

# WILDCAT NEWS



Anthony Independent School District

## FALL RECOGNITIONS AT AISD

### AISD BOARD MEMBERS

- **Heriberto "Beto" Gomez**, President
- **Christine Singh**, Vice President
- **Eduardo "Eddie" Chavez**, Secretary
- **Angel Cuellar**, Trustee
- **Javier Morales**, Trustee
- **Raul Jacquez**, Trustee
- **Michelle Hernandez**, Trustee

By Ron Haugen

Anthony ISD is grateful to all of the 125 employees who help to provide educational opportunities in a safe environment for all of our children. This past year we started an initiative to recognize teachers and support staff members for their dedication and contributions to the district. Each month, the district recognizes a "Support Staff Employee of the Month", and at the end of each 9 week period, campuses select a "Teacher of the Quarter" to be recognized at the Board meeting.

Support Staff of the Month recipients receive a recognition certificate and a gift certificate. Each quarterly campus teacher receives a recognition certificate, gift certificate, an AISD work bag, and all receive a hearty thank you from the AISD Board of Trustees. In April, the nine quarterly teachers will participate in the selection process for the AISD elementary or secondary Teacher of the Year. The two Teachers of the Year will each receive a check for \$1,000 and will represent Anthony in the regional and hopefully state Teacher of the Year selection process. The announcement of the Teachers of the Year will occur in May at a district recognition event.

The following individuals were recognized as the Support Staff Employee for the indicated months:

**September**—Maria Magallon, Receptionist/Secretary

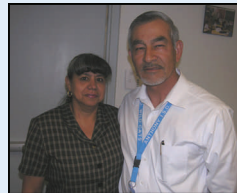


Catalina Levario, Superintendents Office

**October**—Catalina Levario, Superintendents Office

**November**—Lane Perry, Technology

The following teachers were recognized for the first quarter at the November Board meeting:



Maria Luisa Garcia, Teacher and

Crencencio Cardona, Elementary School Principal

Anthony **Elementary School**—  
Maria Luisa Garcia, Third Grade Teacher



Elizabeth Rendon, Teacher and

David Gregory, Middle School Principal

Anthony **Middle School**—  
Elizabeth Rendon, English Teacher



Anne Nicolaou, Teacher and  
Heriberto "Beto" Gomez, School Board President

Anthony **High School**—Anne Nicolaou, ESOL Teacher

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Early Release Students—12:00 PM	Dec. 19
National School Board Recognition Month	Jan
Staff Development	Jan. 5 & 6
TAHPERD Conference @ AISD	Jan 5
Second Semester Starts	Jan. 7
MLK Day-no school	Jan. 19
Parent Teacher Conferences	Feb. 17 -19
Early Release-Staff Development	Feb. 20

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND TOWN COUNCIL COLLABORATE ON PROJECTS

By Ron Haugen

This fall the AISD Board of Trustees along with the Anthony Mayor and Town Council have completed collaboration on two joint projects and are in the initial research phase of a third project. The initial project involved the joint purchase of an electronic marquee that will be located on Wildcat Drive in front of Anthony High School. The 14 foot sign will feature a 4' x 8' electronic message board along with the AISD and Town of Anthony logos. The sign will be used to promote events for the district and the Town throughout the year.

The second joint project is a vehicle servicing project with the facility being provided by the Town of Anthony (maintenance shop on Franklin Street) and the service technician being provided by the district. The vehicle service center will provide basic maintenance for district buses and town vehicles at cost.

The third project that is being researched is a digital wireless communications system for the Town of Anthony along the lines of the Digital El Paso project utilized in downtown El Paso. This project will also require the support of other public and private entities to benefit the students and community.

## “ STAYING DRUG FREE CAN MAKE YOUR DREAMS A REALITY ”

By Gabriela Marquez, Counselor

During the month of October, Anthony Elementary was very busy as they celebrated drug-free lifestyles in a variety of exciting and educational ways. It all started with students receiving red ribbons to display their support for leading a drug-free life. Students were then encouraged to write essays about the importance of being drug-free (for grades 3-5) or do a coloring sheet with messages about the importance of being drug-free. The different classrooms also participated in Door Decorating Contests where the classrooms with the most creative way to get out the messages about being drug-free would win banana split parties. The winning classrooms were: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Mrs. Sierra, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade- Mrs. Munoz, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade- Mr.

Joe Flores and Mrs. Stokes. There was also an Honorary Winner- Mrs. Quakenbush. Some other activities that the students and teachers took part in were: wearing caps or hats to school in an effort to send the message: “Hats Off to Being Drug Free”, students and staff got to wear their pajamas to school also in an effort to remind everyone that “Dreams Come True when You Stay Free From Drugs.” To conclude the week, the students were allowed to wear Halloween costumes to school in an effort to “Say Boo To Drugs!” Everyone had lots of fun and some teachers joined in on the fun as well. All in all, the students and staff at Anthony Elementary had lots of fun while learning

a basic and important lesson: Staying Drug Free Can Make Your Dreams a Reality.

### STAFF PARTICIPATES IN NEW FINGERPRINTING LAW



## Anthony Elementary Goes on a Turkey Trot for Health and Attendance

By Crecencio Cardona

While some people think of turkey dinners and pumpkin pies when thinking of Thanksgiving, the students and staff at Anthony Elementary had other things on their minds. The campus got ready for Thanksgiving break by hosting its first ever turkey trot event. With this activity, the students and staff found a way to promote exercise for all students while at the same time involving the community to participate with an event for a day that would otherwise be a poor attendance day at school, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, the last day before Thanksgiving break. The students were



Mrs. Price's First Grade Class

challenged to get people to sponsor them with monetary donations for walking a certain amount of miles on the track. Each student that collected a minimum of \$10 would earn a medal and those collecting over \$50 would earn a t-shirt. Other rewards for wearing creative hats on that day were also added.

In order to make this event a great success, the organizer, Mrs. Shirley Hooker, acquired donations from local

businesses such as Burger King, Taco Bell/ KFC, Danny's Pharmacy, Peter-Piper Pizza, and State Line. Even the Town of Anthony pitched in by lending the school some street cones to help keep the students in order. All in all, turkey trotting turned out to be great fun for all involved! Oh, and yes, it got plenty of students to go to school on an ever important day. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Shirley Hooker for making this Thanksgiving event one that we will all remember.



Right: Crecencio Cardona, Principal

## AHS STUDENT-ATHLETES RECEIVE DISTRICT LETTER JACKETS

BY Angie Massey

Anthony High School student-athletes were honored at a special student assembly two weeks ago where they were presented with their Varsity letter jacket. Each year, the AISD Board of Trustees provides funding to purchase letter jackets for those student-athletes who have met certain criteria to be eligible. During the recent awards assembly, Board of Trustee members Heriberto Gomez, Raul (Sonny) Jacquez, and Javier Morales presented jackets to 27 student athletes. Congratulations to the recipients



Front row: Cythnia Garibay, Carmen Ochoa, Brianna Perales, Kathy Vazquez, Lourdes Ramirez  
 Second row: Savannah Alfonso, Jackye Rosales  
 Third row: Steve Fino, Sarah Mendoza, Dallas Smith, Celina Chavez, Samantha Mendoza  
 Fourth row: Eric Martinez, Natalie Mendoza, Cristal Mendoza, Gabriel Sarabia, Oscar Fierro, Luis Seanez, Luis Gomez  
 Fifth row: Ricky Perez, Eddie Rivera, JC Cisneros, Luis Alvarez, Mike Lugo  
 Last row: Eddie Chavez, Miguel Martinez and Jairo Mendoza

## ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER SELECTED AS 2008 NSTA FELLOW

By Oscar A. Troncoso



Assunta Burnside, Science Teacher

**EL PASO, TX.** – The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) announced the 185 middle and high school secondary science teachers from across the country who will take part as Fellows in the 2008 NSTA New Science Teacher Academy. One of those teachers is Assunta Burnside, a third year science teacher from Anthony High School. The teachers were selected from hundreds of applicants from around the country, and will participate in a year-long professional development program. The purpose is to reduce the high attrition rate among science teachers new to the teaching profession.

“I was just so thrilled to be selected out of approximately 800 applicants. I think I was selected because I expressed a great need for assistance with Physics. I am the only Physics teacher here at Anthony High School and don’t really have someone to bounce ideas off. This program will provide me with that. To be selected, I had to be in my second or third year of teaching, located in the U.S. and working a schedule with 51% of my classes in middle or high school science,” said Burnside, a native of Jackson, Mississippi who found her way to El Paso due to her enlistment in the Army.

Burnside found out about the program last spring while she was attending NSTA’s national conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Only two other teachers from the El Paso area were also selected as NSTA fellows, one from El Paso High School and the other from Hornedo Middle School, both in the much larger El Paso Independent School District.

“I am the only one from a rural school in our area and considering how large our area is, I feel honored and privileged to be selected. There are 13 fellows

from Texas but we are the only three from the Region 19 area,” said Burnside.

For Burnside, the chance to improve and grow as a science teacher was just too good to pass up. Students and other teachers from Anthony High School will be able to benefit from her own professional development.

“This experience will benefit my students by providing me with a more solid Physics background and the confidence to teach it. I see my AP Physics classes growing and the number of students passing the exam increasing. I will receive extensive professional development with no cost to the district. I can share my new knowledge with my fellow science department and sometimes with the math department. I hope to put Anthony on the map and make our district and school proud,”

**TAKS Tutoring**

FREE

**Anthony Schools**  
**TAKS Testing begins March 3, 2009**  
For more information talk to your teacher  
 Expiration Date: None

## ANTHONY ISD SCHOOLS RECEIVE GOLD PERFORMANCE RECOGNITION

By Ron Haugen

Anthony ISD secondary campuses received the following Gold Performance Acknowledgements for the 2007-2008 accountability period:

**Middle School:** 3 acknowledgements (received 1 in 2007)

- **Attendance Rate 96.2%**  
Attendance rates are based on student attendance for the entire school year for students in grades 1-12. Campuses who have a rating of *Academically Acceptable* or higher, and have at least 96.0% attendance are eligible.
- **Commended Reading 41% of students**

TAKS Commended Performance is the highest performance level set by the State Board of Education on the TAKS. For acknowledgment on this indicator, the campus or district must have 25% or more of its examinees

scoring at or above the Commended Performance standard.

- **Comparable Improvement Reading/ELA quartile 1**

Comparable Improvement (CI) is a measure that calculates how student performance on the TAKS test has changed (or grown) from one year to the next, and compares the change to that of the 40 schools that are demographically most similar to the target school. For acknowledgment on this indicator, the campus must have scored within the top quartile (the top 25%) of their 40-member campus comparison group for reading/ELA.

**High School:** 3 acknowledgements (received 2 in 2007)

- **Advanced Courses 30%**  
This indicator is based on a count of students who complete and receive credit for at least one advanced course in grades 9-12. Advanced

courses include dual enrollment courses. Dual enrollment courses are those for which a student gets both high school and college credit.

- **RHSP 90.9%**  
This indicator shows the percent of graduates who were reported as having satisfied the course requirements for the Texas State Board of Education Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program. For acknowledgment on this indicator, 80.0% of all 2007 graduates reported must meet or exceed the requirements for the Recommended High School Program **Comparable Improvement Mathematics quartile 1**  
Same criteria as Reading/ELA CI.



## ANTHONY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN A TOUGH LESSON

BY GABRIELA MARQUEZ

While some people might think that violence and drug abuse is something that come with adulthood, the students at Anthony Middle School know better. During the month of October, the students began to research just how much violence can and has affected their lives with a campus wide project called "Do The Write Thing".



With this exercise, students were encouraged to write an essay that tells how violence has affected their lives. There will be one female and one male student selected to represent the district with their essays in a county wide competition. The students at Anthony Middle School were also given a violence prevention presentation by a volunteer from the Center Against Family Violence. The volunteer spoke to the students about how her daughter had been killed as a result of dating violence.

To continue the month with more valuable

for a Drug-Free Lifestyle.

The tough month was finished off with some fun as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class (Graduating Class of 2013) hosted a Halloween Dance with a dance-off competition included. Everyone seemed to join in on the fun with this final activity- even some central office staff and the principal- Mr. Gregory.

lessons, the campus celebrated "Red Ribbon Week" with activities such as: "Teaming Up Against Drugs"- where the students got to wear team jerseys to school. The students also celebrated "Putting a Lid on Drugs"- where they got to wear caps or hats to school to demonstrate their support

The winners of the dance-off were George Lopez and Javier Solis. Many of the classrooms also participated in a Door Decorating Contest and Mr. Esparza's first period class were the winners of this event. The students in Mr. Esparza's class actually researched the names of some individuals that had died as a result of drug abuse. The winners of the contest received a banana split party catered by Mr. Gregory.

Overall, the students learned some

tough but valuable lessons. Violence and Drug Abuse are two things that they would be better off staying away from- which is something that everyone should think about; not just the students.



## Anthony High School Receives College Readiness Recognition

By Mr. Ron Haugen

Anthony High School has received the "**2008 College Readiness Award**" from the Texas ACT Council for increasing the number of students taking the ACT Assessment over the past five years and significantly increasing their level of achievement and college readiness.

The ACT Assessment is the college admissions test that is used and accepted by all colleges nationwide and throughout Texas. In 2008, over 140,000 Texas students took the ACT.

The Texas ACT Council wanted to recognize those Texas high schools that have made significant strides in increasing the college readiness of their graduates as demonstrated by their ACT score increases. This can only happen as a result of the high school's faculty and staff *efforts* and the dedication of Anthony High School students and parents to focus on college readiness and raise the level of college readiness for all students. Only 4% of all high schools in Texas were honored for this superior level of accomplishment. Only two high schools in Region 19 received this recognition, Anthony HS and Socorro HS.

### ACT HISTORIC INFORMATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>#Tested</u>	<u>Average Composite Score</u>
2004	30 out of 55	16.8
2005	19 out of 34	17.2
2006	30 out of 35	16.8
2007	22 out of 37	16.4
2008	40 out of 47	17.9

Congratulations to students, staff, and parents.

### OBAMA WINS AT ANTHONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

by Shirley Hooker

Anthony Elementary students were able to cast their presidential vote on their campus website. By election day, on 11/4, 268 students had voted. The final tally had McCain at 64 votes, or 24%, and Obama at 204 votes, or 76%.

