

Your Link To The News Within SAISD

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Red carpet rolled out for 'Teach Me' video premiere

The Golden Globe Awards ceremony isn't January's only opportunity for



Taking his turn on the red carpet is Sam Houston HS teacher Michael Melvin.

cinematographers and others who create on-screen magic to shine.

For the secondconsecutive year, SAISD students walked the red carpet as directors, producers, artists, and actors - along with their parents and District leaders -

to attend an exclusive screening of productions soon to be seen in a forum near you.

"The products not only provide SAISD with a valuable tool for recruiting new teachers, but real life experiences and skills the student participants can use when they go to college and pursue their future filmmaker, producer, director, editor, and media careers," said Suzanne Norton, department of human

resources administrative officer.

"These students began the project in September of this year and have been working hard to meet the deadlines demanded of the project."

After making their Jan. 22 debut before a more than 200-member audience, the 45- and 60-second "Teach Me SAISD" videos will be shown at Santikos theaters, and aired on social networking sites to recruit prospective teachers worldwide.

The marketing pieces were produced by

Media Technology II students from Brackenridge, Sam Houston and Jefferson high schools.

"We wanted to recognize their talent, hard work and creativity by providing them with a film festival premiere in which to showcase their productions. And we wanted to make it as much like a Hollywood red carpet ceremony as possible," Norton said.



'Oscars' await presentation on awards night. All of the nearly 200 student participants went home with a golden statue



Woodlawn ES students show their SAISD pride in 'History In The Making,' a video created by JERG Productions of Jefferson HS.



Trustees shown enjoying the words of wisdom keepsakes provided by teacher Maria Elena Arellano's students are (I to r) Ed Garza, Olga Hernandez and Carlos Villarreal.

'Advisors' to the School Board

Out of the mouths of babes, indeed, as Trustees learned during the Jan. 25 Texas School Board Recognition Month reception.

Highlighting this annual observance were letters of appreciation and advice written and read by Briscoe Academy 4th-graders including (l to r) Savannah Cassiano, Katherine Rodriguez, and Elon Alaniz titled "What I would do if I was a School Board member."

Suggestions ranged from additional extracurriculars and a more environmentally-friendly SAISD to teacher pay raises and rewarding academically- successful students with a Savings Bond to start a college fund.

One student possibly inspired by the catchy song "Pants on the Ground" - recently debuted on "American Idol" - requested a uniform fund to purchase better-fitting replacement pants for students who insist on wearing theirs too saggy.



Presenting School Board President James Howard a gift bag in appreciation of his public service is Samuel Rosa

Calling all District residents!

Your participation in the 2010 U.S. Census will benefit SAISD

As progress continues on the long-range improvement plan, the community's assistance again is being sought to help make this school district the best that it can be.

Completing and returning your 2010 U.S. Census set to hit mailboxes in March or answering questions should a census worker knock on your door will help SAISD leaders in addressing needs for the next 10 years. The questionnaire, one of the shortest in history, contains only 10 questions.

Information gathered will help the District

in a variety of ways including providing a more accurate projection of population trends, which is important when making decisions on schools, staffing, school bus routes and budgeting. (See Financial Forum, page 2, for details on the fiscal impact of an accurate census count.)

"We're being asked to remember '10-10-10,' said Carmen Vázquez-González, executive director, governmental & community relations. "Take 10 minutes to answer 10 questions that will impact our community for 10 years."

Teachers, in conjunction with the District's Social Studies Department, have made this important civic duty mandated by the Constitution since 1790 part of their lesson

For teaching guides and other information visit www.census.gov/schools.



Financial Forum

How an accurate 2010 census count can boost District's bottom line



take to assist us toward these goals. And the only cost is a few minutes of your time. Please complete and return your 2010 census form!

Because this information is used to direct resources to areas where they are most needed, participation can help to ensure that SAISD receives its proper share of the \$400 billion in federal funds available to states, counties, cities and school districts.

This will take some of the burden off of our taxpayers, while helping to direct more dollars back into the classroom.

It also will assist SAISD in long-term

planning and budgeting. For example, decisions based upon the uncounted would result in erroneously low estimates of students.

The effects also could be long term as well as costly since the next census will not be until

Following are some of the programs, services and resources from which SAISD, or our community and residents benefit and whose funding is determined by census information:

- Competitive state education grants.
 School districts with larger populations are eligible for more funding.
- Head Start
- National school breakfast and lunch programs
- Child care
- Foster care
- Programs teaching English to non-Native

speakers

- Vocational education programs
- State Children's Insurance Program
- WIC, the Women, Infants, and Children program
- Food stamps
- Section 8 housing

It bears repeating that the information gathered will be used to direct resources beneficial for the SAISD community for years to come, so your cooperation will be greatly appreciated!

For more information, visit http://www.census.gov/.



Hail to the Chief!

Superintendent Robert J. Durón and School Board Secretary Thomas C. López (background I to r) lead applause as Trustee Rubén D. Cuero presents Cecil Lara with a certificate of recognition. The veteran Brackenridge HS teacher and Distributive Education Clubs of America coordinator was honored at the Jan. 25 School Board meeting for his recent election as president of the National Marketing Education Association. He will serve through the end of the 2010-11 school year. This is just the latest of Lara's laurels. Earlier this school year he was inducted into the National Hispanic Heritage Hall of Fame for his glory days on the gridiron at Lanier HS and Sul Ross State University.



Certificate of Recognition Cod dates Contact date

Hands up for Academic Decathlon

Signaling their responses by raised pencils to a question posed for a Super Quiz Relay drill are Edison HS senior Jessica Addis (left) and Burbank HS junior Nicole Rodriguez. They were among teams of students from SAISD's eight traditional high schools preparing for the Jan. 29-30 regional Academic Decathlon at a District-sponsored practice session. The highest scorers at the regional level will advance to the state competition next month in Houston. SAISD's reigning champ, Edison HS, has earned the right to compete at the Texas Academic Decathlon for four consecutive years. Burbank HS, which also qualified for state in 2009, made its 11th appearance. Each year Academic Decathlon teams composed of A, B, and C students compete in the categories of honors, scholastic, and varsity, respectively. Their knowledge is tested in 10 subject areas, including the arts and music. Shown center at the table is Priscilla Sarratt, a Jefferson HS Academic Decathlon coach who served as a proctor for the practice event.

SAISD to offer vaccination clinics in February

The H1N1 vaccine will be provided in partnership with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District at no cost to District employees on:

- Feb. 3 (Wed) 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Highlands HS principal's conference room
- Feb. 10 (Wed) 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Edison HS Health Careers building
- Feb. 15 (Mon) noon to 4:30 p.m. in the Cooper Academy library

Also, employees assigned to a secondary campus may receive the vaccine on the same day students are vaccinated. A schedule will be posted detailing times and dates.

For more information on the vaccine or vaccination clinics call SAISD's Student Health Services
Department, 224-1823.







In the green

Environmentally-friendly efforts are earning SAISD awards and accolades. Among the speakers at the Jan. 25 grand opening ceremony (shown left)

in the Spotlight



for the Mission Verde Center on the Cooper Academy campus was School Board Secretary Thomas C. López.

The West Side education, training and research center focusing on renewable and energy-efficient technologies is a collaborative effort between SAISD,

the city of San Antonio, Alamo Colleges, San Antonio Youth Centers, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System. Also lauded for going green are students and staff at two District elementaries. Mayor Julián Castro (center, top left) celebrates with representatives from Barkley-Ruiz for their grand prize win in the Green Team Challenge. Joining him in congratulating Herff for placing first runner up is District 2 Councilmember Ivy Taylor. The schools received \$5,000 and \$4,000 gift certificates, respectively, from Milberger's Landscaping and Nursery. Contest sponsors are the Real Estate Council of San Antonio, Keep San Antonio Beautiful and the city of San Antonio.

Teaming up for education

While in town to perform at the AT&T Center, Harlem Globetrotter Hotshot Branch takes time out to show M.L. King Academy principal Nikki L. Foley-Demby some basketball pointers and speak to students about character and responsibility.





North American collaboration

Native Canadian and Twain MS principal Gary Pollock (center) meets with his fellow countrymen during their stay in San Antonio for a conference on school discipline. Tips on keeping a safe, orderly campus were shared with Ottawa-Carleton District School Board principals (I to r) Mary Bada and Geordie Walker, Superintendent of Instruction Walter Piovesan, city of Ottawa Manager of Client Service Strategies Clara Freire, and Safe and Caring Schools Coordinator Amy Hannah. Their visit to the near-North Side school followed an earlier exchange of ideas with members of the SAISD Police Department.



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