



## Spotlight on our STARS

STARS—Seniors who Take A Role—are making a world of difference in the lives of SBISD children.



Mentor Lois Boston meets weekly with eighth grader Janett Hernandez at Northbrook Middle School.

## Mentor and volunteer

Lois Boston has lived in the Wilchester neighborhood for three decades. She has three adult children and eight grandchildren, and mentors at Northbrook Middle School.

Janett Hernandez is a new eighth grader at the middle school. She moved here from California. She doesn't know what she wants to do when she's older.

Once a week, Lois and Janett visit and talk. For Lois, who tutored elementary students with her husband, Dan, for a decade in the H.U.G. program at Housman Elementary, mentoring a middle school student is a new and rewarding experience.

But this grandmother of middle and high school students is happy just to listen and be patient. For Janett, Lois is a key person in her new life in Spring Branch. "I think she's really cool," Janett confides.

"I'm a nonjudgmental person," Lois says, shrugging off the praise. "I believe that the only thing you leave behind when you depart this earth is the love that you express to other people. If you can impact another person, that's the best thing you can do."

Her husband Dan, a retired engineer and artist, still volunteers at Housman Elementary. The couple attends Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, where Lois is studying Christian caregiving through the Stephen Ministry. She has also volunteered for 30 years at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Mary Card, SBISD's retired volunteer administrator, recruited Lois to mentor. "You don't say 'No' to Mary Card," Lois says of her friend.

Lois has encouraging words for potential volunteers. "It's an opportunity to have a positive impact on a young person's life, and it's just a minor time commitment – just one hour a week."

More senior volunteers are needed. For more information, please contact Sue Loudis or Linda Buchman with SBISD's Partnerships and Volunteer Programs at 713-464-1511, ext. 2289.

More news about SBISD on back

## Students respond to tsunami

A recent Valley Oaks Elementary School fund-raiser won presidential approval. Student council officers at the school earned a visit with former President George H.W. Bush after students raised more than \$8,200 to help survivors across tsunami-wrecked Asia.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students at the SBISD campus began a non-stop campaign to collect donations for the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund in early January.

Families and friends pledged donations if students read six books in a three-week period as part of the Read for Relief program. Two campus Movie Nights and Tsunami Relief bracelet sales raised more funds.

Then the Student Council challenged the campus to "Just Do Something" by organizing tiny businesses. Students set up lemonade and hot chocolate stands, rented out home videos, sent their parents to work with donation cans, babysat, walked dogs, washed cars, took down holiday decorations, and, in one case, sacked groceries in a family-owned grocery store.

"We have never seen such an outpouring from our students. They are just incredible!" exclaims Marcia Looper, an SBISD Elementary Teacher of the Year and Student Council adviser at Valley Oaks.

"President Bush told our children that students just like them are working all over the United States to do exactly what they are doing, and that is what makes America so great!" She added.

President George Bush has appointed his father and Clinton to lead U.S. fund-raising efforts to help rebuild the region. The tsunami may have killed as many as 300,000 people living around the Indian Ocean.

Many SBISD campuses have responded generously to the plight of survivors across the seas. So far, more than \$31,000 in tsunami relief has been donated across the district.

Memorial Middle School has raised \$10,000, and Spring Forest Middle School, \$4,300.



Former President Bush accepts a relief check to the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund from Valley Oaks Elementary teacher Marcia Looper and, from left, Student Council officers Sarah Stiff, Cole Chandler and Adam Dole.

Rummel Creek Elementary students raised about \$3,400 and presented a check March 3 to Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale. Other elementary schools have raised: Edgewood, \$639; Memorial Drive, \$2,876; Pine Shadows, \$709; Ridgecrest, \$428; Rummel Creek, \$2,500; Spring Shadows, \$470; and Terrace, \$957.

### Tsunami Relief Fund

- Checks payable to: Bush-Clinton Fund
- To donate online: [www.ghcf.org](http://www.ghcf.org)
- Mailing Address: Bush-Clinton Fund, PO Box 56369, Houston TX, 77256
- Deadline: April 30, 2005
- Details: 713-686-7373

## Going for Gold

### SBISD schools earn TEA special honors

The Texas Education Agency has recognized 21 SBISD campuses with one or more Gold Performance Acknowledgments, also known as GPAs. They include 14 elementary schools and seven secondary campuses.

The Texas Legislature enacted the Gold Performance Acknowledgment system in 2001 to recognize campuses for high performance in certain areas in addition to those that affect accountability ratings.

Four campuses received **GPA Special Recognition** for receiving all possible acknowledgments: Memorial Middle School and Bunker Hill, Frostwood and Memorial Drive elementary schools.

To earn the GPA for academic performance, a campus must have at least 20 percent of its students and each student subgroup score at or above the TAKS commended level. GPAS are also earned by schools for reaching attendance or other measurable goals. GPA recognition:

**Attendance** – Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Memorial Drive, Shadow Oaks and Wilchester elementary schools; Memorial and Spring Oaks middle schools and Cornerstone Academy.

**Commended Reading** – Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Housman, Hunters Creek, Memorial Drive, Rummel

Creek, Spring Branch, Woodview and Wilchester elementary schools; Memorial Middle and Cornerstone Academy.

**Commended Math** – Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Housman, Meadow Wood, Memorial Drive, Rummel Creek, Spring Branch and Wilchester elementary schools; Memorial Middle and Cornerstone Academy.

**Commended Writing** – Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Hunters Creek, Memorial Drive, Nottingham, Rummel Creek, Thornwood, Treasure Forest, Wilchester and Woodview elementary schools; and Memorial Middle.

**Commended Science** – Bunker Hill, Frostwood, Hunters Creek, Meadow Wood, Memorial Drive, Nottingham and Rummel Creek elementary schools.

**Commended Social Studies** – Memorial and Spring Oaks middle schools; and Memorial and Stratford high schools.

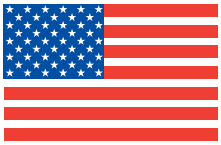
**Advanced Placement** – Memorial High. **Recommended High School Program** – Memorial and Northbrook high schools and Westchester Academy.

**SAT/ACT and TAAS/TASP** – Westchester Academy.



Walk for the Arts! SBISD's annual 2005 Running for the Arts 5K walk/run fund-raising event will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, at Memorial City Mall. Details: 713-365-4781.

STARNews is produced by the Community Involvement Department of Spring Branch ISD. Its purpose is to keep retired residents informed about the school district they helped build.



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

<b>March</b>		
3-29	SBISD Spring Art Exhibit	Memorial City Mall Daily
3	Northbrook HS Talent Show	NHS Auditorium 7 pm
3	SBISD Orchestra Festival	Coleman Coliseum 7:30 pm
<b>7-11 SBISD Spring Break</b>		
17	ComedySportz Match	SWHS Mini-Theater 7 pm
30-31	One-Act Play Zone Competition	Northbrook HS 4-9 pm
31	Spartanaire Spring Show	SWHS Auditorium 7:30 pm
31	<i>Father of the Bride</i>	Westchester Academy 7:30 pm
<b>April</b>		
1-2	<i>Father of the Bride</i>	Westchester Academy 7:30 pm
1-2	Spartanaire Spring Show	SWHS Auditorium 7:30 pm
2	One-Act Play District Contest	Northbrook HS 4-9 pm
2	Spartanaire Spring Show	SWHS Auditorium 1 pm
12	MHS Symphony Concert	Cypress Bible Church 7:30 pm
13	Junior/Senior Art Show	SBISD Board Meeting Room 5-7 pm
15-16	MHS Choirs' Cabaret 2005	MHS Cafeteria 7 pm
15-16	<i>Once on This Island</i>	SBEC Theater 9016 Westview 8 pm
16	<i>Once on This Island</i>	SBEC Theater 9016 Westview 1 pm
16	<i>Iris Lane</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 2:30 pm
16	<i>Iris Lane</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 7:30 pm
17	MHS Choirs' Cabaret 2005	MHS Cafeteria 1 pm
22-23	One Act Plays/Music Showcase	Northbrook HS 2 pm
22-23	One Act Plays/Music Showcase	Northbrook HS 7 pm
26	ComedySportz Match	SWHS Mini-Theater 7 pm
28-30	<i>Tommy</i>	SBEC Theater 9016 Westview 7:30 pm
30	<b>Running for the Arts 5K</b>	<b>Memorial City Mall 8 am</b>
<b>May</b>		
5	Spring Oaks MS Choir Concert	SOMS Auditorium 7:30 pm
5	MMS Orchestra Spring Concert	Coleman Coliseum 7:30 pm
5-7	<i>Tommy</i>	SBEC Theater 9016 Westview 7:30 pm
7	<i>Tommy</i>	SBEC Theater 9016 Westview 2:30 pm
12	Band Spring Concert	Spring Oaks MS Auditorium 6 pm
12	MHS Orchestra Concert	Memorial Drive UM Church 7 pm
12-14	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Northbrook HS Auditorium 7 pm
12-14	<i>Honk!</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 7:30 pm
14	<i>Barefoot in the Park</i>	Northbrook HS Auditorium 1 pm
14	<i>Honk!</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 2:30 pm
17	Orchestra Spring Concert	Spring Oaks MS Auditorium 7 pm
18	<i>Honk!</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 9:30 am
19-21	<i>Honk!</i>	SWHS Mini-Theater 7:30 pm
26	WAIS Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 7:30 pm
27	School of Choice Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 10:15 am
28	NHS Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 10 am
28	MHS Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 1 pm
28	SWHS Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 4 pm
28	SHS Graduation	Coleman Coliseum 7 pm

Note: Special reservation and pricing policies may apply for special events. Check ahead to obtain STARCard discounts for events listed above.

## Attention ExxonMobil retirees!

Spring Branch residents who volunteer in the schools and are retired employees of ExxonMobil can earn corporate gifts of up to \$500 for local campuses. To make a difference in the lives of young people with an ExxonMobil grant, please contact Sue Loudis or Linda Buchman at 713-464-1511, ext. 2286.

## Scout program earns award

An innovative outreach to Hispanic families in Spring Branch is winning top Scouting awards, and has also added 250 up-and-coming Cub Scouts to district rolls.

The two-year-old partnership between Boy Scouts and SBISD, known as SBISD Scoutreach, was honored recently with the Unidos Podemos (United We Can) Award by the Hispanic division of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The special award recognizes the development work of Alejandra Koosh, Hispanic division director, as well as support from SBISD's Partnerships and Volunteer Programs Department.

Koosh created several successful Cub Scouting programs that now include about 100 parents.

New Scouting programs have opened at Spring Branch, Treasure Forest, Cedar Brook, Ridgecrest, Housman, Hollibrook and Sherwood elementary schools.

In April, more than 100 of these new Scouting families will spend a weekend at Bovay Camp, one of the best campsites in the nation.

The SBISD Scoutreach program was also named Chartered Partner of the Year by the Mustang Scout District in February.

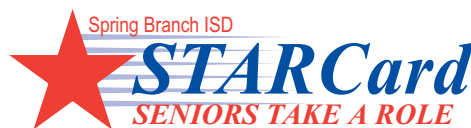
Spring Branch's pilot program has been so successful, Scouting officials plan to introduce it in five new school districts this year. Scoutreach's model may also be used to train Scouting leaders nationally.



Scout leader Nadia Gonzalez helps her son, Carlos, work on a Cedar Brook Elementary School project.

"Scoutreach has been very successful in Spring Branch because of our partnership with the school district," Koosh says. "We were a little surprised by the broad community support and commitment of parents. Many parents work two or three jobs and still volunteer."

For more information about SBISD Scoutreach and community partnerships, please call Director of Mustang District William Bains at 713-756-3388.



STARCards are distributed free of charge to citizens, 65 or older, who reside in SBISD. It's our way of saying thanks for all you've done, and continue to do, to support our district. Benefits include:

- ★ 20% discounts on SBISD continuing education classes
- ★ Free admission to SBISD regular season "home game" athletic events (playoffs not included)
- ★ Free admission to student performances (some seats are limited and advance ticket pick-up may be required)

To receive your free STARCard and earn these discounts, contact the Community Involvement Department at 713-464-1511, ext. 2272.



- ★ \$2 off haircuts for men (Bunker Hill & I-10, next to Quizno's)



- ★ 10% off on Wednesdays (14532 Memorial Dr.)



- ★ 10% off any time (1330-C Wirt Road)