

‘Reach Out to Dropouts’ continues to bring high schoolers back to class



Dr. Robert J. Durón and Mayor Julián Castro, joined by Highlands HS principal Lorna Klokkenga and School Board Vice President Carlos Villarreal, “Reach Out to Dropouts” by knocking on the doors of high schoolers who had not enrolled by the first day of classes.

For the second consecutive year, SAISD and the city of San Antonio joined forces to

encourage teens who may be considering quitting school to come back and complete their educations.

This past Tuesday Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón, Mayor Julián Castro, city officials and all School Board members – along with civic and community members – hit the streets of each high school community to knock on the doors of teens who had not returned to school since the first day of classes on Aug. 24. The volunteers were prepared to address any reasons cited for dropping out, and teens were encouraged to return to their home high school.

That morning nearly 130 volunteers visited 480 households. Personal contact was made with 187 teens or their families.

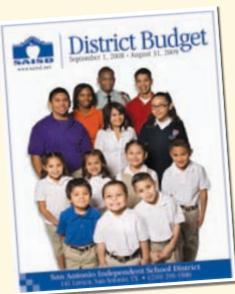
Of those, 90 indicated they plan to complete their schooling, either in SAISD, another district or through other types of educational programs.

In 2008 SAISD served as San Antonio’s pilot school district for the “Reach Out to Dropouts” program.

Last year’s efforts resulted in the return of almost 140 prospective dropouts, some of whom already have graduated and are now attending college.

In addition to the city of San Antonio, partners and sponsors include AT&T, Bank of America, City Year, Communities in Schools, CPS Energy, GGC Engineers, H-E-B, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Oak Farms Dairy, Rackspace, United Way, and USAA.

District’s award-winning 2008-09 budget book to serve as a model of excellence



SAISD’s recognized quality of budgeting has yet another honor to add to its long list of accolades.

When school business practitioners gather next month in Chicago for ASBO’s (Association of School Business Associates International) annual convention, SAISD’s 2008-09 budget book will be presented as an example for others to emulate.

“To be singled out for presentation at their annual conference as a model document is truly an exceptional honor within the school business community,” said Steven Bassett, associate superintendent for the department of business and finance.

“The finance team at SAISD has done a tremendous job working to provide usable information and to be transparent for our community.”

The volume will be used by ASBO’s MBA (Meritorious Budget Advisory) committee during their “How to Create an Award Winning Budget” workshop.

“It is an excellent budget and it would be a very good tool to use to demonstrate to others thinking about applying to the MBA program or improving their present budget.”

Vee Boehringer, ASBO’s recognition programs manager, wrote when requesting permission to reproduce SAISD’s document.

Last year’s budget book earned honors from both ASBO and the GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada).

The 2008-09 budget book was prepared under Bassett’s guidance with the assistance of Julie Novak, planning & budget director, Rena Valdez, accounting office director, and staff.

The award-winning volume is available online at: www.saisd.net/ADMIN/budget/index.shtm.

SAISD Fall Bilingual Symposium

Educators and administrators interested in bilingual instruction are invited to attend this annual event to be held:

Sept. 12 (Sat)
7:15 a.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Burbank HS, 1002 Edwards St.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. María Hernández Ferrier, Texas A&M University-San Antonio’s interim president. Award-winning Bonham Academy dual language student Laura Gonima will be honored -- last year as a 3rd-grader she placed first in the NABE’s (National Association for Bilingual Education) essay contest on “Why I am Proud to be Bilingual.” Each year these symposiums are held for SAISD Bilingual/English as a Second Language educators, and for secondary core content teachers who teach English-language learners.

For more information call 354-2302.

Tips to help keep you and your family and co-workers well



That old adage attributed to Ben Franklin still rings true. An ounce of prevention most definitely is worth a pound of cure!

With the start of a new school year bringing more people in contact with each other, plus the arrival of cold and flu season just around the corner, now is an ideal time to remind everyone of some tried and true health and wellness tips – not just useful now but any time of year.

Wash up! Frequent hand washing is the single most effective means of preventing the spread of disease-causing germs. Use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and dry with disposable paper towels, especially before eating, after toileting and after coughing and sneezing.

What not to share. Co-workers should avoid using each others telephones. Personal

items such as make-up, contact lenses, toothbrushes, towels, razors, brushes and hair accessories are also not to be shared.

Contain sneezes and coughs. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when available, or cough or sneeze into your sleeve.

Keep it clean. Frequently-touched surfaces such as tables, countertops, phones, and door knobs should be cleaned often.

Get your Zs. Sufficient sleep not only strengthens the immune system but speeds the recovery process as well. Learn how to manage stress, and don't let it keep you awake.

Build a better body. A well-balanced, nutritious diet, plenty of water, along with exercise, are essential to good health.

Keep your distance. Avoid close contact with people who are ill. Likewise stay home when you aren't well.

Anticipate child care needs. Parents should make child care arrangements in advance in order to not be unprepared should your child awaken one morning with an unexpected illness, or if his or her school closes due to

outbreaks of flu.

Know if you're at risk. Anyone who is pregnant, under the age of 5, over the age of 65, or has been diagnosed with diabetes, heart disease, asthma or kidney disease is at a higher risk for complications from influenza and should seek prompt medical evaluation if experiencing symptoms.

For more information contact your health care provider or visit: www.cdc.gov or www.flu.gov.

Get your shot

Seasonal flu vaccine will be offered through the District's Humana Health Insurance Program on:

- **Sept. 17** (Thurs.) - 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 229 of the SSS building
- **Sept. 19** (Sat) - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in room 5 of the Burnet Center
- **Sept. 29** (Tues) - 2 to 6 p.m. in the cafeteria of Rogers MS



Vote for me!

In the final day of campaigning prior to Election Day, presidential hopefuls Jose Lopez and Edward Madrano present their platforms during a Sept. 10 student council rally. The Maverick ES 5th-graders were among a slate of candidates stumping for votes for offices that also included vice president, secretary and treasurer. Pictured here, Jose Lopez (L) and Edward Madrano (R), present to their fellow classmates on why they'd be perfect for the job.



Customer Service Corner

Nearly half of all District campuses achieve Level 5 acts of excellence

As we begin a brand new academic year, the importance of providing outstanding customer service remains a top priority.

Setting a great example for us all are the 40 campuses that finished the 2008-09 school year having excelled in this important Districtwide endeavor, eight of which received perfect marks.

They were honored at a recent principals meeting when Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón presented them with the Level 5 Customer Service award.

In order to be considered for the Level 5 honor, campuses or departments must score an overall average of 80 to 89 percent, with

a score of 100 percent twice throughout the year, plus at least a 20 percent level of improvement based on:

- visits by "secret shoppers" five times throughout the year.
- contacts by anonymous callers checking to see if: the phone was answered within three rings; the individuals identified themselves and their campus or department; a professional tone was used; and calls were transferred to knowledgeable personnel.
- whether the school's Web-based calendar of events was up-to-date.

'Perfect' Level 5 campuses

- Estrada Academy

- Irving Academy
- M.L. King Academy
- Storm Academy
- Kelly ES
- Schenck ES
- Rogers MS
- Edison HS

The goal for 2009-10 is for all campuses and departments to achieve Level 5 Customer Service.

For more information e-mail SAISD's Director of Parent, Community & Business Partnership Ruben Fernandez, rfernandez@saisd.net. Or click on the customer service e-mail link at www.saisd.net.



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