

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Richardson Independent School District
Richardson, Texas

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Department: Communications

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Briefing Date(s):

N/A

Study Session

N/A

INFORMATION ITEM

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

Community

The **American Heart Association** will conduct a special presentation regarding RISD's involvement in the Jump Rope for Heart campaign.

Schools

Richardson High School was recently recognized by the national education organization Just For The Kids as one of just three *Best Practice High Schools* in Texas. RHS earned the designation through academic performance across all student groups, and several months of site visits, observation, study and interviews.

For the second year in a row, **Lake Highlands High School** has earned the *Dallas Morning News All-Sports Award* for district 10-5A and has been named *one of the top 10 athletic programs in the metroplex*.

The award considers achievement in all UIL-sponsored athletics.

Staff

Richardson West Junior High physical education teacher **Jamie Ridgway** has been named by the Texas Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as the Texas Middle School Teacher of the Year. This recognition further demonstrates RISD's ongoing commitment to active, healthy lifestyles for students and staff. She will be presented the award in December at the state TAHPERD conference in Fort Worth, and will go on to compete for the U.S. Southern District Award.

Apollo Junior High teacher and Language Arts Department Chair **Melissa Harrison** recently had her fourth book published, *Mother to Son, Shared Wisdom from the Heart*. She co-wrote it with her husband, Harry Harrison, Jr. Melissa has also recently been asked to author a column on education for *The Dallas Morning News*.

Richardson North Junior High nurse **Valerie King** has been named the *Texas School Nurse Organization School Nurse of the Year* for Region 10. This recognition represents the epitome of excellence in school nursing practice and is based on specific national standards of professional nursing.

This award marks the *fifth time in the past six years* that an RISD nurse has been named the best in Region 10.

Students

Apollo Junior High student **Jett Robertson** is the current *State Beta Club* secretary.

The students comprising the following teams placed first in the *Destination ImagiNation* regional competition this spring, and advanced to the statewide tournament. Three of these teams advanced from the statewide tournament to the Global Finals in Tennessee early this summer.

Because a new school year has started since these competitions were concluded, some of these students have advanced to new schools; however, they will be recognized as part of the school's team on which they competed.

From **Prairie Creek Elementary**, middle level: **Luke DaMommio, Jared Hughes, Brooks Maczka, Cameron O'Reilly, Shelby Sullivan, Tori Thompson, Emily Wingate** and manager **Blythe Hughes**.

Combined from **Pearce & Richardson High Schools**, senior level: **Emily Anderson, Xander Aulson, Melissa Berry, Annie Blankenship, Josh DeGroot, Kara Fisher, Taylor Knight** and manager **Glenn Anderson**.

From **Richardson West Junior High**, middle level: **Christopher Milam, Rucker Simon, Skylar Stains, Christopher Winkler, Kendall Wrightson** and manager **Michelle Packard-Milam**.

From **Brentfield Elementary**, elementary level: **Mark Austin, Charlie Dirx, Sam Dworkin, Evan Greenberg, Adam Greenspan, Alex Morris, Jenna Sherman** and manager **Terri Greenspan**.

From **Mohawk Elementary**, middle level: **Luis Ardila, Erin Brewer, McKenna Crouch, Roman Gruszecki, Kelly McKee, Lindsey McKee, Suzy Thompson** and manager **Dan Thompson**.

From **Hamilton Park Pacesetter Magnet**, middle level: **Cade Gober, Gates McClinchie, Stephanie Ouellette, Luke Russell, Matt Zwall** and manager **Linda McClinchie**.

From **Brentfield Elementary**, elementary level: **Sam Chambers, Emily Cochran, Jeremy Duchin, Kathleen Francis, Gabrielle Greenfield, Aaron Hoffman, Bryan Noland** and managers **Linda Francis** and **Karen Hoffman**.

From **Brentfield Elementary**, middle level: **Daniel Carr, Carly Fein, Kendall Howen, Sarah Reno, Emily Semon, Sammy Weitz** and managers **Sharyn Fein** and **Jeanine Reno**. This team advanced to the Global Finals.

From **Merriman Park Elementary**, elementary level: **Brittany Beasley, Allison Combs, Katie Kennedy, Brandon Terrell, Nate Villasana** and managers **Cindy Terrell** and **Ann Villasana**. This team advanced to the Global Finals.

From **Parkhill Junior High**, middle level: **Max Anderson, Molly Francis, Jill Frey, Aaron Kawalsky, Andrew Matsil, Megan Sims, Sarah Sims** and manager **Glenn Anderson**. This team advanced to, and won, the Global Finals.