

Waller is USA's best bet

By Nora McKay
Staff Writer

When traveling the information superhighway, make the next pit stop at Waller Junior High School's Web site.

The site was selected a "Best Bet" on USA Today's Education Web site for Sept. 18-23. Each week the education online staff selects three sites they believe would be of educational value to their audience of subscribers and guests.

"This is quite an honor for the community and the school. There are a lot of quality Web sites that they feature," said Mike King, principal and Web master.

Waller's Web site began in January 2000 as an online sign-up location for the school's community education



program, but since that time it has taken on a whole new appearance. The Web site now is used for a variety of purposes, including a community resource and educational tool.

"The whole purpose is to support curriculum and instruction and give people in the public information

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about Waller Junior High School," King said.

At this time, the site features notes from the principal, a listing of September activities and even a lesson plan about space sciences, as well as other educational links.

In addition to students, staff and USA Today, King said other folks are taking notice of the site. He has had several incoming Vance Air Force Base families check out the site and then e-mail him for additional information. It also allows

provides students who have since moved away from the area with a way to keep tabs on the community. Since the site's activation, about 9,500 visitors have made their way to the school's home page.

"The traffic is really starting to pick up," King said.

Don't expect this to be the extent of Waller's Web site. Plans are in the works for an even greater expansion. Possible ideas include a homework hotline, online lessons that students will complete during

class and forms to inquire about teacher conferences. Enid Public Schools currently is expanding its technology offerings, including adding high-speed Internet access at schools, which King said will only aid him in the further development of the Web site.

"When you think about what you can do with it, it's almost endless," King said.

To check out Waller's site, visit: www.geocities.com/sherally2/Wallerhomepage.html.