



Cy Lakes reaches out to community with *Catch the Dream* program. [see page 2](#)



PLATO Learning program helps students recover credits. [see page 3](#)



Registration forms for the ROPES Summer Program are due May 8. [see page 4](#)



Ray Ramer spends many hours mentoring CFISD students. [see page 7](#)

## Cy-Fair community preps for first Health Expo

In an effort to promote healthy living, CFISD is partnering with businesses in the Cy-Fair community to make preparations for the community's first Health Expo scheduled for May 16 at the Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress Road, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Cy-Fair Health Expo is a wonderful way for CFISD to join with some of our best partners to let our community know that we care about them and all aspects of their well-being," said Cheryl Salyards, associate superintendent of governmental relations and communication.

The Health Expo, a free event for the entire community, will have ample activities for both children and adults, which will include various scheduled performances and demos from Cy-Fair schools and businesses. The day's agenda currently includes elementary school choirs, jump ropers and other performance teams from within the district.

Presentations will also be given by organizations from outside of the district including cooking demos by Clive Berkman, author and award-winning chef, at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Harris County Constable Precinct 4 will offer an in-depth presentation about Internet child safety called "Stranger Danger." According to Nancy Rose, coordinator for Safe and Drug Free Schools, this presentation aims to inform parents of the risks that exist when children disclose personal information on the Internet.

"We live in a day and time where parents have to be extremely careful when allowing

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Janet Kramer of Owens Elementary School practices CPR skills on a mannequin during a CPR class offered by the district's Health Services Department. CPR/First Aid classes will be offered to the community during Cy-Fair's first Health Expo scheduled for May 16.

## Legislators discuss accountability system

CFISD students have successfully completed their first week of TAKS testing; meanwhile, Texas legislators are currently in session to discuss possible changes in the state's accountability system.

An accountability system, according to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), is a policy of holding schools and teachers accountable for students' academic progress. The results from the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test are used in one accountability system that is currently being implemented across the state to provide data on how well schools are performing academically. Data from these standardized tests are summarized by student groups and compared

to a state standard. The percent of students passing in each content area and every student group determines a final label or rating.

Last year, 39 campuses were *Recognized*, 10 were *Exemplary* and 21 CFISD schools received an *Academically Acceptable* rating.

According to Dr. Rayyan Amine, senior director of campus improvement and research, the state's accountability system bases ratings on a campus' and district's lowest performing student group. This, she said, is a significant problem in the state's accountability system.

"For example, if a school receives passing scores within the *Exemplary* or *Recognized* range in all student groups with the exception

of one group, that school could receive a rating of *Academically Acceptable* despite the fact that all other student groups received higher scores," Amine said. "We need an accountability system that is fair and will put more emphasis on the student groups that have done exceptionally well rather than the ones that have not."

CFISD and community members who make up the Community Legislative Committee-81st Session (CLC-81<sup>st</sup>) are hoping that issues such as this are addressed during the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session. On Feb. 16, the committee met to discuss the different areas in the accountability system that need to be re-evaluated by the state. Another concern that is

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