



BLANCO ISD

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Cliff Gardner - Superintendent

Superintendent's Newsletter

December 20, 2007

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

I truly appreciate your efforts to make our school district a great place for students to learn and for teachers to teach. It is no secret that you as educators must set the stage for success and it is clear to me that the dedication and commitment portrayed by you is extraordinary.

The recent past seems to have been dominated by news of hurricanes and earthquakes, war and rumors of war, record high gas prices and a crisis in the mortgage lending business. These things, plus the always entertaining world of politics and the "you're kidding' me" stuff that comes daily from Hollywood, bring to mind a line from an old "Eagles" song that says "I wonder how things ever got this crazy?" I must admit that watching the news does occasionally make me "wonder" but then I quickly come to my senses by remembering my years in the Texas public schools. To clear my mind, all I need to do is reflect on one of my visits to your campus, recall watching a middle school or high school ballgame and listening to a Christmas band concert, or just watching a group of small children heading to the cafeteria having mastered the "proud pose."

On Christmas Day of 1864 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote a poem titled "Christmas Bells" which we recognize more readily as the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." He concludes with "the Wrong shall Fail; the Right Prevail, with Peace on Earth, Good-Will to Men." You can call me old fashioned but I believe he is correct. If we stay the course and do our very best to help every child be successful----academically, mentally, emotionally, physically and dare I say spiritually----in the end "Wrong shall Fail and Right Prevail" and there will be "Peace on Earth and Good-Will to Men." There is not a better group of people to further the cause of peace on earth than the educators we have at Blanco ISD.

From time to time we will probably still "wonder how things got this crazy" but I take a great deal of comfort in knowing that the professional educators and auxiliary staff members we have in our district will continue giving until we have to "wonder" no more. And the spirit of Christmas is just that----giving----and no one does it better

STUDENTS TODAY - LEADERS TOMORROW - PANTHERS FOREVER!

than you. I, for one, am grateful for your efforts because I know that every day you get out of bed and go take on the world.

I wish everyone and those you hold dear, a safe, relaxing and meaningful holiday season. Merry Christmas to each of you and it is my prayer that you have a new year filled with many blessings. And I ask that you take a few moments over the holidays to remember our men and women who are standing guard so we can enjoy the holidays without fear.

I'll see you in January.

Cliff Gardner