



THE BUZZ

TEAM 8-3

Issue 7 January 20, 2006



Upcoming TAKS Benchmarks

In about 3 months, almost every child in the State of Texas will be taking the Texas Academic Knowledge & Skills exam (TAKS). This exam measures a student's yearly progress and can be considered an end of the year test.

Considering how important this exam is for the academic success of every child, the State of Texas recommends that students take benchmark exams to help prepare and become more familiar with how the test might look like.

At Carlos F. Truan Jr. High, we are scheduled to take several benchmark next week. Beginning on January 24th through January 26th, a math, reading, and social studies test will be given.



INSIDE

- ❖ Jokes, Jokes, Jokes!!!!
- ❖ Avoiding Peer Pressure
- ❖ Brainteasers

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Should I guess if I don't know the answer?
 Leaving an answer blank will count against you. Therefore, if you cannot come up with the correct answer, eliminate the wrong answers and select what you think is the best answer.

Q: What should I do if I'm stuck on a question?
 Skip it! You can always return to the question at a later time. Be careful to skip the space on your answer sheet as well.

BENCHMARK TESTING TIPS

- Get plenty of rest the night before
- Eat a good breakfast
- Take deep breaths during the test to help relieve anxiety
- Try to stay positive, don't let a single problem get you down
- Feeling the pressure? Stop and take a mental break for a couple minutes

Weird FACTS



Thomas Jefferson and John Adams are the only two US presidents that



signed the Declaration of Independence. Ironically, they both died on July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the signing.



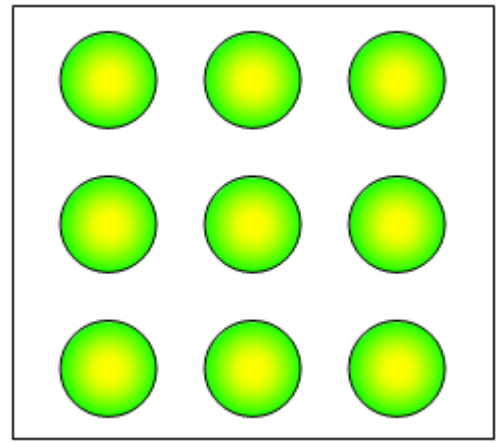
The 1st 20 African slaves were brought to the US, to the colony of Virginia in 1619, by a Dutch ship.



Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. The rest signed on a later date.

BRAIN TEASER

Connect the nine dots using only 4 straight lines.
 Hint: Think outside the box!



DATES TO KNOW

JANUARY

- 15th - Hat day
- 16th - Martin Luther King Day
- 17th - Benjamin Franklin's Birthday
- 21st - Hug Day
- 24th - National Peanut butter Day
- 25th - First Winter Olympics
- 27th - Wolfgang Mozart's Birthday
- 31st - Jackie Robinson's Birthday

Credits

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Spotlight Shines on You



This issue features Jose Octavio Arellano as the spotlight student. Jose enjoys doing many things, too many to list. Of them all, he enjoys playing football the most. In fact, he moved from Mercedes to Edcouch-Elsa just to have the chance to play for the YellowJackets. Jose would best describe himself as a hard worker that will give you the best he has.



Congratulations Michelle Vanessa Salinas for being selected as this issue's spotlight student. In school, Michelle excels in almost every subject and can often be found in the halls offering advice to those in need. At home, she enjoys spending time with her family. When she isn't beating her brother in video games, she also likes going out to the movies. Michelle claims to be a shy girl that is secretly hiding her wild-child personal-



ity. Jokes, Jokes, Jokes!!!

Football Math Test



A football coach walked into the locker room before a game, looked over to his star player and said, "I'm not supposed to let you play since you failed math, but we need you in there. So, what I have to do is ask you a math question, and if you get it right, you can play."

The player agreed, and the coach looks into his player's eyes and asks, "Okay, now concentrate hard and tell me the answer to this. What is two plus two?"

The player thought for a moment and then he answered, "4?" "Did you say 4?" the coach exclaimed, excited that he got it right.

At that, all the other players on the team began screaming, "Come on coach, give him another chance!"

If $1+1=2$ and $2+2=4$, what is $4+4$?



Teacher: If $1+1=2$ and $2+2=4$, what is $4+4$?

Pupil: That's not fair! You answer the easy ones and leave us with the hard one!

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Peer pressure is the pressure a person may feel from friends or other people to do something, which may be undesirable. In fact, all kids face peer pressure at one time or another—good and bad. Wanting to be part of the crowd can encourage kids to study hard or get involved in a worthwhile community project. It can also tempt kids to try something serious, such as skipping school or using drugs.

If you find yourself in these kinds of situations and you feel that peer pressure may be getting the best of you, try one of these suggestions to help thwart any unwanted peer pressure.

Gain confidence

Busy, Busy, Busy! Start a new hobby or join a new activity that you might enjoy, such as the FCA or playing a sport. Your success will give you the confidence you need to make smart choices—and avoid dangerous ones.

Stand strong

Decided where you stand on certain ethical issues, such as stealing, cheating, or lying. Imagine that you the one being cheated or lied to, how would you feel about it? Being aware of what you believe will make it easier for you to decided on your stance on these ethical issues.

Practices things to say

Knowing exactly what you think about something will help you better avoid the bad forms of peer pressure. For instance, if you are offered a cigarette, practice what to say, "No, thanks! I don't want to smell like an ash-tray." Practice phrases and knowing how to deal with pressure in advance may help when a difficult situation arises.