

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

Meeting Date: September 13, 2010  
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 learning environment.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Star Student:                   Emmanuel Rodriquez, Bray Elementary  
  Benjamin Riggs, Lake Ridge Elementary

Teacher-of-the-Year:        Deidrea Schnabel, Bray Elementary  
  Suzanne Glass-Troutman, Lake Ridge Elementary

Pledge Leaders:             Jennifer Sanchez and Akeem Hegggar, Bray Elementary  
  Rachel Smith and Boston Crawford, Lake Ridge Elementary

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

N/A

**ENCLOSURE:**

See attachments.

## **Star Student, Bray Elementary**

### **Emmanuel Rodriguez, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Emmanuel Rodriguez has attended Bray Elementary for 6 years! He is an amazing big brother and an outstanding little brother among the five boys in his family. He enjoys playing basketball and spends time drawing. He excels in the field of mathematics and would like to turn this talent into a career.

Emmanuel says he LOVES EVERYTHING BRAY! He enjoys spending time with his teacher Mrs. Podany. “She is so much fun and makes me excited to learn new things. She makes sure our class is full of good people and makes sure we stay that way!” he says. “The students at Bray are all really good people who care about each other -that’s what makes us so good.” he adds with a smile.

Emmanuel said, “Mr. Johansen is really proud of me. I’ve tried my best and that’s all he’s asked”. Principal Robert Johansen adds “Emmanuel is a phenomenal student. He is a Bray success story. He has shown what it means to give it his all, accept the challenge, and do the hard work to do his best. Every day, he arrives on campus with a smile, exhibiting politeness and kindness that even his peers willingly comment on. He consistently models outstanding character without prompting or coaxing. He is also developing into a truly gifted cellist”.

Emmanuel’s peers have no problem expressing their regards. “He’s a fun-loving, caring guy,” remarks his buddy Logan. “He’s such a gentleman,” said Jennifer. Noticing his reliability, a new student Dyesha says, “He is someone you can count on.”

Emmanuel’s Mom, Mrs. Serrata bursts with pride when talking about her son, “Emmanuel is an amazing helper at home and is the perfect role model for his younger brothers.” She can’t express how much he cares for and gives to his family, even for a child his age.

Finally, Emmanuel’s teacher, Mrs. Podany, cannot stop bragging on her student. Mrs. Podany loved him so much, that she chose to loop with her third grade students to fourth grade in order to witness and be a part of their last year at Bray. Mrs. Podany knows that Emmanuel is here at Bray for only a little while, yet, he has so much potential and so much to offer. She commented, “He is truly remarkable. Emmanuel is not only a phenomenal student who exceeds all of my expectations in every area, but he has character above all! He is a leader among his peers. At the beginning of the school year, Emmanuel decided to do something special for his classmates. He used grid paper to design each student’s name using models of area (and perimeter). He then spent his weekend coloring each name plate with the student’s favorite color. These plates were then used as locker decals for the class.”

Simply Put: “To know Emmanuel ...is to love him!” Bray is very proud of their STAR student!

## **STAR STUDENT, LAKE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **BENJAMIN RIGGS, 4<sup>TH</sup> Grade**

Benjamin Riggs is a Fourth grader. He has spent all five years of his education at Lake Ridge. He has two brothers, Aaron and Ian. He likes school—Science is his favorite subject. He is a Gifted and Talented student in the Advanced Academics class. He likes to invent and is designing a hovercraft.

Ben plans to graduate from Texas A&M University in College Station; he is considering two careers –graphic design and FBI investigations. He wants to play the guitar and have his own rock band. He is an excellent soccer player.

Perceptive, insightful, kind, tactful, with a gift for discretion and a fine sense of humor, Ben enjoys his friends at school and at church. His teachers see him as a true representative of the six pillars of character. He is trustworthy, respectful, and responsible, has a keen sense of fairplay, is caring, and a good citizen in his school and his community. Ben is very involved with AWANA (a bible study club) at his church—This club takes him into community outreach. Recently he visited the Union Gospel Mission to lead songs and deliver backpacks. At home he takes charge of the recycling effort and washing the dishes.

Roxie is his pet dog. He feeds her and plays with her.

Lake Ridge Elementary is proud to present to the Cedar Hill School Board, Benjamin Riggs, a person of character and merit, truly a Star Student.

## **Teacher-of-the-Year 2010 -2011, Bray Elementary School**

### **Deidrea Schnabel, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher**

Ms. Schnabel is an early childhood educator. She is certified to teach Pre-Kindergarten through fourth grade. She holds additional certification in ESL (English as a Second Language) and is a highly qualified teacher, per No Child Left Behind regulations. After teaching in Silver Spring, Maryland for 8 years, Ms. Schnabel relocated to Texas in 2006. Ms. Schnabel teaches Pre-Kindergarten at Bray Elementary School. While living in Maryland, she earned her baccalaureate in early childhood education and a Masters of Education in Reading.

Ms. Schnabel loves to travel and scuba dive. Her dive buddy is her fiancé, Nathan. Together, they relocated to this region to be closer to his ailing step-father and mother. Although Ms. Schnabel does not have any biological children, she presently has 36 beautiful four year olds in her class and 2 “pound puppy” dogs at home. She finds this most rewarding!

Ms. Schnabel’s philosophy of education is that every child offers unique gifts and talents and it is her job, make that, responsibility, to reach each child and move them beyond where they believe they can go. She believes that children learn best in a “hands-on” and “minds-on” environment and that learning is a life-long process.

So why was Ms. Schnabel honored as Teacher-of-the-Year?

Let me share a few comments from staff, PK families, and students:

According to recent comments on a staff activity, Ms. Schnabel:

- Loves her children, is always smiling, and is an amazing teacher who is full of patience
- Truly is one of the most caring and loving teachers I’ve ever met. The fact that she is also great with the content is just an added bonus.
- Is absolutely amazing, with exceptional character; an amazingly positive, outstanding person
- Was an inspiration to me this year! She always has a positive attitude!
- Has taught others to remain calm, cool & collected with the way she responds to her kids
- Has such a sweet spirit and is very intelligent
- Is So Patient!

When you speak with her student’s families, you will hear comments like:

- I hope she’s here next year for my daughter.
- Thank you! My child loves coming to school because of you.
- We appreciate all that you have done for my child. She/He has learned so much this year!
- She is patient, kind, caring & supportive – a true blessing for my child

And in the words of one student last year:

“You are nice. I like it when you let us go outside. You make me happy when we go to centers and math center like your computer. I like when you say clean up. You sing pretty when we sing Hello Friends. You teach me the ABC’s. You are my favorite teacher because you love everyone anyways. I miss you when you get sick and I don’t miss the other teacher that comes when you are sick. I like when you take us to computer lab. Love, Xavier.”

To us, she is our Pre-Kindergarten Teacher and Bray Elementary’s Teacher-of-the-Year.

## **Teacher-of-the-Year 2010 -2011, Lake Ridge Elementary School**

### **Suzanne Glass-Troutman, Forth Grade Teacher**

This is Mrs. Glass-Troutman's fourth year at Lake Ridge Elementary. She has taught for 18 years at various positions. She has one son Peyton who is in 7th grade, and a daughter Caroline who is a high school Sophomore. Her hobbies include playing golf and reading. Mrs. Glass-Troutman's favorite author is Roald Dahl. A graduate of Florida State University with a BS in Early childhood Education and an MA in Early childhood Education, she also was in the Educational Leadership program at the University of West Florida. She is certified to teach in both Florida and Texas, PK-8<sup>th</sup> grades and holds a certification in teaching Gifted students.

Mrs. Glass-Troutman has 18 years experience as an Educator. She has taught 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in Florida, Georgia and Texas. She is thrilled to be teaching 4th Grade for the first time. She has extensive training in 6th Trait Writing, Vocabulary Based Instruction, and Child Centered Instruction.

Selected by her colleagues as Teacher of the year, Mrs. Glass-Troutman is lovingly called Mrs. GT, the initials of her surname, but also her calling. Creative, energetic, and positive, Mrs. GT says she is very excited to begin this new school year. She will be teaching the Academically Advanced class. When asked about her goals for this year, she said, "It's going to be a wonderful year for the students as they learn to be productive and positive citizens. Our students will expand their writing capabilities and will learn to be lifelong problem solvers." The Lake Ridge Elementary Faculty and Staff are proud to present to you our selection for Teacher of the year: Mrs. Suzanne Glass-Troutman.