

April 22, 2010

## Four SAISD schools ranked among the area's best



Recognized at the April 14 principals meeting for their schools' high rankings and the campuses they represent are (l to r) Maribel Rodriguez, Austin; Julie Benavides, Briscoe; Kathleen St. Clair, Arnold; and Guadalupe Rodriguez-Pollack, Hawthorne.

For the second consecutive time Arnold has made the list of top elementaries compiled by Children at Risk, a Houston-based advocacy group. The recently-released report also includes three SAISD academies.

Arnold was joined in the top 10 elementary-level category by

Briscoe.

Placing in the top 10 category for middle schools are Austin and Hawthorne.

More than 400 schools were rated in the greater San Antonio area that included six counties.

Campuses were evaluated on factors including "commended" performance on TAKS, attendance rate, and retention rates to determine how well area schools are preparing their students for secondary and post-secondary success.

To view all of the rankings visit: <http://www.childrenatrisk.org>.

## District's own Dr. Durón named a nationally-recognized leader

A pleasant surprise awaited SAISD's superintendent at the April 14 principals meeting.

Used to being on the giving side of such scenarios, Dr. Robert J. Durón instead found himself the recipient when representatives from UTSA presented him with the 2009 Excellence in Educational Leadership Award.

UTSA nominated Durón for his role in encouraging SAISD employees to participate in professional development.

"I am very appreciative and humbled by this," he said.

"We're all here very passionate about learning and growing. We're all learners."

The honor - sponsored by the University Council for Educational Administration - recognizes "extraordinary commitment and support for the improved preparation of school administrators."

UCEA is an international consortium of prestigious research universities committed to advancing the preparation and practice of educational leaders for the benefit of children, schools and society.



Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón is presented the 2009 Excellence in Educational Leadership Award by (l to r) Drs. David P. Thompson and Encarnacion "Chon" Garza from UTSA.



## A lasting legacy

San Antonio Area Retired Teacher's Association members Dr. Amy Jo Baker and Frank Sierra joke with Manuel R. Caballero Jr. (right) while presenting him \$100 from the Kathleen May Gonzalez Fund. The Highland Park ES principal was one of 29 prize money recipients. An outstanding boy and girl in grade 5 or above from each of the 29 schools will receive \$25, and books will be purchased for the library in their honor.



## Coach of the Year

Veteran Lanier HS girls basketball coach Laura Negrete-Fernandez (right) has another honor to add to the trophy case. She has been named the Express-News Coach of the Year. After leading the Lady Voks to their first playoff berth last year, Negrete-Fernandez followed with a 13-1 season and the team's first ever District 28-4A title and a bi-district playoff victory. Shown with her is junior Zoie Cuellar, who was selected for the Express-News All-Area Class 4-A team.

# Show your support 'fore' education at annual golf tournament



The community is invited to join local business leaders and patrons in hitting the greens for a good cause at the third annual Golf Fore Excellence Celebration and Golf Tournament.

Golfers will be treated to lunch courtesy of Subway starting at 11:30 a.m., while a dinner celebration and awards ceremony featuring a variety of prize categories including best and worst will conclude the day's festivities.

All proceeds will go toward SAISD's Foundation for Excellence in Education.

Title sponsors are AT&T, H-E-B grocers and State Farm Insurance.

Tournament co-chairmen are Leo Gomez of San Antonio Spurs and Entertainment, and Bob Raymond of IKON Office Solutions Inc.

The foundation is a private, non-profit organization. Its main purpose is to facilitate SAISD student achievement, develop and recognize staff and teacher excellence, and strengthen partnerships in the community.

Main contributions include awarding grants to teachers in support of science, math, reading and innovative instruction.

## Golf Fore Excellence

Monday, May 3

Hyatt Regency

Hill Country Golf Club

9800 Hyatt Resort

\$500 individual players

(team sponsorships available)

11 a.m. - registration

1 p.m. - Tee-off

5 p.m. - dinner

For more information call

299-4060

## SAISD joins forces to assist children in obtaining healthcare coverage

Help is on the way for the more than 10,000 District students who are without health insurance.

SAISD is teaming up with the Children's Defense Fund -Texas, Community First Health Plan, and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County for the 100 Percent Campaign, designed to identify uninsured eligible children and actively assist families in obtaining affordable healthcare.

Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón will be among the guest speakers at the

### 100 Percent Campaign Kickoff

Friday, April 30

3 to 6 p.m.

Guadalupe Plaza

1327 Guadalupe St.

For more information call

554-2214 or 554-2210

April 30 kickoff to announce the program, where parents will receive on-site assistance in the enrollment and application process.

Families that do not qualify for coverage will be referred to alternative health resources such as the CareLink program.

To apply for health insurance coverage, parents need to bring their proof of household income and child's residency status, along with the child's birth certificate, and Social Security number.



## Rhodes scholars

District 5 City Councilman David Medina (front center) honors members of the Rhodes Academy Young Achievers organization, formed to help college-bound 8th-graders start their preparations prior to high school. Posing with the students are (l to r) community liaison Judy Arriaga, principal Edward Garcia and YA coordinator Armando Camina.



Courtesy photo

## Friends in high places

While attending the April 20 San Antonio Youth Summit at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Phoenix Middle College junior Griselda Mata and senior Karra Stoller (far right) meet Mayor Julián Castro and popular media personality Sonny Melendrez.

## Customer Service Corner

### Employees recognizing employees



As 2009-10 comes to an end, we believe it important to honor some of our employees who experience first-class customer service from their colleagues.

#### Level 5 individuals and departments

Twain MS principal Gary Pollock reports four of his staff members received gold pins this month. To qualify, an employee must earn three bronze and two silver Customer Service pins.

They are: Rachel Cantu, CIC; Virginia Lomas, principal's secretary; Irma Lopez, data clerk; and Rene Nava, attendance clerk.

Health Services Department Director Phyllis Priess commends the District's Plant Services and Printing Services departments for assistance in distributing information and materials for the H1N1 Vaccine Project.

Between December and February SAISD worked with the San Antonio Metro Health Department to administer more than 16,000 doses of the vaccine at 95 clinic sites.



## Generosity rewarded

Support Specialist Home Liaison Louis Robles accepts the San Antonio Bowie Award on behalf of Cooper Academy. The honor is presented to employee groups whose giving level in the 2009 United Way Community Campaign equaled \$200 to \$299 per capita.

# HAPPY FIESTA!

From campus-based festivities to hosting Fiesta royalty, students, staff and Trustees from throughout SAISD joined their fellow San Antonians

in celebrating the Alamo City's favorite annual extravaganza. These are a sampling of activities around the District.



## Edison's own nobility

Ms. San Antonio Queen of Soul Earnisa Ann Brent greets her loyal subjects as Mr. and Mrs. El Rey Feo, Walter and Debbie Serna, and School Board assistant secretary and District 6 Trustee Olga Hernandez, lead applause. For the king, who is an Edison alum, the appearance was a homecoming, while Her Royal Highness is a senior at the school's Health Professions Magnet.



## A regal gift

Accepting a present from King Antonio LXXXVIII is Isabel Nava. The Lamar ES 3rd-grade bilingual teacher and an outstanding boy and girl student were each treated to mementoes of his majesty's visit to the Mahncke Park neighborhood school.



## A portrait fit for a king

District 1 City Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros and King Antonio LXXXVIII admire his likeness in a poster created by Alyssa Pacheco. The Hawthorne Academy 5th-grader's masterpiece was a finalist in the 2010 River Parade Art Contest. Her teacher, not pictured, is Diane Sosa.



## A royal good time

An appearance by Miss Fiesta (center) Virginia Elliott and her court highlight festivities for 1st- and 2nd-graders at De Zavala ES.



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

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