



Contact: Julie Jerome
830.221.2621
julie.jerome@comalisd.org
Oct. 17, 2011

NEWS BRIEFS

National Merit recognition announced

The National Merit Scholarship Corp., has recognized 10 Comal ISD high school students for outstanding academic performance.

Taylor Lathrop of Smithson Valley High School has been named a National Merit Semifinalist. He has the opportunity to advance to the Finalist level and compete for National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million. Taylor is one of only 16,000 semifinalists nationwide, representing the highest scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT). Approximately 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship earning the Merit Scholar title.

These students have received Letters of Commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Program in recognition of their outstanding performance on the PSAT: Kirstin Maulding of Canyon Lake High School, Emily Drastata and Brooke Woodard of Canyon

High School and Michaela Gonzalez and Michael Keeton of Smithson Valley High School. National Merit Commended students are eligible for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Atarah Fields, a senior at Canyon High School, has been named one of only 3,100 nationwide as an outstanding participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Students enter the program by taking the PSAT as high school juniors and identifying themselves as Black Americans. From more than 160,000 students nationwide, Atarah scored in the top 3 percent and is being recognized for academic promise.

Kelly Day, Miranda Dominguez-Morgan and Michaela Gonzalez, all students of Smithson Valley High School, have been named National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. This program identifies nearly 5,000 outstanding Hispanic/Latino students in the United States each year based on their grade point average and PSAT scores.

Family Summit slated for Nov. 5

“Empowering Children with Healthy Lifestyles,” Comal ISD’s bi-annual Family Summit, will be Saturday, Nov. 5 at Canyon High School.

There are enough activities, workshops, benefits to fill several days for people of all ages. The biggest challenge will be for members of your family to select which sessions/activities to participate in. Admission is free and the community is invited.

In a partnership with Resolute Health, this year’s summit will offer free lunch and free child-care. Child-care activities (for children aged 3-10) include activities in the Sow Healthy garden, lunch with parents, potting activity and children’s yoga.

Some of the valuable sessions include: quick, easy nutritional meals; the importance of socialization; 10 tips for a successful parent/teacher conference; college application assistance; parent assistance with district technology (TxGradebook, StudyWiz); and developing character, integrity and morality in children. Middle and high school students are encouraged to attend all sessions.

For more information, please contact your child's campus or Jamie Ezell, at 830-221-2169.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week, the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country, will be celebrated at all Comal ISD campuses during Oct. 24-30. Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for students to make a commitment to live drug free lives.

Red Ribbon Week commemorates DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died while working undercover in Mexico at the hands of five men involved in the traffic of drugs.

An updated calendar of Red Ribbon Week activities at each campus will be maintained on the homepage of the district's website, www.comalisd.org. Activities include assemblies; display of red ribbons throughout the campus grounds; giveaways such as pencils and stickers; door and hallway decorating contests; athletic competition between students and teachers; and dressing up to signify certain days. For example, Monday, Oct. 24 at Freiheit Elementary will be crazy hair day to signify, "Hairs' to a Drug Free Life;" on

Tuesday at Garden Ridge Elementary, students can wear camouflage for the theme, “Be all you can be...Be drug free;” on Wednesday at Johnson Ranch Elementary, students may wear boots to “Give drugs the boot!” on Thursday at Hoffmann Lane Elementary, students will “Sock it to drugs” by wearing crazy or mismatched socks; and on Friday, at Clear Spring Elementary, students may wear red or hearts for the theme, “I’m drug free—deep in the heart of Texas.”

Middle and high school campuses will include drug-free messages on the morning announcements; conduct poster, door or hallway decorating contests; display red ribbons on the grounds; and host rallies and assemblies with guest speakers.

Please consult your child’s campus for more information about the specific activities.

SVHS participates in Navy Week

Read Admiral Eleanor Valentin of the U.S. Navy will visit Smithson Valley High School on Wednesday, Oct. 26 to kick off the campus’ celebration of Navy Week in San Antonio. Valentin, the U.S. Navy’s Director of the Medical Service Corps, will speak to students in the performing arts center at 4 p.m. She will be talking about medical careers and what it is like to be a Navy Admiral. Students, parents and staff are invited to attend.

The Navy Band will perform outside the rotunda during lunch on Monday. A Navy flight simulator will be available for students to view during the week.

Gifted and talented referral and screening meeting set

A referral and screening informational meeting for parents of potential gifted and talented students will be on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 6:30 p.m., at Kinder Ranch Elementary School Cafeteria, or on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 6:30 p.m., at the Comal ISD Support Services board room, 1404 Interstate 35 in New Braunfels.

Referral forms will be available as will staff to answer any questions parents may have about the referral and screening process. For more information, please contact Terilyn Moore, terilyn.moore@comalisd.org, 830.221.2044.

-CISD-