

SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Q2 Update FY2013



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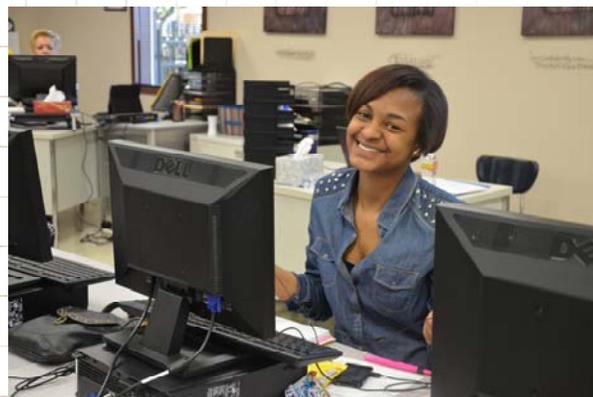
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AISS Elementary Schools in
Southeast Arlington,
Updates

AISS EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT CENTER

The Arlington Independent School District opened a new learning center at 600 New York Avenue for students who have already dropped out or are in danger of doing so. To earn diplomas, students earn credits using a personalized approach that works around their schedules, issues and obligations. This program offers students a smaller environment and onsite social workers to assist with emotional and social needs.

Students can graduate from the program or earn credits to return to a traditional high school.



Achante Hill, pictured above, is a senior in the program. "They actually care here," she said. "You don't have to be scared because they're open with you; they understand your situation."

The yet-to-be-named center opened this semester with limited services for approximately 60 high school students. Summer courses will be offered. Plans are also under way to be fully operational by September with seven classrooms serving up to 500 students, including adults seeking GED diplomas.

"They're not bad kids; they're great kids," says AISS Director of Dropout Prevention Wendy Carrington. "They just have life situations that have made it difficult for them to fit in the box, to fit inside the norm. They're great kids, and we see a lot of promise in all these kids."

The City provided \$250,000 in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds to renovate the building previously occupied by Girls Inc. for AISS to offer educational services for low- and moderate-income youth and adults. On June 26, 2012, Council authorized donation of the city-owned building to AISS, which already owned the land.

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817.459.6100
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SOUTHEAST BRANCH LIBRARY



Apr. 2013 – Judged on a scale of 1-10, several dozen junior high students performed their original work in front of an audience at the Southeast Branch Library Poetry Slam. Elementary students involved in a separate workshop didn't perform, but they learned the ins and outs of poetry.

PRIZE PATROL



Feb. 2013 – The “prize patrol” (Council Member Sheri Capehart, MISD School Board Trustee Raul Gonzalez and MISD Interim Associate Superintendent-Curriculum/Instruction/Accountability Darrell Sneed) surprised MISD third-grader An’nas Bayyoud in his classroom, announcing he was an Animal Essay Contest winner. Butler Elementary held a mock assembly, so all three of its winners could get their awards at once. “I hear it’s difficult to be one of the 12,” said proud Butler Principal Daniel Gallagher, “and we have three.” The 2013 Winners are:

Third grade:

1st place: Mason Vaughan, Moore Elementary
2nd place: Payton Teeples, Home School
3rd place: An’nas Bayyoud, Glen Harmon

Fourth grade:

1st place: Jessica Bryant, Butler Elementary
2nd place: Victoria Alford, Saint Maria Goretti Catholic
3rd place: Louis Alexander, Blanton Elementary

Fifth grade:

1st place: David Schmitt, Children’s University
2nd place: Madelyn Anderson, Ditto Elementary
3rd place: Caroline Brown, Ditto Elementary

Sixth grade:

1st place: Ellie Mize, Dunn Elementary
2nd place: Carlos Arrazola, Butler Elementary
3rd place: Kelley Murray, Butler Elementary

HIGHLIGHTS

POETRY SLAM WORKSHOP

In a workshop held once a week over a six-week period, junior high students from public, private, charter and home schools were encouraged to go outside their comfort zones and channel their energy into poetry.

The workshop tied into the STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) test curriculum. Based on the response from students and teachers, the Library plans to do another one in the fall.

“This has been such a powerful experience,” said Arlington Public Library Community Programming Librarian Dawn Reyes. “We’ve had teachers come over and say how much it’s changed their students.”

ANIMAL ESSAY CONTEST

The 12th annual 2013 Animal Essay Contest culminated with a March 5 reception at City Hall and awards ceremony at that evening’s City Council meeting. This year’s contest, with more than a thousand entries, was the most competitive in years. All students in grades 3-6 residing in Arlington from any public, private, charter or home school educational venue are eligible to enter.

“We are so delighted to continue this contest,” said Council Member Sheri Capehart, who leads the classroom “prize patrol” to announce the winners. “We try and instill in children, particularly at a young age, if you’re going to be a pet owner then that’s a responsibility of a lifetime. And how you treat that pet also will carry forward to how you treat other people.”

Capehart continued, “That’s why we really do it. It certainly helps with promoting the Animal Shelter. That’s a side benefit. But it’s more about the education.”

Prizes included \$50 from the Educational Employees Credit Union (EECU) to open a savings account and a Nook from Barnes & Noble. Other sponsors were Carrizo Oil & Gas, the Star-Telegram and UT Arlington. Winners were from schools in Arlington and Mansfield.

HIGHLIGHTS

ADULT LITERACY

Deputy City Manager Theron Bowman, Ph.D., who spoke at the December 2012 General Educational Development (GED) graduation ceremony, said he knew education made the difference in his life. Amid enthusiastic applause of friends and family, graduates proudly walked in caps and gowns to accept their diplomas. Other GED students were honored as section-passers. Some of the graduates are already taking criminology courses, while others are interviewing for better paying jobs.

"We may be able to assist two of the students to transition to a college degree," said Pierre-Carly Lafaille, director of admissions for DeVry University. "We were also pleased to see how Arlington supports its students to complete their GEDs."

As part of the Arlington Reads Adult Literacy program, pre-GED and GED classes teach and assist students as they prepare for the GED test. Registration for the next GED classes at the Literacy House, 101 E. North Street: May 8 for the English program; June 18 for the Spanish program.

DUCT BANK USE AGREEMENT

In March 2013, the City of Arlington and the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) entered into an agreement that enables the University to utilize the City's duct bank for the installation of a redundant fiber optic connection to its Finance and Administration Annex.

"The City Duct Bank Facilities Use Agreement will enable the University to install fiber optic cables from a vault close to the intersection of UTA Boulevard and Cooper Street to one of our buildings on Main Street in downtown," said UTA VP-Administration/Campus Operations John Hall. "This infrastructure will significantly enhance our capacity at our downtown facility and provide a level of redundancy for business continuity. This is just another example of the City assisting the University by allowing the University to install these facilities in an existing easement and conduit owned by the City."

UTA will install the fiber at its sole cost, but estimates saving around \$200,000 by not having to install a separate pathway, according to UTA Director of Network Services David Caldwell. Installation is expected to be complete before the end of May.

"Everyone benefits when agencies are able to cooperate," said City of Arlington Chief Information Officer Dennis John.

GED DIPLOMAS



Oct. 2012-Mar. 2013 – Eight adults received their GED 2. Eight passed one or more sections on their GED 3. Pictured left to right: (front row) Christena Monroe, Judith Garcia, Mattie Nachiengmai and Suzane Chaves; (back row) Catherine Bond, Eva Costilla, Michael Harvey, Hat Tran and Johnny Ray Soto.

DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON



Spring 2013 – Underground facilities help avoid the installation of overhead lines, preserving downtown Arlington aesthetics. UTA's fiber development need has increased as its facilities expand and student and faculty populations grow.

MULTI OPTIC CABLE



Spring 2013 – With the duct bank use agreement in place, the expansion of UTA's fiber network will ensure continued operations in the event of a failure in its primary circuit.

UPDATES

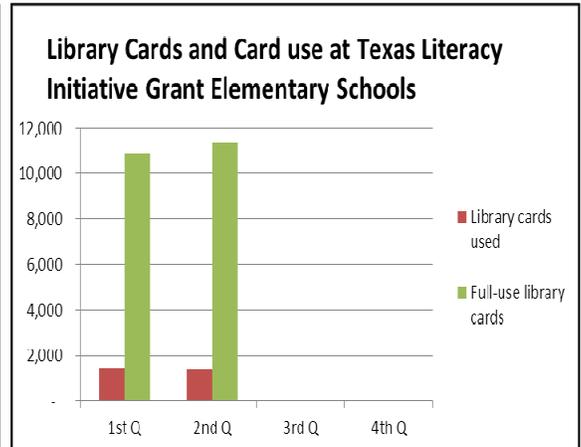
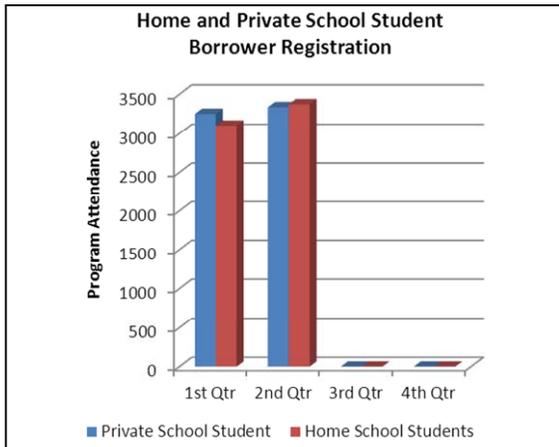
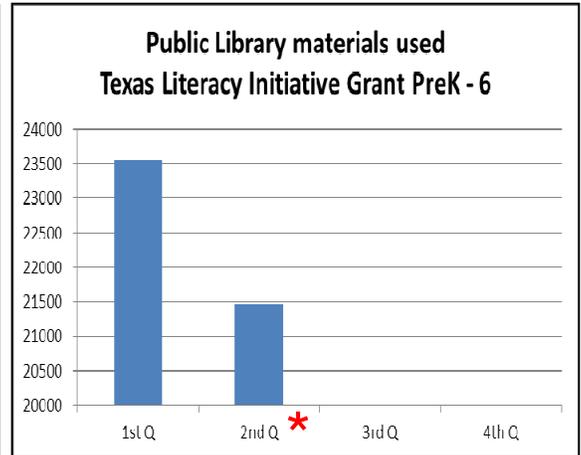
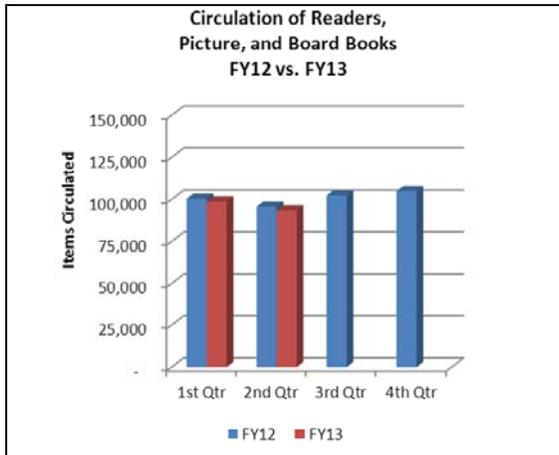
AISD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTHEAST ARLINGTON

Pictured right: On January 18, Ashworth Elementary School students Britney Loafman (left) and Emmie Taylor (right) presented the Animal Services Center with \$105 from the sale of 300 paper snowflakes handcrafted to raise money for homeless pets. They were inspired after a visit from their Pet Loving Student Council during the Animal Essay Contest program, an example of the City's education outreach coming full circle with students giving back to the community. Britney, who adopted a pet from the shelter, hopes other children will become involved in helping homeless animals. "At the very least," she says, "If you are going to get a dog, get one from the shelter."



Pictured left: Morton Principal Stephen Paulsen, School Librarian Carol Howard, Arlington Public Librarian Bob Kapsos and Director of Libraries Cary Siegfried at the January 18 ribbon-cutting ceremony at Morton Elementary. This is the eighth elementary school (including one in MISD) to provide a circulating collection of materials that can be checked out with a library card through this program. Since more than 60% of Morton students come from Spanish-speaking families, a majority of the books are bilingual.

UPDATES



* Elementary and junior high schools no longer participating; high school service to begin 3rd quarter.