Congratulations
Class of 2013

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Photo by Sheri Hemrick
HREST Festival recognizes outstanding Texas educators, campuses and school districts with cash prizes and grants through its 12th Annual H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards banquet held at Austin’s Hilton Hotel. Hillsboro ISD was among the winners, earning the small school district category award and a $50,000 cash prize.

At the ceremony, H-E-B Chairman and CEO Charles Butt personally handed out $585,000 in cash awards and grants, and congratulated the 23 winning educators, campuses and school districts, including one early childhood agency, for being among the best in Texas. Soledad O’Brien, CNN special correspondent, delivered an inspirational keynote address to the hundreds of educators, elected officials, community leaders and H-E-B employees gathered for the evening.

“We were excited and honored to be nominated for this award,” said HISD Superintendent Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease. “And then to be recognized as the top district among strong competition affirms our commitment to provide an exceptional classroom experience for our students and a rewarding environment for our teachers.”

“The top district award is a great honor for our students and teachers. But the award means the most to our students. Each of our students is an individual and they have their own set of dreams to achieve. This award means a lot to our students because they are the ones who work the hardest,” said HISD Superintendent Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease.

“Being recognized as the top district among strong competition affirms our commitment to provide an exceptional classroom experience for our students and a rewarding environment for our teachers,” said HISD Superintendent Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease.

During Their Journey, the Students Were Recognized With Over 68 Medals and Three Trophies Including:

**District**
- Advancing Play Tech Awards: Ben Charrez, Abigail Wilson, Alondra Pineda, Jennell Benson and Taylor Gill
- Best Actor: Kyree Williams
- All-Star Cast: Peter Zarate IV and Dewey Brannan
- Honorable Mention: Charles Nemec and Jordan Easterling
- Honor Crew: Ben Charrez

**Area**
- Advancing Play
- All-Star Cast: Kyree Williams and Dewey Brannan
- Honorable Mention: Peter Zarate IV and Jordan Easterling

**Region**
- All-Star Cast: Kyree Williams
- Honorable Mention: Dewey Brannan

**PAGANINI CAST**
The play featured Kyree Williams, Peter Zarate IV, Dewey Brannan, Ozvaldo Cabral, Cirilo Trejo, Severo Camacho, Timothy Weeden, Jose Ramirez, Charles Nemec, Arianna Andrews, Aleks Dickson, Jordan Easterling, Mckensie Piar and Kerah Shaw.

Crew consisted of Ben Charrez, Abigail Wilson, Alondra Pineda, Jennell Benson and Taylor Gill.

Alternates were Marie Butner and Liz Zeock.
Hillsboro ISD students worked hard throughout the 2012-13 school year learning new skills, creating challenging projects and discovering new ways to see the world. This year they were given the opportunity to showcase their projects and accomplishments at the May 6 Eagle Expo of Excellence—or E3—the district’s first learning expo, featuring projects, art exhibits, and musical and theatrical performances by students of all ages.

Approximately 2,500 adults and children from the community visited the expo.

“It was so rewarding to watch our students not only display their work, but also discuss how that learning connects to the world around them,” said Executive Director of Curriculum Services Sheila Bowman. “Our students demonstrated a very high level of learning to visitors of the expo.”

The Pre-K students presented their “Crazy Corn and Potato Plants” project, enthusiastically sharing their experience of planting and watching corn plants grown in different mediums, and comparing sweet and white potato plants. A high school technology project prompted visitors to scan a QR code on their phones, which then loaded a movie-like trailer students created to promote a book.

Also featured at the expo were district- and state-award winning projects, the HHS Space Bubble exhibit, and performances from the musicals “Annie Jr.” and “Godspell.”

HILLSBORO ISD STUDENTS SHINE
At District-Wide Learning Expo

VINCENTE R. CARMONA
College: University of Texas, Austin
Major/Career: Communication
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Kenneth Pointer

NIKKI R. GREEN
College: McLennan Community College, Waco
Major/Career: X-ray Technician
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Cathryn Patterson

JONATHAN REYES
College: Texas State Technical College, Waco
Major/Career: Dental Assistant
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Sherrie Thomas

FRIDA A. SANCHEZ
College: Texas State Technical College, Waco
Major/Career: Radiology
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Cathryn Patterson

WALKER SAWYER
College: Texas A&M University, College Station
Major/Career: Agribusiness
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Ann Teel

LOGAN L. SKIDMORE
College: Blinn College, Bryan
Major/Career: Nursing
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Roberta Skelton

ALAN TORRES
College: University of Texas, Austin
Major/Career: Advertising
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Ann Teel

CIRILO M. TREJO
College: University of Texas, Dallas
Major/Career: Programmer
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: LaDonna Lewis

NATALIE R. TURNER
College: Houston Baptist College, Houston
Major/Career: Criminology
Most Influential HISD Educator/Employee: Kim Fisher

EAGLE LEGACY BANQUET
Honors Students Who Soar

Parents, educators and members of the community gathered at the Eagle Legacy Awards Banquet on May 18 to celebrate the top 10 percent of Hillsboro High School’s 2013 graduating class.

Lee Alverson, the evening’s host, introduced the nine outstanding seniors, and the HISD teacher or employee who was most influential in each of their lives.

Each student received an iPad, compliments of the Hillsboro ISD Education Foundation (HISDEF). The Foundation partners with the community to provide resources to enrich teaching, inspire learning and maximize innovative opportunities for all students in the district.

Attendees also honored the 2013 HISDEF Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Mr. Wayne Blower, who dedicated 41 years to educating generations of those in the Hillsboro community.
Hillsboro High School’s Class of 2013 Closes One Chapter, Ready To Open Another

“I began serving as principal at Hillsboro High School during these graduating students’ freshman year,” reminisced Tommy McEwen. “I can remember how scared some of them looked. Now, four years later, I am proud as these same students graduate, take what they’ve learned at HHS and go out to positively impact the world.”

“I began serving as principal at Hillsboro High School during these graduating students’ freshman year,” reminisced Tommy McEwen. “I can remember how scared some of them looked. Now, four years later, I am proud as these same students graduate, take what they’ve learned at HHS and go out to positively impact the world.”

“Dream big dreams,” advised Hillsboro High School lead counselor Robin Ralston. “Know that you are leaving HHS with the tools necessary to succeed.”

During the ceremony, high achieving students received special recognition. Valedictorian and salutatorian students were honored by representatives of the Hillsboro Optimist Club. Students with a four-year cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or greater wore gold honor cords, and students who earned a 3.5 four-year cumulative grade point average earned the President’s Award for Education Excellence, receiving a certificate from the President of the United States recognizing their academic achievement.

Students graduating under the Distinguished Achievement Program or the Recommended High School Program wore special medals. National Honor Society graduates were recognized with a stole collar displaying a special patch, and students completing 100 or more community service hours, therefore earning the President’s Student Service Award, donned a service recognition pin. And Red Cross Honor Award recipients wore a red cord signifying they donated blood at two or more student council-sponsored blood drives during this school year.

Hillsboro High School’s Class of 2013

“Making friends that will last a lifetime.”

“Being involved in theatre.”

“The great teachers.”

“Playing in the band, and being on the soccer team.”

“Participating in UIL academics.”

“My wood shop class.”

“One-Act Play season.”

MEMORIES

FONDEST GRADuATES’

GRADuATES’

MEMORIES

SURVEY RESULTS:

Attending Community College …….62%

Attending 4-Year University ………. 9%

Attending Technical College ………16%

Entering the Military ………………. 4%

Starting a Career ………………….. 8%

Undecided …………………… 1%
Alan Torres: Valedictorian

Happiness breeds success

Hillsboro High School’s 2013 valedictorian Alan Torres' mantra is simple, yet profound. Go through life being happy, and that happiness will yield success in all areas of life.

To be sure, a conversation with Torres is filled with contagious optimism. When asked about the key to his success in school, he was quick to acknowledge his Mom’s constant encouragement. Skateboarding, as a way to relieve stress, was a close second. And with Torres’ full plate, a stress reliever seemed like a smart idea.

In addition to excelling in the classroom, he was a member of student council and UIL academics, president of FFA and NHS, a tutor and a part-time employee at ParSun.

Torres offered words of wisdom during his graduation speech. “Don’t get discouraged when the world is tough; just go out there and show the world you have a lot to give,” he said. If his high school accomplishments are any indication, the world should have high expectations for Torres, who’s heading to the University of Texas (Austin) to pursue an advertising degree.

Walker Sawyer: Salutatorian

J ust do it

Walker Sawyer, Hillsboro High School’s 2013 salutatorian, borrowed Nike’s slogan when asked about his best study habit. “Try not to procrastinate,” he said.

Practicing his own advice paid off for Sawyer, as he was recognized for his academic performance. While he’s certainly honored, one of his fondest memories of the year was his onstage theatrical performance in the musical “Godspell.” Sawyer also kept busy as a member of the golf team, band and FFA.

Sawyer, who lives with his parents and younger sister, considers his Dad one of his greatest role models and trusted confidants. In fact, Sawyer plans to work with him on the family farm in the future. First, though, he’s on his way to Texas A&M University to study agricultural business, and then to pursue a job in corporate America.

While Sawyer acknowledged that graduation was bittersweet, he’s excited about this next step in his life. As he encouraged his fellow classmates, “Always hold your head up, and keep moving forward.”

class of 2013 scholarship awards

Hillsboro ISD congratulates these hard-working seniors on earning close to $180,000 in awards. In addition, HISD thanks the scholarship providers for their generous contribution and support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP/AWARD</th>
<th>RECIPIENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>2013 Buick Achievers Scholarship</td>
<td>Vicente Carmona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion Awards</td>
<td>Walker Sawyer, Natalie Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Service Scholarship</td>
<td>Alejandra Tepetate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAR Essay Award</td>
<td>Walker Sawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama Scholarships to Grayson College</td>
<td>Kyree Williams, Timothy Wedden</td>
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<td>Drama Scholarships to San Antonio College</td>
<td>Osvaldo Cabral</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama Scholarships to Tyler Junior College</td>
<td>Kyree Williams, Timothy Wedden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HHS AG Boosters</td>
<td>Vicente Carmona, Pedro Salvador</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS Athletic Boosters</td>
<td>Mikel Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillsborough High School Slogan when asked about his best study habit</td>
<td>&quot;Try not to procrastinate,&quot; Walker Sawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Just Do It</td>
<td>&quot;Godspell.&quot; Sawyer also kept busy as a member of the golf team, band and FFA.</td>
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HILLSBORO ISD ENJOYS A BANNER YEAR

Congratulations to the students whose hard work and dedication was recognized and rewarded.

Caprice Marley

Attending 1st through 12th grade in Hillsboro, Caprice Marley is proud to give back to a district that inspired her to teach. Marley, who earned her elementary education degree from Baylor University, has spent 18 of her 23 years as a special education teacher in the Hillsboro school district.

Marley, a 5th and 6th grade special education math teacher, is an inclusion classroom and a 6th grade special education resource math teacher. “Teaching special education is challenging in the best sense of the word,” said Marley. “We celebrate small successes because the big accomplishments often happen after the children have moved on from my classroom.”

Building relationships with her students, utilizing creativity and a sense of humor, and working with talented fellow teachers and administrators are among her keys to success. One of her favorite traditions to acknowledge an important success and milestone for the 6th graders is “Clap Out.” “On the final school day, teachers, parents and students line the hallway, applauding the students as they march out of school,” explained Marley. “It’s a fun and emotional way to celebrate the fact that they’re moving on to junior high.”

Laura Moulder

After spending years in corporate training, a job she enjoyed, Laura Moulder asked herself a soul-searching question: “Am I doing work that will matter in ten years?” Her answer to that question landed her at Walden University pursuing a master’s degree in education with a focus on curriculum, instruction and assessment.

Moulder began her teaching career in general education eight years ago before transferring to Hillsboro Junior High as a special education teacher. Today, she teaches 7th and 8th grade reading, math and language arts. On why she was drawn to special education, Moulder explained, “I wanted to teach children who I feel need me the most, particularly in grades that can be difficult, with all the emotional, mental and physical changes happening at one time.”

Recognizing the individuality of her students, Moulder both encourages and allows her students to approach learning in the way most effective to each of them. She also incorporates real-life and relevant topics into her lessons.

“I am incredibly honored to work in the Hillsboro district,” said Moulder. “The staff and administration are very supportive, and they foster an environment that promotes innovative teaching.”

Every year the district selects two district teachers of the year—one elementary and one secondary—from a pool of nominees. These teachers, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and excellence in the classroom, will be considered for Texas Teacher of the Year.

district announces
teachers of the year

(Left to Right) Caprice Marley, Laura Moulder, Dr. James “Buck” Gilcrease

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SECOND GRADE: Oral Reading - 6th & 6th

(Accolades:)

HILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL $500 Exxon Mobile Grant

[Image 1013x45 to 1398x299]
[Image 1013x308 to 1501x640]
[Image 187x47 to 572x460]
THIRD GRADE:
- Oral Reading 2nd, 3rd & 4th
- Ready Writing 2nd
- TEAM Music Memory 3rd/Individual 4th
- Storytelling 3rd

FOURTH GRADE:
- Music Memory 2nd & 5th
- TEAM Art 3rd/Individual 2nd
- Spelling 1st
- Dictionary Skills 3rd
- Listening 3rd
- Maps, Graphs & Charts 4th

FIFTH GRADE:
- Oral Reading 2nd
- Ready Writing 4th & 6th
- Spelling 1st
- Dictionary Skills 3rd
- Listening 3rd
- Maps, Graphs & Charts 4th

SIXTH GRADE:
- TEAM Calculator 1st/Individual 4th & 5th
- TEAM Social Studies 2nd/Individual 4th & 5th
- TEAM Maps, Graphs & Charts 2nd
- TEAM Dictionary 2nd/Individual 4th & 6th
- TEAM Spelling 1st/Individual 1st, 3rd & 4th
- TEAM Listening Skills 1st/Individual 1st, 4th & 6th
- TEAM Mathematics 1st/Individual 2nd, 3rd & 4th

SEVENTH GRADE:
- Number Sense 5th
- TEAM Social Studies 1st/Individual 2nd
- Oral Reading 1st, 3rd & 4th
- TEAM Spelling 2nd/Individual 2nd & 3rd
- TEAM Science I 2nd
- TEAM Spelling 2nd/Individual 2nd & 3rd
- TEAM Dictionary 2nd/Individual 2nd & 4th

EIGHTH GRADE:
- Oral Reading 3rd & 4th
- Ready Writing 4th
- TEAM Spelling 2nd/Individual 5th
- Calculator 6th
- TEAM Dictionary Skills 3rd/Individual 2nd
- Editorial Writing 2nd & 4th
- Impromptu Speaking 4th

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Intermediate School

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Junior High School

SEVENTH GRADE:
- Boys' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Girls' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Intermediate School

SEVENTH GRADE:
- Boys' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Girls' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track

EIGHTH GRADE:
- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track
- Boys' Track

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Junior High School

SEVENTH GRADE:
- Boys' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Girls' Track 1st, 2nd & 3rd
- Boys' Basketball
- Girls' Basketball
- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Intermediate School

EIGHTH GRADE:
- Boys' Track
- Girls' Track
- Boys' Track

ACCOLADES:
Hillsboro Junior High School
UIL ACADEMICS:
Prose Interpretation 2nd GV Tournament • Number Sense 5th GV Tournament & Crandall Tournament/1st UIL • Number Sense 5th GV Tournament & Crandall • Prose Interpretation 2nd Crandall Tournament/1st UIL/4th Regional • Poetry Interpretation 5th UIL • Prose Interpretation 4th • Ready Writing 4th • Number Sense 5th UIL • Current Events 4th/Social Studies 1st UIL/6th Regional

Hillsboro High School

UIL ATHLETICS:
Cross Country (Girls) - Regional Qualifiers

Hillsboro High School

UIL ATHLETICS:
Powerlifting (Girls) - Regional & State Qualifiers

UIL ATHLETICS:
Volleyball - 1st Team All-District • Volleyball - 2nd Team All-District • Basketball (Girls) - 2nd Team All-District • Basketball (Boys) - 2nd Team All-District

UIL ATHLETICS:
Softball - District 7-3A Most Valuable Player, District 7-3A Defensive Player of the Year, District 7-3A Offensive Player of the Year, District 7-3A All-District, 1st Team All-District, 2nd Team All-District

UIL ATHLETICS:
Cross Country (Boys) - Regional Qualifiers

UIL ATHLETICS:
Track (Girls) - Area, Regional & State Qualifier (far right)

UIL ATHLETICS:
Track (Boys) - Area, Regional & State Qualifier (far right)

UIL OAP:
Best Actor/District • All Star Cast/Area • Advancing Play Medals: District & Area • Advancing Play Medals: District & Area/Region • Advancing Play Medals: District & Area/Region/State • Advancing Play Medals: District & Area • Advancing Play Medals: District • Advancing Play Medals: District

ACCOLADES:
AG:
Breed Reserve Grand Champion at San Antonio • 4th Place San Antonio Science Fair • 3rd place San Angelo Ag Mechanics Show • State FFA Degree - Lone Star Degree

UIL ATHLETICS:
Football - 2nd team All-District Offense and Defense • Basketball (Boys) - 2nd Team All-District • Basketball (Girls) - 2nd Team All-District

UIL ATHLETICS:
Basketball (Boys) - 1st Team All-District • Basketball - 2nd Team All-District • Baseball - 1st Team All-District • Baseball - 2nd Team All-District

SKILLS USA:
State Qualifying Team

AG:
Breed Reserve Grand Champion at San Antonio • 4th Place San Antonio Ag Mechanics Show • State FFA Degree - Lone Star Degree
Barbara Byrd, a member of Hillsboro Junior High’s food services team, rose well before the sun during the school week. By six o’clock in the morning, she can be found in the kitchen preparing food she’ll later serve to students she’s come to know and love.

Byrd began her 19-year Hillsboro ISD career at Franklin Elementary School before transferring to the junior high school. Right at home in the kitchen, she originally honed her cooking skills as a dietary aide at a local nursing home.

“I’ve enjoyed my job because I love to cook,” said Byrd. “Plus, interacting with the students, and actually watching them grow up has been an added bonus.”

Retirement will include “catching up on sleep,” she laughed. She’ll also continue to care for her 15-year-old, and cook her favorite foods – meatloaf, pork chops and buttermilk pie.

“While looking forward to this next life stage, Byrd acknowledged, “My co-workers are like family, and I’ll miss seeing them bright and early every morning.”

Shift ing Gears After a 30-Year Career

Joyce Reid

During the last thirty years, Joyce Reid’s smiling face has become a familiar sight around Hillsboro ISD. While Reid has been a bus driver her entire career, she’s nearly always held a second position as well. From substitute teacher to secretary in the maintenance and transportation department to her most recent role as transportation coordinator, Reid said, “I’ve always enjoyed my job.”

Reid’s favorite part of driving a bus was interacting with the kids. “It’s been fun getting to know the kids on my route, and hearing about their day at school.”

As transportation coordinator responsible for arranging the bus routes and all travel-related needs throughout the district, Reid tapped into her administrative and organizational skills.

Count on Reid to stay just as busy during retirement, with her husband Norvell, nine children and 23 grandchildren! “I plan to spend a lot of time on one of my hobbies – genealogy,” commented Reid. “And now I can participate in the daytime activities at my church, too.”

Excited about retirement, Reid still plans to frequently visit her long-time friends at the school.

Teaching Was A Dream Job and an Honor

Susan “Suzy” Dunn

After 20 years in the classroom at Hillsboro ISD, pre-K teacher Susan “Suzy” Dunn is retiring from a profession she believes is her “true calling.” Before becoming a teacher, Dunn enjoyed family life and motherhood with her two daughters, although she felt a pull toward teaching that she decided to pursue. Dunn first experienced the classroom as an elementary aide. Then three years later, she headed to Baylor University where she received a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Dunn returned to the classroom as a second grade teacher and spent time teaching first grade Recovery Reading before settling in as a pre-K teacher for the last 19 years. When asked her favorite aspect of teaching pre-K, Dunn was quick to respond, “The kids are honest, they love unconditionally, and they make me laugh. They’re eager to learn and explore, and the classroom is a fun and interactive place.”

A teacher at heart, not even retirement can keep Dunn out of the classroom. She plans to teach three-year-olds at Hillisdon’s First Baptist Church Wee School a few days a week. When not teaching, Dunn will spend time with her husband of nearly 38 years, Nathan, her grown daughters and one grandson.

FINISHING CAREER IN SPECIAL EDUCATION IS IONg ON THE CAKE

Vickie Fergason

Vickie Fergason is heading into retirement after 19 years as a paraprofessional with Hillsboro ISD. Surrounded by a family of educators, Fergason was inspired to follow in their footsteps after being a stay-at-home-mom to sons Kelly and Monte.

During her career, Fergason spent time in pre-K, kindergarten and first grade classrooms where she expertly and enthusiastically assisted the teachers and students. She also served as an aide in the computer lab, physical education and as a secretary in the office. Spending the last few years in special education has been especially rewarding for Fergason. “I love working in special education because the kids are so authentic,” said Fergason.” It’s an honor to have a hand in helping to shape each student’s future.”

While Fergason said she’ll miss “morning hugs from the kids,” she’s excited about this new chapter in her life. She and Jesse, her husband of 46 years, both outdoor enthusiasts, plan to live in an RV at a local campground where they’ll also volunteer. She’s looking forward to spending more time with her two boys, eight grandchildren, one great-grandson and her second great-grandchild who is on the way.

Dancing is now a fun and anticipated aspect of teaching pre-K, kindergarten and first grade classrooms is truly icing on the cake,” said Fergason.

District Music Man Leaves Legacy of Pride

Kenneth Pointer

Kenneth Pointer stepped up the beat of the music program of Hillsboro High School in the last five years.

Pointer credits increased visibility in the community and student engagement for the growth. To capture the students’ attention and inspire commitment, he added contemporary, popular music to the mix. The band particularly thrived during football game performances. At the last 2009 home game, the band played and danced to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” Dancing is now a fun and anticipated tradition at the last home game of every season.

“If it were up to the kids, we’d always wrap up the season with ‘Thriller.’” Pointer laughed. “But I try to change it up.”

While Pointer is excited about returning to Texas A&M Commerce to pursue a master’s degree, he acknowledged that he’ll miss the students, particularly celebrating their successes. In the final competition under his leadership, the Temple College Band Festival, the high school concert band brought home two first division trophies.

“Seeing them beam with pride, and take ownership in their performances has been very rewarding,” said Pointer.

HISD THANKS OUR RETIREEs FOR THEIR SERVICE AND DEDICATION!

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Hours 30-Year Career

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Vickie Fergason is heading into retirement after 19 years as a paraprofessional with Hillsboro ISD. Surrounded by a family of educators, Fergason was inspired to follow in their footsteps after being a stay-at-home-mom to sons Kelly and Monte.

During her career, Fergason spent time in pre-K, kindergarten and first grade classrooms where she expertly and enthusiastically assisted the teachers and students. She also served as an aide in the computer lab, physical education and as a secretary in the office. Spending the last few years in special education has been especially rewarding for Fergason. “I love working in special education because the kids are so authentic,” said Fergason.” It’s an honor to have a hand in helping to shape each student’s future.”

While Fergason said she’ll miss “morning hugs from the kids,” she’s excited about this new chapter in her life. She and Jesse, her husband of 46 years, both outdoor enthusiasts, plan to live in an RV at a local campground where they’ll also volunteer. She’s looking forward to spending more time with her two boys, eight grandchildren, one great-grandson and her second great-grandchild who is on the way.

Dancing is now a fun and anticipated aspect of teaching pre-K, kindergarten and first grade classrooms is truly icing on the cake,” said Fergason.

District Music Man Leaves Legacy of Pride

Kenneth Pointer

Kenneth Pointer stepped up the beat of the music program of Hillsboro High School in the last five years.

Pointer credits increased visibility in the community and student engagement for the growth. To capture the students’ attention and inspire commitment, he added contemporary, popular music to the mix. The band particularly thrived during football game performances. At the last 2009 home game, the band played and danced to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” Dancing is now a fun and anticipated tradition at the last home game of every season.

“If it were up to the kids, we’d always wrap up the season with ‘Thriller.’” Pointer laughed. “But I try to change it up.”

While Pointer is excited about returning to Texas A&M Commerce to pursue a master’s degree, he acknowledged that he’ll miss the students, particularly celebrating their successes. In the final competition under his leadership, the Temple College Band Festival, the high school concert band brought home two first division trophies.

“Seeing them beam with pride, and take ownership in their performances has been very rewarding,” said Pointer.
Students Pay It Forward
Send Care Packages to U.S. Troops in Afghanistan

In December of last year, a post on the social media platform Facebook caught the attention of Autumn Reed, a Hillsboro Intermediate School third grade teacher. A friend of mine, Sgt. Jeremy Richards, who is stationed in Afghanistan, posted a message on Facebook that really touched her heart, said Reed. “His gentle request was for family and friends to send food, including microwavable items.”

Inspired to take action, Reed and her co-teacher Galia Sanders brought the request to their students to see if they had an interest in, and ideas for, helping the troops. The students responded enthusiastically, deciding to make care packages, including homemade cookies, popcorn, microwavable food, and hand-decorated thank you and Christmas cards. The packages were successfully assembled and delivered in late December.

The troop’s act of appreciation was both exciting and unexpected. On February 7, the troop flew a flag in honor of the classroom during a mission. And to top that off, the flag and a special certificate were sent to the students.

“Project was very rewarding,” beamed Autumn Reed, a Hillsboro Intermediate third grade teacher.

Since that time, student Joseph Delgado, learned how to properly fold the American flag, a technique he taught his fellow-students. “This project was very rewarding,” beamed Reed.

HISD Awarded ESC Region 12 Technology Foundation Grant

Hillsboro ISD was one of seven districts to receive grant awards from the ESC Region 12 Technology Foundation. The foundation, established in the fall of 2012 using surplus funds from their E-Rate Consulting Services Program and other surplus funds designated to support educational technology, awarded its first grants this year.

Hillsboro High school science teacher Jennifer Faulknor wrote the grant “Learning Blooms with Collaboration,” which will connect distant classrooms through multiple web applications for biology experiments, and is eager to put the $5,000 grant award to good use in the classroom.

“We are committed to support Region 12 schools in their efforts to give all students first-class technology in the classroom,” said ESC Region 12 Executive Director Jerry Maze.

HISD is honored to be a first-year recipient of this important grant. “We are excited to be able to implement an initiative designed to continue to elevate the innovative use of technology in educating our students,” commented HISD Superintendent Dr. Buck Gilcrease.

New Facilities, Fan Support Bolster Softball Team to District Championship Win

The Hillsboro High School softball team swung for the fences and won the District 7-3A championship this year, claiming the title with a 6-2 victory over Glen Rose. With the victory, the Lady Eagles finished district with an impressive 7-1 record and the district crown.

“Their improvement this year has been outstanding,” said head coach Kevin Lewis. The team almost tripled their win totals, spiking from six in 2012 to 17 this year.

Lewis credits the individual efforts of the girls, who sacrificed personal time in the off-season to play ball and improve their skills. Hillsboro ISD's support, which was exemplified by their commitment to provide new facilities, was also crucial to the team’s success. The new indoor practice area, with drop-down batting cages, helped most players boost their batting averages by around 100 points, and the new field gave the girls a sense of pride.

Also, the community and fans that filled the bleachers played a big role in rallying the team toward its many victories.

“We had super fan support – it was tremendous,” Lewis said of the crowds that lifted the Lady Eagles this year. “They really kept us pumped up.”

AG Texas
AT&T
Abbey Concrete
Amanda Scootbrough, DDS
Antique Village
Arby’s
Bill Gilaga, CEP
Brooman Cabinets
Brookshire’s Food Store
Business Supply
Chicken Express
Citizens National Bank
Cliff Refrigeration
Coca Cola
Cole Ford
Crop Production Services
David Tel Lents Century 21
Realtors

Days Inn
Dillard insurance
Dixie L.P.-Gas
D.L. Williams Wood Products
Dresslin
El Conquistador
Family Diagnostic Medical
Gini’s Restaurant
First National Bank of Central Texas
Farming Lumber
Floral Gallery
Frankie’s Pasta and Pizza
Ford
Gene’s Auto Service
Hilton
Hill College
Hill County Farm Bureau
Hill County Foot & Ankle Specialist
Hill County Insurance
Hill Country Title
Hill College Nursery and Landscaping
Hill Country Radiator
Hill Regional Senior Circle
Hillisboro Boy Scouts
Hillisboro Business Women
Hillisboro Chiropractic Clinic
Hillisboro Fire/Rescue
Hillisboro Lions Club
Hillisboro Police Dept.
Hillisboro Rotary Club
Hillisboro Sant & Gravel Hometown Pride Car Care & Storage
IHOP
It Can Be Arranged
Jack in the Box
Jaino’s L.B. Taco Restaurant
Jim’s Krissy Fried Chicken
Johnson Cleaners
Jordan Redwood Lumber Co.
Kadetz Auctioneering and Farm Equipment Sales
Kara Pruitt – Attorney at Law
KIBR Radio
Lance Foods
Lehmann Real Estate and Insurance
Lone Star Café
Marshall & Marshall Funeral Directors
McGregor Real Estate
McGregor Law Office
Mimi & Papa’s Kitchen
Micro Title
Montes Restaurant
Montier Trucking Co.
MoveLand
Mrs. Bill’s
Original Fried Pies
PAECO Automotive
Pagitt’s
Parr-Hatley Bookkeeping/ Taxitors
Patillo’s
Pizza Hut
Pro Nails
Rainbow Farms
Rick’s Quick Lube
Ryan C. Cawon, DDS
Salon 110
Schlotzsky’s
Scott Free Bail Bonds
Shell’s Dress Shop
Julie Siddons Real Estate
Sims, Moore, Hill, Gannan & Cairns
Smith Foundation
Sonic
Starbucks
State Farm Insurance
Subway
Sy’s Kitchen
Taco Bell
T B Bond Pharmacy
Texas Land Bank
The Hillsboro Reporter
Tipton International
Tom’s Tire
Town Hall Estates
Tucker Lumber
Upper Cutz

W.G. Orr Farms
Walmart
Wells Fargo Bank
Wendy’s
Whataburger
Whitefield Insurance
Wilson’s Paint & Body
Wine Oil
Woodmen of the World
Hillsboro High School Class of 2013

DREAMS AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

"I will strive to become a public relations specialist. I plan to work for political campaigns or advocacy programs."

"My dream is to be a nurse and help people through the Red Cross, and to assist those in need in different parts of the world."

"To be a criminal lawyer."

"Become a successful teacher and encourage others to pursue their education."

"To be a strong, independent business woman."

"To be a restaurant owner."

"To open my own barber shop."

"I want to be a film director."

"To have a great career and a happy life."

"To be an investigative journalist."

"Be a veterinarian, and travel the world as an advocate for animal rights."

"To be able to support my family and see the world with them."

"Be a veteranarian, and travel the world as an advocate for animal rights."