

March Heart at Work Winner

Keller ISD's Heart at Work Employee of the Month for March 2025 is Johnny Reed, Grounds Services Supervisor. Johnny was nominated by Bailey Jansen, a 3rd grade teacher at Willis Lane ES, who shared the following:

"I cannot express enough how truly invaluable Johnny has been throughout our journey to improve our outdoor learning space at Willis Lane Elementary School. From the moment I reached out to him for help with our watering system, Johnny's dedication, expertise, and support have gone far above and beyond anything I could have hoped for. When I received a large grant from the Tarrant Regional Water District for plants and trees, I knew we had an exciting opportunity ahead, but Johnny's involvement turned it into something truly special. Not only did he help me coordinate with the grant company, but he also went the extra mile to ensure everything was set up perfectly. Johnny showed up early the day before planting to make sure the holes were ready for the trees, then returned the next day to help us finish planting and cover them. His meticulous attention to detail and commitment to the project were evident every step of the way. What truly sets Johnny apart is his incredible generosity of spirit. He was available when I needed him, and his calm, knowledgeable approach made me feel supported and confident in every decision. Johnny is a master of his craft, and his work reflects his deep passion for what he does. He has been more than just a helper – he has been a mentor, a guide, and a true partner in this project. The impact Johnny has had on our outdoor learning space is immeasurable. His hard work and care have turned our vision into a reality that will benefit our students for years to come."

Staff Recognitions presented by KISD Human Resources

The Substitute Spotlight program acknowledges substitute teachers who are dedicated, dependable, and provide a positive educational experience for KISD students. The KISD Human Resources Department honors substitutes each week for the Substitute Spotlight, and once a month, a winner is drawn from those honorees. **The latest Substitute Spotlight Award is presented to Mary Johannesen.**

FACE Awards recognize members of KISD's hard-working Operations teams in Maintenance, Grounds, Child Nutrition, Custodial, Warehouse, and Natatorium staff. FACE stands for Friendly, Above & Beyond, Customer Service, Excellence – and celebrates individuals who not only exemplify these outstanding qualities daily, but who have an unwavering commitment to making every customer interaction in Keller ISD a positive, efficient, and enjoyable one. **This quarter's FACE Award are presented to Michael Montez – Security Specialist at Parkview ES; Maria Cancino – Custodian at Hillwood MS; and Cindy Tracy – Child Nutrition Specialist at Florence ES.**

Keller ISD Star Educator Award Winner

The latest Star Educator Award is being presented to KCAL Adult Transition Teacher Letitia Smiley. Letitia was nominated by Executive Director of Special Education Lynn Jameson, who shared the following:

"Ms. Letitia Smiley is an incredible teacher in the My Career Connections Program at KCAL, where she helps students with disabilities (ages 18-21) take the next steps toward their careers. These students have already graduated high school and are working on building their job skills, gaining independence, and securing paid employment. Ms. Smiley is deeply committed to making sure her students are prepared for the workforce. She teaches them how to interview with confidence, communicate effectively, and complete job tasks successfully. She also works closely with local employers in our community to create opportunities that match students' strengths and career goals. One of the ways Ms. Smiley supports her students is through the student-led store at KCAL. Her students run the store selling snacks, school supplies, and handmade goods. This gives them the chance to interact with both adults and students, practice customer service skills, and gain hands-on experience in handling money, stocking inventory, and engaging with customers. Her dedication goes beyond just teaching! She truly believes in her students and pushes them to reach their full potential. Because of her, students leave the program with real skills, real job opportunities, and the confidence to succeed. Ms. Smiley is making a lasting impact, and she absolutely deserves to be recognized with the STAR Educator Award!"

TMEA and ACDA Choir Director Recognitions

Each year, nearly 30,000 attendees gather in San Antonio for the TMEA Clinic/Convention, making it one of the largest music education events in the nation. This vibrant gathering brings together music educators, students, families, visitors, and exhibitors for an unparalleled experience of professional development sessions, performances, and networking opportunities. **This year, the Keller ISD Honor Choir (KHC) was selected as one of only four elementary choirs in Texas to perform at the conference held February 12-15. KHC is under the direction of Theresa Pritchard (VRMS), Sarah Holland (ISMS), and Lauren Garcia (ISMS).**

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) is the national convention for music educators and students, whose mission is to inspire excellence and nurture lifelong involvement in choral music for everyone through education, performance, composition and advocacy. **The Trinity Springs Middle School Varsity Treble Choir, under the direction of Clinton Ferrie, was selected to perform at this year's conference in Dallas, being held March 18-22, an honor that represents the highest recognition a choir can receive.**

State Achievements in Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, and Powerlifting

Wrestling State Achievements

Timber Creek senior Rade Ostrander took first place in the Boys 215-Pound Division, and Keller senior Andrew Jurasek won the 285 bracket at the UIL Class 6A Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, February 15. With 16 overall individual qualifiers, it was an amazingly successful weekend for Keller ISD wrestling teams at the Berry Center in Cypress. Congratulations to this year's State Qualifiers and all of Keller ISD wrestlers on another incredible season!

Girls Bracket

Aubrey Moore | KHS | 4th Place (100)
Echo Cranor | CHS | 4th Place (126)

Boys Bracket

Rade Ostrander | TCHS | 1st Place (215)
Andrew Jurasek | KHS | 1st Place (285)
Drew Brinkmeier | KHS | 4th Place (106)
Matthew Govea | CHS | 6th Place (106)

Team Results

KHS | 8th Place
TCHS | 14th Place

Swimming and Diving State Achievements

Swimmers and divers from Keller ISD displayed exceptional talent and athleticism at the UIL State Championship, held Feb. 21-22 at the University of Texas at Austin, bringing home an impressive 11 state titles. Keller High's boys team secured its third consecutive UIL 6A State Championship title with 265 points, dominating the competition with a 135-point lead over the second-place team. The Keller High girls team also reached the top of the podium, winning the UIL 6A title with 243.5 points. Timber Creek's Owen Wall made his mark by capturing the UIL 6A State Diving Championship and earning the UIL Boys 6A Diver of the Meet title. Keller's Maximus Williamson was named the UIL Boys 6A Swimmer of the Meet after winning five state titles and setting two class 6A, state, and national records in the 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle events. Keller High swim coach Jamie Shults was honored as the 2025 UIL Boys Swimming and Diving Coach of the Year.

5A

Boys 100 Yard Freestyle

24th place - Liam Atkinson, FRHS

6A

Girls Team - UIL 6A State Champions, KHS

Girls 50 Yard Freestyle

2nd place - Natalie Schneider, KHS

6th place - Lucy Backus, KHS

6th place - Chloe Corbin, KHS

Girls 100 Yard Breaststroke

State Champion - Ella McWhorter, KHS

2nd place - Avery Collins, KHS

4th place - Ellen Garritson, KHS

8th place - Ashlyn Anderson, KHS

Girls 100 Yard Butterfly

2nd place - Ellen Garritson, KHS

Girls 100 Yard Freestyle

9th place - Natalie Schneider, KHS

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle

12th place - Brooke Johnson, TCHS

Girls 200 Yard IM

2nd place - Avery Collins, KHS

3rd place - Ella McWhorter, KHS

Girls 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

State Champions - Natalie Schneider, Chloe Corbin, Lucy Backus, Ellen Garritson, KHS

Girls 200 Yard Medley Relay

State Champions - Avery Collins, Ella McWhorter, Ellen Garritson, Natalie Schneider, KHS

Girls 500 Yard Freestyle

16th place - Katie Gyure, CHS

Boys Diving

State Champion - Owen Wall, TCHS

Boys Team - UIL 6A State Champions, KHS

Boys 100 Yard Butterfly

3rd place - Riccardo Osio, KHS

Boys 100 Yard Freestyle

State Champion, 6A record, State Record, National Record - Maximus Williamson, KHS

Boys 100 Yard Backstroke

5th place - Simon Wright, KHS

Boys 100 Yard Breaststroke

12th place - Adam Huynh, KHS

Boys 200 Yard Medley Relay

State Champions - Eason Cormack, Adam Huynh, Riccardo Osio, Simon Wright, KHS

Boys 200 Yard Freestyle

State Champion, 6A Record, State Record, National Record - Maximus Williamson, KHS

2nd place - Maxwell Stanislaus, KHS

Boys 200 Yard IM

8th place - Cash Strickland, KHS

11th place - Adam Huynh, KHS

Boys 200 Yard Freestyle Relay

State Champions - Maximus Williamson, Maxwell Stanislaus, Riccardo Osio, Simon Wright, KHS

Boys 400 Yard Freestyle Relay

State Champions - Maxwell Stanislaus, Riccardo Osio, Simon Wright, Maximus Williamson, KHS

Boys 500 Yard Freestyle

2nd place - Maxwell Stanislaus, KHS

7th place - Eason Cormack, KHS

10th place - Cash Strickland, KHS

Powerlifting State Achievements

Keller ISD proudly sent eight powerlifters to compete in the Texas High School Powerlifting (THSWPA/THSPA) State Championships in March. Ian Davidson of Central High School won the regional championship in the super heavyweight division, lifting 1,585 pounds. The girls state meet was on March 15 at Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg, while the boys meet was held on March 22 at the Taylor County Expo Center in Abilene.

**State results not available by agenda deadline.*

Girls

Keller High School

Jayne Van Reet | 123 lbs. weight class, 570 lbs. lifted, *2nd Place Tie at Regionals*

Boys

Central High School

Ian Davidson | Super heavyweight, 1585 lbs. lifted, *1st Place Regional Champion*

Fossil Ridge High School

Kendreich Scheving | 148 lbs. weight class, 1285 lbs. lifted, *4th Place at Regionals*

Michael Reinoshek | 198 lbs. weight class, 1425 lbs. lifted, *11th Place at Regionals*

Jaime Montiel | 220 lbs. weight class, 1500 lbs. lifted, *8th Place at Regionals*

Keller High School

Logan Deal | 165 lbs. weight class, 1300 lbs. lifted, *8th Place - Automatic State Qualifier*

Timber Creek High School

Ace Akins | 148 lbs. weight class, 1335 lbs. lifted, *3rd Place at Regionals*

Colin Bruce | 165 lbs. weight class, 1350 lbs. lifted, *5th Place at Regionals*