



Volume 5, Issue 1

# NEISD WHEELS



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December, 2006

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## FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT...

We hope you enjoy the first edition of the department's revitalized newsletter, "NEISD Wheels". It will be published several times during the school year as a part of our TIP (Transportation Information Program) and each edition will be more informative.

Future newsletters will have featured articles under the "Headlights Section" to shine the light on employees who have special talents and/or have been recognized for exemplary accomplishments; technical information for continued improvement of the program, and other pertinent information. One of the most interesting and rewarding part of the newsletter will be the continual acknowledgement of those with perfect and excellent attendance and recognizing individual promotions and advancements.

As we close this first semester during the season of "Thanksgiving and Goodwill", may each of you and yours have a "Blessed Holiday" and the most "Prosperous Year Coming". Please take care and we look for your safe return in January.

Nolan Anderson  
Executive Director

## HEADLIGHTS ON..

Tuesday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Delbert Hayes (BAC) was awarded the Texas PTA Life Membership Award, the highest award a PTA can bestow upon an individual who makes outstanding contributions to the well-being of children and youth, by the Oak Meadow Elementary School PTA.

Delbert was cited for his outstanding professionalism and dedication as a school bus driver and his willingness to go that "Extra Mile" for the children, helping wherever and whenever a need arises.

We are very proud of Delbert, and equally proud of two prior BAC recipients of this very prestigious award—Paul Robel and Amanda Kuykendall.

## A Friendly Reminder....

The first half of the school year has been, let's just say "Challenging", but we made it! Actually, we made it with a little room to spare! However, we certainly need the time off Winter Break is going to afford us!

When things get difficult, sometimes it is hard to remember who our customers are, but we MUST remember who they are—the students of course, the parents, and the schools. Let's start off the New Year by remembering who our customers are, and by remembering the "Pickle"!! If you don't know what the "Pickle" is all about, ask a veteran driver!! For the Senior Staff, we have the same customers, but we need to add one other customer to our list—the DRIVERS, ASSISTANTS and OTHER SUPPORT STAFF!!! We need to treat them like our finest customer, because they are! If we do, the results will be gratifying to say the least!

**Special points of interest:**

- *Newsletter resurrected*
- *Special feature focusing on our employees*
- *"From the Driver's Seat" provides information from our Executive Director*
- *Letters about our drivers*

Happy  
Holidays

From the NEISD  
Transportation  
Staff



## Transportation Advisory Committee...

This school year started the first full year of the TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee). The first meeting was held last school year in March, 2005. It's thirteen members represents a cross-section of the various career fields of the department. Representation includes two BAC drivers, three Central drivers, two Special Needs drivers, two bus assistants, two mechanics, and two office support personnel.

The purpose of the TAC is to serve as a connection between management and the first line worker staff personnel to initiate, discuss and disseminate certain information and guidelines that

will ensure the proper supervision, management and effectiveness of the department in accomplishing its overall mission. As several of the members have stated, "The Committee has also helped to improve communication and provides a vehicle for better two-way communication."

Current members are (name withheld) and Linda Mora from BAC; Arnold Bauer from Central; Special Needs driver Willie Floyd and Special Needs assistants Sylvia Rojas and Cynthia Villarreal; with Carmen Garcia and Lydia Snyder representing office support personnel and

Maintenance Technicians Dustin Fenner and Danny Zacek. These members will serve the remainder of this school year and the start of the 2007-2008 school year. We thank them for their interest, time and efforts in keeping the wheels rolling.



**"He was always very reliable which is very important to a mom."**

### DRIVER KUDOS ...

Good morning Mr. Gay. What a wonderful and professional bus driver we have in Mr. Brady Bolden. I lead a very busy life, and one thing I don't have to worry about is the transportation my children take to and from school. However many cheers you can say to Mr. Bolden, he deserves them all!!!  
Kelly H.

(Brady Bolden, Bus 133, 11 years with NEISD)

Good afternoon Mr. Anderson.

I would like to acknowledge my children's bus driver, Mr. "Lee". We moved to San Antonio in 1998, and we have had the same driver each year to Stone Oak Elementary. My youngest is moving on to Bush MS and we will miss not having Mr. Lee. It was always nice knowing that I could count on Mr. Lee to take my children to school. He was always very reliable which is very important to a mom. I don't know if NEISD honors or

recognizes driver, but if you do, please consider Mr. Lee!  
Cindy W.

(Alvin Lee, Bus 214, 10 years with NEISD)

Dear Mrs. Bishop,

We've just moved in recently and I've been so busy unpacking, etc. that I sometimes don't even know what day of the week it is! Just this morning I learned (from one of my friends) that today is bus driver appreciation day. Thank you for delivering our children safely to school every morning and bring them home safely each afternoon. It is obvious to me that you genuinely care about the children on your bus. I've noticed that you wait until they are safely seated before driving to the next stop and I appreciate your concern for their safety. Sally B.

(Gladys Bishop, Bus 120, 10 years with NEISD)

Dear Mr. Gay,

I just wanted to send out a special "Thanks!" to an employee by the name of Amanda Kuykendall. On the second day of school @ Eisenhower MS, my daughter Taylor did not return home on the bus. Well, you can imagine what a frantic parent I was...I called the school and the Principal's secretary forwarded me to Amanda who I explained the situation to. She made every effort and called me back every 10 minutes to resolve the situation. I was so pleased with her professionalism and genuine concern. I wanted to pass this on to someone higher up to let him/her know what a fantastic employee Amanda is! Keep up the great work!  
Cheryl L.

(Amanda Kuykendall, Dispatcher, 12 years NEISD)

**"Well, you can imagine what a frantic parent I was..."**

## TRUE UNSUNG – HERO's and SHERO's

Our mission entails broad and committed tasks in getting students to and from school and home safely, reliably, economically, and in a courteous way. However, in meeting the challenges, particularly reliability, the department keeps responding in a productive manner in view of a critical driver availability issue.

For the past two years, the department has lacked enough drivers to cover all of the regular and special needs morning and afternoon routes. But in order to take up the slack, there have been some dedicated, unselfish, mission-oriented individuals who've stepped up and continue to go beyond the call of duty to keep the buses rolling for the students and their education. These mechanics, data entry clerks, routers, time and attendance clerks, under-the-hood helpers, dispatchers, trainers, parts and records clerks, and camera technicians all have chipped in each day

for the past 179 school days during 2005-2006 and for all the days of this first semester in driving buses in addition of performing their respective duties and responsibilities.

Each day they drive 4 ½ hours over many, many miles. These champions, collectively, have put in 41,157 hours as spare drivers for the past year and a half. Overall, late buses have been minimal, students are getting to and from as scheduled, all because of these folks:

Donna Brodman, Judy Burt-Koepp, Pat Cassidy, Oscar Chapa, Jesus Davila, Anne Dery, Stan Edwards, Gilda Fuller, Andy Galvan, Carmen Garcia, Javier Garza, Ken Godwin, Dolores Gomez, Jose Gomez, Sandra Grant, Gloria Howarton, Diana Jimenez, J R Koepp, Amanda Kuykendall, Al Merrill, Vidal Munoz, Juan Navarro, Dave Paris, Rosa

Quintanilla, Deon Robinson, Lydia Salazar, Richard Santos, Joe Smartt, Lydia Snyder, Sonny Sturgill, Ron Troutt, and Juan Vega.

Further periodic and occasional coverage has been provided by our supervisors and managerial staff consisting of Transportation Supervisors Ron Amos, Ken Gay, and Elwin Russell; Training Supervisor Franki Whitbeck; Routing Supervisor Ben Carmona; Operations Manager Susan Torres, and very sparingly Elvira Zuniga, dispatcher; Earl Stewart, Maintenance Supervisor; Chris O'Connor and Nolan Anderson, Director and Executive Director, respectively.

**THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!  
THANK YOU!!**

**...41,157 hours as  
spare drivers for the  
past year and a  
half.**



Delbert Hayes joins Amanda Kuykendall and Paul Robel as the newest recipient of the Texas PTA Life Membership Award. Mr. Hayes received the award December 5th from the Oak Meadow Elementary PTA chapter.





More information about our organization is available at [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net) by clicking on transportation or bus route information.

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**Our daily mission is providing safe, reliable, economical and courteous bus service to all.**

## Attendance Update...

Why are 91 employees smiling from ear to ear? They never missed a run and received \$200 (\$50 each month for August through November) under the attendance incentive program. Near perfect attendance (only one run missed) was achieved by 28 employees and netted them \$175 for the four months. We had 114 employees receive some dollars 3 out of the 4 months based on their attendance. And on an encouraging note, all 23 new employees have received an attendance bonus during one of the months.

Those with perfect attendance are listed below.

### Special Needs Assistants:

Armke, A	Garcia, MA	Miller, B
Avila, M	Garza, M F	Phillips, J
Basaldua, A	Gonzales, F	Rojas, S
De La Vega, N	Gonzales, M	Troutz, R
Dubois, D	Gutierrez, V	Tyler, D
Falcon, J	Hagan, M	Villanueva, L
Gallero, A	Limon, I	

### Special Needs Drivers:

Apolinar, J	Guevara, A	Neureuther, R
Davis, J	Leija, J	Perales, V
Garcia, P	Lipscomb, G	Peters, T
Garza, J	Melton, A	Weil, K
Golden, A		

### BAC Drivers:

Braddick N	Kilpatrick C	Phillips, M
Burdine, G	Landefeld, K	Ramirez, J
Burt, L	Machacek,	St Clair, D
Caldera, E	Martinez, B	Turner, P
Ekwurzel, K	Mayer, F	Van Impelen, G
French, R	Mercado, R	Walker, B
Harvie, E	Murray, K	Williams, B
Hildebrand, J	Netts, J	Zamora, I
Huff, L	Peterson, J	

### Central Drivers:

Alvis, D	Grayson, T	Perez, A
Bauer, A	Hood, J	Stringer, R
Bayer, D	Kilday, O	Swain, P
Botello, G	Macaulay, D	Tabler, E
Castaneda, M	McGibbons, T	Vazquez, C
Conner, K	Mejia, E	White, D
Cornell, D	Miranda, A	White, R
Edmisten, R	Muniz, D	Winchester, K
Edwards, J	Ojeda, G	Wright, T
Fuentes, J	Paul, A	Zepeda, G
Goertz, T	Pedraza, M	

Those with near perfect attendance are listed below:

### Special Needs Assistants:

Foster, E	Saenz, M	Smith, W
Garcia, ML	Salamanca, I	Troutt, D
Hernandez, B	Santacruz, C	Untalan, R
Moore, G	Schubert, R	

### Special Needs / BAC Drivers:

Floyd, W	Amede, Y	Roth, C
Swanson, G	Clark, J	Ruhaak, D
	Colzani, D	Szuck, L
	Rafie, B	

### Central Drivers:

Bell, Ja	Dominguez, R	Puryear, S
Brewer, Su	Dunning, B	Sanders, M
Delgado, D	Gonzales, D	

We certainly appreciate the NEISD Board approving this incentive program and congratulate all those who are helping us meet our mission each and every run.