



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1A. Outstanding Achievements

November 14, 2005

SUBJECT: STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

BOARD GOAL: All students will achieve educational excellence.

FISCAL NOTE: None

Lyndon LaPlante makes 99-yard run, winning place in local and national media: Last month, one of our students has received an overwhelming amount of news coverage for a wonderful event that took place in his life.

On Oct. 14, Lyndon LaPlante, son of our own Genni LaPlante, fulfilled his dream by taking a handoff and scampering 99 yards for a touchdown in the Keller High School game versus Richland High. Lyndon, who is a senior with Down syndrome, has been an active member of KISD football teams since he was in middle school. He has always been on the sidelines for the Indians, even dressing out and going through warm-ups with the squad, but this is the first time he ever entered the field of play.

Stories about Lyndon were featured on Channel 5 and Channel 8 and in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and the *Dallas Morning News*, and video of the run has been aired on other news outlets across the nation, including WNBC in New York City – the largest NBC affiliate in the U.S. Lyndon's play was also Dale Hanson's Play of the Week.

Lyndon's story is wonderful and an inspiration to all who hear it. Through e-mail and the media, millions of people are hearing about Lyndon, and phone calls, e-mails and letters are still pouring in, wishing him well. Please join Keller ISD in congratulating Lyndon and the LaPlante family.

Keller ISD Director of Guidance and Counseling receives state-wide award: Keller ISD Director of Guidance and Counseling Janie Casey has been selected by the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) as Counseling Supervisor of the Year for 2005. Janie has worked for 33 years in Keller ISD and has served as director of guidance and counseling since 2000.

Janie was presented with the award at the TCA conference Nov. 3 in El Paso. In the past she has been recognized and received several awards such as Citizen of the Year by the Keller Chamber of Commerce and the Outstanding Alumna Award, given by the University of North Texas, College of Counselor Education. She has also been recognized at the state level by the Texas Senate for community service in 1999.

Janie Faris receives award: Janie Faris, along with her husband, Evan, was recently awarded the Wesleyan Service Award. The award is given to a Texas Wesleyan graduate whose service to the university and the alumni have contributed specifically to the success of the Alumni Association and its programs. Janie served as president of the Texas Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1998-2000 and was asked to serve on the search committees for the University President and the Provost. Most recently, Janie was asked to join the Board of Trustees and began her term this fall. Evan has served on the Texas Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board for the last four years and is the immediate past president.

CHS has National Merit commended students: Central High School Principal David Hinson announced recently that Alyson Williams and Brian Leake have been named Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, will be presented to these seniors. About 34,000 commended students are being recognized throughout the nation for their academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2006 competition for Merit Scholarship Awards, commended students represent the top five percent of more than 1 million students who entered the 2006 competition.

Fossil Ridge National Merit Scholars named: Adam Petty and Claire Sorensen were recently named FRHS Semifinalists in the 2006 Merit Scholarship Competition. FRHS Commended Seniors in the 2006 National Merit Scholarship Program are Tracy Fortenberry, Saloni Gandhi, Anahita Kalianivala and Ryan Thomas. Barrato Collins was also recently named as a National Achievement Scholarship program participant.

Keller High students named to National Merit lists: The following Keller High students are Semifinalists in the 2006 Merit Scholarship Competition: Darya Anichkova, Meredith Boroughs, Joe Brooks, Scott Hellman, Matt Pierce and Thomas Woodward. The following students were Commended in the 2006 National Merit Program: Andrew Bahun, Howard Eliason, Chapel Folger, Joshua Gafford, Chelsea Johnson, Stephen Kunkel, Rachel Lambert, Matthew Millington, Brennen Mueller, Denise Nolan, Andres Pacheco-Fores, Aron Phillips and Rebecca Woodward.

Two Keller High seniors named to scholars list: Denise Nolan and Andres Pacheco-Fores, members of the 2006 senior class at Keller High School, have been recognized by the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program as National Hispanic Scholars.

The National Hispanic Recognition Program, established in 1983, is a College Board program that provides national recognition of the exceptional academic achievements of Hispanic high school seniors and identifies them for postsecondary institutions. From more than 150,000 students nationwide, approximately 4,500 of the highest scoring students were initially identified. Based on further evidence of their academic achievements, a select group of 4,800 students have been recognized by the program as Scholar or Honorable Mention Finalist.

Keller students named as AP Scholars: The following students were recently named AP Scholars. This award is granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams: Jacqueline Adams, Julia Bacak, Katlin Brosious, Alex Beutow, Sarah Campbel, Duc Cao, Audrey Carlson, Caitlin Casey, Nicholas Cates, Dawn Crawford, Danielle Davis, Natalie Engle, Chapel Folger, Caroline Gosch, Elizabeth Gosch, Graham Grunow, Tanner Harp, Kendric Hornsby, Mark Hudson, Sara Kaufman, Jennifer Lewis, Jeffrey Marthers, Brent McCabe, Christian Miles, Brooke Miller, Katerine Napier, Thomas Orser, Kelsey Padgett, Jameson Parker, Erica Pelletier, Aron Phillips, Steven Pierce, Cara Plumlee, Carl Reyes, Pilar Roper-Foo, Samantha Savoy, Andrew Schlecte, Glenn Schisler, Jennifer Swegler, Adam Tate, Lesley Wachsmann, Michael Wells, Katherine Williams, Morgan Williard and Shauna Zajac.

The following students were awarded Scholar with Honor. This is granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: Kavita Amin, Daniel Anderson, Sara Baldwin, Thomas Calder, Howard Eliason, Jaqualine Elifrits, Tamara Fink, Kara Frantzich, Tara Kay, Stephen Kunkel, Katherine Laird, Alex Lopez, Andres Pacheco-Fores, James Pearce, Laura Ratliff, Spencer Scherer, Diane Schwebs, Brandon Simmons, Sophie Turcotte, Sarah Welch and Thomas Woodward.

Nineteen students were named Scholar with Distinction, an award granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students were: Sharon Adams, Darya Anichkova, Linh-An Cao, Rachel Crowder, Alexander Dang-Tran, Jacob Davis, Tyler Gibson, Gregory Golden, Clinton Hansen, Shannon Hill, Van Hoang, Arielle King, Matthew Millington, Karan Patel, Craig Pedersen, Xiaochu Song, Ashley Veeder, Eric Weeks and Kaela Winn.

The final three scholars were awarded the high honor of National Scholar. This award is granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on 8 or more of these exams. Gregory Golden, Van Hoang and Xiaochu Song each received this honor.

Bands fare well at contest: Recently, the FRHS band performed at the Duncanville Invitational Marching Contest, a contest that always attracts some of the top bands in the state. The Panther Regiment finished 7th overall out of the competing bands. In its second year as a Varsity Band, the Central Chargers advanced to the Area 'B' Finals competition, placing sixth overall out of 25 bands in the competition. The Charger Band's cumulative score tied them for fifth place. Since the area is only allowed to send five bands to state competition, the decision was made by judge's preference. Two of the five judges ranked Central higher, but the band that tied the Chargers received higher rankings from three judges.

Keller High bands take awards: The Keller High Band recently took part in three marching contests, scoring well in all. On Oct. 1 the band received second place in preliminary rounds and third place in the finals of the HEB Marching Contest. At Bands of America at UT Arlington the KHS Band received second place in its division. And at the UIL Marching Contest on Oct. 25 the band received 1st Division.

KHS sophomore qualifies for Jazz Contest: On Sept. 24 at the Texas Music Educators Jazz Region Contest, Keller High School sophomore Kale Scherler was named 1st chair trombone. This qualifies Kale for area contest where he will compete for a spot in the TMEA All-State Band.

Three student photographers honored: At the Texas Association of Journalism Educators state convention in San Antonio in October, three KISD students were awarded for excellence in photography. Josh Stewart won honorable mention in carry-in newspaper photography; Chelsea Driskill and Addison Wilder won excellence awards in Taste of San Antonio on-site photography competition. This was the first time that Central High students entered the on-site photography contest which gives students three hours and list of categories to shoot. Overall there were 98 digital entries with two CHS winners.

Bear Creek Intermediate PTA earns award: The Bear Creek Intermediate PTA earned the 100% Membership Award from Texas PTA for having 1,104 members join. Enrollment as of Sept. 10 was 1,102. Parents, students, teachers and the community rallied around this year's baseball membership theme "Batter Up...Be a Part of the BCI Team." This is the first time in BCI history that PTA membership has reached over 1,000.

Central High art students receive recognition: Two Central High School art students were recently honored at the First Annual TCU AP art show. More than 25 schools were invited to participate. Lauren Hensarling's piece was chosen to be the advertisement piece for the exhibit and was published in the Star Telegram. Marc Seller won an Honorable Mention. They were honored at a reception in the Moudy Art Building at TCU on Nov. 7. The work will be displayed in the TCU gallery until Nov. 22.

KISD choir students compete in Texas All-State: On Saturday, Oct. 15, 27 KISD choir students competed in the second round of the Texas All-State Choir Competition. A total of 36 singers qualified for round two for each voice part. These auditions narrowed the list to the top 16 students for each part. These singers will compete in the third round of the Texas All-State Choir contest Friday, Nov. 18.

The Central High School Choir Department was well represented when six singers attended the auditions. Three received an audition in the third round and two have been selected as alternates. These students are Rachel Lowrie – 7th chair (Soprano 1), Bruno Li – 9th chair (Tenor 1), John Crawford – 14th chair (Tenor 1), Morgan Tunnell - Alternate (Alto 1), and Jason Schilder - Alternate (Tenor 1).

Four Fossil Ridge High School students competed in the second round of auditions. Two students, Rachel Jacob- 5th chair (Sop 1) and Daniel Hessler- 13th chair (Bass 1), have qualified to participate in round three.

Seventeen Keller High School Choir members competed in the second round. Seven singers successfully won entry into Region V's All-Region Choir. These students are Chelsea Berner- 4th chair (Soprano 2), Bridget Brant – 4th chair (Alto 1), Regan Hansen – 9th chair (Bass 1), Christina Bohn – 10th chair (Soprano 1), Michelle Davenport – 12th chair (Soprano 1), Katrina Board – 12th chair (Alto 1) and Keylan Osborne – 15th chair (Tenor 1).

UIL Academic Team competes: The 41-member Keller High School UIL Academic Team recently competed in Richardson and took home numerous awards. The results are as follows:

Number Sense: 2nd place TEAM, Bennett Miller – 6th place, Chris Miller – 4th place, Yen-Nan Lin – 2nd place, Top 9th, Duc Cao, Kelsey Lofink, Nate Bleker.

Calculator Applications: 2nd place TEAM, Jonathan Kiefer -3rd place, Yen-Nan Lin – 6th place, Top 9th, Duc Cao, Joe Brooks, Kelsey Lofink.

Math: Chris Miller - Top 9th, Duc Cao, Joe Brooks, Kelsey Lofink, Kevin Golden, Yen-Nan Lin, Bennett Miller, Matt Millington, Jonathan Keifer.

Science: Andrew Thorne, Chris Miller, Duc Cao, Joe Brooks, Kevin Golden, Sarah Ziomek, Yen-Nan Lin.

Computer Science: Joe Brooks – 4th place, Nate Bleker.

Social Studies Students : 1st place TEAM, Daria Anichkova – 5th place, Matt Buesing – 2nd place, Dawn Crawford - 1st place, Sara Boeple.

Current Events: 1st place TEAM, Nadia Ahmed – 5th, Dawn Crawford – 2nd, Daria Anichkova – 1st.

Journalism: 1st place TEAM.

News Writing: Anna Bleker – 6th place, Allen Trang – 4th place, Aron Phillips – 3rd place, Caroline Gosch – 2nd place, Andy Pacheco-Fores – 1st place, Amy Kunkel, Sofia Pacheco-Fores.

Feature Writing: Rafael Fricks – 4th place, Sofia Pacheco-Fores – 2nd place, Anna Bleker – 1st place, Amy Kunkel, Caroline Gosch, Jack Gallegoes, Josh Gafford.

Editorial Writing: Caroline Gosch – 1st place, Amy Kunkel, Anna Bleker, Daria Anichkova, Josh Gafford, Nadia Ahmed, Rafael Fricks, Sofia Pacheco-Fores.

Headline Writing: Jack Gallegoes – 6th place, Anna Bleker – 4th place, Josh Gafford – 2nd place, Nadia Ahmed, Nate Bleker, Rafael Fricks, Sharon Adams, Aron Phillips, Caroline Gosch, Allen Trang, Amy Kunkel, Andy Pacheco-Fores.

Speaking Events: C-X Debate: James Harman and Lynnsey Nichols, Pre-lims.

L-D Debate: Adam Burns – 5th Overall, Max Cohen and Sara Boepple – Prelims.

Public Forum Debate: Christopher Phillippi and Jennifer Phillippi – 5th place, Sam Blakeman and Danielle Rollins – Prelims.

Prose: Amy Kunkel – Prelims,

Poetry: Craig Terry – 4th Overall, Lionel Batoba – Prelims.

Informative: Dane Lucero – Finals 7th, Max Cohen – Prelims, Sara Boepple – Prelims.

Persuasive: Craig Terry – 1st Overall, Danielle Rollins – Prelims, James Harman- Prelims, Lynnsey Nichols- Prelims, Sam Blakeman – Prelims.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jason Meyer
Director of Communications