

April 25, 2013

We are the champions! SAISD dominates Team Up Challenge

In a decisive victory, teams from SAISD secondary schools took four of the five top prizes in a contest designed to improve lives.

While this is the third consecutive year for the District to be represented as a Team Up Challenge \$20,000 grant recipient from Silver & Black Give Back, the number of SAISD winners dominating the field is unprecedented.

They were among 20 area semi-finalists under consideration. Selection was based on their service throughout the year, online voting and the recommendations of a review committee that heard their presentations.

Following are the District's winning teams:

Brackenridge HS

Fierce, Fit & Fabulous Club

This group, formed to help teenage girls



combat negative body images and make health and fitness a goal, encourages healthy eating habits and hosts Community Saturdays

to promote staying active. The club will use its prize money to purchase more workout equipment and help other schools start their own Fierce, Fit & Fabulous clubs.

Edison HS E=mc2

Increasing the number of Edison graduating



seniors who attend college and promoting the advantages of math or science degrees are among this group's goals. Their \$20,000 will fund college field trips, college fairs and expand E=mc2's mentoring program with Twain MS from 60 to 120 students.

Lowell MS Science Club



The club's highlights include an on-campus community garden that features educating the public on green, healthy living by encouraging them to recycle and reduce their carbon footprint. Members will use their grant to build a greenhouse and plant a fruit orchard.

Rhodes MS National Junior Honor Society

Thanks to the \$20,000 prize, tots at the Carvajal ECEC will continue to be among the



beneficiaries of their school's partnership with the Rhodes NJHS for 2013-14. This year the older students have spent at least one hour a week with each Carvajal class and also have hosted book fairs and family literacy nights.

For their peers, a reading program that NJHS members implemented to encourage their classmates to read more will continue through the summer in collaboration with the Boys & Girls Club of San Antonio.



Courtesy photos

Beacon Hill ES 4th-grader reads his way to a national award

His hard work and progress in reading have earned Daniel Guerrero a national title and the distinction of being San Antonio's first student ever to be named a National Scholastic All-Star.

The Beacon Hill ES 4th-grader also is one of only 12 students in the nation chosen for an All-Star award.

The recognition includes an engraved plaque, a \$1,200 cash prize to spend as he wishes and \$1,000 in Scholastic credit his teacher Erin Pawlicki can use to purchase items from the publisher's catalog.

Additionally, Daniel was treated to a

celebration in his honor where he read the statement he wrote as part of the application process about how Scholastic's System 44 reading program has helped him.

Daniel's achievement also highlights SAISD's goal of increased student literacy, which Clifford the Big Red Dog lent a paw in promoting.

While there, he distributed bags of brand-new Scholastic books for 3rd- and 4th-grade teachers to give to their students.

Beacon Hill is one of 52 District campuses using Scholastic's Read 180 or System 44 programs, or both.



Joined by Clifford the Big Red Dog, Daniel Guerrero and his teacher Erin Pawlicki celebrate his status as a National Scholastic All-Star. The prize includes \$1,000 in Scholastic credit.

Early voting for SAISD School Board starts April 29

Come Monday, voters in SAISD Trustee Districts 1, 3, 4 and 7 can start heading to the polls to select their representative for the next four years.

The candidates include two who are running unopposed. They and the occupations listed on their applications are:

District 1

- Steve Lecholop - attorney and former SAISD Citizens' Oversight Committee member. Incumbent and current School Board Vice President Rubén D. Cuero is not seeking re-election.

District 3

- Incumbent Debra Guerrero - developer and former District 3 City Council member who was appointed to the School Board in 2012 to finish the unexpired term of Carlos Villarreal.
- Chris Alvarado - quality specialist.

District 4

- Incumbent and School Board Assistant Secretary Adela R. Segovia - administrator who was elected to the School Board in 2009.
- John "Rocky" Graciano - customer service worker.

- Arthur V. Valdez Jr. - aircraft engineer.
- Fernando Velazquez - social worker.

District 7

- Incumbent and School Board President Ed Garza, urban planner and former San Antonio mayor, who was elected to the School Board in 2009.

VOTE EARLY: April 29 - May 7
ELECTION DAY: Saturday, May 11
 Need more information, including where to vote?
 Call 335-VOTE or visit: elections.bexar.org.

TEA acts on SAISD complaints of tutoring firm fraud

Formal complaints the District lodged against seven tutoring providers have resulted in - or contributed to - restrictions placed upon them by the Texas Education Agency.

TEA has removed five providers from the state's approved list for the remainder of the school year while two are on probation for six months.

SAISD filed the complaints after finding evidence that the firms submitted falsified documents for payment for services not provided.

Prior to TEA's action, the firms had been

on a state-approved list of providers for the Supplemental Education Services program, part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which mandates the offering of after-school tutoring for children of low-income families attending schools that have not met federal accountability standards.

Parents choose the tutoring firm they want from the TEA-approved list of providers, and school districts are required to contract with the tutoring provider selected by the parent.

"While SAISD appreciates the swiftness of the state's response, we believe stronger action

needs to be taken by the state in protecting our parents, and more importantly, our students from future fraudulent practices and to protect the integrity of the SES program," said Interim Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez.

"We want to see companies with a track record of fraudulent activity permanently removed from the state-approved list of tutoring providers."

Following SAISD's investigation of the seven companies, the District rejected more than \$280,000 in fraudulent billing.

A team effort

Thanks to the support of their staff, students, alumni and community, three SAISD campuses (shown below) have an extra \$1,000. The checks are courtesy of the highest number of runners/walkers participating on



the schools' behalf at the 4E Run/Walk Health Festival. Second-place teams Wilson ES, Austin Academy and Highlands HS were awarded \$500 while Woodlawn ES, Bonham Academy and Edison HS received \$250 for placing third.



Celebrants at the Brackenridge HS check presentation include (standing center, l to r) Roger Rodriguez, SAISD senior coordinator for health and PE, Brandon Logan, SAISD Foundation board of directors member and president of event title sponsor SRG Athletics, Mike Luna, president and CEO of Texas Wilson, an event sponsor and Moises Ortiz, school principal.



Celebrants at the Hawthorne Academy presentation include check holders Jesse Hernandez, SAISD Foundation board of directors member and Jonathan Card, a Hawthorne parent whose company Urbanist Design was an event sponsor.



Celebrants at the Nelson ES check presentation are (l to r) Ranon Alexander, assistant PE teacher, Teresa Castro, PE teacher, Sharon Bruster, 3rd-grade teacher, Judy Geelhoed, SAISD Foundation director, Cynthia Ann Perez, principal and Brandon Logan and Jesse Hernandez, SAISD Foundation board of directors members.

Apply now for summer jobs

Attention SAISD employees! The District has a number of summer employment opportunities and applications will be accepted through April 30.

Only current SAISD employees will be considered, and positions are available for: paraprofessionals, teachers, counselors and administrators.

Notification of summer employment does not guarantee employment since these positions are contingent upon student enrollment and available funding.

Employees interested in summer employment must be available for the duration of the program for which they are hired. Absences as a result of attending summer learning opportunities or professional development are not allowed.

Summer employees are required to attend Saturday professional development on June 1 or June 8, with the date contingent upon the program for which an employee is hired.

Completed applications should be submitted electronically no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 30 to: summerschool@saisd.net.

For details on the summer employment opportunities click here:

www.saisd.net/dept/cmss/



All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed Friday, April 26, in celebration of the **Battle of Flowers Parade**.
Have a safe and happy holiday!



San Antonio Independent School District
141 Lavaca St.
San Antonio, TX 78210
phone: 554-2250
fax: 299-5790
www.saisd.net

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Leslie Price, Executive Director
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Central Office Printing Services, Design and Layout

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