

January 16, 2014

## SAISD announces Teacher of the Year program

Starting this year the District will have a new way to recognize SAISD's outstanding educators.

All campuses are being invited to select a Teacher of the Year as the first step in the process to ultimately select Districtwide honorees for three levels: elementary, middle and high school.

These award winners will become eligible for further honors as well, Toni Thompson, associate superintendent of human resources, wrote in a letter announcing the program.

"Rather than asking you for recommendations throughout the year for various awards, we have decided to implement a far more robust program that will allow each campus to select a campus Teacher of the Year and those who are interested in being considered for Districtwide honors can then submit an application for recognition at the District level," she stated.

SAISD's Teacher of the Year will become the District's nominee for other honors such as the Trinity (University) Prize for Excellence in Teaching, H-E-B's Excellence in Education, the Education Service Center Region 20's Teacher of the Year, the KENS-5 and San Antonio Credit Union's ExCEL and

other recognition programs.

The exception will be SAISD's Rising Star recognition program focusing on teachers who are new to the profession.

All District principals received packets of information prior to the winter break that included a campus nomination form and ballot.

Schools are asked to make their campus Teacher of the Year selection by either peer or self-nomination and to submit names to the principal prior to preparing the school ballot, which is in a written format.

Teachers will vote for their school's nominee. Votes will be tallied by the campus administration with a run-off vote conducted in the case of a tie.

Each campus Teacher of the Year will be provided the opportunity to submit a written application for SAISD Teacher of the Year, which will require providing evidence for a profile whose qualifications include: three or more years of teaching experience; possessing a passion for teaching and a commitment to all students; providing rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities for all students, including the use of technology and other innovative

resources to enhance learning; establishing a culture of learning in the classroom that is student-centered, positive and motivational; actively engaging in professional learning and reflective practice and serving as a teacher leader and community builder within the school and school community.

Upcoming deadlines are:

- **Jan. 23** - SAISD Teacher of the Year applications due to HR by the end of the business day.
- **Week of Jan. 27** - Interviews for SAISD Teacher of the Year.
- **Week of Feb. 3** - Reception honoring all campus Teachers of the Year and the SAISD Teacher of the Year for 2013-14 will be announced.

Throughout January, schools also are asked to recognize their Teacher of the Year publicly.

"This initiative is meant as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the many great things that happen every day on your campuses," Thompson said.

For more information email her at:

**Tthompson@saisd.net** or Liz Rojas, coordinator of recruitment and hiring, **erojas@saisd.net**.

## Community celebrates 'new' Alamo Convocation Center

It was a celebration for the ages when former and present SAISD coaches and athletes joined fans, community members and dignitaries in gathering to revel in victories past while anticipating the glory days sure to come.

The occasion marked a new era for the city's beloved Alamo Convocation Center, which made its official public debut following the historic facility's upgrades through SAISD Bond 2010.

Adding to the festivities were high school

cheerleaders and mascots and high-energy music showcasing the new state-of-the-art sound system, while hot dogs and soft drinks for all, courtesy the SAISD Foundation, provided the newly equipped concession stand an opportunity to shine.

Following remarks from speakers including current high school athletes representing Edison and Highlands, Trustees cut the ceremonial ribbon preceding an informal tour of the facility.

Renovations introducing new state-of-the-art

amenities to the 64-year-old landmark were carefully done to preserve the center's historic integrity and are part of a larger \$35 million renovation including Alamo Stadium, which is scheduled for completion in May.

Both were named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2011.

For more information on these and other SAISD Bond projects visit:

**www.saisd.net/bond projects**.



Welcoming guests to the renovated Alamo Convocation Center is Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez.



SAISD Athletics Executive Director Gil Garza introduces coaches and players from the District's championship basketball teams.



Showing their support from the stands were basketball and volleyball players Districtwide, who also were among the honored guests.



Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony at center court, guests were invited to tour the facility and partake of refreshments at the newly equipped concession stand.



# EPN STEM training kicks off exciting learning project

Approximately 125 educators, including all teachers and administrators from the District's three Eastside Promise Neighborhood elementaries - Bowden, Pershing and Washington - spent a recent Saturday discovering ways to make the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math more innovative and engaging for their students.

Training at the Education Service Center Region 20 served as the launching pad for the exciting new Engineering Friday STEM project focusing on engineering design and project-based learning integrating all subjects.

Projects - to be implemented by units of engineering study per kinder to 5 grade level - are: agricultural, mechanical, chemical, industrial, electrical and biomedical.

In addition to learning hands-on projects,

the session featured speakers including Lorenzo Gomez III, executive director of the 80/20 Foundation, who provided the keynote address, and Mary Ellen Burns, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County senior vice president of grant administration, whose organization is an EPN partner.

Among the project goals are to improve STEM preparedness and proficiency in all students including girls and minorities, who are underrepresented in STEM fields.

The participating schools are among a half dozen SAISD campuses that are beneficiaries of the Eastside Promise Neighborhood Project federal education grant focusing on the connection between school and neighborhood revitalization.



Courtesy photo

Bowden ES 4th-grade teachers (forefront, l to r) Adrian Salas and Michael Sanchez design windmills as part of the mechanical engineering unit of study. Looking on (l to r) are 1st-grade teacher Kathleen O'Rourke and Jayne Hover, an EPN Trinity University peer assistant teacher.

## 'FIRST' in robotics



Their talents in robotics earned two Mission Academy teams top honors at the Jan. 11 Alamo Regional FIRST - For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology - Brackenbot Robotics Lego League competition held

at Brackenridge HS.

They are among several SAISD robotics teams competing in qualifying rounds this winter. The Mission Mindsweepers were grand champions, while the Mission Megabots received the Top Score Award, qualifying both for the regional competition to be held March 1 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

recognizing respect for each other and other teams at all times.

Their coaches are Michael Benson and Stephanie Correa-Ratliff (back row, l to r), who also is assistant principal. Not pictured is Jerald Forster.

Besides getting students excited about science and technology, the goal of the Lego League was robots gathering blocks.



Their sponsor (left) is Michael Blackmon.

Another SAISD award winner at the Jan. 11 event was the Woodlawn Hills ES Robotics Team, which received the Gracious Professionalism honor



Courtesy photo

## Time to say thanks

You are cordially invited to join us in expressing appreciation for SAISD's dedicated and hard-working elected leaders at the:

**SAISD Board Appreciation Reception**

**Jan. 21 (Tues) - 5 to 6 p.m.**

**Burnet Center Board Room, 406 Barrera St.**

Each year this observance provides the public an opportunity to thank Trustees for all they do on behalf of the school district and its community.

The reception, to include refreshments, will be hosted by Superintendent Dr. Sylvester Perez. This year's Texas School Board Recognition Month theme is Hearts & Hands for Kids.

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## Make tracks to annual 4E 5K and 10K

Registration now is under way for a traditional SAISD family-friendly favorite.

Set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 29, is the annual 4E (Education, Exercise, Engagement, Empowerment) 5K and 10K Run/Walk to be held at Brooks City Base.

Early registration rates are \$15 for SAISD employees and parents and \$5 for students.

Price includes a T-shirt if you register by March 10. Community members can register

at an early rate of \$25. All adult rates increase by \$10 after March 10.

Don't forget schools with the highest percentage of registrants can win \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 for their participation at the elementary, middle and high school level. Alumni and friends can run for you too, so spread the word.

For more information and to register online go to the event section at:

[www.saisdfoundation.com](http://www.saisdfoundation.com).



## Tune us in

'One Square Mile: Texas'  
SAISD and Southtown segment\*

Jan. 22 sneak peak at:

[www.osmtx.com/southwest](http://www.osmtx.com/southwest)

Airing

Jan. 26 - 5 p.m. on KLRN 9.1

Jan. 27 - 4:30 a.m. on KLRN 9.1

Jan. 28 - 3:30 p.m. on KLRN 9.2

\* featuring a Bonham Academy teacher and Brackenridge HS Media Productions Magnet student.



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# in the Spotlight



Middle school students



High school students

## Award-winning historians

Happily displaying their ribbons earned at SAISD's Social Studies History Fair are middle and high school first- and second-place winners in a variety of categories. Their performances at this competition qualify them to advance to the Regional History Fair to be held Feb. 21 and 22.

Students advancing at the junior level represent Bonham, M.L. King and the Young Women's Leadership academies and Poe, Rhodes and Tafolla middle schools. Representing the senior level are students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy and Brackenridge, Burbank and Fox Tech high schools.



## A room with a view

Hawthorne Academy students start the New Year from the top floor of their school's new three-story building. The facility recently was completed as part of SAISD Bond 2010 updates at their near-downtown campus to include the 1923 main building. Hawthorne is one of 22 District campuses receiving bond-funded major renovations. Among those enjoying the view are teacher Elena Samkin's 7th-graders.



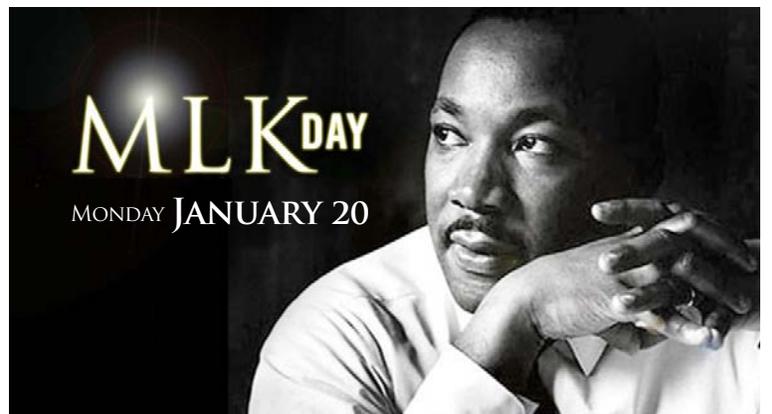
## Time Out for Reading

Twain MS students such as these are celebrating a championship literacy season. Cheering them on are NBA referees, shown visiting the 6th-graders and their teacher (far right) Kimberly Libby. This year the National Basketball Referee Association and Scholastic Classroom & Community Group is teaming up with Twain for the "Time Out for Reading" program.



## Tournament fit for a 'King'

These Mission Academy students, overseen by teacher Felix Fierros, hope they have all the right moves to reign victorious in a game-board clash of royalty. The players were preparing for SAISD's 18th-annual chess tournament honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that their school will host on Jan. 18. The official MLK weekend event is open to students from throughout South and Central Texas.



## Sharing in his dream

All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, in observance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday honoring the civil rights leader's life.

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*

  
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