



Northside Bus Chatter Newsletter

Northside
Transportation
Department

May, 2001

From The Director's Desk

Congratulations to the following NISD Transportation Department personnel for the school year 2000/2001.

Retirees-Rhodes: Francisco Galan, Louis D. Gonzales, Douglas Haskett, C.M. Rameriz, Ruth Ramos, Wayne Rich and Delbert Saterlee. **South Station-Eddie Mae Rhinehart** and Geneva Richardson are retiring from service to NISD. **30 Year Service Award Recipient:** Susie Flores, a driver from North Station, is celebrating 30 tremendous years. Congratulations for her long period of excellent service! **20 Year Service Award Recipients.** Bruce Warner our Transportation Safety and Training Manager as well as Esperanza Alvarado and Tommy Lynne Moody of South Station; Clara Tate at North Station and Elsie Eakin at Rhodes Center. **10 Year Service Award Recipients.. Rhodes Center-Secretary** Hermelinda Gomez; **Drivers** Sidney Booth, Yolanda Fernandez and Nancy Ritchie; Assistants Mary Muriel and Linda Quiroga. **South Station-Drivers** Donel Arnic, Joyce Faulkner, Patricia Everman, and John Sisk. **Assistants** Mary Cruz, Janie Jackson, Barbara Moore, Marizel Sanchez and Robin Taylor. **North Station-Drivers** Charles Creswell; Ofelia Machado; Bobbie McCown; Ray



Ogden; Gus Rodriguez; and Dan Starr. **5 Year Service Jacket Recipients. Rhodes Center Drivers** -David Rodriguez, Martin Terry, Lorenzo Rodriguez, Larry Hill, Judith Rodriguez, Joe Cowan, Primitivo Soto, Shirley Baity, Hanet Lampman, Freddie Hicks, Paul Cervantes, Henry Flores, Hadi Al-Balhady and David Powell. **Assistants**-Ursula Schoenborn, Raquel Ruiz and Frances Espinoza. **South Station Drivers-** Mary Ann Flores, Eric Bey, Andrew Flores, Erlinda Olivarez, Maria Wise, James Godley, Larry Washington, Michael

Garza, Diana Moreno, Mary Garcia, Arthur Mooring, Sylvia Gomez, Eddie Mae Rhinehart, Rachel Casias, and Olga Bellville. **Assistants-** Lilly Garcia, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Scarberry, Shanette Williams, Benjamin Arcia, and Erlinda Del Rio. **Technicians** -James Lappin and Alejandro Martinez. **North Station Secretaries** -Debra Insall, Stella Reyes, Bill Walbran. **Drivers**-Steve Alagona, Sylvia Contreras, Wilfredo Feliciano, Ronald Gamez, Donald Proulx, Esperanza Salazar, Helen Schaper, Terry Vettors, Lou Villarreal, and Russell Wilson. **Assistants**-Leona Blankenship and Rosemary Luna.

Congratulations to all who have served Northside so well. Retirees and 30 and 20 year service recipients were recognized May 9 at Clark HS. Accident-free drivers and assistants also will be recognized and receive pins May 31, 2001 at the Station brunches.

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May, 2001

- 25-31 High School Early Release
- 28 Memorial Day
- 31 Last Day of School Year 2000/2001

June, 2001

- 2-6 TAPT at McAllen, TX
- 11 EYS First Day/High School Summer Programs begin



A Real Hero In Our Midst... The Heimlich Maneuver Saves The Life of a Galm Elementary Child

Velma Cruz, a South Station Bus Driver, is for a child at Galm Elementary, a true hero. We are all potential heroes when we pass the Department's CPR and First Aid mandatory coursework. But few of us may have the chance--or will come onto a scene--when we must implement our training and save the life of another human being. The Heimlich maneuver had to be done by an alert bus driver for a child at Galm Elementary recently when a second grader brought on board the bus a piece of hard candy given by someone at the school. Since the candy already was in the child's mouth, it was not observed by the driver when the child boarded the bus along with the others for the afternoon run home. But an alert Velma Cruz saw the child in distress and determined that the child was choking. Taking swift action she performed the Heimlich maneuver and successfully dislodged the object from the child who was choking. All of us having been trained to do this maneuver probably hope we never have to do it for real. Velma Cruz not only did it for real but is a true HERO. "Hats off to Velma Cruz!"



No Overnight Guests on Our School Buses, Please!!



South station personnel were surprised recently when the special needs Bus 306 had an overnight guest on top of their right rear view mirror. When Driver Team Jack Owns and Assistant Erlinda Del Rio did their pre-trip inspection they found an extra passenger already on board. Careful removal of the nest to a safe area where Mom Bird could protect her eggs was hastily arranged. But Mom Bird came back the next morning and completely rebuilt the nest. Moved once again, the third newly-built nest has not occurred on Bus 306-----YET.





Sign Up For Summer Bus Assignments and Fall Supplemental Routes



ESY or summer programs at NISD are fast approaching after school year 2000/2001. If you are interested in working this summer as a Driver or an Assistant please contact your Assistant Station Manager and follow his or her directions for the appropriate sign-up procedures. There will be a form that is similar as in years past to allow you to express your preference for ONE ASSIGNMENT ONLY. Please avoid a mistake commonly made by signing up for MORE THAN ONE ASSIGNMENTS. Doing this will put you back in the bidding pool without respecting your preference. ONE SUMMER ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCE ONLY PLEASE.

The School Year 2001/2002 Supplemental Routes are assigned by seniority this August, 2001 from a sign-up sheet maintained by each Station Manager. If you wish to work during the mid-day on a school bus next school year your name must be on the sign-up sheet. After the initial Supplemental Routes (SRs) have been filled additional SRs will be posted on the bidding system at each station as they are received from other schools.

From Bruce Warner, Safety and Training Manager

In order to maintain driver eligibility, each driver needs to insure that they are current in the following categories to maintain their CDL and drive next school year:



1. Have a current CDL.
2. Have a new physical over the summer. Please schedule your physical exam ASAP, but after the last day of school at: Advanced Medical Group, 7913 Bandera Road (Mainland and Bandera), Phone 680-9393. **All physicals must be taken through this clinic and the examination certificates in possession before driving next year.**
3. Drivers must possess a current Certification Card in order to drive next school year. If you need one or it will expire before August, 2001, then attend one of the following classes as they apply to you:

CERTIFICATION CLASSES: July 16 & 17 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and July 18, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 noon at Rhodes Center, 12005 Leslie Road. **RE-CERTIFICATION CLASSES:** July 19, 2001 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Rhodes.



Summer, 2001 Lift Driver Team Training Program

For the fourth year, all Lift Driver Teams will be required to attend the Summer, 2001 Lift Training Program held at Reddix Center. This summer the Step 9 Trainers (Rhodes-Susanna Bliss and Elda Gallegos; South-Joyce Goodman, Arlene Gonzales and Jeanette O'Day; and North-Connie Propst) will train 75 Lift Driver Teams on the following topics:

Bending and Lifting Students and Equipment without Injury; Kinedyne Retraktor **Wheelchair Tiedowns**; Kinedyne **Occupant Restraint (shoulder belts)** for wheelchair users; **Mass evacuation drill** off the lift bus using 3 Rescue Randys (Chris 1, 2 and 3) in three types of wheelchairs (manual wheelchair, powered wheelchair and scooter). Drill will include the use of three wool blankets for body pulls and over-the-shoulder carries; Review **student personal equipment management** on the lift bus—use, emergency backup, safe tiedown, etc.;

Safe lift operation on ground levels (smooth and rough surfaces) and at Reddix Center platforms; Body Fluid Management (**Universal Precautions**) on a lift bus; **Specific student handling requirements**.

Please be ready to attend this refresher session when you are scheduled.



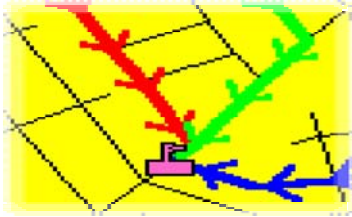
NISD Transportation Receives a National Award for their Special Needs Transportation Handbook

The trainers who worked for more than a year editing NISD's 2000-2001 Special Needs Transportation Handbook got a national First Place Award at the 10th Annual Conference on Transporting Students with Disabilities held in Phoenix March 2-6, 2001. More than 100 school districts submitted their training manuals for the competition. Our Handbook won first place in the competition. Dr. Ray Turner, our NISD Special Education Transportation Coordinator, received the award plaque in recognition of the Northside Lift Trainers who worked on the Handbook. The NISD Board of Trustees gave their recognition for the Handbook award and plaque at their Opening Ceremonies on April 3, 2001. Dr. Ray Turner, Special Education Transportation Coordinator, and Joyce Goodman, Arlene Gonzales and Gene Hopkins, all South Station Special Needs Trainers, were there to receive the award from NISD Terry Smith Zablocki, Board of Trustees President and Ed Rawlinson, the NISD Superintendent.





Routing Office Adds Bill Walbran As Regular Route Coordinator



Bill Walbran was recently selected as the Regular Route Coordinator in the Routing Office located at North Station. Bill brings a rich background as an NISD driver in 1979 thru 1980 at South Station while attending college. Before returning to the NISD Transportation Department, he was a technical writer for MBank and United Health Care for 16 years. Returning to Rhodes Station as a driver in September 1996 two (2) years later, he accepted a position as routing secretary in the Routing Office and then was promoted to Regular Route Coordinator.



Bill's hobby is to do as much as possible in a little fishing boat on the jetties down by Port Aransas trying to pull in kingfish. The largest kingfish he has ever caught (and he has no pictures to prove it) weighed in at 30 pounds. Now if you believe that story as I do then ask him what all those trophies are all

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Excellence in Driver Team Support

Five (5) transportation employees (two (2) supervisors and three (3) trainers) completed last December, 2000 their training to be CPI Instructors for the NISD Transportation Department. Al Rath recently approved CPI or Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (NCI) training for all drivers and assistants. That 12 hour CPI intensive training is conducted by at least two (2) CPI instructors per class and will be taught to all of our 750+ employees over the next two (2) years.

Dr. Ray Turner, the senior CPI instructor and Bruce Warner, Training and Safety Specialist will offer CPI classes on June 7-8 and 14-15, 2001 and another set of two (2) classes later in the Summer. Dan Starr (North Station Trainer), Joyce Goodman (South Station Trainer) and Susana Bliss (Rhodes Center Trainer) have conducted four (4) classes this spring semester, four (4) classes this summer and more in the fall.



NCI training consists of 12 hours of training, testing, exercises, and defensive moves and strategies to avoid student crises as well as physical restraint techniques to calm and control the violent student. CPI teaches APPROPRIATE TOUCHING OF STUDENTS UNDER CRISIS SITUATIONS.



All NISD Transportation employees are required to successfully complete this 12 hour CPI course. Please contact Bruce Warner 678-2194 to sign up for one of these classes.



NISD and the Region 20 School Bus Road-E-O



Eight NISD drivers vigorously competed in the annual Texas Association of Pupil Transportation (TAPT) Centex Region 20 School Bus Road-E-O on May 5 at Southwest ISD. **Front Row:** Anna Rodriguez, Doreen Kruckner, Rosemarie Lyke, Victoria Martin and Thadine Johnston. **Back Row:** George Fluery, E. J. Guarjado, Al Rath (our Director) and Valerie Hopkins. Contestants did their very best as NISD and 10 other districts participated with 44 total participants. Only four (4) finalists will go to the State Road-E-O competition at McAllen June 3-6 at the TAPT Annual Conference.



While none of our eight (8) drivers made finalist each did very well considering that only three (3) of the group had previous Road-E-O experience in this tough, competitive environment. Bruce Warner, our Safety & Training Specialist organized and conducted driver Road-E-O training this year as in years past. Our three (3) Station Managers along with Rhodes Assistant Station Managers Ron Mack and Angie Gonzales were judges with CDL Trainer Tom Allison from North Station. Tony Sanchez, a Rhodes driver, designed a logo and stenciled all driver T-Shirts with it to represent NISD at the competition. Al Rath, our Director, stated "Many thanks to all and we look forward to next year's Road-E-O!" He also indicated that a lot was learned by all from this year's participation due to team involvement in this totally voluntary effort.

NISD Special Needs Lift Bus and Wheelchair Survey



Step 9 Lift Bus Trainers Joyce Goodman and Arlene Gonzales at South Station, Connie Propst at North Station and Susana Bliss from the Rhodes Center have over the past month completed a comprehensive special needs lift bus Driver Team survey. The four (4) page survey is an interview with the Driver Team (and often on the lift bus itself) to do an inventory of the student equipment, wheelchairs, tiedowns, shoulder straps (occupant restraint) and other equipment brought on board each lift bus. Trainers interview Driver Teams for every wheelchair seating area, tiedowns used, wheelchair tiedown problems (if any) using the new Kinedyne Retraktor system, the occupant restraint (shoulder straps) system, or use of other mobility aid equipment on the bus such as walkers, canes, crutches, etc. The interview also determines from the Driver Team any student riders who require Air Conditioning, special First Aid or CPR, Diabetics with insulin requirements, Extreme Allergic Reactions, Seizures, or who require 9-1-1 calls, or who need immediate return to parents or to school. Survey results will be used to resolve any equipment needs or student handling problems.



Safety Tips+

Safety Tips for Driver Teams

Drivers (State Foundation Routes, Special Needs, Substitutes) please remember to have your CDL Texas Certification and medical examination cards in our possession while driving for NISD Transportation Department at all times. Maintain during all working hours and for all driving responsibilities a drug free environment. Be drug free. Do not tolerate drug use in fellow employees or supervisors. Drive with your bus lights on. When the engine is running your lights should be glowing! Don't forget the clearance lights as well No personal radios on NSID Buses. Use of radio music on the bus is NOT an appropriate behavior management tool on your bus.

Is your bus in order? A Self-Test For Each NISD Bus



Answer the following questions with a resounding **YES** and you probably have consistently good student bus behavior or have found an effective way to resolve problems on your bus. If your answer(s) are **NO**then take the Behavior Management Refresher Course at your Station followed by the Department's CPI-Nonviolent Crisis Intervention course to help you say **YES** to your bus situation's).

1. I know my bus route and can change it as often as required without being personally stressed. I report changes to management.
2. I know my student riders by face, by name, by address and by their bus behavior.
3. I know administrators for every school I serve. They know my face and do recognize me as an NISD Driver or Assistant.
4. I promptly write up inappropriate student behavior on the Bus Safety Report. I submit it directly to the campus administrator for corrective action.
5. I will meet at school with parents, the student rider and with campus administrators to resolve student bus behavior issues.
6. I observe every student as they enter and exit my bus at the bus stairwell. No one gets on my bus that I have not observed and know to be safe.
7. I have completed Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (CPI) and regularly practice it to avoid all confrontational situations (on or off the bus). I avoid physical contact with students unless absolutely appropriate and necessary!
8. I live and work on the bus by the same bus rules that I require of my student riders.



Our Student Management initial and refresher courses provide excellent information on handling student bus behavior and should be combined with your taking the CPI course. If any of your answers above are **NO** then refresh your skills with these important classes.



The First Annual Transportation Dept. Fishing Tournament

The First Annual Transportation Dept. Fishing Tournament winner was Raymond Muniz who caught a two and one-half foot long hammerhead shark and brought home a First Prize of \$85. Second and Third Prizes were won by Santos Moreno who also took home a combined \$85 in prize money.



We hope that next years contest will have more people with rods, reels and bait and a FISHERPERSON'S ATTITUDE for fun and frolic along the Gulf Shores like this year's group.

Organizer Charles Morales, CDL Trainer at Rhodes Center, stated: "All had a great time and more would have participated—even though it was tough competing with San Antonio's Fiesta Days... We are going to have to look at the timing of the context and make adjustments for a bigger and better tourney next year."



Northside Transportation Department
Rhodes Center
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