

## Opening of School Ceremonies 2008-2009

By John Chapman

All Comfort ISD employees gathered at the Don Strange Ranch Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 9:00am to kick off another fantastic year at Comfort ISD. Opening of School Ceremonies is the official beginning of each school year. It was my pleasure to call the meeting to order as the Kendall County Sheriff's Department presented the colors while the CHS band played the National Anthem. Logan Rust, CHS senior, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge while Brittany Vaughan, also CHS senior, led the audience in a beautiful prayer.

The Comfort Community Choir was gracious enough to lend us their harmonious voices as they performed two songs acapella. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all members of the choir for sharing their beautiful music. CHS band played their theme song, which geared everyone to hear the president of the school board, Mrs. Barb Lindner, give her opening remarks. After another wonderful song from the Community Choir, I was given the honor of introducing our guest speaker from Region XIII, Dr. Pat Pringle. Not only is Dr. Pringle a former superintendent, high school principal and teacher/coach, he has also served in the capacity of former associate commissioner of education for the Texas Education Agency for twelve years. Dr. Pringle is currently the executive director of Region XIII in Austin. Dr. Pringle gave a very motivational speech which made me thankful once again that I chose this profession of being an educator.

Following Dr. Pringle's motivational speech, the three campus principals introduced the new employees to the district from their campuses. The district handed the following service awards to employees with their respective years of service to the district: 5 years (bookmark), 10 years (wooden pen), 15 years (silver apple dish), 20 years (desk clock), 25 years (silver apple), and 30 years (gold bell) of service to the district. Mrs. Connie Spenrath and Mrs. Alice Robinson both received a gold bell for over 30 years of service to the Comfort Independent School District. We appreciate their dedication to our children for so many years.

Several organizations donated gifts to the district for door prizes. The following is a list of donors: Tejas Lighting, Pier 1 Imports, Red Stallion, HCSB, 1888 Log Beds, Fredericksburg Jewelers, Bath Junkie, Ricks Furniture, Hand Carved Candles, Phil Jackson's, Cynthia's Collection, The Back Porch, Bath and Body, Bank of the Hills, HEB and KATS. Thank you so much for your generous donations to the CISD employees.

Four special awards were also presented to various individuals. The Supporter of the Year award was presented to Andrew Collins for his pride, inspiration and love for CISD. The Teacher of the Year awards went to very deserving teachers: Elementary, Angie Barker; Middle School, Doris Reeh and High School, Hal Harwell. Congratulations to these individuals for this prestigious award.

Comfort ISD's motto will continue to be "Believe". *Believe* in yourself, *Believe* in your peers and ultimately, *Believe* in our children. The district is adding an additional word to the motto, "LEAD". We must find that special God given gift / talent in every child, expose it, polish it, and then "Lead" our children in the right direction.

Dana Lindner, *Photography by Dana*, donated her time and efforts to take a group photo of the entire CISD staff. These pictures will be displayed on all three campuses as well as Central Office.

A special thanks to Amanda Rust, Jerry Lively and Mollye Williams for all of their hard work in making the 2008-2009 Opening of School Ceremonies a huge success. I am excited and proud to have my children attending the Comfort Independent School District. We are moving closer to being one of the best 2A districts in the state of Texas.

