

## SRC: LIVE Science



SRC Manager Alice Flood holds "Ollie," a blue-tongued skink, as kindergarten student Ashley Perez feels the texture of the reptile's skin during an *Animal Odyssey* field trip, now located in its new facility.

### SRC opens *Animal Odyssey* building

As the kindergarten students sat in the newest addition to the Science Resource Center (SRC) and listened to the volunteer facilitator talk about the characteristics of fish, the facilitator asked, "What do fish eat?" One student raised his hand and responded, "Fish food."

The SRC, a facility that functions to enrich science experiences for CFISD elementary and secondary students, recently introduced its kindergarten field trip *Animal Odyssey* in a new portable building at the SRC facility.

According to SRC Manager Alice Flood, the addition of the portable

See SRC, page 5

## Bond passes; next step begins

An \$807 million bond referendum was recently passed with a 55-percent approval rating from the Cy-Fair community. As CFISD begins planning for the 2007 bond referendum projects, residents can observe the district's wise financial planning in the strategic way it implements bond projects over a period of time.

The major reason the district does not initiate all projects at the same time is to manage the affect construction projects have on the tax rate. Scheduling projects over time helps keep the tax impact minimized.

Over the past decade, CFISD has effectively financed a total of approximately \$1.5 billion in schoolhouse bonds with at most a five-cent increase to the Interest and Sinking (I&S) Tax rate after all bonds have been sold.

The maximum tax increase for the recently passed \$807 million referendum is projected not to exceed 6.5 cents and will not be realized until 2011.

The passage of the 2007 Bond Referendum plays a significant role in meeting the district's future facility and technology needs brought on by a record-breaking student enrollment, which will potentially exceed 116,500 by the 2011-2012 school year.

According to Dr. David Anthony, superintendent of schools, the successful bond election was a direct result of the community's commitment to quality education for a fast-growing student population in CFISD.

"The community re-confirmed their expectations that CFISD shall continue to provide similar programs and buildings for our students, regardless of the geographic location."

The district's longstanding tradition of providing CFISD students with a valuable educational experience is sustained through the practice of business and community volunteers partnering with the district to provide safe, stimulating learning environments so that each child receives a well-rounded education.

In February 2007, a 70-member committee (comprised of business leaders and community members) was formed to analyze

See BOND, page 4

## Board approves calendar for 2008-2009 school year

The district's Board of Trustees approved the 2008-2009 school calendar, recommended by the district's 32-member calendar committee, during its regularly scheduled November Board meeting.

The calendar includes the following significant dates:

- **Aug. 25:** First Day of School;
- **Sept. 1:** Student/Staff Holiday (Labor Day);
- **Nov. 26-28:** Thanksgiving Break;
- **Dec. 22-Jan. 5:** Winter Break;
- **March 16-20:** Spring Break;
- **June 3:** Last Day of School; and
- **Oct. 13, Jan. 19, April 13:** Inclement Weather Days

See CALENDAR, page 6