



Holiday Happenings



AT&T Pioneers generously adopted 10 families from **Como ES** this holiday season. The Pioneers solicited help from other organizations to assist in helping Como families. Two motorcycle clubs also worked alongside AT&T Pioneers to help make the holidays even brighter for those families in need. The Pioneers also purchased dictionaries for all of Como 4th and 5th grade students and donated a class set of thesauruses to the 4th grade writing teacher.



Tarrant County College-NW Campus collected school supplies, items for incentive rewards and playground equipment for **WJ Turner ES**. The delivery of the gifts coincided with **PAJAMA DAY** at the school. The donations included a bicycle for the 5th grade student who maintains perfect attendance and an 81% average in his/her academic classes. The bike will be awarded at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.



The **Women's Policy Forum Starfish Project Committee** visited **Maude I. Logan ES** and presented each teacher and staff member a faculty shirt and a holiday gift bag to thank them for all they do for the children in their care. The holiday gift bags contained items such as a flash drive, hand sanitizer, sanitary wipes, post-its and Kleenex. The bags also contained a candy cane, chocolate bar and a \$10 gift card for the teacher to use as needed.



The **Emerging Young Leaders (EYL) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Beta Mu Omega Chapter**, represent girls from **Dunbar Middle and Forest Oak Middle schools**. The girls played Christmas Bingo and gave prizes to the residents of Lake Como on December 10, 2011. Lake Como is an apartment community for seniors sponsored by the Lake Como Community of Hope, Inc. The EYL program is open to girls in grades 6-8. They learn leadership development, civic engagement, educational enrichment and character building.



PARTNERS

Newsletter



2011-12 Edition: Vol. 3, Pg. 2

Barnes and Noble on University, McKinney Memorial Bible Church, First Congregational Church and University United Methodist Church were generous contributors and collectively adopted 114 Christmas Angels at **Westcliff ES**. These adopters are constant supporters who leave cheery notes, messages and goodies for Westcliff students, teachers and staff. There is always a willingness to help out the teachers and staff when needed! Thank you!

Members of the **Trinity Episcopal Church** made 20 deserving students at **McLean 6th** very happy over the holidays. They provided students with sports watches and a game each. Thank you Trinity Episcopal Church for your continues service and support of McLean 6th!

Cook Children's Hospital Laboratory Professions spent the day at **Lily B. Clayton ES's** Career Day on November 18 sharing their exciting profession. The students enjoyed their presentation! A special thanks to: Dr. Yvette Dzurik, Dr. Van LeungPineda, Amanda Martin, Deidre Holsten, Thy Bui and Patti Smith.

First United Methodist Church has been a very active partner to **T.A. Sims ES** for many years now and are amazing. Before the holiday break, they take on the huge task of giving gifts to every child that attends the school. To help hand out all of the presents, FUMC solicits the help of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. Members of the Church also bring lunch for the teachers on the days they give the gifts to the children. If the annual gift-giving event wasn't enough, volunteers from the church help with uniforms for T.A. Sims students. Some of the church members also participate in a mentoring program called **Kids Hope**. T.A. Sims thinks the world of First United Methodist Church and wants to send a very special THANK YOU!!!

A Special Thank You!

Van Zandt-Guinn ES and principal Keith Besses, would like to extend a huge "Thank you" to **Broadway Baptist Church**. The "VZG-BBC" partnership has been in existence for at least fifteen years, during those years in the late 90's the Holiday Store event evolved. Each year, Broadway Baptist Church, under the direction of coordinators Jane Smith and Elaine Herring, eagerly gear-up for the annual Holiday Store, in which **EVERY** Van Zandt-Guinn student is given the opportunity to select gifts for family members living in their household. This is made possible through months of preparation and the help and support of many gracious Broadway volunteers.

Greeted by Mrs. Smith, students, teachers, and assistants ride the elevator to the second floor. As students eagerly anticipate their names to be called, volunteers walk each student individually through "the store", with shopping bag in tow, selecting gifts for each family member. Then, the shoppers venture towards the workshop where they select wrapping paper, gift boxes, bows, ribbon, and gift tags for the wrapping process! Lots of conversation, laughs and excited giggles can be heard throughout the room! Once all of the students finish shopping, and goodbyes have been said to the great volunteers, VZG students, teachers and assistants move quietly through the hallways and down the stairs of the church, to the soothing, sometimes thundering sounds of their ten-thousand Cliburn pipe organ. Mr. Al Travis provides them a demonstration, discussion, and sing-along. He has a special way of captivating his **entire** audience! The group and gifts stock-piled in the back of the bus, then travel back to school. Students are often speechless or awe struck, but the majority brimming with the anticipation of the opportunity to talk and write about their experience.



PARTNERS

Newsletter

2011-12 Edition: Vol. 3, Pg. 3



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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More Holiday Happenings

Tarrant County College-South Campus was in the giving spirit this holiday season. TCC-South donated school supplies to **Forest Oak MS** and also sponsored a holiday luncheon for 15 of its students. Forest Oak sends out a special “Thank You” to its special partner.

Trinity Christian Church had a theme in place titled “The Giving Tree” for **Bill J. Elliott ES** students for Christmas. They placed a tree in its fellowship hall and the congregation donated coats, clothing, uniforms, under-garments and school supplies. Trinity Christian Church Pastor Lynn White delivered these items to the school January 2, 2012.

Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church was able to donate 40 coats, 55 pairs of shoes and toys to an additional 28 children at **AM Pate ES**. Keeping with the “season of giving” spirit, the church also donated additional toys and food to those in need throughout the community.

McKinney Memorial Bible Church has recently become an Adopt-A-School partner to **South Hills ES**. However, although new to the program, they immediately began enriching the lives of many students, teachers, and much of the South Hills community. This institution began the current school-year with high expectations to serve and help those in need. Over 50 at-risk students have been awarded a mentor through the Kids Hope USA program. Employee morale was increased by a donation of approximately 190 tickets for employees and family members to attend a Christmas Holiday concert at no cost. Additionally, thanks to committed McKinney Church members, the South Hills ES Christmas Clothing Closet was able to secure clothes and toys for an additional 203 children of economically disadvantaged families in community. The South Hills ES community truly recognizes the immense importance of this committed and rewarding partnership. Thank you McKinney Memorial Bible Church for your love and dedication!

Learning By Doing!



A second grade class at **Alice Carlson Applied Learning Center** was sent a letter by it’s Adopt-A-School partner, **University Baptist Church**, asking for help with its yearly canned food drive. As a class, they decided to take this project and have the entire school help with the canned food drive. They organized committees to make announcements, sent notes home, collected, organized, and counted the cans. They set a goal of helping 200 families! They were very busy in coordinating each grade level’s responsibility for donating a certain food item. During this project, they learned how to use a number line to count, how to write letters and notes that provided information, and how to be good citizens of their community. With the help of the entire school, they exceeded their goal of helping 200 families! They had such a great time helping University Baptist Church with this project. Academic learning was in place during this project, but the biggest lesson they learned was that it is always important to help others in need. They were so happy to help the people of their community as well as the city since University Baptist Church is a satellite center for the Greater Tarrant Area Food Bank.



Partnership Spotlight



On Saturday, December 10, 2011 **Success High School** decided to forgo its traditional holiday program and went out into the community to spread holiday cheer. Success HS, along with AAS Partner **Sharon Duncan** with **Faith Point Church** went to Wellington Oaks Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, located a block east of the campus near downtown Fort Worth. This event brought out over 40 students, staff and volunteers who spent time with over 80 residents and staff members. The residents were showered with Santa hats, Christmas cards and candy cane reindeer. Each resident had the opportunity to take a picture and have a special ornament made with their picture. Success students and staff also sung Christmas favorites, played Christmas bingo with the residents and raffled off prizes. The most important thing that Success learned outside of the classroom this holiday season was giving the gift of time. The residents enjoyed the special time spent with the students, staff and volunteers. Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces was priceless. Another event is scheduled for the Spring.

Celebration Fellowship adopts **West Handley, Lowery Rd and John T. White**. Over the last two months, they have delivered folders to all three schools along with other school supplies. Celebration Fellowship has also had four people step forward who will begin mentoring during the first of the year. They are also collecting uniforms to donate to each elementary school.

Garrett Neuman, youth minister, at Life Church TV has given **Wedgwood MS** countless donations to run a "Caught You Doing Good" program at the school. In addition, his church has provided breakfast at Professional Developments, facility usage, and countless hours of mentoring students on campus. His efforts are appreciated!

The AAS partners of **I.M. Terrell ES** have been very busy this season. Community adopters have chipped in to give all staff members a gift card to Target. **Big Hope/Big Brothers Big Sisters** gave their mentorees a Christmas gift, **University Christian Church** gave an age appropriate toy, coat, sweat shirt, and a pair of jeans to 35 students at I.M. Terrell ES. Lastly, Tanyah Carter of **I Am Works** donated toys to 25 students on campus. The community adopters also attended I.M. Terrell's Winter Holiday Program on December 15th. What a great group of supporters!

Luella Merrett ES flourishes because of the generosity shown by its adopters. The school had more than 90 families applying and qualifying for the Christmas Angel gift program. Thank you to: **Omni American Bank** (special thanks to Staci Hubenak who masterfully coordinated gift giving for more than 70 families), **Agape Baptist Church** (thanks to Edlyne Dickson for coordinating the program in her church), and to **Tarleton State University's** Kayla Kelly. The adopters were responsible for bringing a smile to a child, and the Luella Merrett ES faculty, staff and students could not say thank you enough!



PARTNERS

Newsletter

Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Parent and Public Engagement
www.fwisd.org

2011-12 Edition: Vol. 3, Pg. 5



Pier 1 Imports associates made a difference in the community this year by participating in several FWISD events, partnering with United Way, **Glencrest MS** and **Daggett ES**. United Way's Day of Action took place on Tuesday, June 21. Pier 1 Imports had 58 associates volunteer to clean up and renovate Glencrest MS. Associates painted several murals, made-over the teachers' lounge and were involved in much-needed indoor clean-up. This gave Pier 1 Imports associates a first-hand look at how their United Way donations benefited our community. Also, 136 volunteers from Pier 1 Imports partnered with Daggett ES students, ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade, in reading, writing and math. Several Home Office associates also participated in the Junior Achievement Program. Pier 1 Imports has partnered with Daggett ES for the past 26 years in an effort to help students increase their overall excitement for learning. In December, associates were given the opportunity to provide children from Daggett ES with much-needed winter clothing. With 15 Home Office associates assisting as gift openers, more than 100 children received gifts of much-needed clothing this year.

And the List Goes On ...

The **Dallas/Fort Worth Ecolab** divisions chose to sponsor an extremely deserving family during the holiday season. Ecolab's donation of gifts helped lift the spirits of two young boys who attend **Handley MS**. The boys were both born with cleft palates and have undergone several corrective surgeries. In addition to their medical conditions, their mother was killed in a car accident about five years ago. The boys are being raised by their father and grandmother who are their primary support. In spite of their difficult circumstances, they are very fortunate to have a loving family who helps them cope through life's challenges! Both boys count their many blessings as Ecolab showered them with gifts. They even agreed to wait until Christmas to open everything, which is a shocker for middle-aged students. We extend our gratitude to Ecolab who went the extra mile to help lift the spirits of these boys.



The **Tarrant County College Trinity River Campus** collected 80 pairs of gloves, 64 hats, and six scarves for the students of **I.M. Terrell ES**. All employees were asked to these items to its annual holiday celebration. Annually the **I.M. Terrell Alumni Association** collects a new pair of shoes for each I.M. Terrell student. This year, TCC-South and the I.M. Terrell Alumni Association joined their efforts to fulfill every child's shoe needs. Also, TCC-South instructors and students from its Allied Health program collected 17 pairs of shoes for students (*pictured above*).



On January 2, **Applied Learning Academy** staff members were the guests of the **National Cowgirl Museum** for their morning staff development waiver day activities. They enjoyed an information session about the museum and a scavenger hunt, as well as browsing and shopping in the museum gift shop and noshing on yummy snacks.

Have good news to share? Our partners do so much for our schools, so let's hear about it. We want to make sure that all of the good deeds and exceptional partnerships are listed in each newsletter. Please remember to send in information you'd like to share monthly and we'll make sure to put it in the newsletter.

Contact **Toya Releford** in the Parent and Public Engagement office at toya.releford@fwisd.org or **817-814-2977**.