

**Denton Independent School District  
Board of Trustees  
Certificates of Recognition  
December 9, 2008**

**DENTON HIGH**

**Denton High dance instructor earns top nomination**

Kerri Burgess, Denton High dance instructor, has been nominated for Educator of the Year by Texas Dance Educator's Association. She will be recognized for her nomination at the TDEA state convention on Jan. 10 in Houston.

Mrs. Burgess was one of six finalists for the award and was nominated by Rachel Simpson, former student and the current dance/drill team instructor at Guyer High

Mrs. Burgess also will be recognized for a Lifetime Achievement Award by TDEA at the convention.

**DENTON ISD**

**27 schools receive Gold Awards**

Twenty-seven schools in the Denton Independent School District received special recognition from Texas Education Agency for their significant gains on different portions of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills and other accountability areas.

These 27 schools – 10 secondary schools and 17 elementary – received at least one Gold Performance Acknowledgment (GPA), which recognizes campuses for their high performance levels.

The local district jumped from 37 for the 2006-07 school year to 66 GPA awards for the 2007-08 school year. This means the district improved considerably at the higher level of academic performance targets, school officials said.

The following schools received at least one Gold Performance Acknowledgement:

**Denton High** – Comparable Improvement: Reading and Math - *Darrell Muncy, principal; Gwen Perkins, associate principal; Renee Koontz, Howard Palmer, Aaron Frederick, Donna Lawyer and Bill Miegel, assistant principals. Buddy Dunworth was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**Guyer High** – Comparable Improvement: Math – *Barbara Fischer, principal; Gene Terronez, associate principal; Regena Little, Fred Younkman, Mark Jaskulske, Beth Kelley and Andrea Moreno, assistant principals.*

**Fred Moore High** – Advanced Course/Dual Enrollment Completion – *Vernon Wright, principal.*

**Ryan High** – Attendance Rate; Comparable Improvement in Math - *Vernon Reeves, principal; Kristi Strickland, associate principal; Angela Ricks, Marcus Bourland, Francisca Ryan and Carl Long, assistant principals. Fernando Natividad was assistant principal for 2007-08.*

**Sparks** - Attendance Rate – *Paige Boroughs, principal.*

**Crownover Middle**- Attendance Rate; Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts; Commended Performance: Social Studies - *Dianne*

*Blair, principal; Pam Shaw and Monica Graves, assistant principals. Tonya Gelsthorpe was assistant principal for 2007-08.*

**Calhoun Middle** - Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts – *Anthony Sims, principal; Joy Dill, Martin Brumit and Michael Parker, assistant principals. Shawn Simmons was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**McMath Middle** – Attendance Rate, Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts and Writing - *Dr. Debra Nobles, principal; Buddy Dunworth and Karla Rainey, assistant principals. Kristin Hicks and Terry Ashby were assistant principals for 2007-08 school year.*

**Navo Middle** – Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Art and Social Studies; Comparable Improvement: Math - *Shaun Perry, principal; Marty Stewart and Paul Martinez, assistant principals.*

**Strickland** - Commended Performance: Reading/English Language Arts and Social Studies; Comparable Improvement: Reading – *Kathleen Carmona, principal; Corey Hailey and Michael Torres, assistant principals. Missey Chavez and Jeff Smith were assistant principals for 2007-08 school year.*

**Borman** – Commended Performance: Math; Comparable Improvement: Math – *Ruben Molinar, principal, and Becky Lloyd, assistant principal.*

**EP Rayzor Elementary** – Commended Performance: Reading, Math, Writing and Science - *Happy Carrico, principal, and Cecilia Holt, assistant principal. Eric Harting was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**Ginnings Elementary** – Commended Performance: Math and Science; Comparable Improvement: Math – *Missey Chavez, principal, and Darby Ahlfinger, assistant principal. Debi Lokey was principal and Michael Brinkley was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**Hawk Elementary** – Commended Performance: Reading, Math, Writing and Science; Comparable Improvement: Math - *Susannah O’Bara, principal, and Sandra Brown, assistant principal.*

**Hodge Elementary** – Comparable Improvement: Math – *Sam Kelley, principal and Kelly Francis, assistant principal.*

**Houston Elementary** – Commended Performance: Math, Writing and Science - *Teresa Andress, principal, and Gennifer Smith, assistant principal.*

**Lee Elementary** – Commended Performance: Science – *Laura Rodriguez, principal; Talle Gomez, assistant principal. Cecilia Holt was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**McNair Elementary** – Commended Performance: Reading, Writing and Science - *Sean Flynn, principal, and Rachel Brown, assistant principal.*

**Nelson Elementary** – Commended Performance: Science - *Kaylene Tierce, principal and Todd Herauf, assistant principal.*

**Newton Rayzor Elementary** – Commended Performance: Writing and Science; Comparable Improvement: Reading – *Carlos Ramirez, principal and Laura Ortez, assistant principal. Carmen Lipscomb was principal for the 2007-08 school year.*

**Paloma Creek Elementary**– Commended Performance: Writing and Science – *Romeo Munguia, principal, and Chris Smith, assistant principal*

**Pecan Creek Elementary** – Commended Performance: Writing and Science - *Aleta Atkinson, principal, and Emily McLarty, assistant principal.*

**Providence Elementary** – Commended Performance: Math, Writing and Science - *Susan Bolte, principal, and Tricia Bolz, assistant principal. Trey Spalding was assistant principal for 2007-08 school year.*

**Rivera Elementary** – Comparable Improvement: Reading – *Robert Gonzalez, principal, and Roshaunda Thomas, assistant principal*

**Ryan Elementary** – Commended Performance: Math, Writing and Science - *Gary Miller, principal, and Zan Austin, assistant principal. Dalton Gregory was principal for the 2007-08 school year.*

**Savannah Elementary** – Commended Performance: Reading, Math, Writing and Science - *Michael McWilliams, principal, and Chris Rangel, assistant principal. Rod Southard was principal for the 2007-08 school year.*

**Wilson Elementary** – Commended Performance: Reading, Math, Writing and Science; Comparable Improvement: Reading - *Audrey Staniszewski, principal, and Lorena Salas, assistant principal.*

## **DENTON HIGH**

### **Student selected for honor choir**

Hannah Lane, junior at Denton High, was recently selected for the National Senior Division High School Honor Choir, sponsored by the American Choral Directors' Association.

She will attend the ACDA National Convention in March in Oklahoma City to perform with singers from across the country.

Mark Baker is the Denton High Choir Director.

## **RYAN HIGH**

### **Student invited to attend Presidential Inauguration**

Harrison Lindley, Ryan High senior, has been invited by the Presidential Classroom program to attend the Presidential Inauguration and the Presidential Classroom Inaugural Ball from Jan. 17 through Jan. 21, in Washington, D.C.

Harrison will join Presidential Classroom alumni from around the country and throughout the world for an insider's view of the transition from the George W. Bush administration to Barack Obama's leadership.

In addition to attending the Swearing-In Ceremony and the Inaugural Parade, Harrison will participate in a reception hosted by Ambassador Bruce Laingen and a dinner and recognition ceremony in Ben Franklin Hall.

Harrison was nominated by a teacher at Ryan High. He will graduate in June 2009, and plans to attend Hendrix College in Conway, Ark.

## **DENTON ISD**

### **Two educators recognized by TAEA**

Dalton Gregory, retired Denton ISD principal, and Denise Clyne-Ruch, Nelson Elementary art teacher, recently were recognized at the Texas Art Education Association's annual conference in San Antonio.

Dalton Gregory, who retired as principal of Ryan Elementary in June, received the TAEA Principal of the Year award, and Denise Clyne-Ruch received the 2008 Outstanding Elementary School Division Art Educator.

Mr. Gregory retired after 34 years in education and 26 years with Denton ISD. While at Ryan, he led the school to “Recognized” status and in 2006, the fourth-grade students had a 100 percent passing rate on the writing portion of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. During his 15 years at Lee Elementary, Gregory facilitated an alternative calendar for students. Lee was the district’s only school with a “year-round” schedule, which they had until 2001.

Ms. Clyne-Ruch is in her 18<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. She received her master’s of art education and museum studies from the University of North Texas. She is a TAEA Area III representative and is involved with workshops and continuing education for art educators. Ms. Cline-Ruch teaches art to 600 students at Nelson every week.

The Texas Art Education Association recognizes outstanding members of the association, friends of art education, and campus principals at the organization’s annual awards program.

The purpose of TAEA is to raise the standards of art education and the teaching of art throughout the state, to promote art as an integral part of the curriculum, and to represent the art educators of Texas at different levels.

## **DENTON ISD**

### **District honored for music education**

For the third time, the Denton Independent School District has been named as a “Best Community for Music Education in America.” The school district also attained this honor in 2007 and in 2004.

It was one of only 10 in Texas to make the list. This is a great honor for Denton ISD because it is based on providing music as an integral part of every student’s education. The local district was selected for its commitment to school-based music programs.

The National Association of Music Merchants Foundation and its American Music Conference division, which both work to promote the benefits of active participation in music and music education, sponsored the survey.

According to the results of the survey, recipients of this distinction cite increased enrollment in and funding for school music programs.

Thousands of teachers, administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders participated in the Web-based survey. The 2008 roster includes school districts from 29 states that are committed to quality music education programs and providing access to music education. The districts were measured across a variety of program support, curricular and programmatic criteria.

David McCullar is the director of fine arts for Denton ISD.