

# HotSync

Volume 1 Issue 3 ■ April 2009  
NTH@Coppell PT50 Newsletter

## Bits and Bytes from Mrs. Branum

There are only a few short weeks for us to all be together as the inaugural group of learners, parents, and staff. I truly hope that each of us will really encourage ourselves and those we touch each day to soak in these memories. There will never be another group that can say they experienced all the firsts! I know our learners are so looking forward to their summer break but I want these 10 weeks to pass slowly so I can soak in every minute of our last days in the 2008-2009 school year.

There are many wonderful things coming up in the spring such as our first awards dinner, first orientation for an incoming freshmen class, and our first trip to assist another New Tech school with their launch. The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills will take place the last week of April and I have full confidence our learners are solid in their content acquisition and will perform highly on these assessments. Ninth grade parents please be looking at our schedule because your learners will have two additional late arrival days due to the sophomore testing schedule.

Mrs. Pace and I are interviewing each of our 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade learners to discover their elective, dual-credit, and job shadowing requests. It is fun to hear all of the exciting interests they have planned for themselves. We do anticipate hiring 6 teachers including a new elective teacher. We hope to expand our elective openings for the 2009-2010 school year as well as expand the dual-credit offerings. NTH@C will introduce AP level courses for their juniors in the core areas. Senor Lee is planning a phenomenal Spanish IV experience that will include an exchange program with a school either in Latin America or Mexico. In addition to all of these experiences many of our learners will also participate in a wonderful PSAT/SAT preparation program beginning late spring. We hope their involvement with this rich program will assist our learners in achieving all their collegiate dreams.

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4.07	Transition Expo, CHS, 5-7 pm
4.09	Red/Gold Renaissance
4.11	CISD 50th Anniversary, CHS, 2-4 pm
4.20	"Real Options" Parent Program, 6:30 pm
4.22	Accuplacer
4.24	Gold Renaissance
4.25	Spring Fling, 5-8 pm
4.27	TAKS: Sophomore Social Studies
4.28	TAKS: Sophomore Math
4.30	TAKS: Freshmen Math/Sophomore Science
5.22	Red/Gold Renaissance

## Community Service

Remember! It is a graduation requirement for each learner to complete ten(10) hours each school year. We will send out an update on the Community Service hours completed by each learner through their Networking classes. The parents will need to sign and return confirmation of the number of hours completed by their learner through this date. The hours for this school year must be completed prior to the last day of school. There are many opportunities to serve throughout the Spring. If you need help finding places to work, remember to look at the Community Service bar on the left hand side of the New Tech website for a list of approved sites for learners to serve!

### PTSO 2009-10

#### WANTED!

#### All New Tech Parents

Please share your creativity and ideas with the New Tech family and be party of the upcoming PTSO Board. Be sure to watch for additional information in an upcoming email.

### MAKE NOTE! CHANGE IN TAKS TEST DATES

#### Monday, April 27, 2009

Sophomores: Social Studies  
Freshmen: Arrive at 11:00  
(This is a change in date!)

#### Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Sophomores: Math TAKS  
Freshmen: Arrive at 11:00

#### Wednesday, April 29, 2009

No testing.

#### Thursday, April 30, 2009

Sophomores: Science TAKS  
Freshmen: Math TAKS

### CISD 50th Anniversary

The Coppell Independent School District is turning 50! The Anniversary celebration is planned for Saturday, April 11, 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Coppell High School. The festive event will be a great opportunity for alumni to reminisce and reconnect.

### Summer Programs

The counseling office receives information on a regular basis about summer programs. If you are looking for enriching activities for your learner to participate in over the summer, check the "Summer Programs" link under "Counseling" on the New Tech website.

### Learners' Showcase

Check out Learners' Showcase on New Tech's website where outstanding Foreign Language, Humanities, Math and Science Projects are featured. Go to Academics, Learner's Showcase, click on the following link:

<http://www.coppellisd.com/473720213143611947/site/default.asp>

The community can see some of the awesome products NTH learners are creating.

### Making High School Count

On Wednesday, April 1, [Monster.com](http://www.monster.com) will visit New Tech to talk to the Sophomores about preparing for college with their "Making High School Count" program. This is a great time for parents to discuss with their learner what they are looking for in a college as they begin to research the many, many schools that are out there! Mrs. Pace will be working with the Freshmen and several facilitators on this day as they go through the [Bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com) program and take a look at their strengths and weaknesses and complete interest inventories as they begin researching careers and college majors.

## Transition Expo

Special Transition Expo will be held on Tuesday, April 7 from 5 to 7 pm at CHS. The event is co-hosted by the ARC of Dallas.

Special guest speakers and agencies will address such topics as education, special needs trusts and financial planning, residential living, guardianship, support groups, transition opportunities and more.

The expo will be held in the Commons Area and Lecture Hall.

## Bits and Bytes from Ms. Branum

(Continued from page 1)

There are many groups coming to see us this spring. We have a group from Abilene, Irving ISD, Wyoming, Louisiana, and California. In addition we are developing strong partnerships with ACU, Northlake, and SMU's Cox School of Business. In fact, ACU and Northlake will be sending teams of their professors to observe our facilitators in action because they are so impressed with our teaching methodologies. I assure you these tours do not interfere with our learning environment but instead enrich our learner's experience.

As a result of the tours we find our learners are more attentive to their surroundings, are proud to share the greatness of NTH@C, and use this to brag to doubters regarding the success of our school.

Thank you for your support and tenacious spirit of support for NTH@C! I don't know what I would do without you or your learner (except maybe get some sleep 😊)  
Thanks and have a super spring!

**Captain B**

## Accuplacer

On Wednesday, April 22, Sophomores at New Tech will take the ACCUPLACER. ACCUPLACER is a computer-based test of reading, math and writing skills and includes a writing sample. About three hours are required to complete the exam. As part of the Texas Success Initiative (TSI), any learner attending a Texas college or university must demonstrate basic reading, math, and writing skills.

Northlake College requires all of their learners to take the ACCUPLACER. Since many of our learners will begin dual credit courses during their Junior year, Northlake College has been very gracious and has agreed to bring the ACCUPLACER to our campus. Sophomore learners will receive a Northlake application which will need to be completed and returned to Mrs. Pace by April 15th. A completed application is required prior to taking the exam. We will be talking about this in more depth with the learners in the upcoming weeks.

## Real Options: 180 Degrees Parent Curriculum

The PTSO will host a parent program on Monday, April 20th at 6:30pm. The program is called: "Real Options: 180 Degrees Parent Curriculum." Guest speaker Jennifer Waters will address the topic of sexual education with the perspectives of:

- Fresh Start
- 25 STD's
- Healthy Relationships
- Have Faith in Good Decisions
- Real Facts of Life
- Abstinence
- Peer Pressure

All parents are encouraged to attend this informative program.

## Reading Program: Wednesday Book Studies

The Wednesday book studies and discussion groups begin this week. The Freshmen will be reading [The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) and the Sophomores will select one of four books: [A Long Way Gone](#), [Tuesdays with Morrie](#), [Into Thin Air](#), and [Three Cups of Tea](#). In May, The Sophomores will read [The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens](#) and the Freshmen will select a novel. We hope to generate a lot of great discussion on Wednesdays in these groups.

## Garage Sale

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank all the learners, facilitators, staff and parents who helped with the garage sale. The event raised \$4,500!

Additional information for many of the topics included in this newsletter may be accessed on the school website at [www.coppellisd.com/newtech](http://www.coppellisd.com/newtech). Be sure to visit the site on a regular basis for updates and more NTH@C news.

## Mardi Gras Night

This year's event was a huge success! A big thanks to the parents, learners, facilitators, and staff who helped raise \$10,000 for Children's Medical Center.

## KnowledgeWorks and New Technology Foundation

KNOWLEDGEWORKS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATIONS JOIN FORCES  
TO TRANSFORM APPROACH TO HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE U.S.

KnowledgeWorks Foundation Commits \$10 Million  
and Expertise Over Four Years

to Support Expansion of Promising New Tech High Schools  
Former AOL CEO Barry Schuler to head National New Tech Board

KnowledgeWorks Foundation, a national public education philanthropy, announced a strategic partnership with New Technology Foundation (New Tech), an organization that has pioneered an approach to collaborative, technology-based learning and teaching designed to give students the knowledge and skills they need to compete in the Information Age. Barry Schuler, former CEO of AOL, was appointed as Chairman of the Board of New Tech Foundation.

As part of this partnership, KnowledgeWorks will provide up to \$10 million to New Tech over a four year period, along with operational guidance and strategic expertise, to help develop the infrastructure necessary to support the rapidly growing network of New Tech schools. The management teams have already begun working together over the past nine months, with a focus on operations and further developing New Tech's technology platform.

"We're thrilled to have KnowledgeWorks and Barry on board to help us rapidly grow the New Tech network," said Susan Schilling, CEO of New Technology Foundation. "Developing our nation's next set of leaders who come into adulthood with the ability to find and analyze information, solve problems, communicate solutions, and implement them has never been of greater importance."

New Tech has quietly emerged as the most successfully-replicated approach to transforming high school education in the U.S. There currently are 39 public high schools in the New Tech network with over 8,500 students in 9 states, and another 13-15 schools expected to open by August 2009.

More information from this article can be found at the KnowledgeWorks Foundation website at [www.kwfdn.org](http://www.kwfdn.org).