



# The Skyline Gazette

## Maintenance & Operations Responsibility

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### Special points of interest:

- **Unsolicited Teamwork Award: Randy Fowler**  
 For lending a helping hand when ever and where ever possible. Thank you for being a team player! Keep up the good work.
- **Auxiliary Paid Holidays:**  
 December 25 & 26  
 January 1  
 January 19

There is a family of cardinals living in the woods near my house. Several times a day they appear at the bird feeder outside the kitchen window. My wife and I really enjoy watching them. In the spring both male and female birds gather twigs from the backyard to build their nest. After a while, we see only the male coming to the feeder. He carries sunflower seeds back to the female while she sits on the nest.

A few weeks ago, we saw the female cardinal bring her offspring to the feeders. While the baby bird ate sunflower seeds at our window, the mother sat nearby watching her offspring. When she thought the baby had been there long enough, the mother swooped down and the baby bird followed her. I think she was teaching her youngster

to be aware of her surroundings in order to avoid danger.

The families of our GPISD students are about the process of caring for their children, providing homes and food for their offspring. These families have placed great trust in us to care for and to educate their children. Therefore, the employees of the Department of Maintenance & Operations take this responsibility very seriously. We constantly strive to provide clean, safe and modern facilities for the students of GPISD. In fact, during the month of August our staff worked around the clock to make all campuses ready for the start of school, even though each one was involved with some type of construction. We are currently in the process of streamlining our operations in the quest to become ever more

efficient and adept in our responsibilities.

Since joining this hard-working, dedicated team last August, I have discovered that our employees are among the most talented, experienced people you could ever hope to find. They know that everything we do is for our GPISD students and their families. I would like to think each one of you for your hard work and dedication. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this outstanding school district and to work with such good people! I sincerely wish a wonderful holiday season to you and your families and may you be blessed everyday.

- by Ron Clark, Director of Maintenance & Operations

## Food Service Employee Recognition



**Kitchen of the Month:**  
 Kennedy Middle School  
 (Pictured Left)



**Manager of the Month:**  
 Sonya Grundy, Dickinson Elementary School  
 (Pictured Right)

## The Gazette Gourmet - Amanda's Peppermint Creams

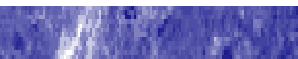
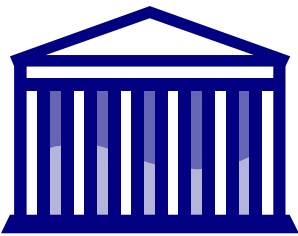
### Ingredients:

8 oz icing sugar sieved  
 1 egg white  
 3 drops of peppermint essence  
 3 drops of green food coloring (optional)  
 3.5 oz (100g) bar of dark chocolate melted  
 1 supercook writing pen (optional)

**Instructions:** Weigh out the ingredients and make sure the melted chocolate will be cool enough for children to handle. Put greaseproof paper on a board and the children begin:

1. Put the icing sugar in a bowl and mix in the egg white to form a stiff paste. Add a few drops of peppermint essence and food coloring.
2. Knead the mixture in the bowl to make sure all the icing sugar is mixed in. Put the dough on a work surface and roll it out to 1/4 in (1/2 cm) thick.
3. Use a plain cutter to stamp out small rounds, then transfer them onto grease-proof paper.
4. To decorate, dip the creams in the melted chocolate to half cover them or use the writing pen to ice hearts or anything else you can think of
5. Leave to set for a few hours

Hope you enjoy making Peppermint Creams!



### Presidential Quotes

*"But I contend that the strongest of all governments is that which is most free."*

- William Henry Harrison

(President 1841)

Harrison was the first president to die in office. He died of pneumonia only one month after his inauguration.

## Home Maintenance Tips - Frozen Pipes

One sure-fire way to prevent pipes from freezing is to leave your water running on a cold night. When the predicted temperature reaches 32 degrees or below, let each faucet, hot and cold, drop slightly throughout the night. Of course, if temperatures will continue to stay below freezing for some time, you might want to consider other options.

Newspaper makes a great insulation. Because of this, you can wrap the pipes in at least a quarter-inch thick set of newspaper sheets, secure with masking tape or duct tape, and your pipes will stay warm - down to about 0 to 10 degrees. Adding foil around the pipes helps keep them even warmer. After wrapping the pipes in newspaper and tape, wrap the

pipes once again with foil, then tape again, using duct tape. Don't forget to wrap the pipes under the sink or any that run somewhere that the heat of the house cannot easily reach. The temperature can now drop to below zero and your water shouldn't freeze, particularly if your home stays fairly warm.

## The Custodial Closet - Constructive Criticism

Most people initially receive criticism as a negative. I find that when I am inspecting the cleanliness of a campus some are positive in their response but many have a tendency to feel accused of some sort of infraction. If this is you, first of all let me just say, "relax." I think it's human nature to "put up your dukes" when you think someone is out to attack or tear you down in some form or fashion. Your defenses really go up when you feel that you have

done a great job or the right thing.

To get rid of this tendency of feeling accused, you need to change how you feel. You change how you feel by changing your perspective. Here are a couple of things that changed my perspective on criticism. First of all recognize that all criticism is not sent to put you down and destroy you. The intension of some criticism is constructive, to

build you up. I don't want you to think that I am naïve. I do understand that you may encounter a "player hater" now and then but remember these are those who would send criticism to tear you down because they feel threatened by your success. Success suggests that you are doing something right. My opinion is that all criticism can be constructive depending on your perspective.

- by Troy Bryant, Custodial Lead



# Ron's Thought for the Month

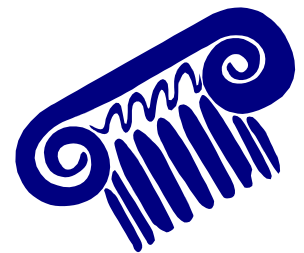
Have you ever heard an employee make a statement like, 'I'm not paid enough to do my best', 'I work like they pay me', 'that's good enough for government work'? There are some people that are slow by nature; but there are some slow because they don't care. They are a dime waiting on a dollar, telling their self a lie that more money will bring out their best effort. They want you to believe that more money will bring about dependability and

dedication in their work ethic, and this is the furthest thing from the truth. It's been my observation that an employee that's dependable and dedicated in their job performance has no direct correlation to the amount of salary they receive. One of the great things about human character is people can change. We as auxiliary employees have the opportunity every day to be a positive influence to co-workers by showing great work ethics through our

dedication. Embracing dedication and dependability will insure us from being influenced by the lie. The best example I can give you is our men and women serving in the armed services: dependable, dedicated and man, they're paid good aren't they!

PS: Carebility , is the ability to care for some one that doesn't care for you.

- by Ron Davis



# What's Bugging Us

All ants must have some type of contact with soil. During winter they mound up along sidewalks because warm concrete will help hatch their eggs. They also move to the west side of structures so they will have the afternoon sun to stay warm. There is only one reason ants enter a structure and that is to eat your food; so let's keep classrooms food free or sealed in an air tight container.

## Test Your Knowledge:

- Norway or Roof Rat range from home to food source is:  
A. 25' to 50'    B. 50' to 75'    C. 75' to 100'    D. 100' to 150'
- Mice range from home to food source is:  
A. 10' to 30'    B. 40' to 50'    C. 60' to 80'
- Insects that damage food by chewing in both the young and adult stages are:  
A. ants    B. houseflies    C. flour beetles    D. flour moths



Did you know: Ground beetles prey upon other insects.



Test Your Knowledge Answers:  
1. D    2. A    3. C

FOOD



pheromones



pheromones



pheromones



## Presidential Quotes

*"It is easier to do a job right than to explain why you didn't."*

- Martin Van Buren

(President 1837 - 1841)



**GENTRY LONG SERVICE  
CENTER**

514 Skyline Rd.  
Grand Prairie, TX 75051

M & O: 972-343-4455  
Food Service 972-343-4410  
Transportation: 972-343-4400  
Distribution Center 972-343-4420

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**ANSWERS TO TV TRIVIA**

1. Nelson  
2. Volvo 1800  
3. Jonas Grumby  
4. William Shatner  
5. Kate Jackson  
6. Maria Gibbs  
7. Enok  
8. Valerie Harper played Rhoda and Cloris  
Leachman played Phyllis  
9. Howard hessman  
10. Legs, right arm and eye

## TV Trivia - The 70's

1. On The Brady Bunch, what was Alice's last name?
2. What kind of car did Simon Templar drive on The Saint?
3. What was the Skipper's given name on Gilligan's Island?
4. What TJ Hooker star was also on Star Trek?
5. Which Charlie's Angels star also starred in The Scarecrow and Mrs. King?
6. What was Florence Johnston's real name (The Jeffersons)
7. On The Land of the Lost, what was the friendly sleestack's name?
8. Who played Rhoda and who played Phyllis on The Mary Tyler Moore Show?
9. Name the actor who played the wild man over night DJ, Johnny Fever?
10. What Bionic parts did Steve Austin have?

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## Something for the Breakroom

1. A group of nine  
A. ennui      B. enormous      C. enteron      D. enead
2. To go quickly, to hasten  
A. hie      B. hick      C. hiatus      D. hiemal
3. Any of various trees of the pine family  
A. kary      B. kava      C. kauri      D. kaross
4. Expulsion of intestinal gas  
A. petard      B. petasos      C. petiolate      D. petrel
5. The process of flowing out  
A. efflux      B. elan      C. effluence      D. eke

*Try to use each one of these words in a sentence this week. If you use them in a sentence you will be more likely to remember them. Try them on your spouse or significant other and he or she will think you are really smart!*

**Vocabulary Answers: 1.D 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.C**