

December 11, 2009

'Excellence in Education' provides more than \$53,000 in grants for spring semester



The bright ideas of innovative SAISD educators are becoming realities, thanks to the Excellence in Education Grant Program.

Through a total of \$53,464 in grant monies, recipients will be able

to fund specially-designed lessons for their students to enjoy following the winter break.

Each semester the foundation finances inventive instructional activities to benefit the largest number of students possible.

Amounts per project range from approximately \$500 to \$5,000, and are given in the categories of classroom; grade level; campus or groups of campuses; subject area; and new teachers.

Recipients, project leader, projects and amount received are:

Academies

- **Riverside Park**, Victoria Casillas – "Math Tool Pack" – \$2,000.
- **Whittier**, Jill Suarez – "Learning Math and Science is Fun!" – \$3,465.

Elementaries

- **J.T. Brackenridge**, Margie Daniel, "Bird and Garden Observatory" – \$2,958 and Kathleen McLaughlin-Velasquez, "Community Garden" – \$1,991.
- **Cameron**, Barbara Eisele – "Dive into Learning" – \$2,471.
- **Miller**, Patricia Cardenas – "Ready to Achieve" – \$2,729.
- **Wilson**, Mary Margaret Acevedo – "Brainstorming Weather Across the Curriculum" – \$3,437.

Middle schools

- **Rhodes**, William Davis – "TAKS Tips Video for Math and Science" – \$2,435 and Erin Schofield – "Science and Technology: a Video Journey of Discovery" – \$2,214.
- **Twain**, Barbara Palcewski "Guys Caught Reading" – \$2,650.
- **Wheatley**, Margarita C. Sifuentes – "Box Car" – \$1,860

High schools

- **Burbank**, Loretta Medellin – "Sculpture Garden – Ceramic Tokens" – \$2,500.
- **Fox Tech**, Sandra Jasso – "Police Explorer Training Course" – \$4,713.



Congratulating Rhodes MS grant recipient William Davis are (l to r) Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón, foundation Trustee Carrie Baker Wells, Board President James Howard and school principal Edward Garcia.

- **Jefferson**, David Garcia – "Excel STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics)" – \$4,000 and Lori Hunte – "Boys Basketball & Books" – \$1,998.

Other

- **Health/PE Department** **Roger Rodriguez** – "Save a Life in the Community CPR Program" – \$3,970 and "Dreams for Youth Athlete & Wellness Development Program" – \$4,972.

SAISD educator nets FirstMark Credit Union scholarship

Collins Garden PE teacher Roxanne Calvo has an extra \$500 to spend on enhancing both her students' educations and physical fitness.

As one of 10 Bexar County-area beneficiaries of Firstmark Credit Union's annual Educator's Scholarship Program, Calvo will use the funds to purchase equipment for Action Based

Learning.

"This program is based upon brain research that supports the link of movement and physical activity to increased academic performance," Calvo said.

"We are so excited! The kids really like the program and we hope that the whole school

will soon be involved and implement activities in the classrooms."



Courtesy photo

Well supplied for teaching

Santa came early for Rozlyn Perez of Highlands HS and 124 other new SAISD teachers. Thanks to San Antonio Foundation for Excellence in Education elves and sponsor State Farm Insurance, the first-year educators received \$250 gift cards totaling \$31,250 to spend on school supplies. Presenting her gift during a Dec. 8 reception were Foundation Director Judy Geelhoed and Javier Leal of State Farm Insurance.



Grand prize season's greetings!

Accepting congratulations from Board President James Howard and Trustees Carlos Villarreal, Ed Garza and Olga Hernandez is Pablo Gutierrez Gladwish. The Hawthorne Academy 8th-grader was honored at the Dec. 8 School Board meeting for winning grand prize in SAISD's Christmas card contest. Nearly 1,000 elementary- and secondary-level students submitted artwork for the competition. His art teacher is Diane Sosa.

For more holiday cheer, see page 3.

Jefferson in the running for prestigious 'GRAMMY' award and grant

Music program students and staff at Jefferson HS have been on a high note since learning their campus was chosen a finalist for the national GRAMMY Signature Schools Award for 2010.

Jefferson was the only San Antonio school to make the cut.

From the more than 140 finalists, 14 will receive a custom award and a monetary grant.

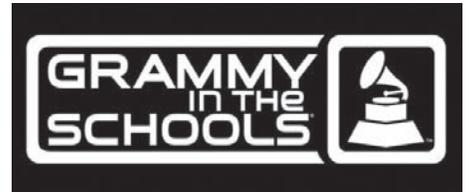
The campus named the National GRAMMY

Signature School will receive \$10,000.

Should Jefferson receive a GRAMMY, "the funds will be used to purchase cutting edge music technology to aid the students learning and college readiness abilities," said assistant choir director Ronnie Sanders.

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.

Created in 1998, the GRAMMY Signature Schools program recognizes top U.S. public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education during an academic school year.



Turkey time

SAISD District 4 Trustee Adela Segovia and District 5 Councilman David Medina assist volunteers at Burbank HS in distributing Thanksgiving dinner gobblers to the community. Five thousand free turkeys were provided courtesy of State Farm Insurance in partnership with the host school, SAISD, H-E-B, the San Antonio Spurs and the Ce Group event-brand marketing.

Junior journalists

Arriving for a monthly editorial meeting at the San Antonio Express-News are Samantha Barrera from Healy Murphy (right) and Jefferson's Bernice Barrera. As Teen Team members, the seniors, along with Sam Houston HS sophomore Bria Webb (not pictured), are spending this year working alongside editors, reporters, photographers and designers, and also have the opportunity to write articles and columns for publication in the newspaper.



For Your Benefit

'Go' for health this holiday season and greet 2010 physically fit

Allowing ourselves to indulge in some of the tempting treats that are such an integral part of this time of year need not sabotage our efforts to keep those unwanted pounds at bay.

Members of Virgin HealthMiles can have their proverbial cake and eat it too, as long as they also take steps toward burning off any extra calories consumed. And this has never been easier or more rewarding.

Just remember to always make your GoZone pedometer a regular part of your daily

routine, and take as many steps as possible.

Start walking!

Not only does your GoZone help you track your progress, Virgin HealthMiles membership also pays you for being active.

Last year SAISD members earned almost \$80,000 in cash rewards through this incentive program.

Rewards are disbursed for reaching various activity milestones in the form of up to \$150 in cash and/or gift cards.



Get with the program!

Not yet a member? Not to worry! By joining you will receive for free the go-anywhere pedometer that clips to your belt, waistband, or back pocket and plugs right into your computer, automatically uploading your steps to your HealthMiles account.

Register today by visiting:
www.virginhealthmiles.com/SAISD



Free Pedometers!



Web master

SAISD's Technology Department executive secretary has been recognized by the National Association of Educational Office Professionals. The organization awarded Janie Giddens (shown with TESA President Mary Ann Hollingsworth) first place in the category of Skilled Professional Webmaster Designed Site for her work on the Texas Educational Support Staff Association's Web site.

Corrections to the Nov. 13 insider first edition

From the "Parent educator promotes a culture of celebration" story, Nicholas Borko is an Air Force captain. Rhodes MS teacher Jody Harkrider's story "A Teacher in Paris" was published in the Association of Texas Professional Educators magazine.

HOLIDAY CHEER!



Courtesy photo

The spirit of sharing and giving is alive and well in SAISD where students and staff throughout the District are making the holiday season bright for others.

At a community celebration hosted by District 120 State Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon, **(top left)** Sam Houston HS junior Klifawon Hypolite offers drinks to guests. The annual East Side holiday gathering was catered by the school's acclaimed Culinary Arts program.

Helping Jolly Old St. Nick greet students at last year's "Visit with Santa" **(top right)** was SAISD police officer Michael Hawkins. The 8th-annual event serving approximately 300

pre-selected kinder to 5th-graders Districtwide will be 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Dec. 12 at the sponsoring SAISD Police Department. The majority of Santa's stash for his yearly special early appearance was provided by toy drives at the District's middle and high school campuses.

As performers at Chuy's 21st annual Children Giving to Children Parade in Austin, **(below)** the Connell MS drumline and color guard not only livened up the festivities but helped a worthy cause. Participants marched in support of the Operation Blue Santa Program whose volunteers collected

toys from spectators for needy children along the route. Connell was the only San Antonio school selected for the parade sponsored by the popular restaurant chain. They will present an encore performance at the Jan. 9 U.S. Army All-American Bowl in the Alamodome.

Shown on snares (l to r) Mark Munoz, Jeremy Rodriguez and Enrique Espinoza; quads, Louis Cardenas and Ryan Cedillo; and flag holders John Lopez and Fabian Morales.

Not photographed are Connell band director George Hinojosa Jr., assistant band director Paul Connor and drum instructor Hilario Hinojosa of Highlands HS.



Courtesy photo

Happy holidays!

District offices and schools will be closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 1 and re-open Monday, Jan. 4



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