

My AISD

Volume 4, Issue 6, January 2019

Baby boom!

AISD teachers have biggest baby in hospital's history

Eric and Jennifer Medlock expected their baby boy to be big when he arrived in December.

Their first child Annabelle weighed nearly 10 pounds and doctors told the Medlocks that baby No. 2 was going to be a big one, probably in the 10-pound range.

No one knew that meant a record setter. Eric, who is in his first year as the music teacher at Adams Elementary, and Jennifer, who is in her second year as the music teacher at Patrick Elementary, knew something was a little different when Ali was joining the family Dec. 12.

The Medlocks' doctor at Texas Health Arlington



Ali Medlock set a record when he was born Dec. 12. Ali joins older sister Anabelle as children of AISD music teachers Eric and Jennifer Medlock.

SEE BABY, PAGE 3



A message from Dr. Cavazos

We try to be exceptional at everything we do in the AISD and the Medlocks have raised that to a new level.

Little Ali Medlock is already making news that he'll be able to share for the rest of his life, and we're happy both he and his parents are doing well after his record-setting birth. It's also great to see that Jennifer Medlock is already looking forward to getting back to Patrick Elementary in February to work with her students.

It was great to read all the success stories taking place in the AVID program at Sam Houston High School. Our junior highs and high schools do an exceptional job in preparing our

students for college.

Please take time to mark your calendars for a pair of important events. There is a blood drive Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the administration building. Also our 2019 Media Fair is set for April 23. You still have six weeks to submit your entry for the event. We're also asking for our staff to share their input and help the AISD plan for 2020-2025. Please plan to attend a community meeting Feb. 4-5. More information is on our website.

Congratulations to our four employee of the month winners and our five customer service honorees. We have outstanding employees who do a great job of representing the AISD.

Always aim to set bar high

I was recently perusing through some online literature and came across an article that caught my attention. Across the top of the page in big bold letters was a strong statement made by the author — almost like he was



THE LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

placing a stake in the ground. I like conviction. When there is a strong call to action, it often causes me to stop in my tracks and reflect on my feelings one way or the other. This caused such a reaction.

He posed this thought-provoking question, “What do we know about school experience that brings out the best in students, whether public or private, wealthy or low income, single-sex or coed, in strict environments or lax? What is the common denominator underlying every high-performing school, teacher and educational approach in America?”

Wow! Isn't that the ultimate question we have all been asking? What is the answer? You might be surprised. “The answer: High expectations. Academic and behavioral. No excuses, no exceptions.”

High expectations. What does that mean? It means we have to expect and design learning that reinforces our belief that our kids can learn at high levels, that they are creative and can problem solve. We have to fight our own internal voices that sometimes whisper words of doubt and encourage us to lower standards and take the

challenge out of the work.

According to the author, “the American Psychological Association states that [educators] in economically-embattled neighborhoods tend to encourage less, demand less and accept less from their students than [educators] elsewhere because they assume that's the best the students can do.”

But we know better than that. We know our kids can and do achieve at high levels, we simply have to give them the tools and opportunities to do it. Rather than lowering our expectations, we have to hold them steady and provide the supports to help our learners get there.

We have the blessing of serving an incredible group of students. They have aspirations and accomplish amazing things... things that were inconceivable only 10 years ago! We have students who are earning their associate degree and even completing additional hours toward their bachelor's degree while still in high school.

We have students earning

workforce certificates that are allowing them to enter into the field of their choice earning substantial incomes immediately following graduation.

We have learners who are excelling in the arts and athletics who are at the top of their game.

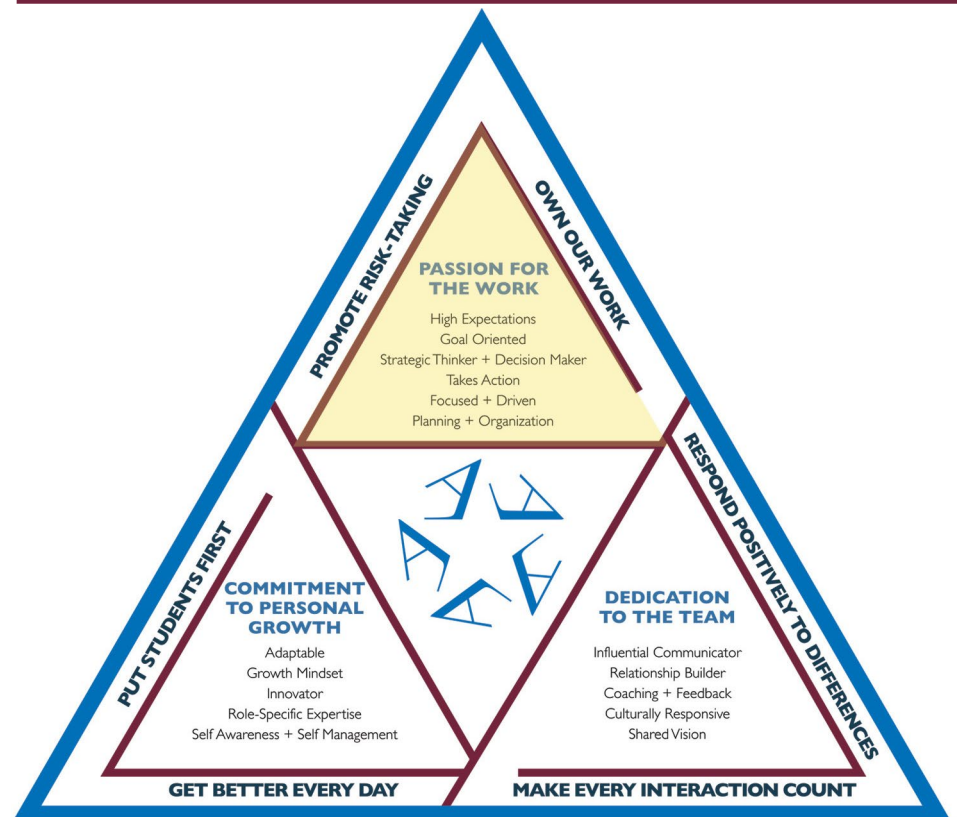
We have creative, passionate and strong students who challenge the status quo and are determined to make a difference in this world for you and me.

Do I agree with the author's answer of **high expectations**? Yes, I do. When we hold our expectations high, it drives our lesson design, instructional and behavioral student supports, professional collaboration, and goal setting... our very actions.

Our leadership definition notes high expectations as the first indicator of **Passion for the Work**. May we all continue to lead by setting our expectations high. Our students deserve it.

Dr. Steven Wurtz is the chief academic officer for the AISD

LEADERSHIP DEFINITION



BABY FROM PAGE 1

Memorial Hospital let them know when Ali was delivered via C-section. He was on one side of the sheet during the delivery and the Medlocks were on the other side.

"When you hear the doctor say 'Oh my gosh' or 'Wow' and you can't really see anything, you're wondering what's up," Eric said. "You can't really tell."

The nurse assigned to Ali for the delivery also had her hands full. Literally.

"She tried to pick him up, and she was struggling," Jennifer said. "She's small."

Ali was anything but small when he arrived. In fact, at 14 pounds, 13 ounces, he was the biggest baby ever delivered at the hospital.

That was enough of a story for the hospital's public-relations staff to write up a release. Then not-so-little Ali went viral. One local story led to Facebook interest which led to national news which led to world news. The Medlocks were interviewed for a story in England.

"My dad was in Jordan and he saw it there," Jennifer said.

There were also college football coaches who were jokingly offering Ali scholarships on Twitter. They probably had no idea that his genes say he'll go another way as both of his parents were into music and theater growing up.

The attention was interesting but it wasn't necessary for the Medlocks. Their biggest concerns were getting Jennifer and Ali home happy and healthy. Ali spent a week in the neonatal intensive care unit before he went home. Jennifer had to go back to the hospital because of an infection, but she hopes to be back teaching her other kids at Patrick in February.

Her students at Patrick were there for most of the



Ali Medlock put on just a pound in the first month after he was born.

pregnancy.

"I was walking around like a big ball at school," Jennifer said. "The kids at school were super excited. They felt like they were a part of him. I love my kids."

Ali is still big. He dropped about 10 ounces but weighed in at more than 15 pounds for his one-month checkup. As for his newborn wardrobe: That really never stood a chance.

"Oh no," Eric said. "Those diaper kits you get to start, we donated those right away. Zero to three months is a little dicey. He wears some sixth-month clothes."

Annabelle is adjusting to having a little brother in the house, too, and doing a great job. And now the Medlocks will have a story for when Ali gets older.

"He's my famous little boy," Jennifer said. "He's just cute, cuddly and loveable. He doesn't seem that big to me but I don't have a comparison because I've never had anything small."

Discounts available for AISD employees

If you know how to navigate the intranet and get to the employee perks and discounts page, you can find discounts and much more, including everything from rental cars to ways to save money on a home purchase.

The newest discounts are from LA Fitness and the Dallas Mavericks, who have a teacher appreciation night Feb. 26.

Make sure and check the page frequently as

it's updated throughout the year. If you know of other discounts please email Anthony Andro at aandro@aisd.net.

Remember we are also always looking for great stories about employees in the district like the Medlock family.

If you know of someone who has an interesting story outside the classroom or office, please let us know by sending an email to aandro@aisd.net.



Make it count.



BLOOD DRIVE

ARLINGTON ISD EMPLOYEES

Click above link to make an appointment
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019
8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

1203 W. Pioneer Parkway
Carter BloodCare Bus

Amanda Reutebuch
Volunteer Drive Coordinator

Our blood supply is extremely low please make the time to donate and replenish the community blood supply

AVID huge part of Sam Houston

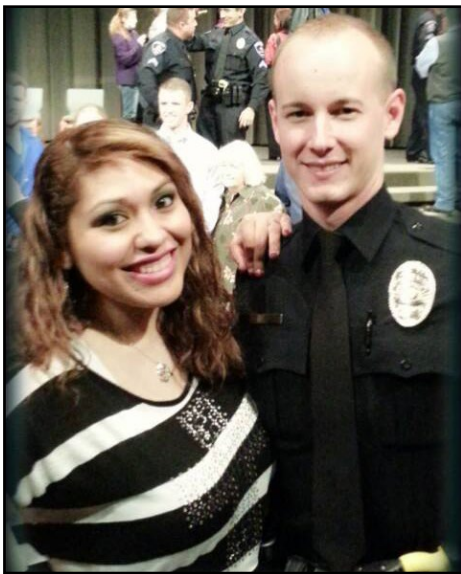
Advanced academics program has made an impact at high school

Did you ever wonder who our leaders of tomorrow will be? Look no further than the AVID program in the AISD.

As part of the advanced academics department, AVID supports the goal that 100 percent of AISD students will graduate exceptionally prepared for college, career and citizenship. AVID supports junior high and high school students by providing a system of academic skills and behaviors for students who challenge themselves with pre-AP, advanced placement, International Baccalaureate and dual credit programs so they experience the challenge of college courses while in high school.



Luis Roa-Santoyo is one of the many success stories to come out of the AVID program at Sam Houston High School.



AVID students Chris Parker and Brenda Martinez stayed in touch after school.

How successful has the AVID program been in the district? Just take a look at some of the current and former AVID students who have come through Sam Houston High School.

Victoria Ifekwuna is a Dell Scholar semifinalist in the health science program at the Career Technical Center and in the top 20 percent of her class for 2019. Her goal is to study to be a nurse practitioner and ultimately travel overseas to bring healthcare to others. She has been accepted at Texas Woman's

University, her top college choice. When asked about the role that AVID played in her success, she said, "AVID was where I learned to grow. It taught me how to strive for my goals and never give up. It gave me the skills and inspiration to succeed and all the emotional support I needed. AVID is my family."

Luis Roa-Santoyo, who now attends the University of Texas at Austin after graduating from Sam Houston in June, credits AVID for his success.

"AVID gave me the tools necessary to get to college," said Roa-Santoyo, who was also a district student of the month honoree. "It was and continues to be a source of love and hope. I know I wouldn't be where I am today without my AVID family."

Chris Parker, a 2008 graduate, is now an Arlington police officer and notes his AVID teachers and the AVID program, "were important to my success through high school, entering college and ultimately achieving my dream. The knowledge and values I obtained from AVID greatly assisted me in being able to turn to the next chapter of my life."

He celebrated his graduation from the police academy with Brenda Martinez who was in his ninth-grade AVID class.

Examples of the family and support system of AVID are everywhere.

Santeka Grigley, who was in the program in 2007, and Julie Tran, who graduated in 2017, connected via their AVID coordinator Sandi O'Brien while touring colleges in New York.

The original AVID class of 2007 still supports the current AVID mentors who pay it forward.

Dr. Jaya Srinivasan DeElena, who was in the first AVID tutor class, still mentors current AVID students. Dr. Jenny Nguyen, part of the first AVID 2007 graduating class, was the guest speaker for the senior AVID celebration last year.

Every year, former AISD AVID students return to tutor for this effective program.

O'Brien's partner is AVID co-coordinator Courtney Dean. The two leaders offer proof that the AVID system of support works - 10 Dell Scholarship and Gates Millennium Scholars semifinalists call Sam Houston High School home.



Arlington

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education

FEBRUARY DATES

National Children's Dental Health Month

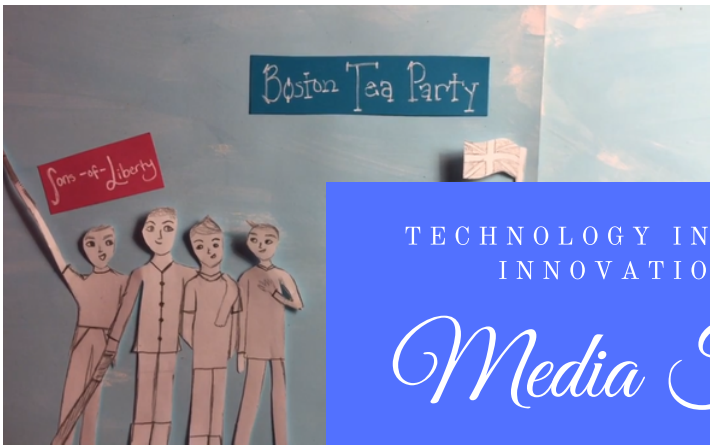
Black History Month

Career & Technology Education Month

National Freedom Day	Feb. 1
Groundhog Day	Feb. 2
National School Counseling Week	Feb. 4-8
National Signing Day	Feb. 6
National FCCLA Week	Feb. 11-15
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
End of Fourth Six Weeks	Feb. 15
National FFA Week	Feb. 16-23
National PTA Founder's Day	Feb. 17
President's Day	Feb. 18
Start of Fifth Six Weeks	Feb. 19
National Tortilla Chip Day	Feb. 24



Construction is picking up and piers are getting drilled for the future AISD Fine Arts Center and Athletics Complex. Watch [time-lapse videos](#) from the construction at www.aisd.net/bond.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION AND INNOVATION PRESENTS

Media Fair 2019

Submission Deadline
Tuesday, March 19

Winning entries will be displayed at our evening event April 23, 2019.

TINYURL.COM/MEDIAFAIR2019



Book Review

Home Fiction Realistic Fiction Historical Fiction Non-Fiction Horror Authors Page

Webb Elementary Book Reviews

Tina Baze, Specialist
Risk Management
Arlington ISD
1203 W. Pioneer Pkwy.
Arlington, TX 76013
Office: 682-867-7649
Fax: 682-867-4682

*****Accident***
What to do next?**

Contact supervisor.
If an emergency
response professional
is needed call 911.

Contact the risk
management office
at 682-867-7649.

[Complete workers'
comp packet.](#)

Completed packet
should be sent to the
risk management office
in the administration
building.

**Adopting the
right attitude can
convert a negative
stress into a
positive one.**

Hans Selye

RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Do's and Don'ts When Working at Heights

Falls are among the most common causes of serious injury and even death in the workplace. When working at heights, one small mistake could turn a routine work task into a casualty. Keep the following do's and don'ts in mind when working at heights:

Do

- Make sure you can safely get to and from any area that requires you to work from a height.
- Wear personal protective equipment and personal fall arrest equipment as required for the job.
- Make sure your ladder and any other equipment needed is strong enough for the job and checked regularly.
- Know what to do in case of an emergency or need to evacuate so you can do so safely.

Don't

- Don't overload your ladder. Check the label on the ladder to make sure it is capable of supporting both you and your equipment before using it.
- When on a ladder, don't overreach.
- Never rest a ladder against unstable or weak surfaces.
- Don't use ladders to increase the working height of a scaffold.
- If you notice anything that could pose as a potential workplace hazard, please report it to your manager immediately so it can be addressed promptly.

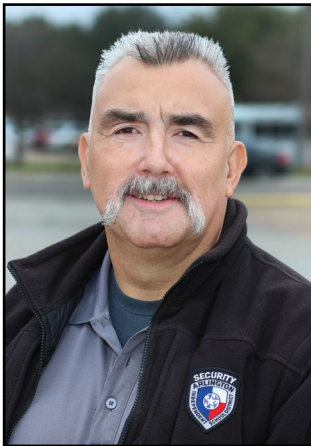
You Don't Have to Fall from a High Level to Suffer Fatal Injuries



**25% of fatal falls are from a
height of less than 15 feet.**

Remember, practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

ACCESSIBILITY
TANGIBLES
RELIABILITY
RESPONSIVENESS
EMPATHY



Accessibility
Robert DeAnda
Security

What they said: He graciously plays Santa Claus for our kinder and first grade students at Burgin Elementary every year. My bilingual students truly appreciate a Santa they are able to speak to in their native language.



Tangibles
John Rice
Transportation

What they said: He has a welcoming, positive and warm attitude. Also, he has a willingness to help out wherever needed.



Reliability
Kimberly Young
Professional Learning

What they said: Kim is outstanding at her job at handling room reservations at the Mac Bernd PDC. She is very knowledgeable of every aspect of the operations of the Mac Bernd PDC and will fill in where needed, including technical support.



Responsiveness
Megan Abernethy
Human Resources

What they said: Megan is always so helpful when we have a question or an issue with subs. I appreciate that she is always so willing to talk to me and help us out.

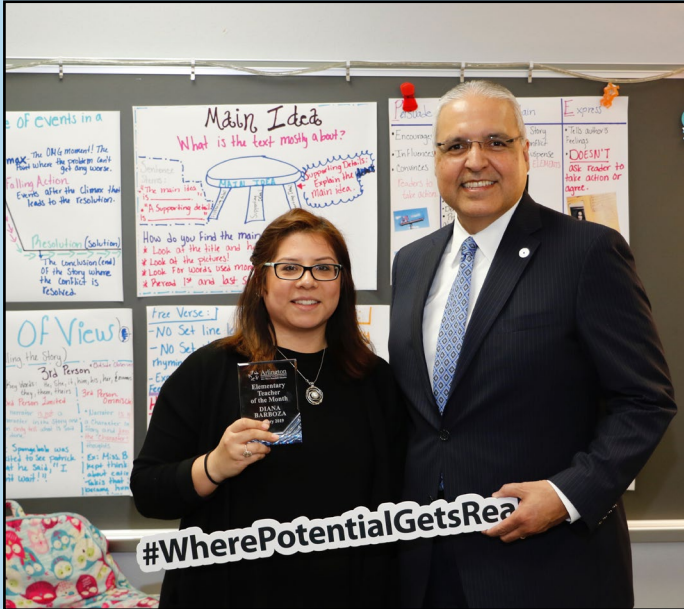


Empathy
Jennifer Allen
Technology

What they said: She is hard-working, thoughtful, kind and thorough. She understands that teachers and administrators rely on their technology and works hard to take care of issues that cannot be handled by the CTM as fast as she can.

A customer forms an impression of service received over time depending on a range of experiences. Have you recently experienced exemplary service from anyone in the AISD? If so, affirm their practice by sending a shout out to bit.ly/AISDSERVE, and we'll recognize them! Be sure to let us know which component of the framework was exemplified (accessibility, tangibles, reliability, responsiveness or empathy).

JANUARY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH



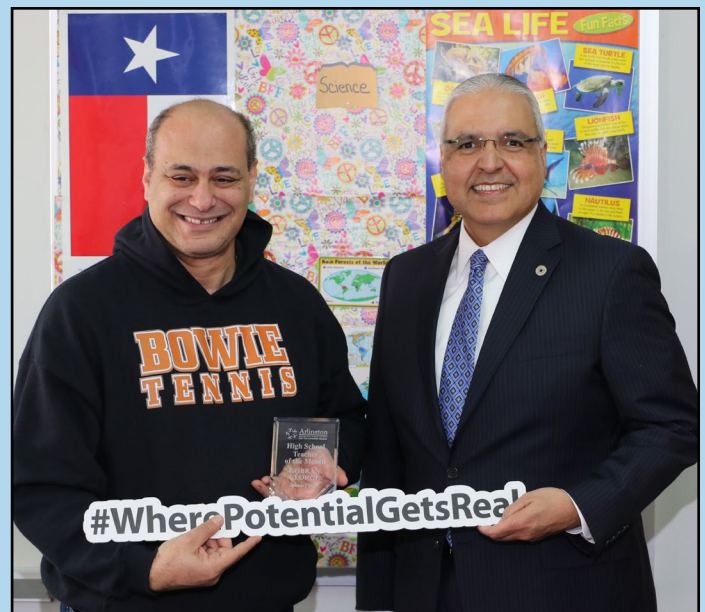
Diana Barboza
Short Elementary
Elementary Teacher of the Month



Becky Wagley
Human Resources
Department Employee of the Month



Katy Wells
Bailey Junior High
Junior High Teacher of the Month



Gobran George
Bowie High School
High School Teacher of the Month