



VOLUME II, ISSUE III MAY 2014

The CONTENDER

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Best of the Best!

MISSION STATEMENT

Through healthy competition, HISD UIL ensures every student the opportunity for academic excellence and personal enrichment, through the classroom and beyond.

**HISD + UIL
A Winning
Combination!**

HEADLINE NEWS!

HISD UIL 2014 Best of the Best Showcase! FINE ARTS

presenting Winners! Champions! State Qualifiers! and simply the Best in HISD Fine Arts!

promoting, supporting, sustaining UIL Fine Arts programs in HISD schools

FEATURING STATE QUALIFIERS ...

Carnegie Vanguard One-Act Play!

Westbury & Davis HS Choirs! Sharpstown HS Design!

State Semi-Finalist ... Furr HS Media

May 22nd

5pm

**Westbury
High School**

MARIACHI & BALLET FOLKLORICO!

FILM FEST! THEATRE!

THEATRICAL DESIGN!

BAND! CHOIR! ORCHESTRA!

ACADEMIC SOLO PERFORMERS!

**Admission
FREE**



Simply the Best!

Sixteen (16) Elementary schools, a whopping 356 student participants, came together on the campus of Windsor Village ES, on Saturday, May 3rd, for the last time this year, ready to find out, just who is “simply the best” in HISD UIL Academics! This was the largest UIL ES Academic District Championship tournament that we have had to date; UIL Elementary Academics continues to grow in HISD!

Students competed in quite rigorous, but friendly academic competitions such as creative writing, number sense, social studies, impromptu speaking, and solo acting. In attendance at the 2014 District Championship were: Almeda ES, Bastian, Briarmeadow Charter, Cornelius ES, DeChaumes, and Dodson, Energized for Excellence, Horn, Kolter, Law, MacGregor, Twain, Wesley, Wharton Dual Language Academy, Whittier, and Windsor Village Elementary.

Horn Elementary, won First Place Sweepstakes and is the 2013 –2014 District Champion! Twain ES was Second Place Sweepstakes winner, with Kolter ES in Third Place!



In honor of their hard work and dedication throughout this school year, select students were recognized by each of their schools and received the “Spirit of UIL” award:
Anna Navarro - Wharton ES
Ashley Lopez - De Chaumes ES
Miles Goldstein - Kolter ES
Annie Zhu -Twain ES

Shirley Zhu - Twain ES
Mark Abidde - Briarmeadow
Vincent Guerrero - Whittier
Henry Okafor - Cornelius
Moises Velasquez - Almeda



Several of our outstanding Elementary School 2013-2014 performers in Solo Acting will be featured at the upcoming HISD UIL Fine Arts *Best of the Best* Showcase



A week later, on May 10th, 500! students competed at the UIL Middle School District Championship Tournament, hosted by the Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy. Never before have we seen such moving around of desks, tables, and chairs in order to accommodate such a large number of excited students who were just as eager to find out, just who is “simply the best” in HISD UIL Academics. An achievement for such a great campus!

Fifteen (15) schools attended: the Baylor College of Medicine Academy, Briarmeadow Charter, Burbank MS, Clifton, Fondren, Hamilton, Hogg, Holland, Paul Revere, Pershing, Pin Oak, and Welch Middle Schools, Wharton Dual Language Academy, the Young Men’s College Prep

Academy, and Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy. These students, with full support of UIL Coaches, Parents, and Volunteers, voluntarily gave up their free time on a Saturday to enrich their education beyond the classroom!

Pin Oak Middle School was declared the 2014 District Champion; Briarmeadow Charter School came in second place, and Hamilton MS came in third. In honor of their hard work and dedication throughout this school year, these students were recognized by each of their schools and received the “Spirit of UIL” award:

Hamilton Middle School –
Maria Ramirez
Holland Middle School –
Nicolas Nunez
Wharton Dual Language –
Asha Hayes
Hogg Middle School –
Kailyn Elder
Briarmeadow Charter –
Sofia Suarez
Clifton Middle School –
Ms. Ana Sanchez
(parent volunteer)

HISD UIL



Better Than All the Rest!

Increase in average tournament size by 11% and in the number of participating schools by 7% aside, the 2013-2014 Debate season was packed with defining moments and milestones that HISD students, teachers, staff, and community will remember for years to come. Although everyone will remember the year differently, there are a number of accomplishments that everyone will agree made the Houston Urban Debate League, “better than all the rest”.

Two teams from the HAIS (Houston Academy for International Studies) competed in Washington, D.C. at the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues national meet, placing in the top 8 and 16 teams in the nation.

Challenge High School sent a team to compete at the Second Annual Old Parkland debate tournament, where they debated against international teams from England, Mexico, and Australia, in addition to other teams from across the U.S.

Although the HUDL debate season is over, debaters still have a number of opportunities to look forward to. In July, nearly 40 HUDL debaters will be traveling to the National Speech and Debate Association’s national tournaments to be held in Kanas City. In late July, HUDL will be presenting the annual Debate Summer Institute at the University of Houston with expected enrollment of over 100 students.



Lee HS debate squad receives the 2014 “Spirit of HUDL” Award!



Houston Academy for International Studies debate squad receives the “Squad of the Year” Award !

Greg Mayo from Westbury High School was given the “Coach of the Year” award, and Daniel Dinneen was honored as the “Volunteer of the Year”.





UIL Academics Crowns District Champions

High school students throughout Houston ISD competed for top honors during the 2014 UIL District Meets held on March 29th, at Westside High School. The UIL Academic District Meets bring students together to compete in over 22 college level academic contests that reflect every aspect of the HISD classroom curriculum. Contestants compete for team and individual honors, and the opportunity to advance to Regional competition and the State meet in Austin. Yet, the truly coveted prize is the title of District Champion. This year's champions are:

UIL 5A-20
Champion - Westside HS
2nd Place - Bellaire HS

UIL 4A-21
Champion - Reagan HS
2nd Place - Waltrip HS

UIL 3A-23
Champion - Jones HS
2nd Place - Yates HS

Robotics Finds A Champ

Young Men's College Preparatory Academy Wins the 2014 HISD VEX Robotics Championship!

Students from Young Men's College Preparatory Academy (YMCPA) were declared District Robotics Champions at the 2nd Annual HISD High School VEX Robotics Championship, hosted by the Young Women's College Preparatory Academy. More than twelve high schools and middle schools competed in the year long program, coordinated by the UIL Academics Department. The District Championship Tournament marked the end of this year's VEX Robotics season.



Ed White Third Grader Wins 2nd Annual District Bilingual Spelling Bee!

Unlike the traditional Spelling Bee, the Bilingual Bee is much more challenging. Students are given a word in Spanish to spell; then, they must translate the word into English, and spell the word in English. It is the intent of the HISD UIL Academics Dept. to provide students with a variety of challenging academically enriching programs that are rigorous and relevant, and strengthen our students' ability to meet the high expectations we have for every student in our district.

On Friday, May 2nd, twenty-eight HISD Elementary and Middle School students all converged upon the Patrick Henry MS auditorium for the 2nd Annual HISD Bilingual



Spelling Bee. Roberto Alfaro, a third grader at Edward White Elementary School was named Bilingual Bee Champion, and Alice Giannoni, a fifth grader from Mark Twain Elementary was named runner-up.



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