

TEA Recognized and GPA Announcement - Dr. James Veitenheimer, KISD Superintendent

On October 28, the Texas Education Agency approved Keller ISD's appeal request changing the district's rating from Academically Acceptable to *Recognized* for the 2008-09 school year.

Keller ISD's GPAs were released on November 4. KISD and its campuses met last year's exceptional mark by collecting 121 Gold Performance Acknowledgements from the Texas Education Agency. The GPA system acknowledges districts and campuses for high performance on indicators other than those used to determine accountability ratings. As a district, Keller ISD earned four GPAs for Commended Performance in Reading, Commended Performance in Writing, Commended Performance in Social Studies and Higher Education Readiness in ELA. Of Keller ISD's 34 assessed campuses, 32 received one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgements for a total of 117. In addition, Keller ISD learned prior to the school year that 32 of its campuses were rated either Exemplary or Recognized, the most in the district's history.

Indoor Air Quality Manager Certification

LePaula Smith, Keller ISD's Indoor Air Quality Specialist, recently passed the Indoor Air Quality Association's (IAQA) exam to become a Certified Indoor Air Quality Manager (CIAQM). This exam is a specialty certification that tests for an individual's basic knowledge of how to properly sample, analyze, and remediate indoor air quality problems. LePaula's certification further illustrates KISD's strong commitment to improving children's health by implementing good indoor air quality practices, ultimately resulting in enhanced health and performance by faculty, staff and students.

October Heart at Work Winner

Rita Kennedy, an English teacher at Trinity Springs Middle School has been selected as the Heart At Work winner for October. She was nominated by Laura Slay, also an English teacher at Trinity Springs Middle, for creating a very impressive PowerPoint presentation for their professional development team. Rita's group was responsible for presenting a chapter on teaching strategies that focus on identifying similarities and differences from Marzano's *Classroom Instruction that Works* for a half-day in-service. She organized the presentation so that everyone felt prepared and comfortable talking in front of the staff. Rita's work helped the team highlight the most important points of the chapter, while making the presentation look cohesive and professional. Laura also noted that Rita is a great leader and team manager, saying, *"This is just one of Rita's many efforts, as leader of our team, that have contributed to keeping our team focused, organized and working toward continual improvement at TSMS."*

Good Samaritan Awards - Trinity Springs Middle School Students and SRO

Trinity Springs Middle School 7th grade students Dustin Murri, Victor Yoon and Dominic Gomez are being recognized as KISD Good Samaritans for their immediate action and kind hearts on the morning of September 17. While waiting for their school bus to arrive, these three boys witnessed Chai Seyavong's 72-year-old mother slip and fall in her driveway. She hit her head on the sidewalk and briefly lost consciousness. Without any hesitation, the boys rushed to the scene, gently picked her up, and helped carry her back into the residence safely.

In addition, Trinity Springs Middle School SRO, Officer Drew Salvage, took the time to call the family and check on the mother after the boys expressed much concern when they arrived at school that morning.

Chai Seyavong and her family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Dustin, Victor, Dominic and Officer Salvage for their compassion. *"What outstanding young boys they are,"* Chai Seyavong said, *"They saved our mother's life."*

October Community of Character Student of the Month

Jessica Samples, a 10th grader at Timber Creek High School, has been named the Keller ISD Community of Character Student of the Month for October. The character trait for October was Courage.