

Oct. 9, 2009

Every child is special for SAISD's 2009 'ExCEL' award-winner



For nearly 20 years Jeanette Henderson has helped youngsters with special needs develop the knowledge and skills necessary to have successful lives.



Wilson ES teacher Jeanette Henderson accepts a golden apple statue for winning the ExCEL award, and congratulations from (L to R) Deborah Knapp of KENS5, principal Lanore Cantu, Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón and San Antonio Credit Union representative Eva De La Rosa.

"When you watch Ms. Henderson teach you are in awe," former Wilson ES principal Cynthia De La Garza wrote in her ExCEL award nomination letter.

"She teaches students with a variety of physical and cognitive challenges with great ease and effectiveness. She knows how to meet each child's unique needs to help them achieve their maximum potential while learning along with their peers."

This ability to bring out the best in her

students is among the reasons Henderson is this year's ExCEL recipient.

She was recognized by presenters and award sponsors KENS5 and the San Antonio Federal Credit Union during an Oct. 6 school assembly in her honor.

In addition to a golden apple trophy, Henderson received a \$1,000 cash prize and will be featured in a KENS5 story scheduled to air Oct. 10 between 7:30 to 9 a.m.

"Her commitment to the students, parents and staff of the SAISD community is visible through her actions, exemplary skills and positive attitude," De La Garza wrote.

Henderson makes learning fun through singing out instructions, and transforming her classroom into colorful settings such as a rain forest and an ocean of sea creatures.

"After observing her classroom I leave singing and energized from the learning that is occurring. As I walk away I think how fortunate the students are to have Ms. Henderson as a teacher," her former principal wrote.

For their teacher, the feeling is mutual.

"Whether it is the joy of seeing a student with multi-handicapping conditions hold her head for 20 seconds... or receiving a phone call from a former student or his parents just to let me know they are doing well, I am blessed to have been a part of their lives," Henderson wrote.

When not teaching, she is a member of Wilson's crisis team, serves on the campus

technology committee and as an alternate on the campus leadership team.

Henderson earned her bachelor's degree from Kent State University and her master's from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She also was among SAISD's first teachers to complete the rigorous National Board Certification.

"I embarked on a career in teaching not only because I enjoy working with children, but also my desire to take on the challenges that exist when working with children with special needs," Henderson wrote.

"Although at times it feels a bit overwhelming to have so many different needs to address in one school day, it is my joy of taking on that challenge and seeing the amazing positive results that keep me working in the classroom."



Pre-kindergartner Joseph Barsch and his Wilson ES classmates make teaching a joy for ExCEL winner Jeanette Henderson.

Jefferson's 'Escuela' video earns Lone Star EMMY Chapter nomination



Adam Rocha and Jessica Torres hope to bring a Texas EMMY award home to Jefferson HS.

A 17-year-old student and her teacher could soon achieve a feat eluded even some of the most acclaimed filmmakers.

When those famous words "And the EMMY goes to..." are spoken next week Jessica Torres and Adam Rocha are hoping to hear "Escuela,"

their nominee.

The 60-second video about the high school experience is one of four hopefuls at this year's Lone Star EMMY Awards in a category recognizing excellence in youth and teen productions.

Jessica, a Jefferson HS Cinema Magnet student, and Rocha, who teaches advanced media technology, served as director and producer, respectively.

"This is a blessing for the Cinema Magnet as part of the Fine Arts Magnet Academy here at Jefferson," Rocha said.

"It's an honor just to be nominated."

"Escuela" originally was produced for the "Teach Me SAISD" promotional campaign featuring student videos produced to recruit educators for the District nationwide.

"It was a challenge to capture the essence of the District and its students in such a short amount of time," Jessica, who also is president of the Mustang Cinema Club, said.

"But it was a great experience and I was glad

to be working toward a cause I really believe in."

Since "Escuela's" message is more directed to high school students than to prospective SAISD educators, it is not among the videos produced by Brackenridge and Sam Houston high schools students being shown in movie theaters as part of "Teach Me SAISD."

Instead, it was shown at the Monterrey (Mexico) International Film Festival, and qualified for the Lone Star EMMY by airing on KLRN-TV.

The Lone Star EMMY Awards are presented by the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, founded in 1957. The 2009 ceremony will be held Oct. 17 in Dallas.



For Your Benefit

What you need to know about the H1N1 strain of influenza

This flu season the public must take precautions against two different types of viruses.

Both regular flu and H1N1 are contagious respiratory illnesses that can range from mild to severe, with infection leading to hospitalizations and even deaths. But fortunately, most people can recover from either without needing medical treatment.

In this edition of "For Your Benefit" we focus on the H1N1, and offer the following tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help keep you and your family healthy.

What's the difference?

While symptoms are so similar you might not be able to know for certain without testing, the general H1N1 warning signs include - but are not limited to - fever, sore throat, headache, body aches, and runny nose.

One difference is that adults older than 64 do not yet appear to be at increased risk of H1N1-related complications.

Those who are at high risk for complications include pregnant women, children 6 months to 2 years old, and people with chronic illnesses like lung disease, heart disease and cancer.



Why is H1N1 sometimes called 'swine flu'?

Initial laboratory tests showed a similarity between genes in this new virus and those occurring in North American pigs, or swine.

After further study, scientists now call this strain the "quadruple reassortant" 2009 H1N1 virus because it instead was found to have four genes: two that normally circulate in European and Asian pigs, along with those occurring in birds and humans.

How does the 2009 H1N1 virus spread?

The virus is thought to spread in the same way as seasonal flu, mainly through the coughs and sneezes of those infected. H1N1 also can be contracted when people touch their mouth or nose after coming in contact with infected surfaces or objects.

Preventing the spread of the 2009 H1N1

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using the tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- To help avoid spreading germs, don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to keep your distance from those who

are ill.

- Likewise avoid contact with others if you are sick, especially with flu-like symptoms and fever. Except to seek medical care or other necessities, the CDC recommends that those who are ill should stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medicine.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov.

District to host 'Dig for the Cure'

SAISD high school volleyball players are joining thousands nationwide in dedicating their games to raising money for breast cancer research during:

'Dig for the Cure'

**Oct. 13 (Tues) • 5:30 and 7 p.m.
Alamo Stadium, 110 Tuleta St.**

Featured matches will be Edison vs. Brackenridge, and Lanier vs. Jefferson. The event is in affiliation with the San Antonio Komen Foundation, and all donations will go toward the local chapter. Breast cancer survivors in attendance will be recognized at 5:15 p.m. To be included and/or to make a donation if you are unable to attend, call Barbara Wise, assistant athletics director, 735-9331, ext. 114, or e-mail bwise1@saisd.net.

'Excellence in Education' continues to grant innovative wishes



Again this year employees whose creative teaching ideas are bigger than their budgets have an ally on their side.

Through the Excellence in Education Grant Program, recipients can be provided between \$100 to \$5,000 to fund special learning projects.

Grant applications now are being accepted, and will be awarded in the categories of classroom; grade level; campus or groups of campuses; subject area; and new teachers.

At least 50 students must benefit from the proposed project to be completed and all

funds spent by the last day of school.

The grants are being awarded by the San Antonio Foundation for Excellence in Education formed to fund innovative instructional activities in support of District goals to benefit the largest possible number of students.

Last year the foundation granted the wishes of 27 schools to fund 36 projects for nearly \$107,000.

Mailed applications must be postmarked by Friday, Oct. 16 and all addressed to the foundation in care of Carmen Vázquez-González at SAISD's Central Office.

Applicants will be notified the status of their request in late November.

Forms can be downloaded at www.saisd.net. For more information call 299-4060.

Show your support through United Way!

District employees wanting to contribute to the Excellence in Education Grant Program can do so through this year's United Way Campaign.

Give where you work to benefit our schools and students by designating the SAISD Foundation, United Way code #8661. Every dollar counts!



Fair to offer career advancement tips

SAISD employees interested in furthering their educations and their professions are invited to the:

**Career Pathways & Advanced Degrees Information Fair 2009
Oct. 22 (Thurs) • 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Alamo Convocation Center, 110 Tuleta St.

Representatives from area and online colleges and universities will be available to provide information on degree plans. The fair is sponsored by the SAISD Department of Human Resources. For more information call 554-8503.



Applause and accolades for Arnold ES

Principal Kathleen St. Clair accepts a plaque for her campus placing second on a list of the 2009 Top Elementary Schools in the Greater San Antonio area, comprising six counties. Arnold ES was among honorees recognized during a Sept. 28 awards ceremony hosted by the Houston-based advocacy group Children at Risk. To view all of the rankings visit <http://www.childrenatrisk.org>.



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