

END OF SECOND 6 WEEKS REPORTING PERIOD PARENT UPDATE LETTER

November 3, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are ending the second six weeks this week in style. The students studied typography and as a culminating activity dressed up as a novelty, serif, sans serif or script type on Halloween. The photo gallery can be seen on this web page.

The students learned to write a lead by showing, a quote with details and mastered the basics of InDesign. They know how to batch name their photo files using Adobe Bridge.

Last week managing editor of the *Round Rock Leader*, Marcial Guajardo, visited the newspaper classes to talk about reporting by observing what is happening around you. Stories are everywhere if you let your senses do a little research. He also showed them tips on taking interesting photos, shared his press passes for Taylor Swift's concert and recent photos of Johnny Depp who recently was filming in Austin.

Journalist Bobby Hawthorne entertained all journalism classes with his storytelling charm in November. They especially loved his story—*A Pizza My Heart*. Probably the second favorite was the bra story. You can't help but want to put a pencil to paper after listening to Bobby for an hour or two or three. He puts words to work describing events that make history and others that just make for a good read. He served as the UT ILPC president for 20 years and now writes and lectures to scholastic journalism forums across the country.

The yearbook staff is now in full production. Our first deadline is November 21. Period 7 students will be working on their spreads after school and into the night on Friday, November 11. Pizza will be provided and you should see a flyer about this work night and the details.

The 9th period staff will work on their spreads and complete them on Friday, November 18, after school and into the evening. More pizza will be served, and all that goes along with motivating them to write until they have all photos placed and captions and copy written.

The news staff is slowly blogging our online newspaper. The staff mastered writing briefs and sports profiles and will begin feature stories this 3rd 6 weeks. You may view our online paper at www.cedarvalleynewspaper.org.

The anchors for the Jag News—Haley, Taryn and Noah—tape the weekly news each Wednesday afternoon. We are working on acquiring the green paint to make a green screen.

Photos of the week are kinda a big deal and you can find them on our website. Also, check out the BEATS link because that will tell you what pages or stories your student is responsible for each 6 weeks. The POD listing is updated by one of our Editor in Chiefs.

Questions? You may contact me via E-mail or by phone (school - 428.2385 or cell 632.8390).

I can hear the cold front moving in tonight and hope sweater weather is here—finally!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dowd
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