

INFORMER

DUNCANVILLE Independent School District

December | 01 | 2015

Made with Pride Honorees Recognized for Excellence



Winter Break Dates 2015 - 2016

Winter Break begins
Monday, **December 21** for
staff and students.

Monday, **January 4** is a
Staff Development Day - no
classes.

We'll see students back at
school Tuesday, **January 5**.
Enjoy your holidays!

Duncanville ISD presented the district's three "Made with Pride in Duncanville" awards to honorees on Monday, December 7. Student Sharif Long is a shining star in the Youth and Government club, which highlights public speaking and debating skills. Teacher Olish Allen

shares his love of Math with his students. After school and on Saturdays, Mr. Allen tutors students who need extra help. Staff member Javier Canales is the only English as a second language (ESL) aide at Duncanville High School, but he knows all 250 English-language learner (ELL) students' names, faces, personalities, and classes. Mr. Canales works closely with all staff members (counselors, administration, and teachers) to ensure that each of his students is successful. Read more [here](#).



Sharif Long, Olish Allen, Javier Canales

Panther Angel Tree Brings Christmas to Duncanville Students



Employees at the Duncanville Education Plaza, along with other district employees, donated more than 70 gifts for students in need at our campuses from elementary schools to the high school. As members of the Communication Department were delivering the packages, counselors told them they were excited their students, who often receive very little for Christmas, would be receiving gifts from their Duncanville ISD family.

Shine a Light: Nutrition Services Pleases Palates



DHS Band Students Dominate All-Region Auditions

When the school day ended, students filtered into the Duncanville High School cafeteria. They arrived for a Student Council meeting but this afternoon, something extra was on the agenda. The Nutrition Services Department is rolling out a new all-beef hamburger patty. The folks who serve almost 14,000 meals per day at Duncanville ISD want to make sure the students, with their sometimes picky palates, like what they're eating.

Director of Nutrition Services, Donna Woodard-Thomas, said her staff is constantly working to improve customers' dining experience. Recently, the department added "flavor stations" at the DHS cafeteria to encourage both kids and adults to eat their fruits and vegetables. The seasonings are inspired by renowned Chef Paul Prudhomme and are designed to enhance the flavor of food while remaining sugar and sodium free. Students are starting to take notice. "I tried it on a salad," said senior Octavia Talton, "It was pretty good. It added a little bit more flavor to it." Read [more](#).

Nutrition Services – By the Numbers

- 47,000 lunches served each week
- 22,090 breakfasts served each week
- 27,000 pounds of ground beef cooked per year
- 52,800 dinner rolls baked from scratch each month
- \$67,500 worth of milk per week
- \$100,000 spent on fresh produce this school year

Editor's Note: Every month the Communication Department will publish a feature to "Shine a Light" on a department at Duncanville ISD in an effort to better acquaint all of us with our coworkers and learn how they contribute to our success. Please enjoy this second in our series of stories on the people of Duncanville ISD.



Duncanville High School's band program sent 126 students to the Area competition after they auditioned for and were selected to All-Region Band.

Band Director David Brandon said this is the largest number of DHS students ever to be selected at the Texas Music Educator's Association Region 20 competition. Students will audition at the Area D competition this evening, Tuesday, December 15. Those selected from Area will go on to the State competition.

DHS Student Sings Her Way to FFA Win

Cricket Wireless Gives \$1,000 to Brandenburg Robotics



DHS Sophomore student, Abigail Craven, recently performed at the Future



Farmer's of America talent competition. She entertained the judges with an original song, which she sang while playing her guitar. Abby scored first place on a vote by her peers to advance to the Area competition which will be held in May at Prosper High School.

District Saves Millions by Refinancing Bonds

Brandenburg Intermediate School's robotics club plans to take additional teams to next year's competition thanks to a \$1,000 grant donated by Cricket Wireless. Brandenburg was selected as one of only 16 schools in the nation to receive a grant from Cricket's "Go Positive" campaign. The campaign contributes money to organizations, like Brandenburg's robotics club, that make sure students are doing positive things at school every day. Cricket representatives said these organizations often go unnoticed, but provide a great community service. Representatives from Cricket Wireless presented the check at Brandenburg Thursday, December 10. Steve Pettit, Brandenburg's robotics club sponsor, said the club will use the money to buy additional robot kits and replacement parts.



Faculty Team Wins Bragging Rights at DHS Charity Volleyball Tournament

Duncanville Independent School District recently lowered the interest rate on previously issued bonds to save taxpayers \$12.4 million. The Refunding Program, which is a collaboration between the Finance and Operations Department and BOSC, the district's financial advisors, reviews cost-saving opportunities. During the past three years, the Refunding Program has taken advantage of favorable bond market conditions and saved the school district a total of \$20.8 million. "When our residents, parents, and business



owners approve bond packages, they expect Duncanville ISD administrators to reliably manage those funds,” said Chief Finance and Operations Officer Ronald Kuehler. “For us, that means being financially conservative while taking advantage of cost-saving opportunities when they are available.”
Read [more](#).

The students and staff who played against each other in the inaugural Powder Buff volleyball tournament raised \$1,300 for the “Sharing Love Counts” fund at Duncanville High School. The fund was started more than a decade ago to provide Christmas gifts for DHS students in need. This year’s fund tops \$4,000 and will help 16 students. The DHS senior class, junior class and student council organized the volleyball tournament to help raise money for the fund. The faculty team, Old Skool, defeated the senior team consisting of our boys soccer players in the championship game by a score of 21-19. See the photo [gallery](#).



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