



Contact: Julie Jerome
830.221.2621
julie.jerome@comalisd.org
Oct. 31, 2011

NEWS BRIEFS

Four campuses recognized as Higher Performers

Four campuses in Comal ISD—Mountain Valley Middle School, Spring Branch Middle School, Hoffmann Lane Elementary School and Garden Ridge Elementary School—have been recognized as “Higher Performing Schools” by the National Center For Educational Achievement (NCEA).

The annual list recognizes Texas public schools that are most successful at preparing students for college and careers.

“The schools that really stand out are those that, over several years, have gone above and beyond their expected achievement levels given their socioeconomic status,” said Angela Hall Watkins, assistant vice president and managing director of NCEA. “Such commitment is truly impressive, and is a testament to the fact that economic obstacles can indeed be overcome with dedication and perseverance.”

The NCEA identified the Higher Performing Schools based on one or both of two measures: academic growth of students and/or achievement of students on the TAKS Commended standard.

Sow Healthy program wins Award of Achievement

The Sow Healthy Intergenerational Garden of Comal ISD has won an Award for Excellence in Texas School Health by the Texas Department of State Health Services. The award carries a \$1,000 check.

Sow Healthy is a public-private partnership between Resolute Health, the area's newest healthcare system, and Comal ISD. It is a community garden aimed at building a healthier population by bringing together youth, senior citizens and community volunteers to learn how to grow and prepare nutritious, organic, sustainable foods and increase physical activity for all involved. Students are involved with "extended classroom" initiatives with a curriculum that is tied back to science and health.

"We are thrilled the program has received statewide recognition," said Deb Mahone, Comal ISD executive director for special programs. "This is a tiered award so we may be eligible for a larger award next year as the project continues."

"This is truly a community collaborative," said Jennifer Quackenbush, community healthy programs manager for Resolute Health. "We are delighted to be a part of such a promising effort."

Honor a special teacher

What better way to recognize a special teacher than with an Honor Award through the Comal Education Foundation?

The Teacher Honor Awards are gifts that can be proudly displayed by the recipients for many years. For \$25, you can have a card and beautiful wood plaque sent to the Comal ISD teacher or employee informing him/her of the honor and of your support of the Comal Education Foundation.

“Plaques may be purchased any time of the year, however, during the holidays is a wonderful time to show someone just how much they have meant to you and your child,” said Margaret Tenorio, executive director of the Comal Education Foundation.

For more information, please go to the Foundation website, foundation@comalisd.org, or call Tenorio at 830.214.5010.

Parent/Teacher conferences slated for next week

All students in Comal ISD will be released 90 minutes early on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (Nov. 8 and 9). The early release for elementary students is designed for parent/teacher conferences.

Parent/teacher conferences present an excellent opportunity to find out how your child is adjusting to the new school year and to get to know the teachers. Here are 10 tips for a successful conference:

1. Talk to your child. Ask if there is anything he/she would like you to discuss with the teacher.
2. Be prepared. Jot down what you would like to discuss at the conference.
3. Be on time.
4. Begin with positive comments about the teacher or classroom.
5. Stay on track. Avoid lengthy discussion of topics that are not related to the purpose of the conference.
6. Listen to what the teacher has to say.
7. Keep your emotions under control.
8. Tell your child what you discussed.
9. Express appreciation for the conference.
10. Stay within your conference time.

-CISD-