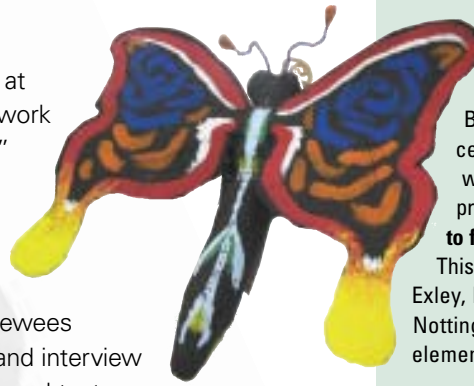


The Whole Colony: Partners in Education

Practice makes perfect

Thanks to 75 community partners, more than 500 students at Miller Career and Technology Center got an opportunity to work on their job-search skills during Miller's first "Interview Days" in March. Business and industry representatives, retirees and school district professionals put students through their paces in a mock job interview. Prior to the interview, each student was required to create a professional resume and complete a job application. At the end of the session, interviewees discussed the strengths and weaknesses of their materials and interview with the community volunteer, with each student receiving a real test grade for the activity.



2,300-gun salute

A record-breaking crowd of 2,300-plus crowded the Merrell Center in May for the annual VIPS breakfast, celebrating the "home town heroes" of the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) program and Volunteers of the Year from each campus. Keynoting the event was former First Lady Barbara Bush, who shared her thoughts on the importance of volunteering and some humorous inside stories about her family. Superintendent Dr. Leonard Merrell received an unexpected tribute from the district's VIPS Executive Board, who had calculated the total number of hours and the equivalent human resource dollar amount donated by Katy ISD volunteers during his 12-year tenure. In today's market those 5,012,704 hours would be worth \$94,088,454.08.

Art and heart

Katy schools have partnered with Katy ARTreach, a non-profit organization that brings mentors and art-related programs and services to at-risk children and teenagers. ARTreach works through the KEYS (Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success) mentor program to combine mentoring with art teaching practices that build self-confidence and self-esteem. Among the year's activities were the URGEWORKS "Be You!" performance at the Opportunity Awareness Center by KatyARTreach; clay animation taught to students in the Adaptive Behavior Program at Schmalz Elementary by professional artist Elizabeth Linder; and Graffiti Art to Graphic Design at Morton Ranch Jr. High, part of Katy ARTreach's Urban Arts Project supporting after-school tutorials and the Katy ISD Safe and Drug Free School and Community Program.

Real men mentor

A "manly meal" of bacon and eggs greeted nearly 60 guests at the annual Men Who Mentor breakfast in March. The event not only provided a "thank you" to the men who were current mentors, but also served as a recruiting opportunity for the Keep Encouraging Youth toward Success (KEYS) program. Experiences shared by Dr. Greg Wood, Mayor Doyle Callendar, Jim Burns and Lenny Schad convinced 10 new mentors to volunteer. During the 2006-07 year, 450 community members gave a boost to 453 at-risk students — described by KEYS as "children on the brink of success" — at 43 Katy campuses.

Major achievement

2006-07 marked the 7th year for the "Katy Project" in Junior Achievement. Katy is the largest school district participant in Junior Achievement in the world. During the year, 31,309 students participated in JA programs at all 43 regular campuses. That's 61.5% — or 3 out of 5 — of the students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Long-time Katy ISD volunteer Stan Stanley was named a 2006 **Hero for Children** by the State Board of Education, recognizing his outstanding volunteer service to Katy school children.

Business partner Perry Cummins celebrated his tenth year as underwriter for the Cummins Grants program, which provided up to **\$2,000 to fund selected classroom projects.**

This year's 11 grant winners were from Exley, Pattison, Winborn, Rhoads, Nottingham, Sundown and Cimmaron elementary schools.

An innovative partnership with community child care providers earned Katy ISD's Pre-School Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) **recognition from the Texas Education Agency** as a model practice for the second year in a row.

Kilpatrick Elementary's Parent Teacher Association garnered state recognition with two 2006 awards: **the state's largest.**

PTA membership in Texas and its parental involvement in the school's Eureka! Science Program.

John Powell of Katy High School was named the **Katy-area WalMart Teacher of the Year.**

Health services supervisor Dianne Klam was named the **Volunteer of the Year** by the West Houston Area Branch of the American Red Cross.



From the nearly 11,000 volunteers who together contributed more than a half million hours to Katy schools in 2006-07, 45 of the most outstanding were honored at the end of the year as campus Volunteers of the Year.