



Believe in the Magic

Gunter Elementary was once again, blessed with the presence of Santa. Every year, Santa comes to GES and visits each and every classroom. He takes time out of his busy schedule to talk with our students and to remind them to be good, to go to bed early, and to help with chores around the house. The students (and teachers) look forward to his visit each year.

While Santa brought smiles to our students, our students were helping to bring smiles to others over the holiday. Each campus participated in events that helped bring joy to others. Food, gifts, and toys were collected to distribute to families in and out of our community. You will see evidence of this throughout the newsletter.

While December is a wonderful time of the year, let's not forget that people need help all year long. Using your time and talents to help others is a magical feeling; let's make 2016 a year of giving!



2016

Make it a great year



Heroes for Schools

Texas has more than 5 million students in its public schools. That is 5 million young minds from about 5 years old to about 18 years old, and our state is attracting even more. Every year, our student population increases by about 85,000 additional students.

Those impressionable young people depend on the adults in Texas to provide for them. They need shelter and food and nurturing and an education. Who will step up to see that ALL the children not just the ones in our own households have what they need in our schools?

In Texas, more than 7,200 generous people have offered to help. These are people who receive no pay for their dedicated efforts. These are people who not only volunteer but go through the process of standing up for public education. They are locally elected school board members. They are your neighbors, and they care.

These public servants donate their time and talents to ensure that ALL our children have the best public schools we can provide. These people sit through meetings, read detailed reports, listen to parents' concerns, and do the hard work to benefit the students and the community at large. And make no mistake about it, the whole community benefits from good schools.

Each January, we pause in our regular activities to say thank you to these dedicated volunteers. We appreciate their generous sharing of time and energy on behalf of our children. Local school board members are truly heroes for our schools. Join me in celebrating School Board Recognition Month in January by expressing your support and gratitude to our school trustees. We are indebted to them.



2015 - 2016 Gunter ISD School Board

"Named 2015 Texas State Honor Board"
(1 of 5 school boards honored across the state)

(L-R) L.D. Byrd, Dr. Gary Harris, Jeff Banks, Dr. Jill Siler, Candy Leonard,
Scott Meyerdirk, John Jonas, Steve Smith

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD



In Discovery, GES students completed a unit on Christmas traditions around the world. Each student was assigned a country to research: Chiara Streiff (Switzerland), Luke Dodd (France), Kai Altun (Germany), Dominic Gugliotta (Italy), Daniel Dominguez (China), and Jackson Burkholder (Sweden). They did an exceptional job in their research, and then presented their findings to the Discovery group. Students brought props to aid in their presentation.



Learning other traditions is important, but before they started this project, they talked a little about the American traditions. Mrs. Elmore asked the students to close their eyes and think of their FAVORITE thing about Christmas in America. Believe it or not, there was ZERO mention of presents!

The number one response --
 "Being with family, and family traditions."

Other favorites included:

- playing Monopoly with my whole family at the big table
- driving around and looking at Christmas lights
- making tamales with my grandparents and cousins
- going to church on Christmas Eve
- Christmas morning french toast
- eating dinner with my family
- seeing grandparents/aunts/uncles/cousins



In the spirit of the season, Gunter Elementary collected new, unused toys to be delivered to the patients at Children's Medical Center in Dallas. Thank you to everyone who made Christmas brighter for the children who will be spending their holiday away from home. Luke Bullard, the project leader, is pictured with all of the toys that were collected. Great job, Luke!

The stockings were hung by the classroom with care...



... in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there...



And what to my wondering eyes should appear, but Santa in the car line, spreading Christmas cheer!





A Penguin Christmas

Penguins at the North Pole? And a film crew, too? There must be some mistake. In this musical, a parade of smiling penguins, think they can replace the elves and reindeer at the North Pole. But can they? The 3rd grade class put on a fantastic show for family, friends, classmates, and teachers. Their performance of "A Penguin Christmas" was phenomenal!



Getting ready for Christmas in the Headstart classroom.

Collecting the Bare Necessities

Christmas isn't always about collecting toys and gifts, some people just need the basic necessities like a toothbrush or a bar of soap. The GES students came together to collect these items for the Crisis Center. They gathered baskets full of items, and delivered them the week before we left for the holidays.





Unseasonably warm temps brought out the creative minds of our teachers. The pre-k and headstart classes were found “ice-skating” and having a snowball fight in the GES gymnasium.

January Core Essentials

“But I don’t want to go back to school!” Hopefully this wasn’t a statement uttered by a student in our school but if you’ve ever heard something like it, this month’s value might come in handy. For the rest of the month we are talking about the value of...

Self-Control

1. STOP
2. Think
3. What could happen?
4. Is that what I want?

Self-Control—Choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do.



Many classrooms at GES found an Elf on the Shelf as a new addition this year. Pictured above, Mrs. Pelzel’s class is shown on Polar Express Day posing by the Christmas tree and their Elf named Peppermint. Those elves report directly to Santa. I think I might have seen Santa talking to one when he came to visit!

The 5 days of Christmas at the elementary school was a lot of fun for everyone! Can you guess who this is?



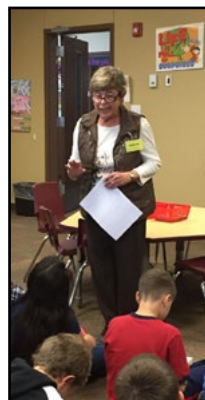
I’ll give you a hint :) She is the most loving principal an elementary child could ever hope to have!

November GES Students of the Month



Back Row L-R: Easton Beck (3rd), Kase Carlile (4th)
Front Row L-R: Emily Saindon (K), Hayden Nelson (2nd), Zaiden Choate (1st)

Word!



Mrs. Barbara Woodroof of the Grayson County Republican Women is handing out dictionaries to our very excited 3rd graders. Mrs. Ginny O’Hanlon (not pictured) also helped make this possible for our students. We appreciate their time, friendliness, and their contributions to make this happen for our students.





Favorite Relative Tea

5th graders were excited to host their favorite relative at the Relative Tea. Recipes were collected from each student and combined into a recipe book that was sold during the event. These are the favorite recipes of the students; many of which came from that special relative. Everyone enjoyed cookies and punch while looking through their books.



Groovy.....Lava Lamps



Step 1

Start with water



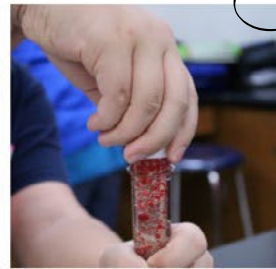
Step 2

Add some oil



Step 3

Drops of food color



Step 4

Antacid Tablets



Step 5

Light

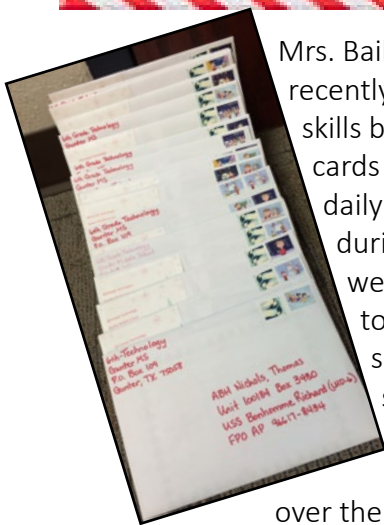
While learning about light in the 5th grade science lab, students were given the opportunity to make their own lava lamps in a test tube. Students also learn about density as they mix water and oil together. As you can see, these are so much fun to create!



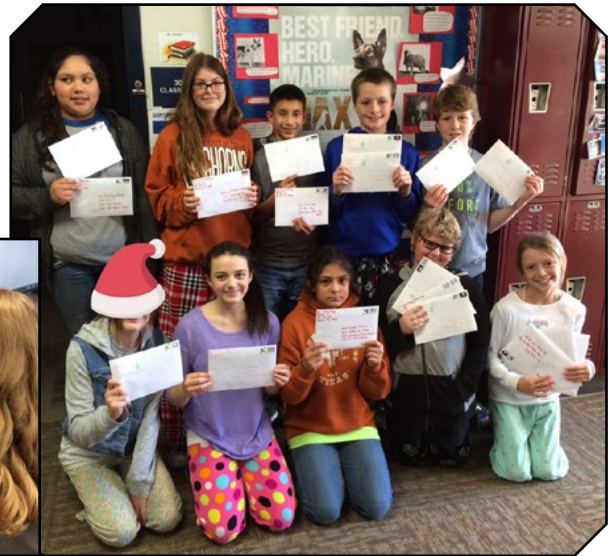
**Step 6
Fun!**



Having fun! 8th grade girls during their Christmas craft rewards party. No Pinterest fails here! These girls are talented!



Mrs. Bailey's 6th grade technology students recently worked on their desktop publishing skills by designing and creating holiday cards for those who sacrifice so much on a daily basis and are away from loved ones during this holiday season. The cards were then mailed to over 50 servicemen and servicewomen who are serving all over the world.



... and bring it right here!

Mrs. Bullard's 7th grade English classes had been reading the play, A Christmas Carol. As the Cratchitts celebrated with a roasted goose and plum pudding, they learned the history and the tradition behind these dishes. Did you know plum pudding actually doesn't contain any plums? In a hands-on extension, the students followed a recipe for a version of plum pudding that was steamed in the microwave and taste tested in class.



GMS in the Spirit!

(Right) GMS students exceeded their goal by collecting over 300 toys for the Toys for Tots campaign. (Below) After studying light in science class, 5th grade students created a snowman from a gallon jug that could hold lights and be a festive decoration for their house.



The annual 5th grade breakfast was nothing less than spectacular! (Right) GMS students enjoying "Polar Express Day" as one of the 5 Days of Christmas dress up days.



GMS Student Council members collected towels, blankets and newspapers to donate to the Grayson County Animal Shelter. Such a great service project!

MOVING CHRISTMAS CARDS

High school students were spreading holiday cheer with technology. The animation class created Holiday/Christmas electronic cards. They had three days to create these cards. Below is a still image before the snowman throws a snowball at you. Visit Mrs. Foster's web site, and click on the animation tab to experience the moving version!

Or, click here: <http://goo.gl/5m3wov>



The Bridges of Grayson County

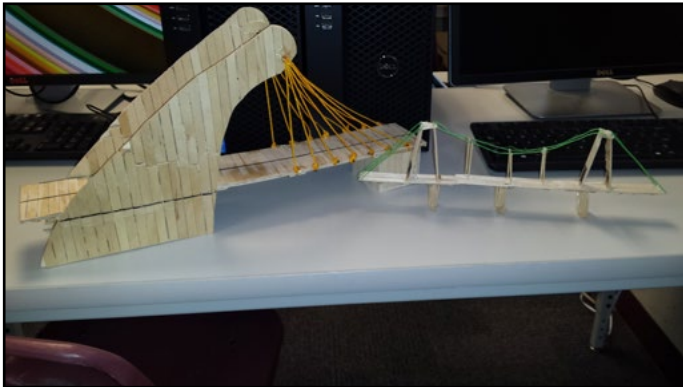
Two courses, two teachers, several talented students.



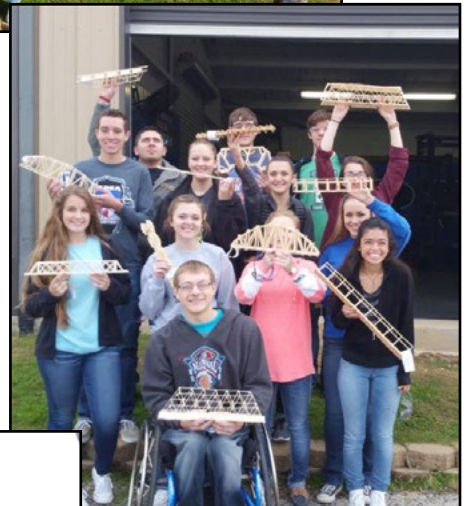
The Principles of Engineering class recently completed a project in which they had to build a bridge that would withstand an earthquake. The class performed research into the different types of bridge structures and determined which style would handle an earthquake the best. In their research, they watched video on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge; which in 1940, due to high winds, began twisting eventually fell into the river below. A discussion was held as to why it fell and what should be done to avoid this from happening again. Once research was done and CAD drawings were complete, the students built their bridges. Requirements for these bridges included the ability to be twisted 75 degrees without cracking or breaking. Students could use popsicle sticks, tooth picks, clothes hangers, string, and glue. Happily, no bridge broke.

Just how much weight can a toothpick hold? True to the laws of physics, one by itself isn't very strong, but bound together, the strength increases.

The GHS physics students were given the task to build a bridge using toothpicks. The students knew their project would be tested with weights for durability. We may have found a few engineers in this group!



(Above and Right) Mrs. Long's students proudly display their works of art.
(Left) Mrs. Foster's students "twistable bridges" displayed after testing.



Dear past
thank you for
all the lessons.
Dear future,
I'm now ready

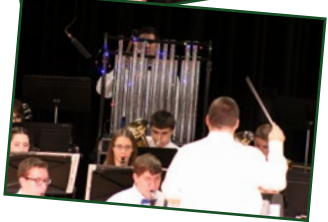


(Left) The week before Christmas break, band members braved the cold winds of the morning to serenade the elementary students with Christmas tunes as they entered the school.

Band



December was a busy month for the bands at Gunter. They worked hard learning their pieces for competition and spent many hours learning songs to brighten the holiday season of the people in the community. If you missed the Christmas concert, you missed a great show. All of the bands (5th through 12th grade) put on a wonderful performance and helped us all get into the holiday spirit.



Congratulations to the following students for making ATSSB All-Region Band!

- Jonathan Avendano, Clarinet, 1st Chair, Symphonic Band. Advances to Area on the 4A track.
- Will Martin, Clarinet, 2nd Chair, Symphonic Band. Advances to Area on the 3A track.
- Brian Avendano, Clarinet, 16th chair, Symphonic Band
- Melanie Loftis, Alto Sax, 3 Chair Concert Band. Advances to Area on the 3A track.
- Jessica Smith, 4th Alternate
- Hannah Husted, Trombone, 2nd chair concert band
- Alex Leach, Euphonium, 2nd chair, Symphonic Band . Advances to Area on the 4A track.
- Edgar Fuentes, Euphonium. 5th Chair, Symphonic Band. Advances to Area on the 3A track.
- Chris Jackson, Tuba, 1st chair Symphonic Band, . Advances to Area on the 3A track.
- Kenny Shipper, 2nd Chair, Concert Band.



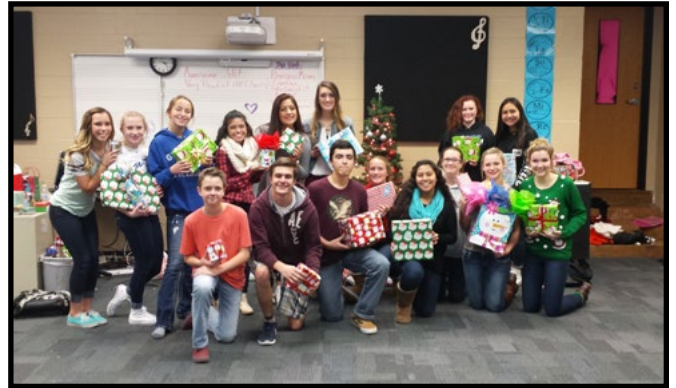
Band Director, Mr. Bremer said, "I am very proud of these students. They all worked hard and competed against 600 students from the North Texas regions."



**FUN CHRISTMAS
DESERVE A
BOY AND GIRL
GOOD
EVERY**

As the Christmas season was approaching, GHS Chamber and Select choirs reached out to the community by helping those in need and starting an Angel Tree. Mrs. Kulbeth came to the choir with the idea, and they jumped at the chance to help serve the community in this way. They set up a Christmas tree in the choir room, which is now a brand new tradition, and hung ornaments with the specific gifts that the children requested.

The choir sections were each assigned 2 to 3 items and contributed money towards buying the gifts. After they collected all of their money, several members went out and bought the requested gifts. The choir had a wonderful time buying these presents and serving their community in this way. We were honored as choir to unite together, give to others, and truly focus on the true meaning of Christmas. These students truly stepped up to the challenge, with true servant hearts. As a choir we hope to bless many families in our community.



Jingle all the Way

~ Presented by the 5th & 6th grade choir



Santa had lost his Christmas spirit, but thanks to our 5th and 6th grade choir (and a few jingle bells) he found it again! The play was so much fun to watch. Thank you, Mrs. Kulbeth, for allowing these students to entertain us this season.



CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT



The commons was packed with people for the annual lunch and Christmas concert. All were awaiting to hear the sounds of Christmas, and they were not disappointed! The choirs did a beautiful job with each and every song.

(Left) Chamber Choir; (Below) Select Choir



(Left) 5th and 6th grade choir; (Below) 7th and 8th grade choir



(Bottom Left) Patrons enjoying their ham dinner before the show.



Chamber Choir Travels to Branson

December 29th, the GHS Chamber Choir departed from the great town of Gunter to make their mark in the big city of Branson, and THAT they did.

The students had been working very hard learning different routines to perform on various stages at Branson over the holidays. They were not only were singing, they were also dancing to make the show more exciting for the audience.

They kicked off their tour by performing on the Showboat Branson Belle. This is such a fun way to begin a performance tour. The Showboat Branson Belle is a riverboat—more specifically, a showboat—offering lunch and dinner cruises on Table Rock Lake, complete with entertainment.



GHS Chamber Choir on the Showboat Branson Belle

Among other places, the group also performed at the Starlite Theatre. When they were finished with their performance, Billy Dean, thanked Mrs. Kulbeth for her dedication to teaching the Arts.

The group had a great time on this trip. Parents, students, and Mrs. Kulbeth will all carry great memories from these past few days. “The kids were amazing and performed out of the ballpark!” said Mrs. Kulbeth. The group is heading back to G-Town on January 1st.



(Left) Mrs. Kulbeth is recognized by Performer, Billy Dean. (Above) GHS Chamber Choir on the stage of Starlite Theatre.

Community-built playground construction scheduled for May 17-21

The Gunter Parks Foundation is now in the process of developing a list of volunteers willing to help with construction over the 5-day period. Each day will consist of three shifts:

- Morning or “first shift” - 8:00am- 12pm (lunch served at 12pm)
- Afternoon or “second shift” - 12:30pm- 5pm (dinner served at 5pm); and
- Evening or “third shift” - 5:30-Close (between 8pm & 9pm)

Volunteers are encouraged to work as many shifts/days as they would like.

Duties of volunteers include:

- Construction (skilled and unskilled)
- Childcare Area
- Food
- Helper
- Material and/or Tools
- Art & Special Features

If you are interested in being a part of this exciting project, please go to <http://gunterparksfoundation.com> and complete the Volunteer Sign-up Form or send your contact info to volunteer@gunterparksfoundation.com. All volunteers will be contacted a month prior to construction to finalize shift(s) and duties.



Entrepreneurship Excitement

Mrs. Phillips' Principles of Human Services students studied about money management and entrepreneurship opportunities. Students created and planned their own business. Just as any business owner would do, they had to design a business card, create an advertisement, and show a budget to make profit for their product. Students sold their product and then figured their profit once the unit was complete.



BOCCE CHAMPS

The GMS STC class participated in the Denison Bocce Ball Special Olympics Tournament on Friday, December 4, 2015 and the athletes placed as follows:

- Adrian Aviles and Bo Hooten, 3rd Place Team full court event
- Lorenzo Rangel and Sara Driggers, 3rd place Team full court event
- Jayden Tesdahl, 2nd place half court event
- Francisco Moreno, 2nd place half court event
- Cole Reynolds, 3rd place half court event
- Paris Crosby, 1st place half court event

Volleyball Honors

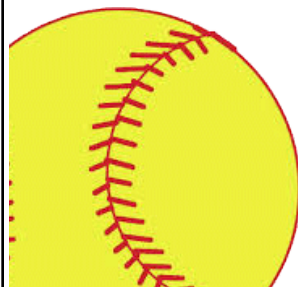
Mikayla Watson
All-State
TGCA Legacy All Star

Katey Campbell
All-State

Academic All-State
Abigail Bon
Katey Campbell
Sydney Morrison
Emily Price

2016 Gunter Softball Parent Meeting

Monday, January 25
6:30 PM
High School Library



SHARKS

12/4 & 12/5
4A & Under State Swim Meet
Keller

> **Zach Magers**
- 1st in 200 free
- 4th in 100 free



> **John Dalton Rowe**
- 4th in 400 free
- 5th in 100 backstroke

Early Birds!! Take Note...

Baseball, softball, and track schedules have been posted to the sport pages on our website. Events begin in February, so these will be posted in the next newsletter for you!

GHS Scoreboard

Varsity Boys

12/2- vs Valley View (W) 56-51
Celeste Tournament
- 12/4- vs Caddo Mills (W) 62-36
- 12/4- vs Dodd City (W) 76-39
- 12/4- vs Celeste (W) 72-20
- 12/5- vs Tom Bean (L) 50-70
12/8- vs Era (W) 71-32
Madill Classic
- 12/10- vs Marietta (L) 47-66
12/11- vs Roff (W) 80-22
12/14- vs Madill (L) 51-61
12/17- vs Nocona (L) 45-79
12/18- vs Ector (W) 55-52
12/21- vs Pottsboro (W) 55-46

JV Boys

12/2- vs Valley View (W) 32-24
12/8- vs Era (W) 24-20
12/17- vs Nocona (L) 36-58
12/21- vs Pottsboro (L) 23-62
Ector Tournament
- vs Bland (W) 78-29
- vs Blue Ridge (L) 52-55
- vs Chisum (W) 66-50
They placed 3rd in the Ector
Tournament. Brandyn Brewer was
named to the All-Tournament
team. Good job!

Varsity Girls

12/1- vs Caddo Mills (L) 44-60
12/8- vs Era (L) 43-48
12/15- vs Whitesboro (W) 46-42
12/18- vs Howe (L) 63-41
Pilot Point Tournament
- 12/28 vs Aubrey
- 12/28 vs Bridgeport
- 12/29 vs Alvord

GMS Scoreboard

Girls

11/30 vs. Pottsboro
B Team (L) 6-8
7A (L) 19-37
8A (L) 22-30

Boys

12/7 vs Whitesboro
7B (L) 7-11
8B (W) 25-12
7A (W) 29-18
8A (L) 35-45

12/14 vs Callisburg
7A (W) 56-5
7B (W) 24-12

Basketball



Boys Photos by Marion Cole





Gunter Independent School District Board Briefs

Monday, December 14, 2015

GISD Public Hearing

6:00pm – The Public Hearing was to discuss the 2014-2015 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR-formerly known as the AEIS Report). Gunter ISD reported exceptional academic performance for the 2014-15 school year, highlighting many successes as well as specific goals for this school year.

GISD Regular Meeting

6:15pm – The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Jeff Banks, Board President. A quorum was established. Invocation and Pledge were conducted by Mr. L.D. Byrd, Board Member.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members included: Jeff Banks, L.D. Byrd, Dr. Gary Harris, Candy Leonard, Scott Meyerdirk and Steve Smith; District attendance included: Dr. Jill Siler, Mr. Kelly Teems and Ann Tolbert.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A full Financial Report was given including account updates from Landmark Bank, Lone Star Investments, a General Operating Report, I&S Report, Grayson County Coop Report, Workers Comp report and a Quarterly Investment Report.
- GHS Facility Inspection: Dr. Siler shared an inspection report and remediation protocol for water damage in the A Building of the High School. Increased levels of humidity were cited in several rooms including some water damage and some areas of mold. The issues were not significant in nature but the district is having the roof and exterior drainage areas fixed and all interior work completed by a professional renovation company.
- Enrollment Update was given
 - Elementary 329
 - Middle School 235
 - High School 253
 - TOTAL 817
- Communications: Dr. Siler shared the following with the Board:
 - Walton Development Group donated \$5,000 to GIFT to support student scholarships
 - Meeting and Upcoming Dates
 - Jan. 11th, Fall Athletic Banquet, 6 pm
 - Jan. 19th, Dinner 5:30 pm/Reg. Mtg., 6 pm

- Feb. 16th, Regular Meeting, 6 pm @ HS
- March 17th, Regular Meeting, 6 pm
- April 7th, GIFT Reception, 6:30 pm
- April 16th, FFA Auction Event
- April 19th, Regular Meeting, 6 pm @ HS
- May 9th, Spring Athletic Banquet, 6 pm
- May 12th, Regular Board Meeting, 6 pm
- May 16th, Academic Banquet
- May 17-21, Community-Build Playground Project

BOARD MEMBER REPORT

- Board President Jeff Banks presented each Board members training hours for 2015.
- Dr. Siler shared information on the Long-Range Facilities Planning Subcommittee.

CONSENT AGENDA/ROUTINE BUSINESS:

- Minutes & Billing were approved for No. 2015

TABLED ITEM

- The Board moved the Parking Lot Bids to be discussed at the Jan. 2016 meeting

REGULAR BUSINESS

- The Board approved the 2014-2015 Audit Report as presented. The district received a clean audit with no findings. GISD added over \$190,000 to its fund balance bringing that total to \$1.3 million (just above the state-recommended levels).
- The Board approved the Superintendent Evaluation Instrument as presented.
- The Board Reviewed Policy BBF (LOCAL) Board of Ethics as part of annual board operations review.
- The Board approved a 4 year contract with Xerox as the service provider. This new contract will provide the same level of services and copy machines as before with an annual savings of nearly \$50,000.

CLOSED SESSION in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act, Section 551.001.

- 7:43 pm Board went in to Closed Session
 - Section 551.074 – Discuss Personnel
 - Section 551.072 – Discuss School sites
- 8:16 pm reconvened from closed session – no action

Board Adjourned Approximately 8:18pm

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
						New Year's Day
3	4 Staff Dev't Student Holiday	5 Students Return 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Home	6 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Home 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Pilot Point	7	8 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Pilot Point	9 MS Boys BB Tournament @ VA HS TMEA Choir @ A&M Commerce
10	11 4p MS Spelling Bee 6p Fall Athletic Banquet	12 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Home	13	14 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Ponder 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Home	15 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Callisburg	16
Semester Final Exams						
17	18 Student and Staff Holiday MLK Jr. Day	19 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Whitesboro 6p School Board Mtg	20	21 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Home 4:30p MS Girls BB @ S&S	22 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Howe	23 7p HS Choir Musical
24 7p HS Choir Musical	25 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Home 6:30p Parent Softball Meeting	26 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Home	27	28 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Howe 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Howe- District Tourn.	29 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Ponder	30 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Howe- District Tourn. TMEA MS Choir Contest @ Greenville
31	1 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Pottsboro	2 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ Home	3	4 4:30p MS Girls BB @ Pottsboro	5 4:30p MS Boys BB @ Whitesboro - District Tourn. 5p HS Boys & Girls BB @ S&S 5p Softball Scr. @ Home	6 12:30/2p Softball Scr. @ Farmersville

Find Us!

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P.O. Box 109
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.4750

Gunter High School
1102 N. 8th Street
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.1542

Gunter Middle School
410 Tiger Lane
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.1545

Gunter Elementary School
200 West Elm
Gunter, Texas 75058
903.433.5315

www.gunterisd.org

www.facebook.com/gunterisdschools

facebook.com/gunterhighschool

www.facebook.com/guntermiddleschool

Twitter @Gunter_ISD

From the faculty at GISD

We would like to thank everyone who brought breakfast, lunch, goody trays, and gifts to each campus. The teachers and staff members were truly touched by your generosity!

Thanks to the following sites for providing free graphics:

<http://www.freepik.com/>

<http://www.designerclipart.com>

<http://clipartist.net/>

<http://www.azmind.com/>

<http://clipartupdate2.blogspot.com/>

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR ABILITY IS, **EFFORT** IS WHAT **IGNITES** THAT ABILITY AND TURNS IT INTO **ACCOMPLISHMENT**

~ Carol Dweck

Gunter Independent School District