

# BULLDOG BEACON

## TWPD-COOP Grant Supports Pollinator Gardens at Elementary Campus

The Jefferson ISD Pollinator Pals have been hard at work to help the pollinators! Funded through a matching grant awarded to JISD from Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. (TPWD) Recreational Grants division, students from the High School Horticulture class assisted the second and third grade students in an interactive event on the school campus to install raised beds and create a mini-meadow for pollinators. The day was spent converting part of an under utilized area on the school campus from turf grass to a pollinator paradise.

The elementary students took part in several activities throughout the day, which included making seed balls, learning about what makes a good pollinator habitat, helping to install raised beds, and creating a mini-meadow to attract pollinators. It was a fun day and a chance for the students to get their hands dirty - literally! The students made seed balls - a combination of wildflower seeds, clay, compost and water - with help from partners at Collins Academy (Sara Griffin, Pam Watts, Marnie Erin) and Cypress Basin Chapter Master Naturalist ViAnn Sawyer. Later in the afternoon, the students got to toss their seed balls into their new mini-meadow pollinator habitat. The event hosted TPWD partner Kelsey Johnson, Park Ranger and Interpreter at Caddo Lake SP. Students learned from Ranger Johnson about the 4 components of pollinator habitats - food, water, shelter, space. Students also took part in a fun learning game to help them determine what would be a 'need vs. want' for pollinators. With the help of the High School Horticulture class, the Elementary students were shown how to make raised beds, led by partner Robert Haynes, Wildlife Biologist at the non-profit ecoVerdant. These beds will be planted later using wildflower seeds the Horticulture class collected locally at TPWD's Caddo Lake Wildlife Management Area.

One of the goals of this project is to preserve native plants for seed stocks to support outdoor educational learning experiences. The

students are preserving local plants through seed collecting, rearing and replanting to address real-time conservation management issues facing TPWD partners, while also providing students hands-on approaches that enhance Conservation Stewardship skills.

The goal of the TPWD-COOP grant seeks to promote outdoor and environmental education while empowering the next generation of responsible land managers and stewards. This activity also helped the campus complete a component of the Junior Master Gardener program, which was implemented across several of the JISD campuses earlier this semester.



A show of hands by students as they make seed balls for their mini meadow at the elementary school.

## Jefferson Students Donate Food to Those in Need



Isabella Powell and Brycen Whatley

The Jefferson Primary School held their annual Thanksgiving food drive this month.

"We were very proud of our participation this year," Kaitlyn Wommack said. "Parents and students showed dedication showed a lot of heart."

Jefferson Primary students collected over 500 pounds of food to donate to the Blessings of Grace food pantry. The pantry serves needy families in the Marion County community.

"Our students were excited to donate and help the less fortunate," Wommack said.

Wommack gave a shout-out to two of the top contributors.

"Thank you to our top contributors Brycen Whatley, Isabella Powell, and all others who donated," Wommack said. "They raised our donations quite a bit."

## JISD Sells Surplus Acreage

Jefferson ISD trustees approved the sale of 2.67 acres in the Smithland area to Eastern Marion County Water Supply Tuesday.

Previously, trustees had declared the property surplus and had advertised it for sale.

EMC paid \$12,500. The school district will pay for the survey.

The date of the board's January meeting was moved to Jan. 15 to avoid conflicts with the Christmas break.

An amendment to the district's Innovation Plan to reflect the JeffersonISD.org web site was approved.

Director of Special Services Clint Coyne briefed the board on special education staffing, indicating that he would bring a recommendation for an additional diagnostician at the board's December meeting.



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To help celebrate the first Jimplecute Pet of the Week adoption (see Nov. 8 Jimp issue), we are publishing a work of fiction that is based on a true story written by local author Margaret McMillin. The piece was written for children and will run as a short series over the next four weeks. We hope you enjoy the story of Mighty Max!

### THE TRUE STORY OF A SCARED LITTLE DOG AND THE MAN WHO BECAME HIS BEST FRIEND (Part 2 of 4)

That evening the women came out to check on him. She also brought food and water. She tried to coax the little dog out from under the old rusty truck, but he would have no part of that, no sir! He felt safe under the rusty old truck. The little dog was glad the women kept the dogs and that slinky gray cat away from him.

The next morning, just as the sun was coming up in the East, the little dog raised his head. His big black eyes watched as the sun rose upward. The little dog felt weak, hungry and thirsty. He couldn't remember the last time he had eaten, and with the sun coming up, it would be another hot day. His big black eyes spotted a tub of water. Maybe, he thought, I can snick over there and get a quick drink, then run back under this rusty old truck. His big black eyes looked around for those two big dogs and that slinky gray cat. He didn't see them anywhere, not even the women. Go! Go! Go! Run! Run! Run! Almost there, just a little more and he would be at the tub of water. Then he saw them! The two big barking dogs and that gray cat, all running at him as fast as their four legs could carry them. "Oh no, turn around, turn around," he thought. He skid to a stop and turned around so fast his big black eyes couldn't keep up with where he was going! Even in his tired, weaken state, the little dog was surprised how fast he could run with three wild animals after him. He made it, he was safe. Safe under that rusty old truck again. But, still no water. He heard the women yelling at her three wild animals, "Get away from that little dog!"

(To be continued next week in the Jimp)

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