

FWISD Adopt-A-School Newsletter

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May 2008

PEAK Rewards Program

PEAK – Public Educators Accelerating Kids – is a pilot program for 15 schools in the Fort Worth ISD. Beginning in the 2008-09 school year, PEAK teachers will be financially rewarded for their students' academic growth. PEAK encourages collaboration, cooperation and professional growth – not competition. It is based on rewards and incentives and is consistent with the philosophy that teaching is a team sport and building leadership capacity in each school through developing teacher expertise will ultimately have the greatest impact on student achievement. Participant schools are **Dunbar HS, Eastern Hills HS, Polytechnic HS, South Hills HS, Diamond Hill-Jarvis HS, Dunbar Sixth Grade, Dunbar MS, Handley MS, Kirkpatrick MS, Meadowbrook MS, Como ES, Morningside ES, Oaklawn ES, Sunrise-McMillian ES** and **Turner ES**. In early June, all principals will meet to discuss ways that partnership activities can support student achievement. Not only PEAK schools, but all schools will be encouraged to meet with their partners after that time to incorporate meaningful activities into the Campus Improvement Plan (CIP).

Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. provided the opportunity for 10 **Dunbar HS** Robotics Club students to meet with Sally Ride, the first female American astronaut in space, as part of the 10th Annual Textron Technology Forum. Ride introduced herself to each student. She shared information about her background, college major and what it takes to be an astronaut. She explained that NASA looks for candidates with a variety of skills from different scientific backgrounds, including geology, electrical engineering, the medical field, biology and oceanography, as well as a demonstrated ability to learn. Communication skills are also essential. The group of students shared their experiences of building a robot for the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) competition in which an engineer from Bell's propulsion design group served as an advisor and mentor. The company also served as a sponsor of the Second Annual Teen Summit in April. Students rotated through workshops, such as a mock trial and dance etiquette. Ten employees are serving as mentors to students in the TEAM FWISD mentoring program.

Unity One Federal Credit Union hosted students in all grade levels at **Washington Heights ES** for field trips to the credit union on March 11 and 13. Students observed tellers counting money in the drive-thru area, learned how air pressure works in the tube system and toured the vault area. The management team and other employees will host an outdoor party at the school on May 30 to recognize students with outstanding attendance.

Brackett & Ellis displayed students' artwork from **J.T. Stevens ES** in their office throughout the year, provided judges for the Declamation Oratory Contest, participated in Career Day and provided funding for choir shirts, materials for Red Ribbon Week, logo pencils for TAKS testing and t-shirts for the school's Cowtown 10K team.

Baylor All Saints Medical Center hosted a community health fair at **Daggett MS** on May 3. Held on a Saturday at the school, 12 Medical Center employees offered glucose, cholesterol and breast cancer screenings and provided information on heart disease, diabetes, nutrition, smoking, asthma, lung disease and parenting. Two employees have recently served as classroom speakers on the topics of the heart and the brain and how to protect the brain. The Daggett MS Choir performed at the Medical Center's Cityview location and the Eighth Avenue location on May 15.

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History provided new Discovery Lab on Wheels programs for field testing to second through fifth graders at **North Hi Mount ES**. Staff members from the Museum visited the school's science lab to lead programs on light and sight, electrical energy, properties of matter and earth science investigations. Students shared their opinions regarding the programs for Museum staff to use in planning future programs. While the Museum is under construction, artwork is being featured on the construction fence provided by North Hi Mount ES students in the After School Program, along with works of art from various high schools. The fourth and fifth grade artists attended the groundbreaking ceremony and assisted the Museum's staff in hanging their artwork.

Capital One employees participated in an all-day Junior Achievement course for first and second graders at **D. McRae ES** on May 13. The curriculum is grade-level specific in support of social studies, math and other areas and emphasizes the use of each in daily living within a community.

Ridgela United Methodist Church hosted **Monnig MS** eighth graders for a Science TAKS Camp in March and a Social Studies TAKS Camp in April. Members also donated appropriate school clothing items, funds for the canned food drive, water and popcorn for the Mustang Stampede 5K, TAKS snacks during testing and treats for teachers. Members of the **West Area Council of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce** participated in Career Day, donated plants for the science garden and provided four gift certificates for a one-night stay to area Marriott properties for teacher awards.

Moritz of Fort Worth is providing a huge motivation for students to have outstanding attendance at **Western Hills HS**. The company is donating a Chevrolet Cobalt that is the grand prize for the attendance campaign. A perfect attendance rally will be held at the auto dealership where the drawing will be held. This is the sixth year that Moritz has provided a car to build motivation for outstanding attendance.

Fleet Oil and Gas recruited and trained 27 TCU students representing Delta Delta Delta sorority and Pi Kappa Phi fraternity to serve as reading tutors and buddies weekly at **C.C. Moss ES**. The TCU students highlighted their experiences in a meeting with the TCU chancellor on April 28, where they were applauded for their involvement as role models and tutors. To support the tutoring program, the Mortar Board Chapter at TCU purchased new books that were provided as incentives to students. Fleet Oil and Gas recognized the efforts of the tutors and their students at an ice cream celebration at the school on May 2. The building of a new school playground, sponsored by the company, was completed in January.

Crescent Real Estate Equities celebrated Read Across America Day at **Versia Williams ES** by participating in the RIF book distribution with one employee dressed as the Cat in the Hat. Sixteen employees visited the school and read Dr. Seuss books to each class. Bookmarks were given to all students.

The **East Area Council of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce** hosted its Second Annual Math and Science Camp for **Meadowbrook MS** on May 14 and 15. More than 40 seventh graders had the opportunity to listen to speakers who worked in math and science-related professions, including a female pilot and an engineer. The students, who are part of the school's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program, also enjoyed interactive sessions including chemistry experiments with a Texas Wesleyan University professor and a computer gaming session with Tarrant County College professors. The purpose of the camp, which was held on the Wesleyan campus, was to show students real-world applications of math and science and to expose them to possible career options in those fields.

Grace Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church sponsored a mentoring program at **David K. Sellars ES**. The culminating activity was a banquet for the mentors and the 25 students and their families. The school's other partner, **Federal Correctional Institution – Fort Worth**, provided the speakers for the evening, including the warden and executive assistant, who encouraged the students to stay in school and to make wise choices.

Sikorsky Aircraft engineers interested in tutoring students at **Southwest HS** took a practice TAKS test and studied the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to determine the best approach for helping students. Approximately 12 engineers tutored 86 students in math, science, English or social studies. A materials engineer spoke to Pre-AP/AP chemistry students about how materials are chosen, processed and evaluated, as well as how chemistry relates to the real world. A group of engineers also spoke to the 10th grade team about education, perseverance, determination and planning.

Aerospace Optimist Club donated school supplies and 96 pairs of shoes for **H.V. Helbing ES** students. Thirty soccer balls were provided for "Kick It Up" award ceremonies where students were recognized for their academic efforts. The top fifth grade boy and girl in academics will be recognized with \$100 savings bonds.

U.S. Post Office – Jack D. Watson Station provided stamp collection albums to third and fourth graders at **Dolores Huerta ES**. One of the station's employees will visit the school in the fall to continue discussions about stamp collecting as a hobby. **Sprint Nextel** employees listened to children read in classrooms and volunteered in the library.

Welcome to the following new partnerships: **Compass Bank** and **Bruce Shulkey ES**; **Cook Children's Medical Center** and **Lily B. Clayton ES**; **Daimler Financial Services** and **W.A. Meacham MS** and **Carter-Riverside HS**; **First United Methodist Church** and **T.A. Sims ES**; **Fort Worth Business Press** and **Arlington Heights HS**; **JPS Health Promotions** and **S.S. Dillow ES** and **Poly HS**; **Justin Brands** and **Sagamore Hill ES**; **Knight Waste Services** and **Dunbar MS**; **Leland Clemons** and **Stripling MS**; **National Cowgirl Hall of Fame** and **Carter Park ES**; **Southside Church of Christ** and **Daggett MS**; **State Farm Insurance – Denton Highway** and **H.V. Helbing ES**; and **United Way of Tarrant County** and **M.G. Ellis ES**.

Please visit www.fwisd.org to see the list of **Golden Achievement Award For Partnership Excellence** recipients for the 2007-08 school year. Thanks to all the schools and partners who nominated or self-submitted nominations for the award.

ALL partners are sincerely appreciated for the support provided through their expertise, resources and time.

Please submit Adopt-A-School highlights for the next **PARTNERS** newsletter to rebecca.harper@fwisd.org

