

September 13, 2012

Fox Tech HS earns encore Blue Ribbon School Award



For the second time in 12 years, a historic downtown SAISD high school has received one of the nation's most prestigious honors.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Education announced that the District's Fox Tech is a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School, the only in San Antonio and one of just 18 campuses in Texas and 269 nationwide.

"Schools honored with the National Blue Ribbon Schools award are committed to accelerating student achievement and preparing students for success in college and careers," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

"Their work reflects the conviction that every child has promise and that education is the surest pathway to a strong, secure future."

Fox Tech was named a 2012 nominee this past January in the category of dramatically-improved student performance to high levels



Posing beside a sculpture of Fox Tech's buffalo mascot, proud principal Dawn Parker shows off a letter from the U.S. Department of Education announcing her campus is a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School.

on state tests, and was selected for the Blue Ribbon Award following a rigorous application process through the DOE.

"This honor reinforces our belief that all

students can learn," said principal Dawn Parker.

"It reaffirms that if you have dedicated educators who are committed, competent and willing to consistently reflect on and grow in their practice, that our students truly rise to their potential."

Parker said a parade (details pending) is planned to celebrate the Blue Ribbon Award.

Fox Tech and the other recipients also will be honored during a Nov. 12-13 recognition ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The school's first Blue Ribbon was bestowed in 2000 under the leadership of Joanne Cockrell, now principal of SAISD's Jefferson HS.

Since 2010 Fox Tech has been transforming into a stand-alone college-prep Magnet high school for students aspiring to careers in law or medical professions.

This spring's commencement will mark the end of an era when members of the final traditional high school class - called "the last herd" - graduate.

Trustees approve new mission statement

While SAISD awaits its 18th superintendent, Trustees are setting goals to help the District move forward in the quest for higher student academic achievement.

This includes a new mission statement approved at the Aug. 27 School Board meeting.

Crafting the document was among top priorities for Trustees during their two-day training session held the week before the first day of school.

There, Board President Ed Garza also drafted a commitment by Trustees to hire the best superintendent to lead SAISD's transformation as described in the new mission.

Garza provided a preview of it at the Aug. 21 convocation where he asked employees to join Trustees and the superintendent in "making the San Antonio School District the best urban school district in the United States."

With everyone working together, Garza said he was convinced the mission can become a reality.

"We can only do this as a family of 7,000 employees sincerely believing that every child can reach their full potential and lead a

successful life. That's why we're all here.

"I would not be here if I did not believe that SAISD could make that transformation and become a national, award-winning urban school district."

To assist in achieving the mission's goals, Trustees also plan to adopt measures to gauge success along the way.

Additional search meeting set

SAISD patrons and community members still have time to publicly share their views on the qualities and characteristics they would like the District's next leader to have and to learn more about the search process.

Those unable to make tonight's meeting may attend one recently added to the schedule for next week.

Input also is sought through an online survey accessed through the District's website.

Conducting the process is PROACT Search - a group of more than 100 consultants with experience as educators.

Trustees hired the firm this summer to manage the search, which will include recruiting qualified candidates.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

"To transform SAISD into a national model urban school district where every child graduates and is educated so that he or she is prepared to be a contributing member of the community."

In addition to hosting public forums, PROACT is meeting with a variety of focus groups comprising community members, school principals, teachers, paraprofessional employees, the superintendent's cabinet and others.

The new superintendent is expected to be selected in January.



Acting as a group facilitator for the Sept. 5 community meeting at Lanier HS, Estrada AC vice principal Robert Loveland jots down input on desired qualities for SAISD's next superintendent.

Final community input sessions

Sept. 13 (Thurs) – 6 p.m. - **TONIGHT**
Edison HS, 701 Santa Monica Drive

Sept. 20 (Thurs) – 6 p.m. - **NEW**
Sam Houston HS, 4635 E. Houston St.

Online survey

Your opinions also are sought at the Superintendent Search page found at:
www.saisd.net

Mayor puts Jefferson HS in the national spotlight



Long before hitting the stage as a speaker at the National Democratic Convention, Julián Castro (shown in his high school yearbook photo) learned chemistry from Jefferson HS teacher Carita Thomas.

Talk about school pride! While other San Antonians far from home may be remembering the Alamo, Julián Castro had another city landmark on his mind - his beloved high school alma mater.

The mayor used his opportunity in the national spotlight as a keynote speaker at the recent Democratic Convention to offer a shout out to Jefferson HS.

Although more than 20 years have passed since he and his twin Joaquin (who in addition to introducing his brother at the convention is the District 125 state representative) were students there, they are far from forgotten.

Since Julián's nationally-televised praise of Jefferson, his former chemistry teacher

Carita Thomas has fielded numerous inquiries.

She recalled the twins as being nearly inseparable, and that Julián was an excellent student. Today, she's glad that current Jefferson Mustangs can call him a role model.

Thomas - who also taught another former city mayor, SAISD's School Board President Ed Garza - modestly said she finds all of her former students' successes satisfying and hopes she played some part in their achievements.

News coverage of the Castro-Jefferson HS connection can be viewed at:

www.saisd.net

SAISD campuses to mark major milestones in 2012-13

According to our Communications Department history files, these schools are observing significant anniversaries this year.

The following reflect years spent at the school's current location, including those opened under different names and purposes.

- **105th – Hillcrest ES.** Originally called the Beanville School in honor of Texas legend Judge Roy Bean, who had been an area resident.
- **105th – Riverside Park ES.** Opened as the Missionfield School.
- **95th – Brackenridge HS**
- **90th – Stewart ES.** Originally the Covington School.
- **85th – Wilson ES**
- **85th – Woodlawn Hills ES**
- **80th – Fenwick ES**
- **80th – Graebner ES**
- **80th – Knox ECEC.** Until 2008 the campus was an elementary.
- **80th – Rodriguez ES.** Originally Ivanhoe ES. Renamed in the 1970s to honor former student Cleto Rodriguez, the first Hispanic Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.



The campus now hosting the Young Women's Leadership Academy opened in 1937 as Horace Mann Junior High School.

- **80th – Steele ES**
- **80th – Tynan ECEC.** Until 2008 the campus was an elementary.
- **75th – Burbank HS.** Originally a junior-senior high school.
- **75th – YWLA.** Originally Mann JHS, which closed as a middle school in 2008.
- **65th – Miller ES**
- **60th – Highland Hills ES**
- **60th – Maverick Hills ES**
- **60th – W.W. White ES**

- **55th – Cooper Academy.** Originally a junior high and closed as a middle school in 2008.
- **55th – Forbes ES**
- **55th – M.L. King Academy.** Opened as Riley ES-JHS in 1957. Served as a middle school until becoming a PK-8 academy in 2004.
- **50th – Kelly ES.** Originally Kelly Field School.
- **10th – Barkley-Ruiz ES**

What's in a name?

In addition to multiple locations, some SAISD schools have had many monikers. The following anniversaries are for names only.

- **110th – Crockett ES.** Originally the Prospect Hill School.
- **110th – De Zavala ES.** Originally the Third Ward School.
- **110th – Douglass ES.** Previously the Riverside School.
- **110th – Travis ECHS.** Originally School #13. Served as an elementary until 2008.
- **105th – J.T. Brackenridge ES.** Originally the Kerr Hill School.
- **30th M.L. King Academy**

Customer Service Corner

Re'CAPP' of SAISD's customer service commitment



If we have not yet done so, please allow us this opportunity to wish you a happy 2012-13!

We hope your school year is off to a great start. In this first Customer Service Corner column for 2012-13, we would like to introduce ourselves to those who are new to SAISD while providing the District's veterans a refresher course in how we can assist you.

Call us CAPP

Officially, we're the Community and Parent Partners Department. But we prefer to go by our acronym because we believe it aptly reflects our all-inclusive purpose. By capturing the spirit of courtesy and cooperation between all of our District customers - students, parents and the community - together we can better ensure that every SAISD student can achieve both academic and personal success

and one day wear the graduation "cap."

For us everything begins and ends with showing we care by providing the best customer service possible and offering resources to assist everyone in making that their aspiration as well.

At your service

Among the services we offer include two constituent specialists assigned to take calls regarding concerns our customers may have about any of the District's campuses and guiding them to the right person who can help address those concerns in a timely manner.

Contact CAPP

Check us out by clicking on the customer service tab (left-hand side of page) at www.saisd.net. Those with questions, comments or suggestions for engaging the SAISD community, and parents as partners are

asked to email Janice Hannon, CAPP director, at jhannon1@saisd.net.

Fall 2012 Parent Summit

Because parents are among the District's most valued partners and customers, CAPP is sponsoring the:

Fall 2012 Parent Summit
 Oct. 9 (Tues) - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Wonderland of the Americas Mall's
 Norris Conference Center
 4522 Fredericksburg Road
 Registration will start at 8 a.m.

Through these twice-a-year events parents hear keynote speakers and attend sessions on a variety of topics.

This year's theme is "When you are in the presence of a child YOU are the teacher."

in the Spotlight



Let there be lights!

School Board Secretary Olga M. Hernandez and Edison HS principal Charles Muñoz express appreciation for new track and field lights. The luminaries officially debuted Sept. 6 during a ceremony preceding the school's first-ever night gridiron match between the Edison and Carrizo Springs junior varsities. The lights were installed through a collaborative effort between SAISD and the city of San Antonio.



An added cause for celebration at the inaugural night game was the Golden Bears' 18-0 victory.



Partners in play

Joined by Charity Ball Association President Heather Wolff, Washington ES principal Phyliss Foley-Davis cuts the ceremonial ribbon on one of two new playgrounds at her campus. Funding was provided by CBA through the SAISD Foundation.



Coming soon to Cameron

As represented in these artist renderings, Cameron ES is being transformed into a modern campus thanks to SAISD Bond 2010. Cameron is the first of the 22 schools slated for major renovations to begin construction. This important milestone will be celebrated Friday, Sept. 14 at 10:30 a.m. when the East Side campus kicks off the construction phase for the District's \$515 million bond program. Completion of Cameron's \$12.3 million project is expected to be late 2013.

'GEAR'ed for college

SAISD's members of the class of 2017 - including these shown here - celebrate national GEAR UP Week through activities preparing them for higher education and careers. Activities included Whittier MS students posting their aspirations in the hallway for daily reminders, while Twain MS social studies teacher Irene Solano helped 8th-graders at that school organize theirs by category. Participation in Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs is funded through a \$21.5 million federal grant. This is the District's second class to benefit from GEAR UP.



Photo courtesy San Antonio Sports



Green ready to roll!

As the Spurs Coyote cheers them on, Green ES students start preparations for the eight-week San Antonio Sports marathon training program, offered in partnership with Competitor International. Their school was selected to kickoff the event through a walk along the Mission Reach pathway. The Green students are among those from nearly 300 - area elementaries to participate by logging their progress in activity journals toward a goal of 26.2 miles or 13.1 for kinder through 2nd-graders. The program will conclude Saturday, Nov. 10 at ING KiDS Rock in Brackenridge Park, part of the Nov. 11 San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon & 1/2 Marathon.



Tejano comes to Tafolla

Latin pop/YouTube sensation Matt Hunter took time from a surprise concert at Tafolla MS to pose with principal Caroline Elizondo and administrative assistant Rufus Lott III. His performance was part of Festival People in Español events here in San Antonio.

Remembering 9/11

Students and staff from throughout SAISD were among a worldwide fellowship pausing to reflect upon the 11th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. At Jefferson HS (adjacent photo), the JROTC and other student groups were joined by community members for a memorial ceremony in front of the flagpole. An observance at Wheatley MS featured flag-folding ceremonies like this one in the cafeteria and in several classrooms. Under the direction of Leadership Officer Training Corp. teacher Calvin Ross, students learned the significance behind each of the flag's 13 folds.



Courtesy photo


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insider is produced by the **Communications Department.**

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