

# The DALLAS POST

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## Oh, boy! It's that time of year

### Dallas and Lehman schools open Tuesday

By REBECCA BRIA  
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It's the time of year many children dread. No longer are they free to sleep in, frequent pools and playgrounds and ride bikes from morning to night.

Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts open on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Students at Gate of

Heaven School in Dallas returned to classes on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

Both Lake-Lehman and Dallas have recently implemented educational foundations for the benefit of each respective district.

The Dallas School Board voted in June to hire the Education Foundation Consulting Group to help set up a foundation. The

firm will be paid \$18,000 for 15 months.

Lake-Lehman parents resurrected the Lake-Lehman Educational Foundation in April. The foundation was originally founded in 1995 to better the district, but later disbanded. The group is trying to raise enough money to build a district wellness center. The foundation presents no

cost to the district.

An expansion project to Ross Elementary School is perhaps the biggest change to the Lake-Lehman School District for the upcoming school year. The expansion will add four classrooms and take at least nine months to complete. The school board anticipates bringing in a minimum of two temporary modular units at the school until

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Richard Emel, Joe Wojcik and Katelyn Wojcik decorate a locker at Lake-Lehman High School in preparation for the opening day of school.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

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## READING BUG



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Students in the "Catch the Summer Reading Bug" program at the Back Mountain Memorial Library were treated to an end-of-the-year party at Frances Slocum State Park where they enjoyed refreshments, received certificates and, yes, caught bugs!

**ABOVE:** Alexis Lanza, of Dallas, isn't quite sure she likes the long-legged spider she caught at Frances Slocum State Park during an end-of-the-year reading party conducted by the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

**LEFT:** An insect hunt at Francis Slocum State Park was among final activities of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's summer reading sessions.

For additional photos, please turn to Page 5.

## She made an impact, now faces challenges

Former student donates half of his prize money from essay contest to Heinz in her honor.

By REBECCA BRIA  
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With her eyes shut, she wrote "Baby?" on a piece of paper.

Unable to speak after suffering a hemorrhagic stroke and a series of seizures, Beth Finarelli motioned with her hand that she wanted to write something.

The 29-year-old Dallas resident was worried about the baby boy she had been carrying before she became ill.

Baby Michael, now a year and a half old, was taken from his mother by Cesarean section shortly after the stroke and is doing just fine while his mother continues to work hard every day to improve her physical condition.

Having been a teacher before the incident, Finarelli touched the lives of many students. One student in particular, Conor Harrington, considers her his favorite teacher of all time.

Harrington, 17, of Dallas, recently won an essay contest about community service at the Annual A.M. Pugh Benefit Horse Show. He received a prize of \$500, half of which he is required to pay forward. Harrington chose to give his half of the prize money to the John Heinz Institute in honor of Finarelli and of his grandfather, John Burns, who underwent rehabilitation at the institute after suffering a stroke.

**"The thing I loved about her class is it was interactive and we really absorbed the French culture."**

Conor Harrington  
Former student of Beth Finarelli

"It feels like the years I was a teacher, I made a difference," Finarelli said. "The fact that years later Conor would say I'm his favorite teacher and donate it (his award money) in conjunction of me, it really makes me feel like I made a difference to Conor."

Finarelli, unmarried and known as Miss Abrams at the time, taught French, Spanish and other classes

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Christine Lambacher, of Lehman, puts her Best of the Back Mountain ballot into an entry box at the Lands at Hillside Farms dairy bar in Trucksville.

## Make sure your vote is counted

Cast your vote for your favorite anything by voting in the "Best of the Back Mountain 2008 Readers Choice Awards."

The contest, which kicked off in the August 17 issue of The Dallas Post - features more than 70 categories and readers are encouraged to vote for their favorites.

Ballots appear in every issue of The Dallas Post, which publishes on Sundays, periodically in the daily Times Leader and online at www.mydallaspost.com.

Ballot boxes have also been placed at the following Back Mountain business-

es: Red Rooster Pancake House and Family Restaurant, Hunlock Creek; Grotto Pizza, Harveys Lake; Back Mountain Memorial Library, Dallas; Wayne's World, Dallas; Bagel Art, Dallas; Starbucks, Shavertown; Asaki Sushi and Hibachi Restaurant, Shavertown; Fire and Ice on Toby's Creek, Trucksville; The Lands at Hillside Farms, Trucksville; and Ochman's Coins & Jewelers, Dallas.

All entries which contain a vote for at least 25 categories will be counted and entered into a drawing for a \$100 cash prize award. Ballots must be received by The Dallas Post no later than September 25.

