

PARTNERS PROMOTE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Elementary Students Sharpen Writing Skills

Eighty-five **Luella Merrett** fourth graders eagerly crouched over TCU tables as they sharpened their writing skills during a four hour session hosted by the University. Dr. Jennifer Brooks, Director of the Center for Urban Education led the session that included a guided tour of the campus. The purpose of the day was to help students set goals for the future and hone their skills prior to the TAKS test. Principal Melissa Bryan said, *"Students came away from this experience ready to do what it takes to achieve their dreams."*



Pen Pals Promote Literacy Lift



Eighty-eight students from **H.V. Helbing** were matched with pen pals from the **US Corps of Engineers** in a unique partnership designed to foster writing skills in students preparing to pass the TAKS test. This partnership that has promoted student excellence for 19 years features a Valentine's Day party where pen pals meet face to face and share personal stories over lunch that motivate the children to succeed. Ardith Hamilton, US Army Corps of Engineers, said, *"We work to help students improve their reading and writing skills and encourage academic excellence."* The school has earned an exemplary rating from the Texas Education Agency for the past three years.

Rotary Impacts Students—One Book at a Time!

Nearly 700 third graders are the proud new owners of dictionaries thanks to the generosity of the **Rotary Club of Western Fort Worth**. Aware that a good vocabulary is an important part of success in reading and writing, members personally delivered the books to students at **Diamond Hill, Washington Heights, South Hi Mount, North Hi Mount, Luella Merrett, Greenbriar, Ridglea Hills and M.L. Phillips elementary schools**. Students were challenged to look up new words and to begin using them as their own. This reinforces the practice of many principals who offer a new vocabulary word every day during morning announcements.



Casa Creates Curriculum Opportunity

Casa Mañana and **Applied Learning Academy (ALA)** staff and students joined forces to create curriculum for the production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Using the script and school resources, students discovered important math and science applications such as weight and measurement comparisons, anatomy details and the differences/similarities between frogs and toads. Students applied their newfound knowledge to develop education packets available on the Casa Mañana Website. *"These students think BIG! They like to be challenged and in turn produce amazing work,"* said Julie Gale, Casa Mañana.

Support the 2009 Vital Link Program

Vital Link is designed to offer rising 7th grade students a **one week half-day internship** that connects classroom learning and "real world" experience.

To join forces with other local business/organizations and host students this summer, contact Mary Margaret Rangel at 817.871.2449 or marymargaret.rangel@fwisd.org

DATE CHANGE:
CAMPUS TEACHER OF THE YEAR DINNER
NOW—APRIL 16

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PARTNERS PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

Community Honors Teachers



2008 Chairs for Teaching Excellence

Sewell Lexus of Fort Worth and Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House teamed up to honor the 15 Fort Worth ISD 2008-09 Chairs for Teaching Excellence. Following an extensive application and selection process, Chair sponsors presented a \$5000 honorarium to each winner in December. To learn more, visit www.fwisd.org.

- Patricia Aragon-Clingan**, Rosemont MS
Pier 1 Imports Chair for Acquisition of Language
- Jennifer Bell**, Glencrest 6th Grade
Angela D. Paulos Chair for Visual Arts
- Cletis Cabbil Sr.**, Dunbar 6th Grade
OmniAmerican Chair for Secondary Math
- Sherri Chasteen**, North Side HS
RadioShack Secondary Science Chair
- Michael Dawson**, Wedgwood MS
Bayard H. Friedman Performing Arts FW Chair
- Leslie Glazener**, Bruce Shulkey Elementary
Lockheed Martin Chair for Elementary Math
- Rachel Lawton**, North Side HS
Chase Bank Fort Worth Secondary English Chair
- Cissy Mattingly**, Woodway Elementary
Zelma and J.T. Luther Jr. Chair for Library Science
- Shawna Messina**, Lowery Road Elementary
Outreach Communications Chair for Elementary Reading
- Eric Nilsson**, Atwood McDonald Elementary
Lockheed Martin Chair for Elementary Science
- Andrea Novelli Sandoval**, Luella Merrett Elementary
Perdue, Brackett, Flores, Utt & Burns, Joint Venture Chair for Physical Fitness

- Francine Roberson**, South Hills HS
The Molyneux Foundation Chair for Special Education
- Danny Roberts**, McLean MS
Crescent Real Estate Chair for Career & Technology
- Pamela Sanchez-Irby**, Bruce Shulkey Elementary
XTO Energy Chair for Early Childhood
- David J. Williams**, North Side HS
Sewell Lexus of Fort Worth Chair for Humanities



I.M. Terrell

Woodway

Western Hills

Family Math Night Sponsors

Twenty-eight business and community partners generously contributed \$75,000 for the Fort Worth ISD Family Math Nights. With dedicated teachers, upgraded curriculum and support from business partners, FWISD students will continue to achieve at higher and higher levels.

THANK YOU

- ACME Brick * American National Bank * AXA
- Equitable * Bank of America * Chase Bank * Coca-Cola Bottling Company * Colonial Savings * Compass Bank *
- Crescent Real Estate * EECU * Exelon Power Generation * First Southwest Company *
- Fleet Oil and Gas * FW Chapter, TX Society of CPAs
- HUB International Rigg * Mr. Jim Gibson and Family *
- National Farm Life *
- Pier 1 Imports * Saxon Mortgage * Southwest Bank*
- Texas Capital Bank *
- The National Bank of Texas * Thomson Reuters *
- Unity One Federal Credit Union * Wachovia Securities * Washington Mutual *
- Wells Fargo * Woodhaven National Bank



Westcreek

David K. Sellers

Dolores Huerta

Community to Rally Around Teachers— April 16

140 FWISD teachers will be recognized on Thursday, April 16 as **Campus Teachers of the Year** for their efforts to help students achieve at high levels. More than \$17,000 in underwriting from FWISD adopters and other community partners has been secured for the event. Teachers can expect to enjoy an inspiring presentation by Riney Jordan, nationally known humorist and former principal. More than \$10,000 worth of door prizes will also be featured topped by a luxury package that includes dinner at **Del Frisco's**, tickets to **Bass Hall**, a night at the **Worthington**, and use of a **Lexus** for a week.

GOOD NEWS!
New Fort Worth ISD
Community Partners:

****Kohl's Department Store adopts
Oaklawn and Worth Heights
elementary schools**

****Dannon adopts
Edward J. Briscoe
Elementary School**

****Sertoma adopts Richard J.
Wilson Elementary School**