

### **UIL State Cross Country Achievement**

Pedro Martinez, a two-time State qualifier from Fossil Ridge High School, competed in the UIL State Cross Country Meet on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in Round Rock, Texas. He placed 27<sup>th</sup> with a finishing time of 15:54 for the 5K (3.1 miles). During the regular season, Pedro placed in the top three of every invitational. He placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at District and 10<sup>th</sup> at Regionals. He was also named 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All City for Cross Country by the *Dallas Morning News*. Howard Putter is the Head Cross Country Coach.

### **Holiday Card Contest Winner & Finalists**

Brezlyn Groenig, a fourth-grade student at Keller-Harvel Elementary School is this year's Holiday Card Contest Winner. Her design was selected from artwork submitted by campus winners from each of our 21 elementary schools and is featured on the cover of the district's holiday card.

Madeline McNew, a fourth-grade student at Bluebonnet Elementary School along with Kailyn Rhee, a fourth-grade student at Woodland Springs Elementary were selected as this year's talented Runner-Up Artists. Their artwork is featured on the back of the district's holiday card.

### **Community of Character Student of the Month**

New Directions Learning Center student Noemi Gustavsen has been named the Keller ISD Community of Character Student of the Month for November. The character trait for November was gratitude. Noemi has been at the New Directions Learning Center for two years. She came from Central High School, where she was having some problems fitting in and getting along with others.

Noemi was adopted from Guatemala at the age of 13. She only had a year of education and was living in an orphanage prior to coming to the U.S. with her adoptive parents. She was placed into the seventh grade and tried very hard to get caught up to her grade level. Since coming to the New Directions Learning Center, she has worked extremely hard and is now a senior.

She has expressed to Mrs. Wangner, NDLS English teacher, her gratitude toward her adoptive parents. Her writings state that she had been sad living in the orphanage and that she was not treated right. She is glad to be with new parents who treat her well and brought her here to be their daughter. She feels that she is with the right family and is happy. She also wrote a letter to Mr. Anderson, NDLS principal, expressing her appreciation of being accepted into the New Directions Learning Center. She likes that it is quiet because it allows her to focus on her work and feels that graduation and college are achievable goals.

### **December Heart at Work Winner**

This month's Heart at Work award winner is Jessica Wade, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Independence Elementary School. She was nominated by IES Assistant Principal, Amy Erb, for her patience and support during the first round of the Student Intervention Team meetings. Jessica is very commitment to her students. She always gives 110% and is willing to do whatever it takes to help them succeed. The primary function of the Student Intervention Team is to provide assistance for students through a problem solving approach. The team utilizes data and other information to make instructional decisions for students. Jessica was Independence's first teacher to go through the new process and demonstrated great patience. The data Jessica collected to help make decisions about her students was impeccable. Independence is proud to have such a dedicated, organized and supportive teacher on their campus.

### **Non-Criminal Justice CHRI Training Program**

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Lupe Hodges, Coordinator of Employment, and Aubrie White, Human Resources Records Specialist, attended a class by the Audit and Training Unit under the Crime Records Service Access and Dissemination Bureau of the Texas Department of Public Safety. The goal of the course was to inform and certify DPS database users of their responsibilities when accessing, sharing, and storing information that is provided to users of the DPS secured database as well as the FBI database. The course also discussed the audit process should DPS decide to audit organizations that use their databases. Under Senate Bill 9, school districts have been given access to criminal history information that is not available to any other type of employer. Districts are held to the high standards and enforcement laws in viewing this information as DPS is in collecting and storing the data. KISD is pleased to report that Human Resources is in compliance with the guidelines and believe, if audited, will receive a 100% rating. Lupe Hodges, Aubrie White and Keller ISD received certificates of satisfactory completion of the Non-Criminal Justice CHRI Training Program.