

Weekly High Five

March 24, 2009

I hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break as much as I did. I enjoyed my time in Surprise, Ariz. for the Rangers' spring training. Spring is officially here and so is the unpredictable weather that accompanies it. Please be sure your students and staff know what to do in case of a weather-related emergency.

The Sam Houston HS mariachi band recently traveled to Austin to compete in the SchoolJam Texas Battle of the Bands. They were up against five non-mariachi student bands, and two of the members beat out the rockers for individual honors and prizes. Greg Chavez was named best vocalist, and trumpet player Marissa Ocampo won best overall performer. I want to thank Director Marta Ocampo for all of her work with this wonderful group!

Over Spring Break, we received notice that Martin HS was selected as the GRAMMY Foundation's 2009 National GRAMMY Signature School and will receive a \$10,000 grant to benefit the school's music program. The Signature Schools program recognizes outstanding U.S. public high school music programs. Eight schools were selected as Signature Schools for program excellence from a field of 144 finalists. Congratulations Band Director Gordon Hart, Jazz Band Director Michael Knipe, Choir Director Kay Owen and Orchestra Director Michael Stringer! They, along with the almost 900 students involved in the music programs at Martin, do a wonderful job representing the campus and the AISD!

I want to congratulate all of our talented athletes and dedicated coaches involved with soccer on very successful seasons. Seven of our teams advanced to playoffs, with first-round matchups tonight. Most of the games are local; game times and locations are posted on the Sports Events Calendar page of the Web site. I encourage you to attend one of tonight's games to show your support for these students and coaches. Good luck tonight!

I look forward to seeing many of you Thursday evening at the Arlington ISD Education Foundation All-Star Reception! The annual event will be a fun evening honoring 39 award-winning teachers and our Partners in Education, corporations with cumulative support of \$100,000 or more. If you do not already have your tickets, be sure to call the Education Foundation office at 682-867-1927 to make your purchase.



Jerry McCullough
AISD Superintendent

Principal Advisory Council Meeting Overview

We had a very successful PAC meeting today and set the agendas for future principals' meetings. On April 9, there will be discussion about campus planning and a Q&A session on policies and procedures. On May 14, the principals' meeting will focus on accountability. Also at today's meeting, the PAC reviewed preliminary TAKS scores. Be sure to read the *Weekly High Five: Special Edition* for more details.

Congratulations



Robert Carlisle
Executive Director of Plant Services
Formerly Executive Director for Facilities with Killeen ISD
B.A. - Texas Christian University, 1972

Condolences

We would like to express our condolences to the following employee on the loss of a loved one:

Duane Scott, husband of *Elsa Scott*, social studies coordinator; passed away on March 21.

Bit of Inspiration

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us something is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit."

-E.E. Cummings, Poet and Playwright

"If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place."

-Nora Roberts, Author

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- March 26: AISD Education Foundation Awards Reception
- March 31: Transfer period ends
- April 2: School board meeting
- April 4: ACT
- April 7: World Health Day; TAKS Math (grades 5 & 8)



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