

# Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

*Children are our most precious possession.*

**August 2015**

## **Race to the Finish**

As I shared in my latest newspaper article, the following are some important upcoming milestone dates as we race to the finish of the construction of the new elementary school in time for the start of school.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>**-Substantial completion and final walkthrough of elementary school

**August 5<sup>th</sup>**-Regional Office of Education walkthrough of elementary school for occupancy permit

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**-Ribbon Cutting/Open House Ceremony-7:00 p.m.-Flora Elementary School

**August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**-Teacher Institutes

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**-First day of student attendance

With the recent issuance of property tax bills, one of the frequently asked questions is how much did the new building affect my property tax bill? The elementary school bond allowed a maximum of 9.5 million dollars to be issued over a 20 year period for the construction of the school. By making some changes to the efficiency of the design, the Board only issued 8.5 million dollars without losing any critical features of the educational resources for the students. The estimated tax rate increase per year due to the elementary school bond was 76 cents. This year, the actual rate increase was 71.5 cents. To calculate the increase due to this, you can take the value of your house as listed on your tax bill divided by 3, divide that number by 100, and finally multiply by the cent increase. As an example, to calculate the increase on your tax bill for a \$100,000 house due to a 71.5 cent increase, take \$100,000 divided by 3, then take this number divided by 100, and finally multiply by .715 since the tax rate is 71.5 cents higher than it was without bonds. Using this calculation, the difference would be approximately \$238 per year. When comparing this to your tax bill when we were paying off the bus barn bonds, you would use .215 instead of .715 since the rate is only 21.5 cents higher than it was with the previous bonds. Therefore the tax bill for a \$100,000 house would be approximately \$72 more per year than in previous years with the bus barn bonds. Besides the tax rate, the other factor that would influence your tax bill is variances in your assessed valuation based on the county's assessment of your property value. If you have any questions about the affect of the school bond on your taxes, our current school district tax rate, or the elementary school construction in general please contact me at [jhackney@floraschools.com](mailto:jhackney@floraschools.com) or call 662-2412.

As I have said on many occasions, we are extremely blessed to be in a community that values, supports, and takes an interest in the education of our students and in our school district. Thank you for all you do to make our school district great!! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

**Important Dates**

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>**-FHJHS Baseball Tryouts #1-10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Must attend both)

FHJHS Softball Tryouts #1-3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Must attend both)

**August 4<sup>th</sup>**- FHJHS Baseball Tryouts #2-10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Must attend both)

FHJHS Softball Tryouts #2-3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Must attend both)

**August 11<sup>th</sup>**-Athletic Policy Meeting for Athletes/Parents-FHS-7:00 p.m.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>**-Central Registration at FHS-9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**-Central Registration at FHS-1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**-Freshman Orientation-FHS-1:00 p.m.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>**-Board of Education Meeting-Unit Office-5:30 p.m.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation-5:30 p.m.-FHJHS

Ribbon Cutting/Open House Ceremony-7:00-Flora Elementary School

**August 20<sup>th</sup>**-Teacher Institute

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**-Teacher Institute

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**-First Official Day of School for Students (Full Day)

**August 25<sup>th</sup>**-FHS Open House-6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

FHJHS Open House-5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**-FHS Student Pictures