



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

4A. Achievements

September 25, 2006

SUBJECT: STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

BOARD GOAL: All students will achieve educational excellence.

FISCAL NOTE: None

Central High student wins national Junior Olympic Title: Danzell Fortson, Central High School Class of 2007, recently won first place in the 400-M at the USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships. Danzell competed in both the 200-M and 400-M at the 40th USATF National Junior Olympics at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. More than 6,000 athletes competed at the championships where entry is based on athlete performances at preliminary, association and regional levels of the 2006 USATF Junior Olympic Program. Competition takes place in five two-year age divisions, with athletes generally falling between the ages of 8 and 18.

KHS student finds success in drum corps competitions: During the month of August, Keller High School band member Ben Ash won a World Title with the Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps. Ben spent his summer with the drum corps traveling the country competing at venues such as the Alamodome in San Antonio, RCA Dome in Indianapolis, Invensco Field in Denver, and the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The Cavaliers, based in Chicago, placed first at the DCI quarter finals, semifinals and finals.

CHS yearbook staff members win top honors: Central yearbook staff members Chelsee Driskill and Deanna Crews won top honors at the Gloria Shields All American Publications Workshop in Irving, July 9-13. Chelsee, photo editor for "The Bolt" yearbook, won one of two Outstanding Edit and Layout Awards. Deanna, people editor, won one of three People's Choice Awards for most popular layout and design created by a section editor. Both girls are returning yearbook staff members and juniors at CHS.

Indian Springs band earns national recognition: The directors and students of ISMS submitted a CD recording last spring of their Wind Ensemble to the Mark of Excellence music contest. Through a three-round adjudication process, the 2005-06 Indian Springs Wind Ensemble from Keller ISD was selected as one of two national finalists in the middle school band category. The band is under the direction of David Puckett, Delaina McBride, Jennifer Alcocer and percussion instructor Frank Chapple.

The Mark of Excellence recorded music contest offers bands, choirs, and orchestras the unprecedented opportunity to earn national recognition for their musical achievement. Top ensembles will be recognized in national music publications and at national and regional conventions. In addition, every ensemble that receives a superior rating will be eligible to have one or more of their selections included in the Mark of Excellence recording series to be published soon.

The ISMS band also was a region finalist in the Texas Music Educators Association honor band contest and advanced to the Area competition along with the Keller Middle School band program. These two schools feed Keller High School and the head band director is Mark McGahey.

Park Glen teacher featured in national Target ad: Tracey Hill, a first grade teacher at Park Glen Elementary is featured in a national Target advertisement. After receiving a donation from Target, Park Glen used the money to send teachers to nine days of "Write from the Beginning" training. The teachers embraced the philosophy, brought back the notebooks, created integrated mini-lessons for grades K- 3 and the students began to write. Target was so impressed with the results that they chose to highlight Tracey Hill and her first grade class (now third graders) in their national ads.

Student journalists featured in new Metroplex magazine: Six Central High School student journalists have their work appearing in The Athlete Magazine, a Metroplex magazine featuring sports news by student writers and photographers. The first issue, which appeared in August, included a full page article on Central's soccer success by Ehsan Azad, senior. Photos by Haley Laye, senior, and Aaron Yancy, 2006 graduate, accompanied the article. The September issue will include a cross country article by Dyan Reece and cross country photos by Corinna Clark and Madeleine Gray, all sophomores.

Central High band student wins place in Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra: Cory Barnes, a senior at Central High School, recently auditioned for, and won a spot in the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra is a full orchestra of 110 members made up of young musicians ages 6 -18 from the North Texas area. The GDYO performs four concerts and will perform six concerts in China in June 2007.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jason Meyer
Director of Communications