

## YWLA math teacher honored for educational excellence

In a surprise visit to her classroom, Carrie Pullins learned she is a San Antonio Mayoral and County Judge Outstanding Mathematics and Science Teaching Award winner.

In addition to recognition for a job well done, the Young Women's Leadership Academy mathematics teacher also received \$1,000 to make lessons even more innovative and fun for her students.

Pullins and the other recipients will be honored

during a Feb. 15 awards ceremony at the Education Service Center Region 20.

Each year the San Antonio Math & Science Education Coalition recognizes outstanding first- to fifth-year area educators who have demonstrated a passion, professionalism and commitment to their field, and who provide their students with creative and innovative lessons.



Celebrating the award are (l to r) YWLA principal Delia Montelongo-McLerran, counselor Oralía Gomez, teacher Carrie Pullins and SAISD Deputy Superintendent Betty Burks.

## SAISD Foundation accepting grant applications, INSPIRE nominees

Whether your vision for innovative learning opportunities are bigger than your budget or you know someone deserving of public accolades, the SAISD Foundation has opportunities for you!

### INNOVATIVE GRANTS

Applications now are being accepted for grants to fund school-based projects for the 2012-13 school year. The application process is open to all employees, not just limited to educators.

Amounts ranging from \$250 to \$4,500 will be awarded in the categories of classroom, grade level or department within a campus. This year, grants for a multi-campus project will be awarded up to \$10,000.

Winners will be notified of their status during surprise visits this May so that projects will be ready for implementation at the start of the school year.

This will be the eighth cycle of grants awarded by the foundation, formed to support innovative and education excellence in SAISD.

Mailed applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, April 3, or hand delivered by 4 p.m. that

day to SAISD Foundation, 518 E. Magnolia Ave.

For details email Judy Geelhoed, [jgeelhoed@saisdfoundation.com](mailto:jgeelhoed@saisdfoundation.com) or call the foundation office, 554-2235. More information and applications also can be found at the SAISD Foundation website, accessible from the SAISD home page.

### GRANT WORKSHOP OFFERED

Want to know more about the application process, past awards and available funding?

Details will be presented at the:

**SAISD Foundation Grant workshop**

**Feb. 22 (Wed)- 4:30 to 6 p.m.**

**Gonzales Center, 518 E. Magnolia Ave.**

### INSPIRE AWARD

Nominations are sought to honor outstanding SAISD alumni - as well as individuals and organizations - that have had a significant impact on the District's schools, students or community.

Selection for an INSPIRE AWARD is based upon both achievement and ability to inspire others.

Recipients comprising alumni, friends and educators will be honored during an awards ceremony and gala to be held this fall in the categories of excellence, innovation, leadership and service.

Honored alumni will receive a \$1,000 gift to be given in their name to their high school alma mater, while honored educators will get a \$500 personal gift with a matching amount donated to their school.

The INSPIRE AWARD debuted this past September, with proceeds from the gala's price of admission funding scholarships for District students.

Deadline to apply for this year's award is Feb. 29.



Apply for grants or nominate online at: [www.saisdfoundation.com](http://www.saisdfoundation.com)

## 'Note'able SAISD student and staff musicians in the spotlight

From award-winning mariachis to stellar solo and symphonic performances, the District's outstanding music makers are receiving some well-deserved recognition. These include the following.

### Texas High School Mariachi competition

Brackenridge and Fox Tech placed among the top five in a field of 15 finalists at this Jan. 28 contest hosted by the Mexican American School Board Members Association.

Under the direction of David Zamarripa, Mariachi Tech-alitlan was third while Brack's

Mariachi Aguila - directed by John Nieto - was fifth.

### Texas Music Educators Association convention

Tech-alitlan also was invited to be the demonstration mariachi at TMEA's 12th-annual gathering being held in San Antonio through Feb. 11.

Also chosen to play at the convention is Sam Houston HS sophomore Jose Mejia, where the trumpeter will take the stage with the all-state symphonic and concert bands.

Selection to perform at TMEA is the highest



Jose Mejia with Sam Houston HS teachers (l and r) Bruce Adams and Matthew Eldred

tribute a Texas music student can receive.

### Year of Jazz Celebration

Invited to lead a trumpet demonstration for this KRTU-sponsored event at the San Antonio Children's Museum was Jim Manzo.

On Feb. 4 the Whittier MS band director performed selections of jazz greats including Miles Davis, and led children in an instrument parade to "When the Saints Go Marching In."

The museum is among several sites hosting events through this coming October to celebrate a decade of the radio station's jazz format.



Whittier MS band director Jim Manzo



Brackenridge HS Mariachi Aguila



Fox Tech HS Mariachi Tech-alitlan

# Save these dates and get on the move for worthy causes!

## Make tracks to the 4E Run/Walk and Health Festival



Keep your New Year's resolutions by participating in a fun activity benefiting SAISD students at the same time.

Registration is under way for the 4E (Education, Exercise, Engagement, Empowerment) 5K and 10K Run/Walk set for 8:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, along the Mission Reach portion of the San Antonio River starting at Brackenridge HS.

There also will be a Districtwide Health Festival on the campus from 9 a.m. to noon featuring giveaways, free screenings, a pediatric mobile clinic with free immunizations, food sampling and a Kids Zone with games and events.

A free one-mile fun run will be held on the high school's track starting at 10:30 a.m.

Rates are: \$25 for adults who register by Feb. 29; \$35 until March 15; \$30 for families; and \$5 for students.

Schools registering the most participants for the 5K or 10K can earn \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 participation awards and the top campuses can win a visit from a mascot to deliver their check.

Spread the word that this event is open to the public. Community members, alumni,

parents and friends can run or walk on behalf of an SAISD school by indicating their desire to do so when registering.

District employees also can earn points through Humana's Vitality Program for training and registering for the 5K or 10K.

Event sponsors are SAISD, the SAISD Foundation and other entities. For more information and to register online go to the event section at: [www.saisdfoundation.com](http://www.saisdfoundation.com)

## Join SAISD's team 'Passion for the Cure'

Applications and posters for displaying were recently ponied to all schools and departments for the District's participation in the annual Komen Race for the Cure for breast cancer research.

Requests for additional copies and questions about the race can be directed to SAISD team captain Carmen Ng, Fox Tech HS secretary, [cng@saisd.net](mailto:cng@saisd.net) or call 226-5103, ext. 125.



## Deadline near for District 3 vacancy

Qualified District 3 residents who would like to serve on the SAISD School Board have until the end of the workday Friday, Feb. 10, to submit a letter of interest, résumé and proof of residency and complete an application.

Envelopes must be addressed "Single Member District 3 Vacancy" care of Board President Ed Garza, 141 Lavaca St., 78210. Those mailed must be postmarked by midnight on that date

while hand delivered letters must be received no later than 4:30 p.m.

District 3 was vacated by Carlos Villarreal.

Trustees will conduct interviews on Monday, Feb. 13, and if necessary the following Monday, Feb. 20, when the candidate of their choice will be approved.

For more information and to download an application visit: [www.saisd.net](http://www.saisd.net).



## SAISD retirement sessions set

Employees considering retiring in 2011-12 are invited to learn about their options at:

**Retirement Information Sessions**  
5 to 7 p.m. Feb. 22 (Wed)  
and Feb. 23 (Thurs)  
Fox Tech HS, 637 N. Main Ave.

Posters have been provided to all schools and departments by sponsor the SAISD

Employee Benefits, Risk Management and Safety Department.

Already have your retirement packet from the Teacher Retirement System and would like to schedule an individual appointment? Please call Natalie Martinez, 554-8664 or email [nmartinez9@saisd.net](mailto:nmartinez9@saisd.net).

## Advocates for H2O

Mayor Julián Castro thanks Highlands HS students (l to r) Robert Cruz, Vanessa Kinnaman and Joe Fabela for their contributions to *Confluence*, a one-day youth summit sponsored by San Antonio Water System. They were among area teens invited to learn about the city's water issues and how they can make a positive difference.

## Customer Service Corner

## Gold pin recipients set the standard as customer service role models



Carroll ECEC instructional assistant Tamarya Guess and the site's Head Start program data clerk Mark Ortiz are among the latest employees

to achieve SAISD's highest honor bestowed for customer service.

Both recently qualified for gold pins.

In order to qualify, recipients must first earn three bronze pins, which can be redeemed for a silver. Two silver then can be traded for gold.

Pins provided by the Community and Parents as Partners Department are dispensed by a variety of District administrators catching employees in the act of providing excellent customer service.

"Kudos and congratulations to Ms. Guess and Mr. Ortiz for consistently delivering Level 5 customer service and exemplifying SAISD Core Values," said CAPP Director Janice Hannon.

"You are role models to all of us in SAISD! "

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)



Tamarya Guess and Mark Ortiz congratulate each other for qualifying for gold pins, SAISD's highest honor for customer service.

## Spring 2012 Parent Summit

Because parents are among the District's most valued customers, CAPP is sponsoring the:

### Spring 2012 Parent Summit

Feb. 17 (Fri) - 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Wonderland of the Americas Mall's

Norris Conference Center

4522 Fredericksburg Road

Registration will start at 8 a.m.

Through these twice-a-year events parents hear keynote speakers and attend sessions on topics such as parenting skills, academics, testing requirements, homework assistance and much more.

Featured theme for this summit will be everything parents need to know about the new STAAR - State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness test.



# in the Spotlight



Courtesy photo

## Something to cheer about

Jefferson HS cheerleaders celebrate their third-place finish at the National Cheerleaders Association Nationals Competition last month in Dallas. Shown with them (back row, l to r) are advisor Carlos Cortes, coaches Rueben Valdez and Nicole Bemis and advisor Nicole Nava Cortes.

## 'Coasting' to competition

In separate venues, students from four SAISD high schools qualified for state contests to be held next month in Corpus Christi including the following.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

Brackenridge HS Distributive Education Clubs of America students exhibit awards earned in a variety of categories at the competition for the District 2 region. Their advisors (far left and right, respectively) are Omar Gallegos and Cecil Lara. At the contest, Tristan Cortinas (left) also was elected district vice president for 2012-13.

## Certiifiably healthy

Community First representative Olivia Travieso and mascot B. Beary Healthy present Neal ES registered nurse Vanessa Treviño a certificate of thanks. The honor acknowledged the school's having the highest number of parents to turn in CHIP/Medicaid applications as part of SAISD's 100 Percent Campaign.



## 100 days of school

Students and staff throughout the District celebrated this milestone with a variety of observances including these pictured here.



Carvajal ECEC principal Sonya Cardenas leads a parade.



Herff ES principal Dr. Traci Smith (right) and staff prepare to treat students to a follies performance.



Courtesy photo

Maverick ES kinder teachers cheer students as they walk through a "Celebrate 100 days of learning" banner.

## SAISD scores big on Signing Day

It was a banner day as District athletes signed letters of intent to their choice of colleges including the following. **1.** Overseen by (l to r) SAISD Athletic Director Gil Garza, Brackenridge principal Moises Ortiz and head football coach Willie Hall, Jaelin Martin and Joseph High sign for the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Javelinas. **2.** Sam Houston HS Hurricanes and the schools where they will play gridiron (l to r) are: Melvin Ross, Cisco College; Gary Reed, University of the Incarnate Word; Ralphael Green, Indiana

University; Prince Eshan, Cisco College; Leo Thomas, the University of Arizona; Javonte Magee, Baylor University; and Jequan McBride, Cisco College. **3.** Headed to join the University of Nebraska's girls track team is Jourdan Doffeny of Highlands HS. **4.** As Highlands HS principal Lorna Klockenga looks on, Jemal Rock signs to play football at Cisco College. **5.** Xavier Perez Coley of Lanier HS (seated l to r) is bound for Seton Hall University's football team, while his teammate, Johnny Vizcaino, has committed to the University of New Mexico. Witnessing the signing are their moms (far left and right, respectively) Analisa Garza and Elsa Vizcaino. Also showing their support (standing) are (center, l to r) Gil Garza, SAISD athletic director, Don Gatian, Voks head coach, Miguel Elizondo, principal and members of the school's football coaching staff.



1.



2.



3.



Courtesy photo



5.