



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

## KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**1A. Awards/Achievements**

**March 28, 2005**

**SUBJECT: STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS**

**BOARD GOAL: Academic Excellence**

**FISCAL NOTE: None**

**KHS wins state Academic Decathlon; prepares for national competition:** Keller High School won first place in the State Academic Decathlon competition in February in Corpus Christi. KHS brought home 22 team medals, 28 individual event medals and earned a combined total of \$18,050 in scholarship awards. The team also placed third overall in the Super Quiz event. In addition, KHS senior Xiaochu "Chu" Song earned the highest overall score at the competition. Four members also earned individual scholarship awards; they are: Song, Tyler Gibson, Brandon Simmons and Spencer Scherer. The KHS team now advances to the National Academic Decathlon Championships on April 14-16 in Chicago. They are coached by Vicki Whitaker and Kaye Blevins.

In addition, Keller ISD's Central and Fossil Ridge high schools made good showings at state competition. Central, in only its second year, ranked 16<sup>th</sup> out of 79 competitors in the medium school division and earned two individual medals. Fossil Ridge finished 22<sup>nd</sup> overall in the large school division and 17<sup>th</sup> in Super Quiz, with two members earning bronze individual medals.

**Heritage, Whitley Road elementaries tie for first in district UIL:** Congratulations to Heritage and Whitley Road elementary schools for tying for the grand championship in the district UIL Elementary Academic Competition. Overall team results are: Blue Team – Park Glen, first; Freedom, second; Parkview, third. Red Team – Heritage, first; Willis Lane, second; Bette Perot, third. Yellow Team – Whitley Road, first; Keller-Harvel, second; Shady Grove, third. Music Team – Freedom, first; Park Glen, second; Whitley Road, third; Willis Lane, fourth; Heritage, fifth; North Riverside, sixth. Art Team – Hidden Lakes and Bluebonnet, tie for first; Willis Lane and Shady Grove, tie for second; North Riverside, third; Florence and Woodland Springs, tie for fourth. Individual results are available at each participating campus.

**Four KISD band and choir students selected to All-State:** Four KISD musicians have been named to the All-State Band or Choir, and two were named alternates following the area competition in January. All State Band students are: Gabriella McBride, clarinet, Fossil Ridge; Zack Gauvain, clarinet, Keller High; Saloni Gandhi, first alternate in flute, FRHS; and Monika Hooi-Rodriguez, second alternate in flute, FRHS. All-State Choir students are: Stephanie Martinez, alto 2, FRHS; and Megan Starkey, alto 1, KHS.

**FRHS Sun Dancers win top awards in drill team contest:** The Fossil Ridge High Sun Dancers were named Best in Class and earned the Sweepstakes award for their performances during the Heart of Texas American Dance Drill Team Contest in Temple. Officer awards include: Best Overall Technique, Best Overall Presentation, Best Overall Choreography and judges awards for Pom and Modern dances. Team awards include: Gussie Nell Davis Award for receiving a 90 or more score from all judges on all dances, Best Overall Technique, Best Overall Precision, Best Overall Presentation, Best Overall Choreography and judges awards for Pom, Military and Modern dances. In addition, dancers Kristan Bruner and Tara Lance won Best in Class for duet; Lindsey Parker placed first in solo dance; and Kristan Bruner placed third runner-up in solo dance.

**KHS students headed to national BPA competition:** Nine students from Keller High have qualified for the national competition of the Business Professionals of America organization. They will compete against BPA students from across the nation in contests that integrate academic and business skills. This is the largest number of KHS students ever to qualify for nationals. These students and their placing at state competition are: Matt Haeffner, first, Fundamental Accounting; Winston Wood, second, Extemporaneous Speaking; Casey Whitaker and Kevin Holliday, second, Website Team; Kevin Holliday, fifth, Desktop Publishing; Carl Reyes, sixth, Payroll Accounting; Kristin Zwit, Entrepreneurship. In addition, Audrey Carlson and Mercedes Stuart received Ambassador Torch Awards at state.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jason Meyer  
Director of Communications