

Cedar Hill Independent School District
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Date: December 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: Henry Kaiser, High Pointe Elementary
Aldri Galanga, West Intermediate

Teacher-of-the-Year: Whitnae Churman, High Pointe Elementary
Monica Jones, West Intermediate

Pledge Leaders: Kandee Garza, and Maxwell Porterfield, High Pointe Elementary
Desiree Hernandez and King Ekejija, West Intermediate

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 - High Pointe Elementary
Henry Kaiser, 4th Grade

Henry “Hank” Kaiser is the Star Student for High Pointe Elementary. This year is Hank’s first year at High Pointe. He is in Ms. Jackson’s fourth grade class. He is the son of Linda Anderson Kaiser and Dale D. Kaiser. His grandparents are Rose and Richard Anderson of Granbury, Texas; Wanda J. Kaiser of Cedar Hill; and Shirley and Edward H. Kaiser of Lakeland, Florida.

Hank likes to play basketball, go fishing and draw. This year, Hank played basketball with Upward at the First Baptist Church of Cedar Hill. He is currently a member of the High Pointe Elementary School Choir and the Character Counts Club. He likes science, math, and computer classes at school.

His teachers have described him as a very conscientious student who is always trying to do his best.

Star Student - West Intermediate
Aldri Galanga, 6TH Grade

Aldri Galanga is in the 6th grade at West Intermediate and is in Ms. Russell’s and Ms. Hicks Advanced Academics class. She lives with her mother, father, older sister, and their two small dogs. Aldri is a Girl Scout and also plays the piano, flute, violin, and sings in an auditioned choir. Her favorite things to do are hang out with friends and help the community. Aldri enjoys school because she gets to learn new things in a fun way, learn exciting music in band class, and see her friends. Aldri dreams of attending Stanford University and hopes that one day she will be a successful Doctor.

Many people describe Aldri as a person who demonstrates good character, and is nice, fun-loving, and smart.

Teacher-of-the-Year 2010 -2011 - High Pointe Elementary
Whitnae Churman, 4th Grade Teacher

Whitnae Churman grew up in Arlington, Texas with her parents and younger sister, Morgan. She graduated from Mansfield High School in 2000 and decided to study Art and Biblical Studies at Dallas Baptist University. While at DBU, Whitnae developed a love for world cultures and philosophy which would eventually construct a foundation for her desire to teach. These interests sent her to Brazil, Japan, and China. In Beijing, she had her first classroom of students - Chinese English teachers from all over China who were eager to learn Western teaching techniques to reach their students studying the English language.

After graduating college in 2004, Whitnae had the opportunity to teach English and music at Ivy Bilingual High School in Taichung, Taiwan for half a year. When she returned to the United States, she decided to pursue a career in teaching and received her Teaching Certificate. She started teaching 4th grade at High Pointe Elementary and is now in her 5th year of teaching in Cedar Hill.

Whitnae's hobbies include photography, piano, visiting her parents in Missouri, and watching any documentary she can get her hands on. She is involved at Grace Covenant Church of Arlington where she and her husband are active leaders of the church's youth group.

A single phrase that wraps up Whitnae's educational philosophy is "Learn through discovery." Whitnae strives to push her students to "realize" and "discover" that they can make their lives effective, successful, and meaningful.

Teacher-of-the-Year 2010 -2011 - West Intermediate
Monica Jones, Teacher

Monica Jones is currently in her sixteenth year of service to children as an educator. During her tenure as a teacher, she has taught all grade levels K-12 in some capacity. Monica has served as English Language Arts Department Head, Fifth Grade Team Leader, Campus Advisory Team Chairperson, and New Teacher Mentor during her tenure in CHISD.

Monica Jones is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She is a proud graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where she received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She will receive her Master's Degree in Adult Education in January of 2011, from the University of Phoenix. Monica is the wife of a courageous Army veteran, the mother of five talented daughters and the proud grandmother of an energetic grandson. Monica enjoys reading and family activities.

Monica believes that an education is the most precious gift that we can offer our children. She also believes that all children should have the opportunity to rise to their full potential. Her colleagues state that Monica is passionate about teaching, and that she wants her students to be passionate about learning.