


# The most wonderful time of the year

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## Delkus predicts cooler, wetter season from El Niño

It is the most wonderful time of the year, once again. Living in North Texas, there is nothing like the surprise waking up to snow sprinkled on the lawn. Perhaps for students of all ages the only thing more exciting than waking up to a white Christmas is waking up to snow on a school day. After taking the sight in, Coppell students will immediately rush to see if school has been cancelled on the Coppell ISD website, the local weather channel and most of all, Twitter. Twitter has become an increasingly popular news source for all ages. Reporters have utilized the platform and for many, it has increased their readership and popularity. For WFAA chief meteorologist Pete Delkus, snow days have become just as thrilling for him as it is for students due to his presence on Twitter. After a few snarky replies to a high school student on Twitter begging the weatherman to cancel school, Delkus has become a sort of Twitter icon for students in Coppell and surrounding areas, famous for his clever comebacks and tweets officially declaring school districts closed for the day. Whenever there is inclement

**Pete Delkus**  
@wfaaweather

I haven't "officially" cancelled DISD & HPISD. But here's my forecast...you kiddies in these two districts will NOT have school tomorrow!!

10:26 PM - 4 Mar 2015

**Pete Delkus**  
@wfaaweather

Coppell ISD...you're next. CLOSED!!!!

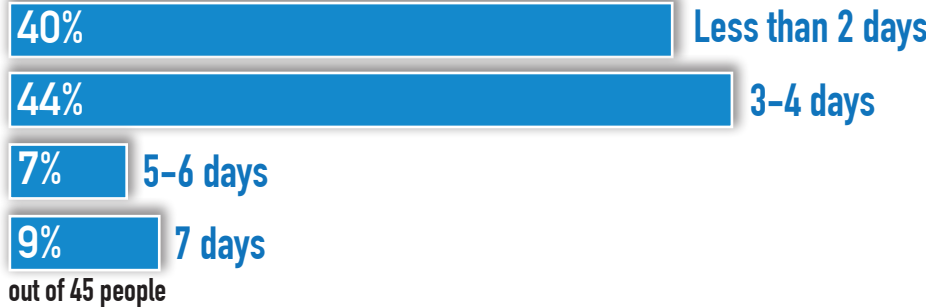
7:52 PM - 4 Mar 2015

The tweet received over 300 retweets, 600 favorites, and plenty of replies from students in the metroplex. Delkus proceeded to announce every district closing following this. Instead of turning to Delkus and begging for snow, this winter student's pleas for snow can be answered by El Niño. El Niño is the warming of the equatorial region of the Pacific Ocean, and happens anywhere from every two to seven years. When water warms in the Pacific, it shifts the normal global weather patterns. For Texas, this means wet and cold conditions. This year is an El Niño year, and studies show it is the strongest one in 18 years. "No two El Niños are exactly alike," Delkus said. "You should expect a cooler than normal season and wetter than normal...Will it be snowier than normal? Yes, there's a chance." Stronger El Niños tend to bring around 2.5 inches of snow, in comparison to a moderate El Niño that generally draws four inches. Although it cannot be certainly predicted, there is reason to believe that this winter will bring snow. When snowflakes begin to fall, students can count on Delkus to be present on Twitter and ready to create a few wintery memes. "I'll be shocked if we don't have several snow events due to El Niño," Delkus said.



### Twitter Poll

How many snow days do you think we will have this school year?



## Snow days in CISD through the years

Two weather days are built into each calendar year for Coppell Independent School District. If there are two or less weather days the district does not need to apply to the state for a waiver. This data is based on days in which CISD applied for a waiver.

2011	2014	2015
Feb. 3, 4 and 9 Received waiver from TEA for one day	Dec. 6, 9, and March 3 Received waiver from TEA for one day	Feb. 23, 24, and March 5 Received waiver from TEA for one day

### Do you like missing school for weather days?

"[On weather days] I like not coming to school, because I like to sleep and play video games. You don't have any work or stress."

Brady McBride  
sophomore

### Where do you go for your weather information?

"I like to miss school for weather days because I get to stay home and watch Netflix and just chill."

Sophie Stancil  
senior

"I like missing school for weather days because I get to play in the snow, and not come to school and have to do any work."

Deepa Ravindra  
sophomore

"I usually go to the app on my phone [to get weather information], and look at the weather from there."

Rebecca Cole  
senior

"I use Twitter for looking up weather because it's fast."

David Trakhtengerts  
freshman

## Waldrip on weather days

Snow might mean fun for students, but for teachers and administration, it means waking up much earlier than students will to observe the weather and determine if the roads are safe for driving. Despite students' looking to the weather men and women like WFAA meteorologist Pete Delkus for school cancellations, it is really the Coppell ISD superintendent Dr. Mike Waldrip that makes the call. Students may not be aware of what goes on behind the scenes on a snowy school day. "We get out and actually drive the roads and see if they're slick," Waldrip said. "We're out in the early morning hours, maybe three or four in the morning." Waldrip, along with any other CISD faculty involved, can be found before dawn alone on Denton Tap testing the roads for students and parents. "It's really not about an amount [of snow] it's really about the condition of the roads. If the roads are slick and it is difficult to maneuver, that is when we will cancel school" Waldrip said. As this winter rolls in, students should keep in mind their superintendent and all other CISD staff actively involved on snowy mornings and, perhaps, send them a "thank you" as well for their role in campus closings.