

KISD Holiday Card Contest Winner & Finalists

Duy Nguyen, a 4th grade student at Bluebonnet Elementary School is this year's Holiday Card Contest Winner. His 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.

Hannah Pankau, a 4th grade student at Keller-Harvel Elementary School, along with Noah Parker, a 4th grade student at Woodland Springs Elementary School, were selected as this year's talented Runner-Up Artists. Their artwork is featured on the back of the district's holiday card.

EPA Indoor Air Quality *Tools for Schools* National Excellence Award – Keller ISD

Keller ISD was recently awarded the Indoor Air Quality *Tools for Schools* (IAQ *TfS*) National Excellence Award by the Environmental Protection Agency. This award is one of EPA's highest IAQ honors that is presented to U.S. school districts with exemplary IAQ programs and that have shown exceptional commitment to good IAQ management in schools. Recipients of the Excellence Awards are selected through a highly competitive process. These awards will be presented to the selected school districts at EPA's 10th Annual IAQ *TfS* National Symposium, which will be held in Washington, D.C. on January 14-16, 2010. The IAQ *TfS* National Excellence Award is a prestigious symbol of school environmental excellence. Congratulations to Frank Di Nella, Director of Operations; John Gann, Director of Maintenance; LePaula Smith, Indoor Air Quality Specialist; and Cindy Harton, Director Health Services.

KISD Security Department – Ranked 18th in *Security Magazine's* Annual K-12 Security 500 Benchmarking Survey

Keller ISD was named among the 500 most secure organizations by *Security Magazine*. The November issue of the monthly national security publication ranked the district as the 18th most secure organization in the Education: K-12 category. The only other Texas school districts that made the list were Dallas ISD, Houston ISD and San Antonio ISD. Additional categories among the 500 were Universities and Colleges, Transportation, Construction, Utility, Government, Retail and Agriculture. Keller ISD is committed to maintaining a secure and nurturing environment for all of its students and employees. Key matrices included in selecting the 500 were: Security spending/Student; Security spending/Employee; Security spending/Revenue; Security Officers/Square Feet of Facilities; and Security Officers/Employee. Sectors were measured and evaluated on metrics among peer organizations. Congratulations to Jeff Baker, Director of Planning and Development; Cliff Jaynes, Emergency Management & Safety Coordinator; Danny Mitchell, Facilities Services Specialist; and Donna Walsh, Department Secretary.

TASBO Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations - KISD Purchasing Department

The Keller ISD Purchasing Department has earned the Award of Merit for Purchasing Operations from the Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). In addition, the department was granted Recognized Status as it earned points in additional areas such as Staff Training and Certification, Use of Technology, and Communications Tools. With the Recognized Status, KISD is considered among the most innovative in Texas. TASBO created the Award of Merit program as part of the process to define best practices for purchasing in Texas school districts. The award's emphasis is based on the Best Practices in Purchasing as identified by the Legislative Budget Board during the Texas School Performance Review process, and on the purchasing Module in the Management Section of the Financial Accountability System Resource Guide, both published by the Texas Education Agency. Congratulations to Lori Tudor, Director of Purchasing; Cindy Willis, Senior Buyer; Michelle Hill, Buyer; Sarah Rapp, Purchasing Specialist; Teresa Hilario, Purchasing Specialist; Vicky Johnson, Fixed Assets and Records Coordinator; and Jeannie Fancher, Department Secretary.

November Heart at Work Winner

Carolyn Helm, a 2nd grade teacher at Woodland Springs Elementary School has been selected as the Heart at Work winner for November. Carolyn was nominated by Jenny Hodges, Woodland Springs Elementary Speech teacher, for sharing her expertise and collaborating with Jenny to develop an exciting language-literacy program.

November Community of Character Student of the Month

Te'kemian Johnson, a 7th grader at Hillwood Middle School, has been named the Keller ISD Community of Character Student of the Month for November. The character trait for November was Gratitude.