

SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Q1 Update FY2013



Volume I, Issue I

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AISD HIGH SCHOOL FIRE ACADEMY

In August 2011, a group of 23 hand-picked Arlington ISD students started a two-year course to train for the fire service while still in high school. This unique learning opportunity was created by the Arlington Fire Department, AISD and Tarrant County College (TCC) to prepare students who want to pursue a career in fire service.



Fire Academy Captain Luke Burgdorf said he wanted to join the academy as a way to give back, "I want to help people, and when I heard about this, I thought, 'Yes!'"

At the kick-off event, Fire Chief Don Crowson told students that firefighting is not just a job, it's a way of life. "You are in the lifesaving business ...you have to take this seriously and we will hold you accountable."

To remain in the program, students must maintain school attendance and grade requirements. Classes are held at Sam Houston High School with weekend training activities as well as field trips to the TCC Fire Academy center and the Arlington Fire Department training center.

Upon spring 2013 completion, the AISD Fire Academy students will earn four high school credits and 24 college credit hours with the same classroom and field training as a TCC student enrolled in the Fire Service Technology degree plan. They also will receive Emergency Medical Technician training as well as certifications from the State of Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

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MUNICIPAL COURT



Oct. 25 – Traffic Court Coordinator Nancy Marshall Aceves presented traffic safety information to parents, students and teachers at Ellis Elementary School's Fall Carnival. Aceves, a Municipal Court cashier, is state-certified to teach about car seats, seat belt safety, school bus safety and bicycle safety. Students and parents also received Halloween safety tips.

RICHARD GREENE SCHOLAR



2012-13 School Year Richard Greene Scholar Luke Burgdorf is one of the students who was selected from each AISD high school based on a minimum 3.0 GPA, leadership, extracurricular activities, community service and in-person interviews. "My future goal is to one day become a Fire Chief ... and hopefully that city is Arlington," says Burgdorf. "By seeing how a successful community like Arlington runs, I will be able to relate my observations to the Fire Department." The students intern at various locations including the City of Arlington, North Texas Council of Governments, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, UTA, River Legacy Nature Center, AISD and the Texas Rangers in Arlington. The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation sponsors the program in honor of former Arlington Mayor Greene, who served when the ballpark was planned and opened. Upon graduation, the six high school seniors will receive a \$10,000 college scholarship, and UTA provides full-tuition scholarships to those who choose to attend the university.

HIGHLIGHTS

TCEQ CLASS D WATER LICENSE & CERTIFICATION

This is a year-long work study program created in partnership with AISD to introduce high school students to the water industry and generate interest within this potential talent pool. To qualify, students must meet stringent program requirements and are personally interviewed by the instructor. Class work is supplemented by field trips to local water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and field operations/water distribution locations. Also, they receive supplemental instruction by a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) approved instructor to meet the state training requirements.

Upon course completion and high school graduation, they will have the skills needed to obtain an initial TCEQ license and immediately secure a water utility position or be inspired to pursue college degrees in engineering and science for more advanced careers in the water industry.

During 2012-13, Water Utilities is sponsoring two interns and Trinity River Authority is sponsoring one. All three have expressed great interest in working within the water industry after they complete their education.

HANDITRAN

During fall 2011, Handitran and the AISD Special Education 18 PLUSS program began to work on a travel training partnership for students transitioning from the school environment to independence.

To streamline the process, Handitran agreed to accept AISD's existing documentation of disability for certification. A monthly pass was designed for AISD students in the travel training program to enable them a period of time to learn how to use Handitran for travel to work and essential personal or recreational trips. The pass is provided at no cost to students during their training period. AISD staff, working cooperatively with the students and their parents, helps them learn how to plan travel, schedule trips effectively and how to navigate the community using Handitran.

Because of the unique learning capabilities of each student, Handitran allows AISD staff to determine when a student has learned how to travel and transition to regular passenger status. Currently, there are 17 students certified to ride Handitran through the travel training program.

"All registered students have concluded their training," said Transit Manager Bob Johnson. "We anticipate a new group for the spring semester."

HIGHLIGHTS

URBAN DESIGN CENTER

Established in June 2009 through a creative collaboration between the City and the University of Texas at Arlington, the Center continues to thrive as students “learn by doing” with real-world projects. Graduate students and professors from UTA’s School of Architecture and School of Urban and Public Affairs work closely with City staff on business and neighborhood development projects in Arlington. “We have had incredibly positive feedback from everyone we’ve worked with,” said Lyndsay Mitchell, AICP, City of Arlington Project Manager and UTA School of Urban & Public Affairs Alum. “The Center represents the next frontier in terms of what cities can do, what schools can do, what the different professions can do.”

Projects in the first quarter of FY13 include: conceptual work for the Spanish Parks Apartment complex to reconfigure space from the burned-out building to outdoor space for residents; and three-dimensional maps for the Convention Center to help visitors find their way inside the building.

STORIES TO OUR CHILDREN

The Library currently offers the Stories to Our Children program at Lamar High School for the PEP (Pregnancy, Education & Parenting) students, benefiting those who have children of their own. Over the course of six sessions, the parenting students brainstorm, write, illustrate and edit their own stories for their children. Attendees at each session receive a board book to help them develop their babies’ home libraries. At the end of the program, authors completing a story receive a published copy for their home libraries. A compilation of Lamar High School stories will be published and kept in the Arlington Public Library collection, offering a powerful link between the Library and the families in the program.

The program’s main goal of encouraging mothers and fathers as the first and most important teachers is especially relevant at the high school. These young parents begin to think about the literacy of their new or soon-to-arrive babies. By becoming authors, parenting students are given a unique opportunity to visualize important values, messages and experiences they want to instill in their families, and how they will meaningfully interact with their children. Group readings also modeled how young parents can engage their babies in story times to enhance early childhood development and family bonding through reading.

READING CORPS



Dec. 2012 – Twenty-seven students participate in the Reading Corps program held every Tuesday and Thursday during the semester at Crow Elementary. This program was designed by the Arlington Public Library to help enhance the reading and writing skills of PK4-third graders in Arlington ISD. The focus of the program is to help fight poverty and illiteracy. Research shows early education is really important for children growing up in low-income families. Currently, Reading Corps programs are in two locations (Crow Elementary and the Literacy House near City Hall), but the program will expand to 15 diverse locations when it starts again in Jan. 2013. Besides elementary schools, children at the Boys & Girls Club and childcare centers throughout the city will benefit from the program.

ANIMAL SERVICES



Dec. 2012 – Students at Green Oaks School volunteer twice a week at the Arlington Animal Services Center. They enjoy cleaning windows, socializing with pets, helping clean equipment for the kennels, and more. Their favorite part of visiting the shelter is interacting with the Pets of the Week. Green Oaks School is for students with Down Syndrome and similar developmental delays.

NEXT STEPS

JOINT AISD BOARD/ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

On Oct. 25, the Arlington City Council and AISD Board held its second joint meeting. Staff continued with follow-up reports about existing and potential areas of collaboration/partnerships from the first joint meeting on May 2, 2012.

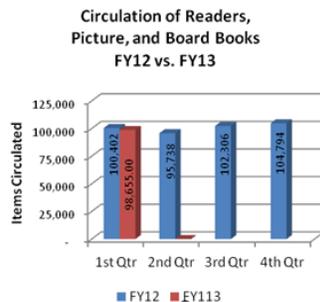
Topics included: accounts payable services; communications; print center; fire engine donation; Ecomedia projects; electricity supply; emergency services; energy management; fleet services; jail inmates food service; grounds maintenance; joint purchasing; library resources; mineral management; psychographic study; technology; and volunteer services.

Board and Council members suggested a variety of topics for future agenda item discussions. Some of those topics were: attendance improvement/truancy reduction partnership; joint use agreements/clarification for Foundation funding; community health/welfare; Reverse 9-1-1; and apartment rent reduction tied to students' achievements in school.



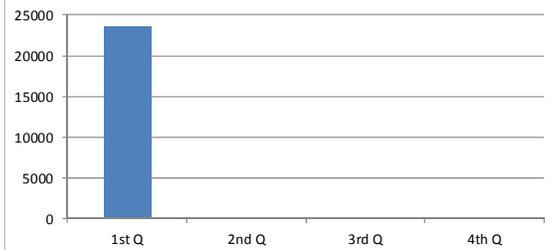
UPDATES

SQE 1.5.1 Grade Level Reading Campaign – Early Childhood Literacy

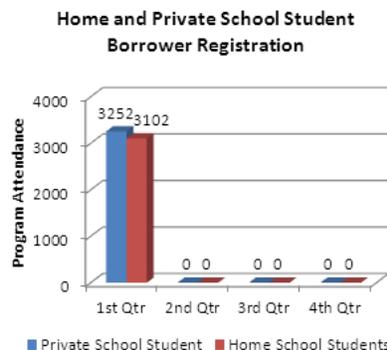


Performance Measure: Increase circulation of picture books, board books, and readers by 10% and volunteer hours utilized

Public Library materials used Texas Literacy Initiative Grant PreK - 6



SQE 1.1.4 Private and Home School Support



Performance Measure: Program attendance

Library Cards and Card use at Texas Literacy Initiative Grant PreK - 6

