

November 10, 2011

## First-year anniversary observed for SAISD Bond 2010

Just one year after voters approved the \$515 million bond issue, progress on the massive program can be seen across the District.

First-year highlights include:

### Alamo Stadium & Convocation Center

The site survey is complete and geotechnical investigation is in progress.

The schematic design phase begins this month, as will advertising for a project contractor. The construction-manager-at-risk method will be used, which saves time and money because the architect and contractor work together closely throughout the project, minimizing design changes after the start of construction.

### High school athletic tracks

Work has begun to replace old cinder tracks with new all-weather tracks at Brackenridge and Lanier.

Track upgrades were completed in October at Edison, Highlands and Sam Houston, and the first



Students at Briscoe ES enjoy their new playground, which was the first elementary school to receive them.



Choral music teacher Matthew Treviño swipes his keycard to enter Franklin ES. Thus far, installation of these safety systems have been completed at 21 schools.

week of November at Burbank.

Site analysis work is under way for the Jefferson track.

### Playgrounds

Installations were completed in October at Barkley-Ruiz, Collins Garden, Gates, Graebner and Pershing elementaries and Mission Academy.

Scheduled for completion this month are MLK Academy and Lamar ES. This will complete the work at all elementaries and PK-8 academies receiving playgrounds with the exception of the 13 schools to undergo major renovations. Their playground installations will start after the renovations are completed.

### Safety & Security

- **School fence installations:** Pre-construction began last week at J.T. Brackenridge, Briscoe, Collins Garden, De Zavala, Foster, Highland Park and Kelly elementaries, and Davis and Whittier middle schools. So far, seven of the 68 have been erected, while another 32 are in design.
- **Keycard systems:** Installation at 21 campuses is complete, while work is under way at Maverick ES and Harris MS.
- **Security cameras:** Guidelines have been set by a consultant, who is developing bidding packages for installation at the first group of 68 campuses



Technology teacher Anthony Jaramillo (right) assists students on computers in the new SmartLab Learning Environment at Davis MS, the first of 11 middle schools to receive the labs through SAISD Bond 2010.

to get the cameras.

### Technology upgrades

Computers have been delivered and installed at the majority of the 68 campuses to receive them as part of the bond program. Installations are expected to be finished by the end of November.

### School renovations

- **Community meetings:** A third round to provide information and solicit input for projects on the 23 schools slated for major renovations is expected in early 2012.
- **Approximate timeline:** Design work will take between nine and 12 months, followed by three months to bid and award contracts and between one and two years of construction. Work will proceed in phases to ensure safety and to limit disruptions for students and staff.

Overall, the elementary school projects are expected to be finished by mid- to late-2013, and the high schools should be completed by mid- to late-2014.

For the latest on SAISD Bond 2010, visit: [www.saisd.net/bondprojects](http://www.saisd.net/bondprojects)



Ready for student and community use is the new Highlands HS six-lane, all-weather track. Highlands was one of three high schools whose athletic tracks were finished in October.

## District campuses recognized for college and career readiness

The National Center for Educational Achievement has named nine SAISD campuses to its 2011 NCEA Higher Performing Schools List.

This is the second consecutive year Arnold ES has earned this distinction in all of the tested areas: math, reading, science, and writing.

The District's other repeat performers recognized in at least one category are: Baskin; J.T. Brackenridge; Briscoe; Margil; Maverick and Miller elementaries. Joining them this year are Travis Early College HS and the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Only one of the 16 other Bexar County-area school districts fared as well as SAISD.

The Higher Performing Schools (formerly known as Just for the Kids Schools) are identified by two measures: consistent improvement in student achievement from previous years (growth) and/or absolute student achievement using the school's Commended Performance results on the spring 2009-11 Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test.

NCEA's higher-performing methodology controls for school and student demographics to allow for an apples-to-apples comparison

of school achievement and to demonstrate that with the commitment of educators, all schools can have success, no matter the Zip Code.

NCEA is a department of ACT Inc., a not-for-profit organization committed to helping people achieve education and workplace success.



[www.nc4ea.org](http://www.nc4ea.org)

# Bonham Academy returns to high-performing schools list

SAISD now can boast 27 *recognized* campuses. Staff and students at Bonham recently learned the great news their school's 2011 accountability rating has been upgraded from academically acceptable based upon appeal to the Texas Education Agency.

This will be second straight year Bonham has been ranked *recognized*.

In all, SAISD's total of high-performing schools is 30, three of which are rated *exemplary*.

In another successful appeal, the ranking for the Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center was

changed from academically unacceptable to not rated.



# Exciting science lessons 'STEM' from \$10,000 anniversary grant

Vernier Software & Technology's 30-year anniversary is Harris MS science students' gain.

To mark this milestone, the company gave \$10,000 grants to 30 innovative U.S. schools, 10 of which in the K-8 category. The only Texas recipient was Javier De Hoyos, a 7th- and 8th-grade teacher at SAISD's in-district charter for the School of Scientific Inquiry.

"With nearly 2,000 applications in total, we were overwhelmed by the innovation and dedication demonstrated by educators nationwide for the betterment of STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education," said David Vernier,

company co-founder and a former physics teacher.

"The 30 grantees are truly deserving of this recognition and the technology received through this grant will greatly assist with their ongoing efforts to expose students to many STEM disciplines in an engaging and hands-on manner."

Through their Vernier probe-ware and weather-monitoring stations and sensors, "Harris students are conducting a variety of high-level environmental and material engineering experiments and studies, which can help prepare them for careers in ecology, physics, engineering, chemistry, GIS (geographic information system)

and many other STEM careers," De Hoyos said.

In the meantime, they have their sights set on entering their work in next semester's Junior Academy of Science and Alamo Regional Science fairs. In the latter, Harris was the 2011 Sister Joseph Marie Armer Award recipient for the year's most outstanding science program.



**1.** Harris MS teacher Javier De Hoyos observes 7th-grader Alejandro Martinez as he ascertains the effectiveness of different materials that can be used to muffle the sound of an air boat and also whether there is an impact on speed. **2.** Using a spectrophotometer to determine absorbance of light, 7th-grader Julianne Garcia compares toothpaste to whitening strips. Eggshells stained with tea served as her model for teeth. **3.** Seventh-grader Victoria Reyes and 8th-grader Benjamin Figueroa test a wind turbine's varying lengths of blades to discover the best voltage output as it correlates to wind speed.



## Guide to the stars

For MLK Academy students and their generation, the sky is the limit - literally - to their career opportunities and aspirations. This was the message they and 8th-graders from five area school districts received loud and clear on Nov. 2 from former astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris. The first African American to walk in space was keynote speaker at CORE4, an annual event focusing on the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. While there, the 1974 graduate of SAISD's Sam Houston HS also took time to greet Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Durón. All 7th-graders attended the following day's session.

## Customer Service Corner

# Acts of caring and kindness the gold standard for Level 5 customer service



When it comes to exemplifying Level 5 Customer Service, Mary Rodriguez is in a class by herself.

The Jefferson HS home support liaison has the distinction of being the first SAISD employee to earn a gold customer service pin for the 2011-12 school year.

While the entire school staff "is the epitome of customer service, Mary Rodriguez stays calm under fire and never loses sight of our mission to help everyone that comes to our school," said principal Joanne Cockrell.

### Gold pin qualifications

As Rodriguez has learned, being caught regularly in the act of caring and kindness not only is the right thing, but because you never

know who's watching, can also garner rewards.

A variety of District administrators - from the superintendent and other Central Office staff to principals - are equipped by the Community and Parents as Partners Department with bronze pins to bestow upon employees seen exemplifying excellent customer service.

Those who earn three of the bronze pins may trade them for a silver, and two silver can then be exchanged for a gold pin.

"The Level 5 award is designed to instantly reward good deeds done during the course of one's daily work routine," said CAPP Director Janice Hannon.

"Kudos and congratulations to Ms. Rodriguez for exemplifying SAISD core values and consistently delivering Level 5 customer service."

For details email [jhannon1@saisd.net](mailto:jhannon1@saisd.net), or click

on the Customer Service tab (left-hand side of page) at: [www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net).



As the Jefferson HS Mustang looks on, CAPP Director Janice Hannon (right) presents the first gold pin of the year for Level 5 customer service to the school's home support liaison, Mary Rodriguez.

## 'STOMP'ing out absences

Enjoying an exclusive performance of the high-energy, percussionist dance troupe STOMP are Franklin ES students and staff. Principal Eduardo Davila (not shown) arranged the visit to their school to reward high attendance. This incentive was one of several offered last month at



campuses Districtwide to encourage students to make being in school every day a top priority.

Courtesy photo



## Award-winning agriculturists

Proudly posing with plaques earned at the recent Future Farmers of America Leadership Development contest at Texas A&M University are Highlands HS students (center, l to r) Diana Lozano (first place, Spanish FAA Creed), Bianca Cardenas (second place, senior FFA creed) and Aprille Gamboa (first place, job interview). Placing fourth in other categories were (l to r) Angelica Garcia, Elizabeth Garcia, Marina Ramirez, Kimberly Flores, Alexis Acuña, Erika Valdez and Jennifer Frothingham. Their FFA advisors and teachers (not shown) are Mark Bindseil and Dustin Rogers.



## In remembrance

Hillcrest ES PALs members prepare to raise the Stars and Stripes to honor our nation's brave men and women for their service to our country. Hillcrest was among schools throughout SAISD hosting flag raisings and other ceremonies to commemorate Veterans Day.

# in the Spotlight



Courtesy photo

## Food4SA

Madison ES PALs members and counselor Grace Roy exemplify a spirit of giving by collecting canned goods for the Fall Harvest Food Drive. Madison is among the Edison and Jefferson high schools family of feeder campuses where contributions to WOAI-TV's Food4SA campaign are being collected through Nov. 18.

Courtesy photo



## At the ready

Well prepared to serve in case of an emergency are Phoenix Middle College Civil Air Patrol Heritage Flight members and their sponsor (far left) Morgan Montalvo. The troop recently completed Community Emergency Response Team Program certification following training at the San Antonio Fire Department Academy. As CERT members, they now are qualified to provide emergency assistance when professional responders are not immediately available to help. They are: (student cadets, front row, l to r) Stephanie Gutierrez, Kenneth Bias, Sandra Villagomez and Nicholas Cardenas. Shown back row are CERT instructors Scott Paul and Lee Wingert, and SAFD instructor Benny Maberry.



All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

*Have a safe and happy holiday!*