

# Texas Bluebonnet Award Reading Encouragement Program

## *What is the Bluebonnet Award?*

The Texas Bluebonnet Award is a reading encouragement program sponsored by the Texas Library Association. The purpose is to encourage students in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades to read a variety of current children's literature. Each year the Texas Bluebonnet Award Committee reads hundreds of current children's books and chooses just twenty of those books to be the nominees for that year's Bluebonnet Award. The list is comprised of books that are appropriate for the age and interest level of the students who will be reading them. Approximately five books are selected for each of the grade levels.

The committee also tries to choose a variety of books that will expose students to many different types of literature, which may include picture books, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. The Texas Bluebonnet Award is special because the students of Texas choose the book that is honored. Students must read five of the twenty books on the list in order to vote on their favorite. Voting must be completed before the end of January. The winner is announced soon afterward.

## *How does the program work at Borchardt Elementary?*

Here at Borchardt, all students in third, fourth, and fifth grade are encouraged to participate in the Texas Bluebonnet Award program. Students must read five books from the list to be eligible. After the student reads a Bluebonnet book, they must tell their classroom teacher so that it can be recorded on a chart in each classroom. The library has multiple copies of each of the twenty books that have been nominated this year. The books are also available at public libraries. Some teachers have copies of the books in their classrooms and may even read them aloud. The student can count a book that is read aloud to them as a book they have read.

In January, a master list of all students eligible to vote will be compiled for voting day. Here at Borchardt Elementary, we will vote for the Texas Bluebonnet Award on Friday, January 25, 2008 with our annual Election Watch.

## *For More Information...*

If you would like some more information on the Bluebonnet Award, including past winners, past book lists, activities that relate to each book, and how you can nominate a book for the Bluebonnet List, visit the website listed below.

<http://www.txla.org/groups/tba/index.html>

## *"Battle of the Bluebonnets" Tracking Chart...*

Students may use the "Battle of the Bluebonnets" chart to help evaluate the books that they have read and make the final choice of their favorite.

Elaine Blair, Librarian  
Ruth Borchardt Elementary School