

Your Link To The News Within SAISD

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Cost cutting = technology upgrades and new computers for all campuses

SAISD students are reaping the benefits of stringent budgeting, with the rollout of a new technology refresh program to bring new and relevant equipment to our schools.

Next week, the final five deliveries of new laptops are scheduled. In total, the District purchased 3,240 of the computers, with every school receiving a supply.

They are part of an overall technology upgrade also including interactive whiteboards and video projectors for high school math and science classes. As a result of cost cutting over the past three years, the District was able to achieve a six-fold increase in funds available for technology purchases this year.

While more is needed to upgrade technology

across the District, these are important steps toward providing a technology foundation for our students' college and career success," said SAISD Chief Information Officer Marcos Zorola.

The ultimate goal is one computer for every 2.8 students, compared to the current six



Checking out the new Dells just delivered to Gamaliel Rodriguez's 3rd-grade classroom at Riverside Park Academy are: Xavier Briones with SAISD CIO Marcos Zorola; Abigail Muñoz with Executive Director, Technology Initiatives Patti Holub; and principal Homer Rivera with Alexis Evans (left) and Misty Zaragoza.

Martinez earns Outstanding Science and Mathematics Teaching Award

A Smith ES teacher not only is being lauded for a job well done, but also has an additional \$1,000 to spend on making math lessons even more innovative for her 3rd-grade bilingual students.

In a recent classroom surprise visit, Laura Martinez learned she received an Outstanding Science and Mathematics Teaching Award from the San Antonio Math & Science Education Coalition.

Martinez and 11 other area honorees will be

recognized during a Feb. 25 awards ceremony at the Education Service Center Region 20.

She and a recipient in the science category were one of two elementary-level teachers awarded for their passion, professionalism, and commitment to their field, and for their creative and innovative lessons.

This is the third year that the foundation has presented the award that includes a cash prize to outstanding educators who are in the first five years of their teaching careers.



Students gather around their teacher to express their own joy in her selection for the award

District's budget book is a four-time recipient of international award



SAISD continues to be recognized for its quality of budgeting. In its most recent honor, the District again has earned the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School

Business Officials International.

This is the fourth time SAISD has received this accolade bestowed upon school systems for excellence in the preparation and issuance of their annual budget.

To be considered for the award, candidates need to have met or exceeded ABSO's program criteria, which is focused on skills in budget developing, analyzing and presentation.

The District's 2009-10 book was prepared under the guidance of Associate Superintendent of Finance Steve Bassett, with the assistance of

Planning & Budget Director Julie Novak and her staff: Comptrollers Barbara Flores and Jill Ricketts; Senior Budget Analyst Lisa Villanueva; and Executive Assistant Velinda Salas.

View the award-winning volume at: www.saisd.net/admin/budget/2009-10_ Distict_Budget.pdf

Encore! Bulldogs and Golden Bears repeat as Academic Decathlon champs

Burbank and Edison high schools will again this year represent SAISD at the Texas Academic Decathlon to be held Feb. 26-28 at San Antonio College.

Both qualified in the medium schools category by virtue of their performances at the Jan. 29-30 regional competition, where Sam Houston HS narrowly missed advancing among small schools.



Representing Burbank HS are (I to r) coach Brian Warren, assistant coach James Fleetwood and (1st row) Nicolette Sanchez, Nicole Rodriguez, Danielle Baldazo, and Fatima Montez. Shown back row are Trevor Davis, Joshua Solis, Benjamin Garcia, Matthew Contreras, Tania Hernandez, Rogelio Garza, and assistant coach Laura Contreras



Representing Edison are (I to r) David Ortega, Jessica Addis, Michael Barquin, Eric Escobar, Hindira Inzurriaga, Stephanie Gonzalez, Sarah Golden, Jose Renderos, and Juan Atilano. Their coach (not pictured) is Juan Ramos.

Not too late to keep your New Year's resolutions

Whether you are among those who already have abandoned those well-intentioned self-improvement plans, or have remained steadfast but are so discouraged from little - if any - visible results that you are barely hanging on, this column is for you.

This, the six-week mark into any new year is the typical make-it or break-it point for most who have made resolutions. To help keep you on track for your goals - not only for 2010 but for life - we offer the following tips.

Decide what's most important

Choose goals that you're serious and excited about accomplishing.

Don't set yourself up for failure, for example, by resolving to quit smoking unless you are willing and ready to do so.

Avoid setting too many goals, and keep your focus on the one - or ones - most important to you.

Create a plan

Write down your goals, and be realistic

about what you can accomplish and when. Set a pace that's right for you. For long-term goals such as a year or more, include interim targets to mark your progress and give you reason to celebrate with each success.

Don't delay

Start where you are. If you tell yourself you'll wait until everything is just right, you risk losing enthusiasm for achieving your goal.

Think positive

Believing you can achieve your goals, and maintaining a sense of humor will help you to be optimistic, even when encountering roadblocks on your path to success.

Gather support

Pick someone in your circle of family, friends, or coworkers that you trust and rely on, and who will encourage and motivate you. A good choice is someone who has achieved similar goals and can offer you insights.

Be nice to yourself

Think, and say positive affirmations. You might even want to put them to paper for

display such as on the fridge door.

Reminding yourself "I made progress today," or "I am doing my best,"

and "I'm still okay, no matter what," will help you to achieve your resolutions.

Focus on your progress, not perfection

Small steps can add up to significant leaps over time, so keep going!

Stay the course, and by this time next year you'll be setting new goals to replace the ones you've already accomplished.

At your service

Professional support is available through the Employee Assistance Program for wellness and work-life services.

For more information call **1-866-440-6556**, or visit **Humana.com/eap**, user name and password: SAISD.

Also, the HumanaFirst 24 Hour Nurse Advice Line, **1-800-622-9529**.

Jefferson HS takes top honors at the 'Can't Beat Love' film festival. . .

The Mustang Cinema Club earned two of three awards at a media contest designed to highlight and help prevent teen dating violence.

Irma Retana placed first, receiving \$1,000, while Rudy Moralez finished third with \$500.

"I'm so proud of all my students that competed," said Jefferson HS advanced media technology teacher Adam Rocha.

"I feel this is a great opportunity for the students to receive recognition as well as shine a spotlight on the (contest co-sponsor)Family Violence Prevention Services and their mission." The winning videos were shown at a Feb. 3 gala premiere at the Barshop Jewish Community Center of San Antonio. They also are scheduled to be shown on local television, air dates and stations TBA.

Also sponsoring the contest was the National Council of Jewish Women.

The panel of judges included film critic Bob Polunsky, Geo-Media's Zach Nasits, Shootz Productions President Jimmy Williams, documentary and film director Mary Ann Smothers Bruni, and Bexar County 225th District Court Judge Peter Sakai.



Actresses Cristina Chiquillo and Amber Boyd pose with their award-winning director, Irma Retana. All are Jefferson HS seniors.

... and named a 'GRAMMY' Enterprise Award finalist

The Jefferson HS music program is one step closer to winning the top prize in an honor recognizing excellence.

After first being selected one of more than 140 finalists nationwide as a GRAMMY Signature School this fall, educators recently learned their campus is among just 21 - and the only from Texas - making the cut to the next round of competition.

"Jefferson HS has distinguished itself in many ways, historically and academically," said assistant choir director Ronnie Sanders. "This award adds to the already long list of prestigious awards and recognition in the fine arts for Jefferson."

In addition to the prestige of being an Enterprise recipient, the school receives a \$5,000 prize.

While decisions on how the money will be spent are pending, Sanders said they are considering new technology, scholarships for students to attend summer music camps, and new instruments

The campus named the National GRAMMY

Signature School will receive \$10,000.

Recipients are determined by a panel of top music educators and professionals who assess music programs on documentation such as recordings of school concerts and repertoire.



'Teach Me SAISD' now appearing on the educational access channel

Not to worry if you were among those unable to score a coveted ticket to San Antonio's

Jan. 22 exclusive,

Hollywood-style red

carpet film premiere.

While you may have missed the "Teach Me SAISD" videos debut, you can still see what all the buzz was about by tuning into the local educational access channel where they now are airing on weekends.

The 45- and 60-second marketing pieces

were produced by Media
Technology II students
from Brackenridge,
Sam Houston and
Jefferson high schools,
providing teens real
life experiences and
SAISD with a valuable
tool for recruiting new
teachers worldwide.

A few will also be shown at Santikos theaters, and accessible through social networking sites.



2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

AT&T U-verse Cable channel 99

Grande Cable channel 21

Time Warner Cable channel 98

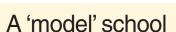


in the Spotlight

Gung ho for Girl Scouts

The YWLA was treated to a special visit from the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas CEO Anna Maria Chávez, in honor of the

150 girls who have earned their first merit badges. Pictured top left, are (I to r) principal Angela Dominguez, Chávez, Advisory Board member Jimmie Ruth Evans, and 7th-graders Cristella Esparza, Kaitlyn Garcia and Jordan Hernandez. (Inset) Chávez congratulates Destiny Whitecotton for her Bronze Award.



If imitation truly is the sincerest form of flattery, then the Navarro Academy has plenty of cause to be pleased. The National Register of Historic Places landmark inspired a gingerbread house that finished third overall and took three places in a contest sponsored by the American Institute of Architect San Antonio, West East Design Group and the San Antonio Children's Museum. The award-winning confection was presented to principal Nancy York (center) as a gift to her school, and was created by Facilities, Planning and Construction Management employees (I to r) Rick Reyes, Marcelino Perez, Mary Darilek, George Esparza, and Gilbert Candia.





Eagles set for higher heights

Brackenridge HS gridiron stars Willie Culpepper (holding Miami University of Ohio hat) and Earon Holmes (decked in UTSA gear) show their collegiate pride for their future schools during Feb. 3 National Signing Day ceremonies. Running back Culpepper, whose 27 TDs in a single season broke current Dallas Cowboy Sam Hurd's school record, will add his talents to the established RedHawk squad while wide receiver Holmes will make history as a member of the Roadrunner's inaugural football team. Joining them in celebrating this milestone are (I to r) SAISD Athletic Executive Director Gil Garza, District 1 Trustee Rubén D. Cuero, principal Linda Marsh and head football coach Willie Hall.



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