

**Cedar Hill Independent School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Meeting Date: December 10, 2012

Presented by: Mr. Horace Williams, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Star Student/Teacher of the Year/Pledge Leaders

Information Item

BOARD GOAL:

Expect, promote and support a safe and orderly environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Star Student: Gabriella Soto, Bray Elementary School
Autumn Brown, Lake Ridge Elementary School

Teacher-of-the-Year: Myron Courtney, Lake Ridge Elementary School

Pledge Leaders: JaQualin Andrews, Bray Elementary School
Samantha Quintero, Bray Elementary School
Mario Herrera, Lake Ridge Elementary School
Reya Machen, Lake Ridge Elementary School

RECOMMENDATION:

None

BOARD ACTION REQUIRED:

None

POLICY AUTHORIZATION:

EHBK(LEGAL); AE(LOCAL)

CONTACT PERSON (S):

Dr. Homer Carter, Chief Academic Officer
Dr. Chanda McGhee, Director of Student Support and Community Services

FUNDING SOURCE:

N/A

ENCLOSURES:

See attachments.

Star Student, Bray Elementary
Gabriella Soto

Gabriella Soto is in the fourth grade and has attended Bray Elementary for five years.

Gabriella is ten years old and is the oldest of six children – two sisters and three brothers.

In her spare time she helps her mother with her siblings and enjoys being with her family.

Gabriella loves to sing and is currently a member of the Bray Elementary Vocal Motion

choir. She was also involved in Character Chorus for the past three years. Gabriella

participates in the Robotics Club and played the middle position on the Pumas soccer

team. Her math teacher states, “Gabby is a hard worker who always makes sure she is

doing the right thing. She is a dedicated student who strives for perfection.” Gabriella

says she likes school because it’s fun and she gets to learn new things every day.

Star Student, Lake Ridge Elementary
Autumn Brown

Autumn Brown is a 4th grader at Lake Ridge Elementary, which she has attended for three years. Autumn enjoys watching scary movies with her family. In her spare time she likes to read and shop. Autumn is currently a member of the Lake Ridge Cheerleading Squad and a praise dancer at her church. She plans to start gymnastics soon. Autumn is a wonderful student at school. She enjoys art, P.E., recess, and math (which she says is easy for her).

Autumn's friends describe her as quiet and shy, but sweet. She is a great friend because she is always there to cheer them up when they are having a bad day. Autumn's 4th grade teacher Mrs. Glass-Troutman says "Autumn Brown is a mathematical genius, and she sees math everywhere she goes. She is a prepared and organized learner".

Teacher-of-the-Year, Lake Ridge Elementary
Myron Courtney

Myron Courtney (Also known as “Coach”) has taught in Cedar Hill ISD for three years. During his sixteen year career in the shipping business, he attended North Lake Community college to earn his Associate of Science degree. Once that goal was accomplished, he began attending the University of Texas @ Arlington. At UTA he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology degree with a minor in Health Education. During his tenure at UTA he earned his teaching certificate through the College of Education. During his second year of teaching, he received his second certification in Health Education (EC-12). Currently, he is studying to earn a certification in personal training. One of his professional goals is to earn his Master of Science degree in health promotion.

Changing careers was one of the best decisions he has ever made. Throughout his education and professional experiences he has been supported by his wife, Kellye, and two children Marley (4 yrs young) and Qwest (14 years young).

Coach Courtney believes teachers should have a passion for their profession. If there is no enthusiasm in the teaching, then there will be limited interest in learning. Educators have to create a learning environment that is open, engaging, safe, comfortable, and non-threatening. Students should be able to express their thoughts and views without feeling insignificant. Teachers should encourage students to express existing knowledge and experiences in the classroom to create a more diverse learning environment.

He wants his students to be able to trust in him knowing that he will never compromise their safety or their feelings. By his actions, his students will know that he is going to be fair regardless of race, skin color, nationality, gender, or physical capabilities. When his students enter his class they expect to receive an education that connects to real life and provides life learning lessons. The lessons we teach should not be limited to academics, but it should also prepare students for living as a productive citizen in society. When a student can't relate to school and the lessons that are being taught then he/she will not have an interest in attending school.

Since he has begun teaching, people say he has a friendly attitude that makes him very approachable. He has been told by many that he is really detail oriented and he goes above and beyond when given projects. He strives to continue being a team player with an open-mind, willing to work hard and grow as an educator.