

February 25, 2010

SAISD's Carmen Ng named a 'face' for Komen campaign

The District's best known advocate in the crusade against breast cancer has been chosen to represent this crucial cause citywide.

As one of the "faces" for the San Antonio affiliate of Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Fox Tech HS secretary Carmen Ng is serving as a spokesperson for promoting awareness of the disease, and for the upcoming annual walk/run to help fund research.

"We selected Carmen because of her commitment to the fight to end breast cancer," said Niki Simpson, San Antonio Komen affiliate executive director.

"The story of her battle with this terrible disease is inspiring and will give hope to many."

When asked earlier this month to work with Komen on the 2010 campaign, Ng didn't hesitate to accept.

"I don't do this for me but in memory of those who fought the battle and lost," she said, and also "in celebration of those who fought the battle and won."

As a breast cancer survivor she knows from personal experience the importance of being a source of inspiration, as well as the value of the assistance Komen provides.

After being diagnosed on Jan. 5, 2007 at

the age of 38, Ng contacted the organization and within days a representative came to her home bearing a basket of goodies, including a



Carmen Ng celebrates her status as a breast cancer survivor in front of the Alamodome, starting site of the annual Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure.

resource book addressing both the internal and external aspects of chemo - from signs to look for to the purchase of wigs and scarfs to cover hair loss.

The following year Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón expressed interest in SAISD

participating in "Race for the Cure." He asked Ng to head the District's team, called "Passion for the Cure."

Under her leadership, SAISD comprised the largest contingent ever with 438 members. Nearly double that number participated in 2009, resulting in more than \$30,000 raised for breast cancer research. This year's goal is 1,000 SAISD participants.

Catch up with Carmen

Ng's call for early detection through self examinations and mammograms, as well as offering the hope that only a cancer survivor can provide, will be broadcast on:

San Antonio Living, WOAI-TV

April 9, Friday, at 10 a.m.

Mix 96.1 and Q 101.9

Radio air dates are TBA.

She and the three other "faces," representing both survivors and co-survivors and each with her own special story, will participate in a March 8 press conference hosted by H-E-B Grocers, a "Race for the Cure" sponsor.

In addition to store shoppers finding her face on donation coupons, Ng will be featured in an insert for the March issue of the San Antonio Woman Magazine available at area H-E-Bs.

REGISTER FOR 'RACE FOR THE CURE'

Categories - \$40 competitive run, \$30 non-competitive walk/run

Payment - Cash or check only

Made payable to - Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure

Send to - Team SAISD captain Carmen Ng, Fox Tech HS

Contact - e-mail cng@saisd.net or call 226-5103 ext. 125

Deadline - 4 p.m. Monday, March 29

Race Day - May 1, starting at the Alamodome



District campuses make TEA's Title 1 'Distinguished' list

The Texas Education Agency has recognized eight SAISD schools for continuously-high achievement.

This is the third consecutive year Baskin Academy and the second for Arnold ES to be named TEA Title I Distinguished Performance Schools.

They are joined this year by Hawthorne Academy and Margil, Neal and Steele elementaries.

Named Distinguished Progress Schools are Briscoe Academy and Wilson ES.

Distinguished Performance Schools have achieved a minimum of *recognized* status for the two previous years, while Distinguished Progress Schools have increased their status from either academically unacceptable or acceptable two years ago, to *recognized* or *exemplary* last year and *exemplary* this year.

The prestigious "Distinguished"

designation recognizes strong academic performances over a three-year period for schools in which at least 40 percent of students are low income.

Funding helps to provide fuel for VOK1 spring blast off

Donations from corporate and community sponsors are accelerating design and development on a rocket under construction



Lanier HS teacher James Rankin oversees a test launch as his students perfect VOK1 in preparation of its planned April 25 lift off.

by Lanier HS Science Research and Design students.

Earlier this month the aspiring aeronautical engineers received:

- \$500 from the Spurs Foundation and Kia Motors
- \$200 from H-E-B Grocers
- The full cost of VOK 1 in what may become an annual donation to the SRD class from the Lanier Fabulous '50s 1950-59 alumni organization.

“We are profoundly appreciative and grateful for the support shown my students from these contributors,” said James Rankin, SRD teacher.

As an expression of appreciation, each group will receive certificates suitable for display acknowledging their contributions, and the logos of all will be affixed to the rocket in tribute.

VOK 1 is designed to launch one pound of payload to an altitude of one mile, Rankin explained.

Lift off is scheduled for noon on Sunday, April 25 at the Cami Stewart Ranch in Willow City.

The launch will culminate a year-long project as part of the SystemsGo aerospace curriculum, which Lanier is piloting for

SAISD and is being used in more than 40 Texas high schools.

“While the launch is not a competition, we do wish to make a good showing our first time around,” Rankin said.

Through this innovative approach, students learn science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by building rockets.

SystemsGo is supported and developed by the nonprofit Ignite Education organization, headquartered near the launch site in Fredericksburg.



Come celebrate Texas Public Schools Week
March 8-12

From the School Board New assignments announced

- Mikel Brightman, Head Start senior director
- Formerly: PEIMS & Data Services director
- A. Joanne Cockrell, Jefferson HS principal
- Formerly: Jefferson HS interim principal
- Tiffany Grant, Board and Superintendent Services director
- Formerly: Wachovia (Houston) financial center manager



Draft calendar A approved

It's official!
Calendar A – the draft garnering the most SAISD employee and parent votes – also has won School Board support.



The approved 2010-11 instructional calendar features later teacher start and ending dates, and offers employees the Oct. 11 Columbus Day and May 30 Memorial Day holidays.

2010-11 calendar highlights

- Aug. 16 – Teacher start date
- Aug. 23 – Students first day of school
- Sept. 6 – Labor Day
- Oct. 11 – Columbus Day holiday
- Oct. 22 – End of first nine weeks
- Nov. 22-26 – Thanksgiving holiday
- Dec. 20-31 – Winter break
- Jan. 13 – End second nine weeks
- Jan. 17 – Martin Luther King Day
- March 14-18 – Spring break
- March 25 - End third nine weeks
- April 15 – Battle of Flowers Day
- April 22 – Good Friday
- May 30 – Memorial Day
- June 7 – Last school day
- June 8 – Teacher last day (bad weather make up day)

Customer Service Corner

Students + families + community + SAISD employees = our customers



As school district employees we may not automatically associate the word customer with our colleagues or with the types of people we encounter each workday.

Not so, as Janice Hannon, SAISD's new director of the parent, community & business partnership department explains:

Defining our customers

“The other day as several SAISD employees awaited the start of an event someone asked, ‘Who are our customers?’ After an impromptu discussion, everyone collectively agreed on the following, and that it is our responsibility and

privilege to serve them.

- **Students**, because they count on us every school day to provide them with a first-class education in a safe haven in which to learn, grow and prepare for lifelong success.
- **Parents and families**, because they count on us everyday for all of the previously-stated reasons, plus to treat their children as we would our own.
- **The community**, because they count on us everyday to ensure that our students will one day be ready to contribute to making our world a better place.
- **Our fellow employees**, because whatever role we have in SAISD: bus driver; cafeteria worker; teacher; custodian; nurse; band

director; secretary; superintendent; or other; we count on one another! We depend upon everyone to strive for Level 5 performance to keep our students, parents/families, community members and colleagues satisfied customers.”



On a personal note: As director of the department that focuses on customer service, I was thrilled to hear this discussion, and agree with the conclusions.

Please know that I am honored to be charged with this responsibility, and believe that all customers deserve to be treated so they will know that they are the reason we come to work everyday!

- Janice Hannon

in the Spotlight

Collegiate honor students

Nearly two dozen Travis ECHS sophomores were

inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year college international honor society during a Feb. 17 ceremony at San Antonio College. To qualify, students must maintain at least a 3.5 college GPA. Left, Jasmine Leija accepts congratulations from principal Dawn Parker.



Texas best musicians

Justifiably proud high school band directors Roxanne Vickers of Jefferson and Edison's Javier Tapia (far left and far right) pose with their students chosen for the Texas Music Educators Association All-State Band, whose performance highlights TMEA's annual convention. The Mustangs are (back row, l to r) Anthony Gonzales, Destiny Garcia, and kneeling, Manuel Martinez. The Golden Bear (second from right) is Kenneth Lopez.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Dynamic counseling duo

Elementary school counselors Jaime Ledford (right) of Green and Kelly's Laura Serrato display the banner representing their recent selection as CREST award winners for 2009-10. The honor, which stands for Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas, recognizes outstanding counseling programs in 10 areas including major achievements, student results and community partnerships. This is the second consecutive year that Ledford has earned this award.



Courtesy photo

Basketball buddy

As Spurs/CPS Energy Teacher of the Game honoree, Jefferson HS math teacher Isabel Fears and her pal the Coyote, were set to reunite Feb. 24 at the AT&T Center, home of the four-time NBA Champions. She was nominated by her former vice principal, Melissa Leger at Navarro Academy, for assisting students and fellow teachers alike in obtaining high academic achievement.



All aboard for reading!

School Board Assistant Secretary Olga Hernandez treats Crockett ES students to the classic tale of how a stranded train's mantra "I think I can, I think I can," helped it to overcome a seemingly impossible challenge. She was one of several guest readers participating in SAISD's observance of Read Across America. The annual nationwide celebration honors beloved children's author Dr. Seuss, aka Theodor Seuss Geisel, who would have turned 106 on March 2.



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