

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Richardson Independent School District**  
**Richardson, Texas**

**Date:** February 13, 2006

**Briefing**

**Date(s):**

N/A

**Department:** Communications

**Study Session**

N/A

**Submitted by:** Jeanne Guerra

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

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**TOPIC:** Commendations – Recognition of Board Members, the Community, Staff, Schools and Students

**Special Presentation - Sci-Tech Discovery Center**

Laura Curran, Chairman of the Board of the non-profit organization Sci-Tech Discovery Center, will present certificates of appreciation to RISD science teachers **George Hademenos, Anne Mechler and Ricardo Romanillos**. In addition, Ms. Curran will present a certificate of appreciation to RISD Director of Science **Bill Neal**.

**Community**

PBK, Inc., an architectural firm, won *five awards for architectural excellence* for work on RISD facilities at the *2005 Texas Association of School Boards/Texas Association of School Administrators convention*.

The Pearce High School project earned an award in the category of *Process of Planning*, while the Richardson High School project earned four awards, one each in the categories of *Value, Educational Appropriateness, Process of Planning and Design*.

Accepting on behalf of PBK, Inc. are **Wayne Reynaud**, AIA Associate, **Bob Graham**, AIA Principal, and **David Mogray**, Design Department.

RISD Bond Project Manager **Darrel Sublett** worked closely on both projects for the district.

## Schools

Four RISD schools were named to the *2005 Texas Business and Education Coalition (TBEC) Just For The Kids Honor Roll*. These campuses earned inclusion on the most recent honor roll in recognition of their consistently strong academic performance.

**Lake Highlands Freshman Center, Jayne Farmer**, principal  
**Brentfield Elementary, Steve Lemons**, principal  
**Canyon Creek Elementary, Nikki Hamilton**, principal  
**White Rock Elementary, Becky Reidling**, principal

## Staff

**Westwood Junior High** Executive Assistant **Linda Sockwell** was recently elected *President-elect of the National Association of Educational Office Professionals*. She will be installed as national president in July of 2007 in Seattle.

Linda has previously served as president of both the Richardson Educational Support Staff Association and the Texas Educational Support Staff Association.

**Richardson High School** physics teacher **George Hademenos** has been published for a second time by *The Science Teacher*, the high school professional journal of the *National Science Teachers Association*. The title of his latest article is "Aspirin, History and Applications."

George has also been published in other professional periodicals including *American Scientist* and *Science Magazine*.

RISD Director of Organizational Development **Lisa Casto** has been selected to serve as Chair of the *Electronic Registrar Online National Advisory Board* for 2005-06.

In addition, Lisa, along with **RISD Academy** Instructional Specialist **Beth Crisp** and **Lake Highlands Junior High** Instructional Specialist **Kristen SanJuan**, represent RISD in *Instructional Coaching*, a national training program for instructional specialists. They serve on a state committee, *CoachTexas*, to develop a professional development plan for Texas instructional coaches.

## **Students**

**Lake Highlands Freshman Center** student **Alexandra Smith** won the statewide grand prize in the *Japanese New Year's Card Contest* sponsored by the Japanese Teacher's Association of Texas. Cards included the animal of the New Year, greeting phrases in Japanese, and information of Japanese customs and traditions that demonstrate a knowledge of Japanese writing and culture.

In addition, **Berkner High School** students **Nalene Phan** won first place, and **Angel Shen** and **Monica Tong** earned second-place awards.

The following RISD students received awards in the *2005 SBC Cotton Bowl Art Contest*. More than 7,000 students from RISD and DISD submitted entries this year. As winners, these students had their art displayed at the Dallas Museum of Art throughout the month of December.

*First place winners* include **Yael Flam, Bowie Elementary; Alejandra Hernandez, RISD Academy; and Lizeth Valdez, Mark Twain Elementary.**

*Second place winners* include **Mario Gonzalez, Bukhair Elementary; Scarlet Hayward, Mohawk Elementary; and Edgar Reyes, RISD Academy.**

*Third place winners* include **Barbara Bersan, Bowie Elementary; Matthew Flores, Mark Twain Elementary; and Nicole Norman, Prestonwood Elementary.**

**Prairie Creek Elementary** student **Shelby Sullivan** won the *2005 NFL/Pepsi National Punt, Pass & Kick* competition in Indianapolis at the RCA Dome during halftime of the Colts-Steelers playoff game.

Shelby won the 10- and 11-year-old girls division, by beating out three other national finalists.

More than four million students from across the United States entered the competition.

**RISD Academy** student **Alejandra Hernandez** had artwork selected for the *2006 Dallas is Diversity Calendar*, celebrating the Dallas Cup soccer event.

Alejandra was the youngest student to have artwork selected.

The following students were selected as *2006 All State in Fine Arts*.

From **Richardson High School**, **Courtney Graves**, All State Choir.

From **Pearce High School**, **Rachel Dickson**, All State Band; **Will Hughes**, **Oren Kadosh** and **Reese Mathieu**, All State Choir; and **Melvin Lai**, **Ed Skolnick** and **Sonya Yun**, All State Orchestra.

From **Lake Highlands High School**, **Chris Nyabondo**, All State Band; and **Mallory Adams**, **Robin Davis**, **Lindsey Jones**, **Michael McKinley** and **Rachel Rutledge**, All State Choir.

From **Berkner High School**, **Carol Brady**, **Steven Holloway**, **Kris Lee**, **Chelsea Orr** and **William Vivjerberg**, All State Band; and **Eugene Baek**, **Samuel Lee**, **Erika Sherhart**, **Amanda Su** and **Stacy Yuan**, All State Orchestra.