

September 8, 2011

SAISD Foundation funds one of the largest amounts ever for Innovative Grants

The ingenious ideas of 29 educators soon will reach fruition, thanks to funding from the SAISD Foundation.

Through \$88,333 – one of the largest amounts ever given since the foundation was formed four years ago - recipients will be able to finance specially-designed lessons.

Recipients were announced during a Sept. 1 news conference at Brackenridge HS. The grant for that campus – along with one given to SAISD's math department to purchase teaching equipment for high schools Districtwide – were given in memory of the late Christopher McBrayer, who taught science and math there for 16 years.

Grants also honored retiring foundation board members. These and the beneficiary schools were: Robert Puente, J.T. Brackenridge ES; and Debra Salge, Bonham Academy.

After the announcement, recipients learned of their selection from foundation trustees, SAISD School Board members, alumni and local supporters through surprise visits to their classrooms and offices.

Since the fall of 2007 the SAISD Foundation has awarded a total of \$498,723 through 489 innovative and new teacher supply grants, benefiting 52,885 students

Innovative Grant recipients for the 2011-12 school year, project leaders and projects are:

Elementaries

- **Beacon Hill**, Katherine Cantu-Sickle – “Sci Kids.”

- **J.T. Brackenridge**, Margie Danial – “El Jardin Verde.”
- **Briscoe**, Steven Ryan Slattery – “Discovering Math in Physical Education.”
- **Collins Garden**, Virginia Peche – “Stay Fit with Music Fun.”
- **Fenwick**, Cassandra Grim – “Drumming Up Success as Students and Citizens.”
- **Foster**, Cassandra Grim – “Drumming Up Success as Students and Citizens.”
- **Highland Hills**, Jacqueline C. Martinez – “Elementary Strings Project.”
- **Hillcrest**, Heather Lee-Fisher – “Ready, Set, Move to Succeed.”
- **Hirsch**, Danielle Elizondo – “Mad Mathematicians!”
- **Hirsch**, Cynthia D. Gardner – “Inquiring and Gifted Minds Want to Know!”
- **Riverside Park**, Jennifer Walker – “Pre Kinder Garden.”
- **Woodlawn**, Melissa Treviño – “Rising to the Top.”

Academies

- **Bonham**, Desirre Madrid – “Chewing Our Way into Learning Fun.”
- **Mission Academy**, Heather Garza – “State of the Art Reading.”
- **Young Women's Leadership**, Maria Mogas – “Design: From Clay to Ceramics.”

Middle schools

- **Harris**, Denise R. Rodriguez – “Life Science and Real World Connections.”
- **Twain**, Natalie Leader – “Thinking and Writing through Art Appreciation.”

High Schools

- **Brackenridge**, Bethany Fleming – “Learning Through Hands-on Models.”
- **Burbank**, Michele Wisniewski – “All That Jazz!”
- **Burbank**, Maria S. Barron – “Write NOW! A Writer's Conference.”
- **Burbank**, Lawrence Scott – “Studio Club After School Initiative.”
- **Edison**, Dawn Palmquist – “Laboratory Safety, Skills and Equipment, OH MY.”
- **Highlands**, Chris Castro – “Standing on the X.”
- **Fox Tech**, Carol R. De Leon – “History of the World in Six Glasses.”
- **Sam Houston**, Justin Howard – “Online Geography Tutoring Project.”
- **Jefferson**, Billy Odam – “Oilgae: Biodiesel From Algae.”
- **Lanier**, Tamara Ford – “Who's Smartest in Career Technology?”

Departments

- **Library Media Services**, Laura Alfaro – “B.O.N.E.S. Reading Clubs.”
- **Mathematics**, Derrick Thomas – “Activ-Coaches Initiative.”
- **Special Education**, Chris Quintanilla – “Girls on the Run of Bexar County” to benefit three schools.



1. Foundation Chairman Carri Baker Wells and SAISD District 1 Trustee Rubén D. Cuero present balloons to Brackenridge HS teacher Bethany Fleming while principal Moises Ortiz leads applause. 2. Math Department Senior Coordinator Dr. Derrick Thomas (right) and Stephen McBrayer pose beside a photo of his brother Christopher McBrayer. Two grants were presented in memory of the late Brackenridge HS teacher.

3. Burbank HS principal Mona Lopez (center, back row), Foundation Board member Javier C. Leal (l to r) and J.R. Rodriguez III of State Farm are pleased with the news that campus received three grants, one of which was written by project leader Maria S. Baron, Christa Maldonado and (not shown) Kelly Murguia.





A hero's welcome

Assuming his well-deserved place in the limelight (third from left) is Pete Rios. The Pershing ES custodian was honored for extinguishing an electrical fire that broke out in the cafeteria a few days prior to the start of school, and for promptly sounding the alarm. His quick action not only ensured the safety of everyone in the building, but also prevented damage that may have kept the campus from being ready for students on Aug. 22. Gathering for a celebration in his honor were (l to r) principal Kathleen St. Clair, District 1 Trustee Rubén D. Cuero, custodial services area supervisor Pete Jimenez, San Antonio firefighter Robert Miller and SAISD occupational health and safety manager Olga Robledo.

Second series of SAISD Bond 2010 community meetings continues

Area residents of 11 more District schools soon will have their opportunity to provide input and learn the latest on the \$515 million bond program.

Throughout September architects are seeking patron feedback on master-planning efforts as discussions begin on the look and feel of the 23 schools receiving major renovations.

The next round of community meetings on SAISD Bond 2010 will be:

Sept. 14 (Wed) - 6 p.m.

- **Jefferson HS**, 723 Donaldson Ave.

Sept. 15 (Thurs) - 6 p.m.

- **Sam Houston HS**, 4635 E. Houston St.
- **Lanier HS**, 1514 W. César E. Chávez Blvd.

Sept. 20 (Tues) - 6 p.m.

- **Highlands HS**, 3118 Elgin Ave.
- **Burbank HS**, 1002 Edwards St.
- **Brackenridge HS**, 400 Eagleland Drive

Sept. 21 (Wed) - 6 p.m.

- **Longfellow MS**, 1130 E. Sunshine Drive
- **Hillcrest ES**, 211 W. Malone Ave.
- **Sarah King ES**, 1001 Ceralvo St.

Sept. 22 (Thurs) - 6 p.m.

- **Riverside Park ES**, 202 School St.
- **Ogden ES**, 2215 Leal St.

For the complete meeting schedule, visit: www.saisd.net

COC meeting

The Citizens' Oversight Committee will meet:

Sept. 13 (Tues) - 6 p.m.

Fenwick ES, 1930 Waverly Ave.

This 24-member group was appointed by SAISD Trustees to oversee the bond program's progress, and their meetings are open to the public.



Citizens' Oversight Committee Chair Mario Barrera and Dr. Robert J. Durón (left) meet with a variety of San Antonio neighborhood association presidents on the status of SAISD Bond 2010.

Keep up with SAISD Bond 2010 at: www.saisd.net/bondprojects



For Your Benefit

Upcoming opportunities to help you stay and keep healthy



Welcome back for the 2011-12 school year, and prepare to mark your calendars!

This first For Your Benefit column for the new school year includes

some important dates you won't want to miss.

Humana Health and Dental programs open enrollment deadline approaches

Those wanting to add or change coverage have until 11:59 p.m., Sept. 18, to do so.

Details have been emailed and packets provided to all employees and are also available through your school or department benefits coordinator. Enroll online at:

<https://www2.benefitharbor.com/ees/saisd>

Employees who do not access the enrollment website will automatically remain covered under the same benefit program(s) they selected last year.

For additional assistance, call the Department of Employee Benefits & Risk Management and Safety, 554-8662.

Come to the Health & Wellness Fair!

District employees are invited to take advantage of health screenings and services available to them at the:

Health & Wellness Fair

Sept. 17 (Sat) - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Burnet Center, 406 Barrera St.

Freebies will include blood pressure checks, flu shots, toothbrushes and door prizes for those

who sign up.

B-12 shots will be given for \$10 to those interested, and available information will include dental care, cancer and breast cancer awareness, diabetes education, fitness, lower back pain and overall pain management, poison control and more.

Provider for the Health & Wellness Fair is Humana For more information call Angel Orozco, 554-8674.

Free flu shots for employees

Seasonal flu vaccines are being offered in September through the District's Humana Health Insurance Program. Those scheduled over the next two weeks will be held on:

- **Sept. 13 (Tues)** - 2 to 5 p.m. at Herff ES, 996 S. Hackberry St.
- **Sept. 14 (Wed)** - 2 to 6 p.m. at Graebner ES, 530 Hoover St.
- **Sept. 17 (Sat)** - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Burnet Center, 406 Barrera St.
- **Sept. 21 (Wed)** - 3 to 5 p.m. at Lamar ES, 201 Parland Place
- **Sept. 22 (Thurs)** - 2 to 6 p.m. at Jefferson HS, 723 Donaldson Ave.

The shots are free, and District employees will be required to present their Humana Insurance card.

For more information call 554-8674, or e-mail the District's representative Angel Orozco, AORozco@Humana.com

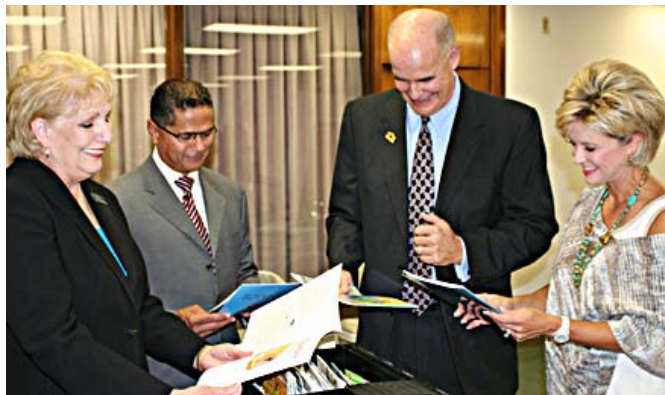
in the Spotlight

Image Award

Recognized by the Edwards Ministerial Association for her more than 20 years of service to the Jefferson HS community is algebra 2 pre-AP and geometry teacher Isabel Fears. Offering their congratulations are son Charles, a Connell MS ELA teacher and husband Edward, who is a counselor at Wilson ES.



Courtesy photo



The gift of reading

Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón and SAISD Foundation Board members (l to r) Esther Rodriguez, Bob Raymond and Chairman Carri Baker Wells have fun previewing some of the reading materials the District's youngest students soon will be enjoying. The foundation provided funding for the books which will be used as part of a program with SA Reads including tutors to help ensure students are on level in reading by the 3rd grade.



You've got a friend!

Actually, students like these from W.W. White ES - along with those from Davis MS - now have lots of new friends. Thanks to funding from Flint Resources, Big Brothers Big Sisters was able to expand their mentorship programs at those schools. Another new friend they met through principal Marlon Davis at the announcement ceremony is (left) School Board President James Howard.



Courtesy photos

Well-equipped for learning

Ensuring that Austin Academy students have the supplies they need for school are clad-in-red San Antonio College representatives. Celebrating their generosity (wearing Austin blue, top photo) include (l to r) School Board Assistant Secretary Olga Hernandez (back row), counselor Cindy Cardenas and principal Maribel Rodriguez.



Are you ready for some football?

Among those answering in the affirmative are fans of Highlands and Sam Houston high schools. The fall 2011 season kicked off Aug. 26 with traditional Friday morning pep rallies where coaches including Humberto Lopez of the Owls (below) fired up the home crowd. Across town that evening at the Alamo Stadium parking lot, the Hurricanes inaugurated their season with another popular gridiron tradition - a tailgate party. There, Frost Bank Senior Vice President for Community Development Donna

Normandin took a time out from serving up Kielbassa Sausage, hotdogs, iced tea and financial information with colleague Jacob Cavazos to show off her spirit shirt from Hurricanes' principal Darnell White. This year Frost is hosting the parties in support of schools participating in their bank academy program. Highlands will be treated on Sept. 9.

