

Foundation, ARMC Welcome New Teachers

Photos by Candy Reagan, Wylie Weekly Editor

The Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation and Abilene Regional Medical Center joined forces recently to provide a wonderful welcome to the district's new teachers.

Twenty-six teachers who are new to the district were treated to a welcome luncheon earlier this month in the ARMC Women's Center.

The hospital provided the location, the lunch and a goody bag, and also donated \$500 toward gift cards for each teacher.

The Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation provided the rest of the funds necessary to give each teacher a \$70 gift card to be used to get their classrooms set up for the coming year.

ARMC CEO Mike Murphy and Wylie Superintendent Joey Light both told the teachers about the special relationship between the district and the hospital.

"Our connection is really strong with Wylie," Murphy said. "We support Wylie in every way we can. We are proud to be partners."

Murphy has had two children graduate from Wylie and has two more who are still students at Wylie. His wife, Jennifer, is on the Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation board of directors.

Light said that because of ARMC's location near the school, the two entities have always had a bond and that the hospital has always been a big supporter of the district.

"I think it is a natural fit for us to participate as much as possible with Abilene Regional," he said. "They are our largest taxpayer in the district, and we are very appreciative of that."

This is the first year that Wylie has had a welcome lunch for new teachers. Jennifer Murphy suggested the idea during an education foundation meeting, and the foundation ran with it.

"The Foundation has really been supportive not only of our students with scholarships, but with our teachers," Light said.

The Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation has given more than \$67,000 in scholarships and grants in only three years of existence.



Above: Wylie Superintendent Joey Light (left) and Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation President Becky Rentz (third from the left) accept a \$500 donation from ARMC's Delores Cox (2nd from left) and ARMC CEO Mike Murphy.

Early Childhood Center: Pictured from left are foundation board member Sue Schackmuth, new Early Childhood Center teachers Caroline Johnson and Kaylee Channel and foundation board member Jennifer Murphy.



Junior High: Pictured from left are foundation board member Sue Schackmuth, new Junior High teachers Shana Hrbacek, Clay Vaughn, Haley Tabor, Casey Todd, Rod Merket and Bob Nethery and foundation board member Jennifer Murphy.



Middle School: Pictured from left are foundation board member Sue Schackmuth, new Middle School teachers Allie Ensor, Brittany Gurganus, and Johanna Morrow and foundation board member Jennifer Murphy.



High School: New teachers at Wylie High School include: (back row left to right) Tony Elliott, Jacqueline Johnson, Katrina Brooks, Katy Goetz, Ryan Griffin and Jay Tindol and (front row left to right) Anjani Cole and Lianne McMillan.



Elementary School: Pictured from left are foundation board member Sue Schackmuth, new Elementary teachers Carrie Bower and Tristan Lawson and foundation board member Jennifer Murphy.

Foundation Dinner Set For Oct. 3

The Wylie Bulldogs Education Foundation is preparing for its 4th annual "We Are Wylie" Dinner, and table sponsorships, as well as individual tickets are now available.

The dinner is the foundation's annual fundraiser. Proceeds go back into the schools for programs such as the new teacher luncheon, teacher grants and student scholarships.

For information on how to sponsor a table or to make a donation, go to the website at www.WylieBulldogsEducationFoundation.com.

