

Walking the halls

By BETTY POWERS
Parnell Principal

You have probably heard talk from teachers and students about the upcoming TAKS test, and you have been wondering, "Why is everyone so concerned about this test? Read on.

What is the TAKS test? The TAKS test is short for "Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills" test, a state mandated test given in grades 3-11.

What does it measure? Contrary to what many people think, TAKS does not measure "minimum" skills. In fact, it is a very comprehensive assessment of each student's knowledge of the state-mandated objectives and instructional targets.

These TAKS objectives and instructional targets are taught from kindergarten up and addressed in the state's "Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills" which every teacher is required to teach.

The TAKS test measures your child's ability to use higher order thinking skills and problem solving strategies in the core subject areas.

Why is the TAKS test so important to schools and parents?

There are several reasons. One is that the TAKS scores are an important part of determining a school's rating by the state of Texas. Last year, Parnell Elementary was rated "Academically Acceptable" by the Texas Education Agency.

Results from the TAKS test are also used to design your child's academic program for the next school year. When we analyze the scores, we can determine areas of strength and those areas where your child may need academic growth.

At Parnell, we have been teaching the TEKS objectives all year so that when the TAKS is given, your child will be prepared.

Dates that parents need to remember:

- * Third grade TAKS reading test - Feb. 20,
- * Fourth grade TAKS writing test - Feb. 21
- * Third and Fourth grade TAKS math test - April 17
- * Fourth grade TAKS reading test - April 18

Students of the week

Jasper High School

Meghan Barnes has been selected as Jasper High School's student of the week for Jan. 29-Feb. 2.

"Meghan has worked hard in class along with being involved in many extracurricular activities. She has balanced this with her dual credit studies as an all-around student," said teacher Kenneth Simmons.

Barnes is the daughter of Felisa Brumley and Edeska Barnes.



Barnes

Jasper Junior High School

Ian Pope, a seventh grade student at Jasper Junior High School, has been selected as student of the week for Jan. 29-Feb. 2.

"Ian is a very enthusiastic student, eager to learn and explore new areas. Without hesitation, he is willing to share his informed and interesting perspective of different events and topics," said teacher Donna Ivey. "In addition he is willing to help other students who may be having difficulty. He is truly a joy to have in the classroom."

Pope enjoys reading during his spare time. His favorite subject is science. He is the son of Christopher and Cristina Pope.



Pope

UIL winners



Courtesy photo

JASPER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL students were winners in many categories in the recent University Interscholastic League (UIL) contests. Winners are Caitlyn Dubose, Luke Pickering, Hannah Vickers, Alexa Dutton, Charlotte O'Brien, Will Miller, Fancy Hollis, Yuma Morris, Shalee Faircloth, Alexis Scott, Samuel Padgett, Gabriela Perdichizzi and Ben Shaw.

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Few Ready Mix Concrete Co. Community Calendar February 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 •TopsTX Chapter 1065 meet every Thursday, 5:45 p.m. First Bank and Trust Board Room. Call 381-8642 or 383-0357	2 • JHS-College Night • Good Morning Parnell	3 • JHS-High School Rodeo Weekend-Lufkin •JHS-Kick Off Spring Pep Rally
4	5 • JISD-Staff Training: Student Holiday	6 • JEDCO monthly meeting, 6 p.m. • Few-Desk Penny Drive Begins	7	8 • TopsTX Chapter 1065 meets every Thursday, 5:45 p.m. First Bank and Trust Board Room, 381-8642 or 383-0357 • Parnell-"Ident-a-Kid" ID pictures	9 • JISD-End of 4th six weeks	10
11 •JHS-ACT test	12 • Jasper Lakes Area Humane Society, 5:30 p.m., City Hall • East Texas Art League, 6 p.m. • Deep East Texas Arch. Society meeting, 7 p.m. • Commissioners Court, 9 a.m. • City Council Meeting, 6 p.m. • School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.	13 • Chamber of Commerce Embassy Club Meeting, 12 p.m.	14  Valentine's Day	15 • Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, monthly meeting, 7 p.m. Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall •TopsTX Chapter 1065 meet every Thursday, 5:45 p.m. First Bank and Trust Board Room. Call 381-8642 or 383-0357	16 • JISD-report cards • JHS-Sadie Hawkins Dance	17 • JHS-NHS Mardi Gras Banquet
18	19 • JHS-Jr/Sr. Prom planning committee	20 • Chamber of Commerce Executive Meeting, 10:30 a.m. • Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m. • "Caring Friends" Luncheon, Belle Jim Hotel, 11:00 a.m.	21 • Rowe-5th grade Right Choice Skating Party • JHS-Project Graduation Novrozsky's night	22 •TopsTX Chapter 1065 meet every Thursday, 5:45 p.m. First Bank and Trust Board Room. Call 381-8642 or 383-0357 • Lakes Area Hospice Open House for Art Gallery, 1-4:30 p.m., 254 Ethel	23	24 • Rowe-Odyssey of the Mind Regional Meet
25	26 • JISD-Parent Conference Day	27 • East Texas Photography Club monthly meeting, 7 p.m., East Texas Regional Arts Center • Few-2nd Grade Field Trip • JISD-Parent Mini Conference at JHS	28 • JHS-Choir Concert			

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