

# Bearkat Buzz

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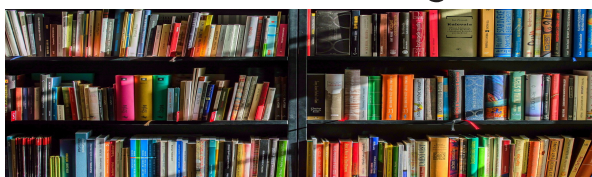
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# Senior Spotlight

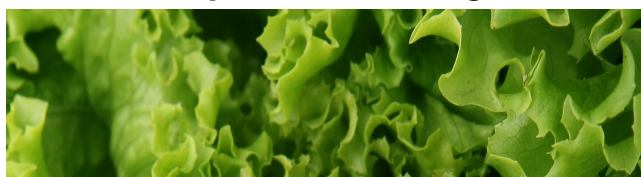
## Worlds Collide



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**"The Times They Are A- Changin'"**

**Veteran Teachers Tell About the Changes They Have Seen at CISD**

*Deanna Egan and Stacey Willis have a combined total of fifty years experience working at Cushing ISD. We interviewed them to get their views on the changes they have seen over the years in education at CISD*



**Deanna Egan**

**How long have you been working in Cushing?**

I have worked at Cushing for 26 years. 27 if you count the year I subbed. I was hired as a Teachers' Aide for junior high and high school. I did that for eight years. I spent the next two years as an aide in the junior high and high school resource classes. After 10 years as an aide, I was able to complete my bachelor's degree and have been teaching junior high English ever since. I absolutely love my job and would not want to be anywhere else.

**What has changed the most about your job since you started teaching?**

Sadly, the emphasis on state testing and the time I have to spend teaching test taking strategies in order for my students to be successful. This is mainly because students' brains are being re-hardwired for short, constantly changing stimuli, and our standardized tests are traditional pencil and paper format. The biggest challenge for me is to build up attention stamina.

**What is something you would like your students to know?**

I love them and appreciate their effort, and I believe in them.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of school?**

Playing with my grandson, John Luke, reading, taking photographs, sitting on my porch, and bird watching.



**Stacey Willis**

**How long have you been working in Cushing?**

This is my twenty-third year teaching at Cushing.

**What has changed the most about your job since you started teaching?**

The gym I work in! I taught for thirteen years in the old carpet gym without air conditioning. I moved up big time when we built the new elementary.

**What is something you would like your students to know?**

I love teaching elementary aged children. They are my students for seven years. I miss them when they move to Junior High. I have had a few come back as high school student aides, which has been fun.

**What do you enjoy doing outside of school?**

I enjoy watching my son, Ryan, play trombone in the SFA marching band. I enjoy taking my daughter, Bethany, to many places for competitive cheer competitions. My husband, Brady, and I have two longhorns. We are really enjoying watching them grow. I am excited to see how long their horns are going to get.



Congratulations to all of the students who represented Cushing at the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) banquet at SFA.



**Bearkat Honor Roll**

**Third Grade**

- Karter Arreguin
- Tait Duvall
- Zoe Gary
- Emery Hagemeier
- Lilly Ham
- Ryan Hart
- Brynli McCarthy
- Audrey McQueen
- Kailea Moore
- Christian Reeves

**Fourth Grade**

- Lance Copeland
- Cason Leishman
- William Owens
- Fifth Grade**
- Reese Hagemeier
- Ava Harvin
- Emy Quezada
- Stephen Tamez
- Bryce Upshaw

**A/B Honor Roll**

**Third Grade**

- Allie Benge
- Evelyn Donnell
- Cooper Gardner
- Troy Griffith
- Kathleen Klokke
- Daegon Lee
- Jared Lostracco
- Stacey Nugent
- Carter Pena
- Shelby Ross
- Gabe Tamez
- Coraline West
- Halle Wheeler

**Fourth Grade**

- Esther Flores
- Dylan Flores-Garcia
- Elena Gans
- Morgan Neal
- Paul Wyatt
- Fifth Grade**
- Lukas Castleberry
- Emily Cosby
- Elyse Gans
- Jace Gresham
- Madison Holland
- Emma Willhite

**Honor Roll**

**Third Grade**

- Beau Lyons

**Fifth Grade**

- Anna Benge



## Lettuce Experiment

Cushing Elementary planted a variety of lettuce in six plant beds. Grades and classes were divided into responsibilities such as: watering, weeding, measuring growth, etc. When freezing temperatures surged through, students found interesting results. Students concluded that plants that receive sunlight earlier were not as damaged as those that were shaded. Overall, the Buttercrunch Lettuce withstood the cold temperatures better than the Romaine Lettuce.

Throughout the experiment, students learned how to plant a garden, how to set up and build raised beds, what items are needed to maintain a garden, what factors lead to the development of plants, and how sunlight affects plant growth.

The experiment was led by science teacher, Mr. Walt McGarrett, also known as "Mr. Mac."



## LUCKY TO BE IN PRE-K

Mrs. Courtney's class made the color green and rainbow necklaces to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.



**Make  
a  
Difference**



Elementary students recently participated in the Kids' Heart Challenge in PE. This is Cushing Elementary's twenty-third year to participate in the challenge previously known as Jump Rope for Heart.

During the month of February, students learned about heart health and how to protect all hearts- especially other kids. Students discovered ways to take care of their hearts and brains while practicing kindness, gratitude, and learning ways to de-stress.

Throughout the challenge, students raised money for the American Heart Association. Third grade took the lead and raised \$1,089 of the \$2,740 total. Way to go!



# RADIUM GIRLS

## OAP Advances!

Cushing ISD's One Act Play theater company competed with the show "Radium Girls" at its first UIL competition on March 3rd. After performing at Panola College, the company waited an entire day to receive the news they had advanced!



"Radium Girls" proves to be a captivating show with not only a strong cast and crew, but a strong message as well.



The Cushing ISD One Act Play Team right after competing at Panola.



Senior Kaitlyn Hyett receives DAR recognition!



# SENIORS SOUND OFF!

## Motivation or Discipline: Which is Better?

*Asa Dawson shares his perspective*

"Discipline is better than motivation because you don't have to rely on anyone else. No matter the situation, discipline can always be practiced. Motivation only comes once in a while, but discipline will always be there. Many times in life people wait on motivation or rely on motivation to get things done. When you catch yourself waiting on other people, you will fall behind your dreams. This is why discipline is better than motivation."



## Should you talk to strangers more often?

*Tori Lee provides her insight*

"I firmly believe that people should talk to strangers more regularly. The unknown elderly lady browsing the same Wal-Mart aisle as you could be the door to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You can never be sure of what's on someone's mind until you ask them, and some of the answers you get will be unpredictable. I think probably close to a third of the knowledge I have has been gained from strangers' advice and conversation. Also, everyone in your life has been a stranger to you at some point. You can make a life-long connection just by complimenting someone or saying "Hey!" Chats with strangers can be pretty beneficial,

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too. They might be able to help with something you're having trouble with or even just bring up an interesting topic as food for thought for the day. Although some interactions can be bad, the gamble is worth it for the good opportunities. Don't *not* talk to strangers.

## ARMY: Warriors Wanted

Students visited the Army trailer and experienced sky dive and helicopter simulations, learned about terrain mapping technology, and shot alien bugs in a virtual shooting range designed to look like outer space.

