

March 24, 2011

## H-E-B awards some \$11,000 in grants to SAISD educators

San Antonio's largest grocery company also is in the market for making District educators' dreams come true.

Seven are earning nearly \$9,000 in continuing education grants, while in a surprise visit – Janice Cuccia of Fox Tech HS learned she is a finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award.

As a finalist, the health and athletic coach and her school each get \$1,000. She and Fox Tech also are eligible for one of the \$25,000 statewide awards H-E-B will later present. This award will be announced on May 15 in Austin.

Since 2002 H-E-B has honored elementary and secondary teachers in three categories through the Excellence in Education Award.

During this time five SAISD educators have been named finalists while four have earned the top prize.

The selection process begins with H-E-B customers who nominate their favorite teachers.



Janice Cuccia (holding flowers) accepts congratulations from (l to r) Dr. Robert J. Durón, principal Anita Chavera, and H-E-B representatives Kate Rogers, H.E. Buddy and Kimberly Harle.

Next, nominees are sent an application packet asking them to share their professional experiences, educational philosophies and achievements both in and out of the classroom.

The applications are then reviewed by a team of judges who narrow the field to 223 semi-finalists.

Ultimately, 40 statewide are selected finalists.

In a separate honor, the following are recipients of the H-E-B Fund for Teacher Excellence grants.

The amounts received, recipients, their schools and training for the funds are:

- \$5,000 - Martha Sanchez, Bonham Academy 2nd-grade dual language teacher. Master Reading Teacher Program at Texas A&M University at San Antonio.
- \$2,000 - Susan Correa, Maverick ES kinder teacher and writer of the winning grant.

She and two other teachers and school librarian Mary Ellen Ramon will attend the Frog Street Press Conference.

- \$1,300 - Tabitha Palencia, Briscoe ES 5th-grade teacher. Dina Zike Academy.
- \$650 - Lea Brogan, Davis MS librarian. TALL (Texas Accelerated Library Leaders) Texans Leadership Institute.



Lea Brogan  
Davis MS



Tabitha Palencia  
Briscoe ES



Martha Sanchez  
Bonham Academy



Amanda Valdez

Susan Correa

Jesus de la Torre

Mary Ellen Ramon

Maverick ES

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

The Texas Education Agency has recognized nine SAISD schools for continuously-high achievement, some of which are repeat performers.

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

Making this list for the second straight year is

Hawthorne Academy. Rising from the ranks of last year's Distinguished Progress Schools are Briscoe and Wilson elementaries.

SAISD's other Distinguished Performance Schools are Austin Academy, and J.T. Brackenridge, Maverick and Woodlawn Hills elementaries.

This distinguished designation celebrates at

least three years of strong academic performances including a minimum of *recognized* status for the two previous years.



## On the road to college with Buick

Calling it a "reinvestment in America," General Motors Foundation Chairman John Montford joined local leaders in kicking off the new Buick Achievers Scholarship Program.

Details were announced March 21 at the Café College to 500 students from 10 SAISD high schools, equally divided between members of Gamma Sigma Girls and ROTC.

Directed at helping teens who would be the first in their families to achieve higher education, the event also included training by Generation TX to prepare attendees to become ambassadors for a college-ready, college-going culture on their campuses.

The program offers 100 scholarships of up to \$25,000 each year, and 1,000 scholarships of \$2,000 per year, and is aimed at attracting



Voicing her support to attendees including Gamma Sigma Girls is Girls Scouts of Southwest Texas CEO Anna Maria Chávez.

tomorrow's automotive industry workers.

Applicants must major in manufacturing, science, engineering, technology or math, and have a minimum 3.0 GPA. Also desired is a record



GM Chairman John Montford and SAISD Foundation Chairman Carri Baker Wells explain scholarship program details while Lanier HS senior Karla Vasquez demonstrates the ease of applying online.

of leadership in their school and community.

Deadline to apply is March 31.

For more information visit:  
[www.buickachievers.com](http://www.buickachievers.com)





## 'Hidden Heroes' made public

Two SAISD principals whose work in improving lives has been largely behind-the-scenes are now receiving the limelight they so richly deserve. M.L. King Academy's Nikki Demby and Gary Pollock of Twain MS were recognized as Hidden Heroes by City Year during the organization's Ripple of Hope awards ceremony. Demby, shown second from left with City Year team members, and Pollock (right) with Executive Director Paul Garro, were honored for their leadership in keeping students on track to graduate. The title of this annual event was inspired by the late Robert F. Kennedy's remarks that "Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope..."

## 'Team Up' for our schools!

Show your support for four SAISD campuses and their communities by voting for their Team Up Challenge service learning projects.

As semi-finalists, teams from Bonham Academy, Burbank, Highlands, and Sam Houston high schools are eligible for a \$20,000 grant.

A total of five grants will be awarded by Silver & Black Give Back, formerly Spurs Foundation.

Earlier this school year each received \$2,500 in seed money to fund their projects.

Deadline to cast your ballot is March 31.

For project and voting information visit:

[http://www.nba.com/spurs/community/teamup\\_home.html](http://www.nba.com/spurs/community/teamup_home.html).



## SAISD Foundation to host grant workshop

District employees are invited to learn about the application process for available funding:

**March 28 (Mon)- 4:30 to 6 p.m.** | Burnet Center, 406 Barrera St.

Deadline to apply for an SAISD Foundation grant is **May 20**, and applications will be available after **March 28** at:

<http://www.saisdfoundation.com/>.

## Six candidates vie for three places on the SAISD School Board

Voters in SAISD Trustee Districts 2, 5 and 6 are going to the polls to select their representative for the next four years.

Candidates are:

### District 2

• Incumbent and School Board President James Howard is a Texas American Federation of Teachers employee relations specialist. He first was elected to the School Board in 1998, and re-elected in 2002 and 2006.

• Joy McGhee is the chief executive officer and founder of King's Glory Enterprises Inc.

### District 5

• Sharon Abigail Monreal is an SAISD substitute teacher.

• Patti Radle is the volunteer executive for the nonprofit, community-based organization Inner City Development and a former District 5 city councilmember.

Incumbent and School Board Secretary Thomas C. López is not running for re-election.

### District 6

• Incumbent and School Board Assistant Secretary Olga M. Hernandez is a retired SAISD

employee. She was elected to the School Board in 2006.

• David Soto is a retired firefighter.

## SAISD election 2011

Early voting starts Monday, May 2.

Election Day is Saturday, May 14.

For voting information visit:

[www.co.bexar.tx.us/elections](http://www.co.bexar.tx.us/elections).

## SAISD Bond 2010 upcoming projects for April and May

With spring break behind us, progress escalates on the \$515 million bond issue.

Following is the latest status report on the Districtwide building improvement program.

### Playgrounds

Equipment has been ordered for 45 primary school campuses. Installation will begin in April for schools not undergoing major construction.

For those campuses, installation will occur after construction is completed.

### Safety and security

New security fencing has been bid for seven schools, and installation by the contractor is expected to begin in April or May.

Door key-card access controls have also been purchased, and District staff is expected to begin installing them next month.

Security access controls have been ordered and installations are planned for the first 43 campuses.

The first installation is scheduled for April 4 at Briscoe ES. A list of the schools and their projected security control installation dates can be found on our bond website. The controls will be installed by in-house staff.

### Technology upgrades

On March 21, the School Board approved the purchase of computers and related software in support of all campuses. The equipment now is

being ordered and we expect delivery in April or May.

### Renovations

Trustees approved the staff-recommended architecture firms at the March 21 School Board meeting. In April, meetings will be scheduled with the selected firms to negotiate contracts. The team will be managed by the Muñoz/Jacobs consortium.

## Next bond community meeting

March 30 (Wed)- 6 p.m.

Lanier High School, 1514 W. Durango Blvd.



## Financial Forum

## Update: What's the latest on the state budget crisis?

Several bills have been filed related to the state budget shortfall, and there has been a lot of discussion among the governor, legislators, superintendents, teachers and parents – but there is still uncertainty on the exact impact to public schools.

But beyond the fray, SAISD and all Texas school districts remain in the position of needing to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

In this issue of Financial Forum we detail cost-cutting actions under way to help reach our targeted goal of \$51.8 million, those under consideration, plus tips on what you can do.

### Trustee-approved cuts = \$21.7 million

- Campus Instructional Support restructured
- Capital spending, travel, food and refreshments reduced

- High school student-teacher ratio increased from 25-to-1 to 26-to-1
- Sixth grade eliminated from Baskin and Briscoe elementaries
- Health plan premiums and co-pays restructured
- D.A.T.E. incentive pay program eliminated (due to loss of state grant)
- Eliminated 74 vacant department positions

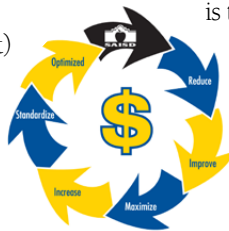
This still puts us \$30.1 million away from our target of \$51.8 million.

Administration and Trustees have identified additional initiatives for consideration totaling \$12.4 million, and these will be discussed soon at an upcoming School Board meeting. If these are approved, we will be

that much more closer to our target. The earlier these items are approved, the earlier we can inform our employees and the community.

### What you can you do to help

It is critical to stay informed. Since it certainly is true that a picture is worth a thousand words, check out the vision map and video outlining the state budget crisis at [www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net), and encourage friends and family to do so as well. Also, please contact your state representatives to encourage them to be mindful of the benefits of public education and the importance of using at least some of the state's Rainy Day Fund to help offset this crisis.



## Friendly fashion

Vogue-conscious youths with special needs no longer must choose between fashion and function, as Raven Garcia can attest. Her spring dress was created just for her by Jefferson HS senior Elda Barajas. The couture also won the fashion design student Best of Show honors and a \$250 scholarship. In all, Jefferson sewed up seven top awards at the annual FashionAble style show for disabled youngsters. Proceeds benefit the Spina Bifida Association of Texas Inc. Courtesy photo



# in the Spotlight

## A gift of art

Karen Ruiz presents her rendition of cut paper art similar to *papel picado* to District 4 Trustee Adela Segovia. The Burbank HS junior's masterpiece was among those selected to be given for the School Board's 50 Years of National Youth Art Month recognition. She is joined by proud parent (shown middle) Alex Lopez, administrative secretary for SAISD's Department of Governmental & Community Relations.



## Tops in technology

Showing off her plaque as the Texas Computer Education Association's Instructional Technology Specialist of the Year is Stephanie Correa. The SAISD technology integration facilitator was recognized at a TCEA awards ceremony in Austin where she also received \$1,000. The honor was created to recognize the successful use of technology planning and curriculum integration. Courtesy photo



Courtesy photos



## Excelling in science

Accepting the Dr. Roger Harvey Award on behalf of her school is Hawthorne Academy librarian and science sponsor Bonnye Cavazos, (left photo) while Harris MS teacher Javier De Hoyos - joined (l to r) by principal Lourdes Correa, and teachers Susan Cullinan,



Deborah Tinsley - Pledger, Rosanne Volpert, and Kathy Gonzales displays the Sister Joseph Marie Armer Award. This is the first time SAISD middle schools have earned these prestigious honors. The Harvey is presented for the highest cumulative score by a school participating in science research, while the Armer recognizes the most outstanding science program of the year. The awards were obtained at the Alamo Regional Science Fair where students from both campuses - along with SAISD's Longfellow and Whittier middle schools and Young Women's Leadership Academy - also won individual honors as well as college scholarships.



## Little Longhorns

De Zavala ES 5th-graders practice the signature University of Texas "Hook'em Horns" hand signal during a tour of the campus. They were among students from throughout SAISD and the Lone Star State getting a preview of college life at the annual "Biggest Open House" in Texas. Courtesy photo

## Kate Schenck Elementary

**Our School Is Too Cool To Be Cruel!**



## Bully-free zone

Schenck ES cheerleaders say hip, hip hurray as Student Council members debut the new anti-bully pledge. Their "Bully Free Starts With Me" rally kicked off the campus's awareness campaign during which the "Our School is too Cool to be Cruel" banner also was unveiled.



**Board of Education**  
James Howard, President  
Carlos Villarreal, Vice President  
Thomas C. López, Secretary  
Olga M. Hernandez, Assistant Secretary  
Rubén D. Cuero, Member  
Adela R. Segovia, Member  
Ed Garza, Member

**Superintendent**  
Robert J. Durón, Superintendent

**insider** is produced by the **Communications Department**.  
Leslie Price, Executive Director  
René Lynn, Newsletter Coordinator  
John Lawler, Photographer  
Printing Services, Design and Layout

insider is the intellectual property of the San Antonio Independent School District. Content may be reproduced upon permission and with appropriate attribution.

The San Antonio Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de San Antonio no discrimina por motivos de raza, religión, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, o por cualquier otro motivo prohibido por la ley.