

# THE BEST ARE IN THE EAST — HISD EAST REGION SCHOOLS



The **Houston Independent School District's East Region** is made up of 43 schools throughout Houston's East Side. The East Region serves more than 32,000 students in Pre-K through grade 12. Students from across the Houston area travel to East Region schools to participate in innovative programs for engineering, oil industry technology, early college preparation, dual credit courses, gifted and talented, and Magnet programs. East Region schools offer challenging academic curricula that supports the college-bound culture of HISD.

## Milby Cheer Squad Wins

Eleven members of the **MILBY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEER SQUAD** represented the school at the National Cheerleading



Association Cheer Championships in Arlington March 28, 2009. The team won 1<sup>st</sup> for Showmanship and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Game Day Division. Teams from across Texas

participated in the event.

Congratulation are extended to all team members and team sponsors: Donielle Ryals Gonzalez, Shima Khan, and Candiss Drexler.

## Chavez Students Win Awards

The **Alliance for Young Artists & Writers** announced the winners of **The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards of 2009**. Juan Garza and Monica Rendon, both Gold Key winners attend **Chavez High School**.

Both Juan and Monica earned honors in the "Video and Film Category" Juan Garza was honored for his entry 'Cubism' and Monica Rendon was honored for her entry "Insects Paradise" The **Alliance for Young Artists & Writers** tracks the creative development of more than a quarter of a million teenagers across the country. The Alliance's program goals are to identify, motivate and validate the next generation of artists and writers. Congratulations to Jaun and Monica on receiving this honor.

## East Superintendent Named Interim Chief Academic Officer.

Thelma Garza's first job at HISD was driving students with special needs to school. She was doing her student teaching at the time and working hard to pay for college. Garza began her teaching career in the district as a substitute teacher. During her 35-year career with HISD, she has worked her way up to principal, East Region superintendent, and finally, interim chief academic officer of the largest school district in Texas.



"In her 35 years serving HISD, Thelma Garza has achieved a remarkable record of success that's inspiring to all. She's a true leader, who is well respected by her peers, is active in the community, is focused on instruction and above all, who always puts children first," said HISD Superintendent of Schools Abelardo Saaavedra. "Her experience and dedication will greatly benefit HISD as interim Chief Academic Officer."

The new interim Regional Superintendent of the East Region will be Samuel Sarabia, who previously worked as executive principal of HISD's East Region. Congratulations MS. Garza!

## Eastwood Expanding Their Options

**Eastwood Academy** has had a very active spring semester. Students at the school have received district trophies in Science Fair,

Skills USA Competition, and the Urban Debate Competitions. Thirty students are preparing to take the Spanish AP Language Test for the first time in the school's history.

The school has committed to AP courses next year in Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, English Language, English Literature, Chemistry, World History, Computer Science, and Calculus in addition to several new dual credit courses.

**Vara Center Skills USA Winners**

The **Vara Center** swept the awards again this year in Computer Maintenance Skills Competition held at **San Jacinto College** in Pasadena, TX in February. Students from **Austin, Eastwood and Milby** worked very hard to achieve the rewards that they received. At the state competition, held April 2 – 4 2009, **Vara Center** students once again brought home numerous awards.



First Place: Computer Maintenance Project  
 Felipe Benitez **Austin High School**  
 Gerardo Castro **Eastwood Academy**

First Place: Computer Maintenance Project  
**Milby High School**  
 Jesse Duran Joel Garcia  
 Daniel Luna Ricardo Maldonado

First Place: Employment Portfolio  
 Francisco Corona **Eastwood Academy**

First Place: Photo Panel  
 Jessica Flores **Eastwood Academy**

In July 2008 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with assistance from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, built an outdoor habitat which features a pond. In 2009 group members built six garden beds. The project concluded this April with volunteers planting 8 fruit trees and harvesting vegetables planted in January. Support for the April activity came from a multitude of groups and the **Pleasantville Community**.



**East Region Schools**

Belfort Academy	Lantrip Elem.	Whittier Elem.
Bonner Elem.	Laurenzo ECC	Project Chrysalis
Briscoe Elem.	Lewis Elem.	Deady Middle
Burnet Elem.	Oates Elem.	Edison Middle
Cage Elem.	Park Place Elem.	Holland Middle
Carrillo Elem.	Patterson Elem.	Jackson Middle
Crespo Elem.	Pleasantville Elem.	Stevenson Middle
Dávila Elem.	Port Houston Elem.	Ortiz Middle
De Zavala Elem.	Robinson Elem.	Austin High
Franklin Elem.	Rucker Elem.	Chávez High
Gallegos Elem.	The Rusk School	Eastwood Academy
Harris, J. R. Elem.	Sánchez Elem.	East Early College
Harris, R. P. Elem.	Southmayd Elem.	Furr High / REACH
Henderson Elem.	Tijerina Elem.	Milby High



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Thelma Garza, East Region Superintendent

**Pleasantville's Garden Expands**

On Saturday, April 5, 2009 the **Pleasantville** community gathered to put the finishes touches on the community garden. community



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