

Weekly High Five

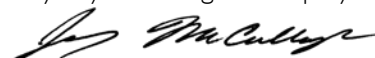
September 16, 2008

Building relationships is an important part of the business of education. Relationships help create a family atmosphere and sense of unity on our campuses, and the central office staff wants to be an extended part of that family by building our relationships with each campus. I have asked central office staff to visit campuses frequently to learn more about what you do day in and day out and how we can better help you continue to be successful throughout the school year. Central office is here to assist and support you!

Hurricane Ike damaged many schools and homes throughout Texas last week, and we need to remember our fellow educators in this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this terrible storm. With the possibility of Gulf Coast communities staying closed to evacuated residents for weeks, it is important that we welcome any students and families that come to enroll in our schools. Please refer to the memo sent to the principals' conference last Friday for more information on enrollment procedures.

The principals' meeting last week was a great success, and I hope that all of you were able to take away at least one tip that will make a difference. Thank you again to everyone who helped plan the meeting. The upcoming AP meeting will use the same format. The meeting will allow time for the APs to come together as a group and share best practices. Please support your AP(s) and encourage them to utilize every district resource possible to positively affect your campus.

Sadly, I need to inform you that Gabriela Fuentes, a second-grade bilingual teacher at Thornton ES, passed away Sunday. I know you will keep her family and the Thornton family in your thoughts and prayers.



Jerry McCullough
AISD Interim Superintendent

Welcome New Principal



Fernando Benavides
Boles JH

Formerly AP at Sam Houston HS

B.S. - UT Pan American, 1994

M.Ed. - UNT, 2006

Reception - Wed., Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m., Boles JH Cafeteria

Community Partners



National Semiconductor presented a \$108,000 grant at the board meeting last Thursday to provide training for 280 high school and junior high science teachers over the next three years. The training will focus on inquiry-based learning, turning traditional lessons into hands-on lessons with the students as investigators. Training will also include literacy strategies to build vocabulary and writing into the curriculum.

In addition, the American Heart Association recognized Lisa Wilson and Richard Longgear from Larson ES for raising \$20,137 as part of the Jump Rope for Heart program. Larson raised more money than any other school participating in the fund-raiser. The AISD raised more than \$100,000 for the American Heart Association.



Bit of Inspiration

"Developing excellent communication skills is absolutely essential to effective leadership. The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can't get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn't even matter."

-Gilbert Amelio, President and CEO of National Semiconductor Corp.

Teachability: To Keep Leading, Keep Learning

"Value your listening and reading time at roughly 10 times your talking time. This will assure you that you are on a course of continuous learning and self-improvement."

-Gerald McGinnis, President and CEO of Respirationics, Inc.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Sept. 17: Citizenship Day

Sept. 18: Board meeting

Sept. 19: Arlington HS, Martin HS and Sam Houston HS Homecomings

Sept. 21: International Day of Peace

Sept. 22: First day of autumn

Sept. 25: College Night, 7 p.m. at Bowie HS



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education