass window for a lot of natural light,” commented Andrews. “I’ve definitely noticed a shift in the energy in the lunchroom. It’s a positive space filled with conversation and laughter.”

These improvements are part of HISD’s long-standing commitment to create a superior learning environment for its students.

“These improvements, while beautiful, extend beyond aesthetics,” said HHS teacher Tammy Fry. “I believe they communicate to the students that we truly care about them, and we want the best junior high school experience for them.”
**HILLSBORO FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS**

**HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL**

Upgraded Agriculture Facilities, Ball Fields and Locker/Weight Room

Whether working on a project in the agriculture facility or spending a day playing on the new ball field or exercising in the weight room, Hillsboro High School (HHS) students are enjoying the recent campus improvements.

On any given day, the expanded agriculture facility is filled with students engaged in a variety of projects. “More space means improved productivity and enhanced safety,” said HHS agriculture teacher Jeff Reed. “It also means we’re able to reach more students.”

The additional storage space not only houses trailers and equipment, but it also provides a safe space for hydraulic projects. Students are also new able to hide their green thumb in the new greenhouse. “This space allows the kids hands-on, agricultural learning experiences that integrate math, science and agriculture skills,” said HHS agriculture teacher Jeff Reed.

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The all-purpose locker room and weight room is also a welcome addition. “This space allows the kids hands-on, agricultural learning experiences that integrate math, science and agriculture skills,” explained Reed. Outside of the classroom, students and fans alike are raving about the new softball and baseball fields. “The players no longer have to drive to the fields, which is both safer and creates more time for practices,” said head baseball coach Jeff Hawkins. “These new fields bring a great sense of pride and motivation to practice even harder, and the indoor facility means no downtime during inclement weather.”

**Ballpark Archway Honors Proud Tradition**

Hillbros’s baseball and softball fans will soon gather at the new Eagle Ballpark to hear the familiar crack of a bat and the hum of a motor, as the community celebrates its rich athletic tradition.

In a special nod to the city’s proud athletic past, Hillsboro ISD built a brick archway, which is set on columns reminiscent of those that stood in front of Doughly Hall and Frazier Field from 1929 to 1964. Will Lawrance, Chair of the Hillsboro Historic Preservation Commission, recalled the days that fans purchased tickets at a ticket booth and walked through a pedestrian entrance near the large Frazier Field column gate. This archway is sure to bring back memories for many in the community.

Reflecting on HSD’s athletic program, Superintendent Dr. James “Buck” Glicksman commented, “This district’s athletic program dates back more than 100 years. So, we want today’s students to have a sense of pride around Hillsboro’s rich athletic tradition.”

A ceremony will be held early this year to officially open the archway, which is receiving final touches. In the meantime, “Play Ball!”

**HISD Education Foundation Gala Goes Western**

Late last year, the Beaumont Ranch in Grandview was packed with HISD supporters decked out in their finest western attire, talking, laughing, eating and dancing—all for an important cause: HISD Education Foundation.

The Foundation’s 4th Annual Gala was a huge success, with all proceeds benefiting HISD students. “We kicked off the evening with an onsite fundraiser, which included mystery box tickets that brought in $2,100 for the Foundation,” said Katharine Matthys, the Foundation’s executive director. “It was a true win-win.

The Foundation benefited and the mystery boxes were filled with great gifts including a Yeti cooler, a fishing trip and gift certificates.

Following a steak dinner, the guests hit the dance floor to the music of Pat Waters & the Chaninik Band.

“The gala proceeds help provide vital academic opportunities for students in our district,” said Matthys. “We’re grateful to all those who joined us for the evening, and to all those in the community who continue to support our efforts.”

**Partners in Education**

Contact Katharine Matthys at DSU (503) 578-5496 ext. 221 or matthys@hillsboroisd.org about giving and sponsorship opportunities.

Thank you to all the individuals and businesses that support our schools!
HIS Career Day Offers Students a Glimpse into Different Professions

One of the best ways to learn about the day in the life of a nurse, pilot, chef or biologist—or any profession—is to talk to a person who does that job. In late November of 2013, the students of Hillsboro Intermediate School (HIS) were able to do just that at the school’s 3rd annual Career Day.

Popular with both students and teachers, Career Day introduces students to a wide range of careers including veterinarian, quilter, doctor, crime investigator, first responder and others.

“To see their minds open up to new and endless possibilities is so exciting,” said Aleshia Fleming, HIS counselor and event organizer.

Professionals representing more than 20 careers were on hand to talk about their educational background, special skills and day-to-day responsibilities.

“It’s encouraging to watch the students learn about different careers in an interactive, engaging setting,” commented HIS counselor and event organizer Aleshia Fleming. “And to actually see their minds open up to new and endless possibilities is so exciting.”

Career Day is a great opportunity for students to start to envision how their individual skills and interests can translate into a career. “The earlier we plant the seed for future career goals and dreams—and continue to nurture it—the better their chance for long-term success,” added Fleming.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT: 2014 Eagle Expo of Excellence (E3). Make plans to join us for the district’s 2nd annual learning expo, featuring projects, art exhibits, and musical and theatrical performances by students of all ages.

WHEN: Evening of Monday, May 5th

WHERE: Hillsboro High School