



# THE ANCHOR NEWS



Serving the Central Texas Community

Volume 11 Number 1

August 2013

Free

## Rapoport Academy Faculty Spotlight...

### Shannon Howard, RAPS Shining Star

By Tanisha Burrus

As Shannon Howard stands in the back of the gym at Rapoport Academy-Meyer High School's 2013 graduation, tears begin to well up in her eyes. Watching students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, she beams with pride. Still unable to completely embrace the moment, she thinks to herself, "Did I give them enough support?" "Could I have done more?"

These are not questions in the minds of those who know her. Anyone will tell you that Shannon Howard has sown into many, many lives and given so much. In her heart, she knows that she has given her all, but still, she wonders. This is a mark of a dedicated, introspective leader who



Shannon Howard

holds herself to high standards.

Howard is an integral part of the faculty at Rapoport Academy-Meyer High School, where she assists

students in their quests to find the right college and career plan after they leave the halls of the high school. As the College Coordinator, a campus leadership team role, she operates in a spirit of excellence. Howard is responsible for scheduling students for high school and college courses, developing graduation plans, and discovering possible career goals. She makes sure that graduates of Meyer High School have a myriad of opportunities for continued education and success after graduation.

"Mrs. Howard was great at helping me figure out which college courses to take that would transfer to any college I selected," says ChiAnne

See HOWARD Pg. 2

## Rapoport Academy Student Spotlight...

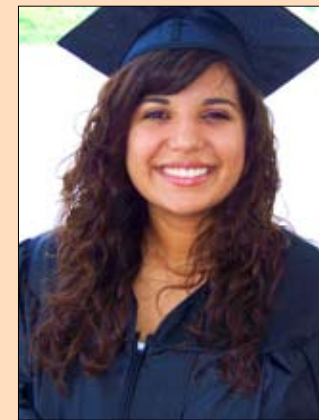
### ChiAnne Castro graduates from high school with 60 college hours

By Tanisha Burrus

ChiAnne Castro graduated from Rapoport Academy-Meyer (Early College) High School on June of 2013 with 60 college hours and recently completed her associate's degree in General Studies this summer from McLennan Community College. Working diligently, she juggled high school and college classes at Texas State Technical College throughout her high school years to lighten the financial burden of funding her education. Castro was accepted to Baylor University, Texas State University, and Texas Women's University. She will enter Texas State University in the fall as a sophomore and will study physical therapy.

Castro received the following scholarships: Meyer-Rapoport Scholarship in the amount of (\$750), a Waco Foundation Mac Grant in the amount of (\$4,000), a Brazos Foundation Scholarship in the amount of (\$10,000), and Baylor University in the amount of (\$20,000). Castro's Total Scholarships, Grants, and Awards are \$34,750. All scholarship/grant totals are over 2 or 4 years.

It is hard to imagine now, but Castro didn't want to attend Rapoport Academy when her parents decided to move



ChiAnne Castro

her in middle school. She states in a college entrance essay, "Moving to Rapoport [Quinn Middle School] is one of the most challenging yet best things that has ever happened to me. My mom and stepfather, both wanted better for me, so they chose to move me from a school where fights were frequent, drugs were present, and sexual inappropriateness happened often, to a place where students take college tours in the eighth grade, teachers let parents know how each student is doing, teaching takes place from the moment class starts to the moment the bell rings to let out of class. They moved me to a place where students are expected to go above and beyond in every assignment."

Castro continues that moving "was a complete

See CASTRO Pg. 7

## In her own words...

### Meet Killeen's trumpet blower, De'Ja Higgins

By W.B. Gunter

At a recent event where narratives were being displayed and collected, De'Ja Higgins, member of a dance team, was waiting to perform. She had arrived early, so with some time to spare, she sat down at a table and proceeded to write her narrative. After completing the narrative, she asked to have it read. De'Ja confidently announced that she could write, and she did just that. Her style is like that of a seasoned writer. Her narrative chronicles three years of commitment to her high school's marching band, where she plays the trumpet. I'm proud to introduce, in this edition of *The Anchor News*, the writing of a super talented student and writer,



De'Ja Higgins

Miss De'Ja Higgins of Killeen TX. She attends Killeen High School as a junior in the IB (International Baccalaureate) program. She is in her 3rd year of band but

has been playing the trumpet for 5 years since the 6th grade at Palo Alto. She volunteers at her church, Grace Christian Center, working with children, ages preschool through 5th grade. Higgins also has a love for animals so she also volunteers at the Second Chance animal shelter. She is an employee of the HIRED! program at Fort Hood, where she is gaining valuable work experience. Higgins is the daughter of retired SFC Robert and Carlette Higgins. Enjoy "Passion and Determination for What I Love to Do," by 16 year-old De'Ja Higgins.

**Passion and determination for what I love to do**  
August 1, 2011 - The first

See HIGGINS Pg. 2





**J.L. and Linda Crawford**

A co-owner of *The Anchor News*, J.L. Crawford is the Director of Operations for the paper. He is also an instructor at McLennan Community College and a Bible teacher. Linda Crawford is co-owner and Editor of *The Anchor News*. She is also an instructor at McLennan Community College, is a Bible teacher and is a conference, workshop and motivational speaker.

Eleven years ago, on August 5, 2002, we printed the first issue of *The Anchor News*. We used a 1981 Mac, the size of a toy computer. It had no spell check and no Internet. We pasted pictures and articles to oversized pages, and we hand delivered everything to West News in West, Texas. The amazing thing is the paper was a mess, but you read it, supported it, and promoted it. Thank you community, friends, and advertisers for keeping us alive and well for eleven years. Please enjoy our 11th Anniversary-Education Issue.

## HIGGINS

Continued from page one

official day of band practice: I lay asleep in bed, my body reeling with excitement and anticipation. My alarm clock goes off at 5:30AM. When I'm waking up, my friends are still asleep. I do my cardio workout and dress for a long day at work. I eat a hearty breakfast of eggs, turkey bacon, and a yogurt. I grab my trumpet, and at 7:50AM, I arrive at Killeen High School Band Hall. I'm not the only one. 80 plus students from freshman to seniors are ready and prepared. As a group, a team, a family, we march down to the Leo Buckley parking lot.

It's 8:00AM and the sun began to make its presence known; Warm-ups, stretching, push-ups, sit-ups, running, and now we begin. The call to attention, "Band ten hut!" No smiles, no fidgeting, we remain absolutely still. Our chest is the only thing moving. It's the only evidence that we're alive and not statues. Mark time eight. Forward march...for the next four hours commands are called; forward, backward, left slide, right slide, eight count turn, right box drill, left box drill.

Sweat pours down my face like a salt water waterfall. My feet ache from rolling on my feet and marching on the hard asphalt. My muscles quiver and I'm having spasms from exhaustion and use. The 100 degree heat beats down on us mercilessly. Our instruments, so light before are cinderblocks in our embrace, held up by weakening arms. Then we get the call, "Gather round!"

We dismiss. "Roo Band #1, Do It!!" It's lunch time. I gather up my lunch, a salad, fruit, peanut butter crackers, and Koolaid® as a treat. I relax enjoying the cool breeze of the AC, my body, still sweating. I close my eyes and rest for the next hour. My alarm goes off, 1:25PM, 5 minutes to be in a seat. Now, we're inside and the work continues.



**De'Ja Higgins**

Marching band consists of two parts, the marching part, and the band part. I sit in my seat and warm-up by myself. My band director shows up and we begin with more warm-ups: trumpets, horns, baritones, trombones, and tubas. We do a run through, measure 18-24. Trombones have melody, measures 50-74, trumpets and horns have melody. Two hours we do this, and for two hours, we memorize out three songs, each one at least 2-3 minutes long.

3:30 rolls around, dismissal. It's 4 when I get home. My body aches, my shoulder hurts. I can't move. I'm so sore. I take a hot bath with salts and relax. I'm exhausted.

10PM, I go to bed. Three years later, August 1, 2013, I wake with anticipation, ready to do it all over again because I have passion and determination for what I love to do.

## HOWARD

Continued from page one

Castro, a recent RAPS graduate. Howard is able to relate to students on a personal level because she is involved in their lives and is aware of the challenges young people face every day. She puts herself in their position and speaks to them in a respectful, caring, non-judgmental manner. Students feel comfortable talking to her about academic and personal issues because she is slow to speak and quick to listen. They know when they walk in her office she has their best interest at heart.

"Mrs. Howard has always provided educational and moral support for students. Even though I was hesitant to take courses I thought were too difficult for me, she managed to motivate and inspire me to take on those challenges because she believed in me," explained Emily Garner, a RAPS graduate. Passionate about her work,

Howard comes in early, stays late, and works on Saturdays if necessary; she does whatever it takes to get the job done. Aside from her college coordinator duties, you may find her coordinating graduation/prom, cleaning the girl's restroom in the math and science building or driving students in the suburban to TSTC. No job is too large or small for her. She will do whatever her hands can find to do.

Howard is a valuable asset to the Rapoport family; she is investing in the lives of young people and has a heart to serve. She is able to juggle all her professional and personal responsibilities while attending graduate school. Currently she is working on her Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology from Tarleton State University, and rumor has it that she will be graduating sometime this year. In addition, she is a supportive wife and nurturing mother to her daughters. With her passion and drive, she is bound to continue to inspire and change lives.

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## The ANCHOR NEWS

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### PURPOSE

The Anchor News, dedicated to serving the community and surrounding areas, focuses on positive news and accomplishments of minorities.

### POLICY

Anchored on the principles of scripture, Anchor News will at no time publish information that is potentially libelous material or intentionally malicious, derogatory or irrelevant.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Signed opinion articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff. Unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of the editor.

### LETTERS AND ARTICLES POLICY

The comments and opinions of our readers are welcomed. Letters and articles should be e-mailed. Letters should be no longer than 200 words and must include a name and phone number. Article submissions should be no longer than 450 words and should include an original head shot (in jpeg format) along with your name, address and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space,

potentially libelous material and copyright infringement. We also reserve the right to refuse derogatory, irrelevant and malicious submissions.

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**Armando Arvizu** ~ Advertising

**Wanda B. Gunter** ~ Contributing Writer

# Coque Johnson Gibson named Citizen of the Month

This month the Cen – Tex African American Chamber of Commerce salutes Coque Johnson Gibson as its Citizen of the Month. She is a dynamic community leader, entrepreneur, wife and mother. Gibson works to help make the community a better place to live. Her advice to others is “Don’t worry about anything; instead, in every situation, with prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell God your request, and he will give you peace that surpasses all understanding and will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.” (Phil 4:6 -7)

The Chamber’s honoree attended Huston – Tillotson College in Austin, Texas and earned a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education and then received a State of Texas Teaching Certification in elementary education. She also received her Texas Real Estate Realtor license in 2000 and a



**Coque Johnson Gibson**

Texas Real Estate Broker license in 2007. Gibson has worked in a variety of careers: as a marketing specialist with the Texas Land Office/Veterans Land Board; an Anti – Drug/Crime Coordinator for the City of Waco Housing Authority Texas Department of Human Services, and an independent contractor for Coldwell Banker, Keller –

Williams and H. Gene Real Estate Company. She has been broker and owner of Coque Gibson Real Estate Company since 2008.

Throughout the years, she has been dedicated to her community through her participation as a past president of Waco School Board and Trustee of District 1 for eight years and secretary of the Economic Opportunity Advancement Corporation. Locals can also listen to her on the radio as co – host of Commissioner Lester Gibson’s morning radio talk show on 104.9 (The Beat). Her talents have been used for 27 years as the coordinator of the Martin Luther King Vigil. She is a member of the NAACP, Olive Heights Neighborhood Association and Zeta Phi Beta sorority.

Married to McLennan County Commissioner Lester Gibson for 43 years, she and Commissioner have four children and twelve grandchildren. Gibson is a very active member of Pleasant Olive Baptist Church where Dr. Willie E. Clarke is the pastor.

# Listach girls continue to overcome adversities



**Hollie and Mariah Listach**

Hollie Listach is a 2011 graduate of Rapoport Academy. In August of 2012, she graduated with her AA degree from McLennan Community College and is currently a senior at the University of Texas in Austin, majoring in African American Studies and English.

Mariah Listach graduated from West High School in 2009. In May of 2011, she graduated with her AA degree from McLennan Community College and will complete her bachelor course work (Human Performance/

Sports Management) in December at Huston-Tillotson University.

Hollie and Mariah have struggled with serious medical issues most of their lives. Throughout their middle and high school days, both girls were very athletic, refusing to let illness paint them as victims. Even today, they are still hospitalized from time to time with lupus and arthritis complications but overall, they are blessed and highly favored. They are the daughters of Melvin and Lisa Vonner Carter and Pat Listach.

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# Waco High's Damon Thames wins \$1,000 grand prize



Lenard Thames embraces his son, Damon, at the conference.

**By Sherry Perkins**

April 14, 2013 was a very special day for Lenard Thames, the proud father of Damon Thames who was the \$1,000 grand prize recipient of the SIB Solutions "Make Your Message Count" teen contest. Damon, a Waco High School student, brought the audience to their feet with his energy-packed gospel rap that confronted the issues of the teenage struggle with the truth of the power within, as only Damon Thames can describe it. The message in his music is simple but profound, "Be what you want to be; you can be anything you set your mind to."

Music is a major part of Damon's life and has been since the age of six. Starting out with a country western flare, Damon gravitated to rap by the age of twelve, in response to the tragic death of his cousin Charlie (an early role model and primary motivation for his musical pursuits). Of all the songs he has written, his favorite is "here today – gone tomorrow", a song written in memory of his cousin. The song depicts how the tragic car accident happened and how we should treasure the moments we have with family and friends, while we can. He performed it when he was age fourteen at Mission Waco and people came from miles around to hear it. Damon was also published in Life magazine.

Damon, now 17, reflects on his childhood with fond memories of his dad who raised him as a single parent since the age of two. He doesn't ever recall having a mother at home with them. The memory of an older sister (now living in Amarillo)

also lingers in his mind as one who looked out for him when he would occasionally visit his mom. Single parent fatherhood, although somewhat rare in typical family structures, was quite natural for this father-son pair. Lenard Thames describes the birth of Damon as life-changing – the baby (Damon) grounded him and helped him settle down – kept him from being wild and crazy. For Lenard, it was all about providing a safe and stable home environment for his son. Damon says they lived together, in North Waco, in the same house since he was four years old.

Lenard has been 100% disabled since 1999, but that didn't stop him from supporting his son in everything he did. They laughed together as they recalled how much they shared. There were no secrets between them. As their favorite past times, they recalled hours of watching comedy shows together – Fresh Prince, George Lopez, and Duck Dynasty – to name a few. Damon chokes up a bit when he thinks how much he loves his dad and how much he owes him for keeping him off the streets and not letting him get into trouble. Lenard chokes up a bit, too, when reflecting on the hardest part of raising a son alone, "balancing aspects of today's life – teaching him how to avoid the problems that so many other teens fell trap to – living on the streets – up to no good."

He went on to say he learned it was okay to have emotion – to show love and discipline. Damon, according to his dad, never got into trouble. He was a good student, having passed all

of his pre-requisites for graduation.

A senior at Waco High School, Damon views his future with great hopefulness. He plans to attend college after high school, majoring in audio production or business management for musicians. He will start out at McLennan Community College and

transfer to a senior college, hopefully, with the help of a scholarship. When he looks back over his life, riddled with both ups and downs, Damon says he would not change a thing. He realizes that everything happens for a reason and he feels blessed that things are as good as they are. If he had a chance to give ad-

vice to other teens he would tell them to "keep God first, then family – then school – then go after your dreams." Join SIB Solutions in congratulating Damon Thames, good student, loving son, and the winner of the 2013 "Make Your Message Count" grand prize scholarship, made possible by Wells Fargo Bank.

## Points of Pride at Rapoport Academy

**By Nancy Craig**

Rapoport Academy opened as a public charter school in the fall of 1998 with 16 students, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Grayson, in the basement of a church in East Waco. Quickly, the number of students increased to 74, requiring a larger, more permanent place to house the elementary students. In 2000, the school moved to a one-story building located at 2000 J.J. Flewellen. The East Campus location started with Pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade and today houses pre-kindergarten through fourth grade. There are 12 classrooms, 200 children, and 25 faculty and staff. In June of this year, a much needed facelift began. CM Services LLC (Tom Lupfer Sr. and Tom Lupfer Jr.) has painted all walls, tiled every restroom wall and floor, and completed a variety of repairs. When you enter the school, it feels fresh and ready for the 2013-2014 school year. Dr. Matthew Polk, Superintendent, said, "With the addition of the North Campus, East needed to be made new again. It is also a way of showing East Waco that we are continuing to invest in the community."

Cindy Kubacak, Dean of Students at East, has been a part of the East Campus since it opened in 2000. When asked what advantage there is in attending East Campus, she said, "What I enjoy the most about our campus is that we have kept our classes small, which enables us to have more one on one contact with our students for an excellent



A Rapoport faculty member works diligently to get a classroom ready.

education. Close relationships with both children and their families is another advantage to keeping it small."

Catrena Thomas (Front Office) responded, "The best thing about Rapoport is the fact that we are small enough that we honestly know our families, and we build a relationship with each one of them. By knowing each parent or grandparent, we are able to help the children more. There is a large amount of trust and loyalty from our parents."

The campus has been recognized as one of 9 charter schools nationwide with outstanding literacy programs. The elementary staff has twice received the Texas Educator's Excellence Grant (TEEG) award for teaching excellence.

Dr. Alexis Neumann, Chief Operations Officer, stated, "Rapoport Academy is dedicated to being a vital instrument in re-

vitalizing East Waco. We started on the Paul Quinn Campus by renovating what is now Quinn Middle School. Second was the Meyer High School, formerly the original Paul Quinn College Math and Science and Library building. Third was the building behind the YMCA, used as garage/storage/physical education offices. Forth was the Vance Dunnam Creative Arts Center, formerly the Grant Hall women's dormitory. The next renovation is to take place at the Gomez Administration building centered on Quinn Campus. When entering East Waco, it is easy to see that there are exciting things happening in the community as it is gradually being revitalized to its former glory."

When you think of excellence and innovation in education, look at Rapoport Academy and its success in contributing to the pride of East Waco.

# Midway students earn AP Scholar awards

By Traci Marlin

Fifty-six students at Midway High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 20 percent of the 2.1 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams.

At Midway High School:

- Three students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average score of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. These students are William Bennett, Kaylie Meek, and Timothy Schmidt.

- Twenty-one students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are Theresa Anantasomboon, Anupama Ancha, Natalie Belew, William Bennett, Joshua Blattman, Nathan Blattman, Kari Byrd, Elizabeth Goodnight, Sarah Goodnight, Carey Janecka, Anna Julian, Allie McDonald, Nason McKnight, Charles Meehan, Kaylie Meek, Amanda Merrifield, Jeremy Petersen, Timothy Schmidt, Claire Smith, Blake Stump, and Erin Tang.

- Ten students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Joseph Bennett,

Bryan Cleaver, Christopher Cook, Caleb Elmore, Jose Gonzalez, Arfa Ikram, Katherine Meehan, Caleb Riehl, Layne Russell, and Hannah Watts.

- 25 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Christopher Chamness, Cori Cook, Tiffany Doan, Nicholas Esrock, Daniel Grant, Autumn Hulbert, Bisma Ikram, Grayson Johnston, Jacob Jones, Mary Julian, Karen Kempenich, Dylan Kreis, Carlos Leal, Lauren McLean, Anna Norris, Hena Patel, Walker Raines, Linda Ren, Ethan Scott, David Sheehy, Evgenia Sinopidou, Alyx Tighe, Trang Tran, Jeffrey Wilde, and Robert Wolf.

- Of this year's award recipients at Midway High School, thirteen are juniors: Bisma Ikram, Elizabeth Goodnight, Carey Janecka, Jacob Jones, Katherine Meehan, Anna Norris, Hena Patel, Linda Ren, Ethan Scott, Trang Tran, Hannah Watts, Jeffrey Wilde, and Robert Wolf. These students have one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn a higher-level AP Scholar Award.

Through 34 different college-level courses and exams, AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process. Each exam is developed by a committee of college and university faculty and AP teachers, ensuring that AP Exams are aligned with the same high standards expected by college faculty at some of the nation's leading liberal arts and research institutions. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.

## OVERLOOKED ATHLETICS

TAKING CHRISTIAN ATHLETES TO A HIGHER LEVEL



### Kelvin Edwards

by Fan Minnitt

*Athletes and entertainers influence large parts of the world. Former NFL Saints and Cowboys Player, Kelvin Edwards is a God fearing man whose life changing experience with the NFL did not stop him from leaping over and through obstacles.*

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## Studio to blend math and music education opens September 7

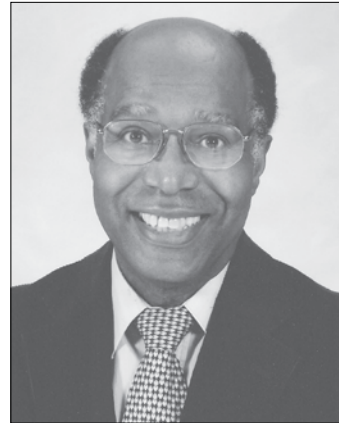
This September, a 1965 former graduate of G. W. Carver High School, Charles Perkins, will relocate his startup business, Music & Math Masters Studio. Moving from his Gholson residence, the studio will be housed in a new 3,000 square foot brick-and-mortar store in Woodway.

Music & Math Masters Studio functions as the first-ever training center to blend music and math education services under a single roof. It is planned to become the hub for networking activity in the musical and math communities and a depot for central Texas talent. Rather than authoring a book about what he has learned about their connection, Perkins choose to establish a go-to place where others can judge for themselves whether the link exists.

His studio includes nine sound-proof cubicles for music, math, and voice, an on-site repair and service shop, a 50-seat auditorium (recital hall), and a 1,000 sq ft merchandise showroom for retail sales of band and orchestra instruments, sheet music, audio CDs, DVDs, and a host of musical and math supplies. A sound recording studio is planned for the near future.

After 33 years working with federal intelligence agencies in Washington, D.C., Perkins immediately began his second career by teaching math and band at a Christian high school in Dumfries, Virginia. Subsequent to his move to Texas, he continued teaching math and band at a high school in Aquilla, Texas. Now, he relishes the beginning of a third career-- one that entails investigating the fascinating links between music and math. This business is the culmination of over 40 years of experiences.

The genesis for his business can be traced back to the impact of two high teachers who mentored him in their chosen fields. Robert E. Lee, the late Carver High School



Charles Perkins

band director, was instrumental in teaching him during the mid-1960s how to arrange the latest hits for Carver band's halftime shows. Second, Carver's brilliant math teacher, Thomas Jefferson Washington, who is now 97, greatly influenced him in math, which eventually led him to consider attaining a math degree from the University of Texas. While at UT, Perkins played tenor saxophone in the Longhorn band and performed with other local Austin bands. Since then, he has managed to weave and integrate his God-given talents in almost every

endeavor of his life.

One of the principle advantages he gains from managing his own business is having the opportunity to promote and sell his own intellectual property-- Charley A. Helper (a math notebook) and his latest music book called Charley's Music Primer 101. Both books are published by his friend Jim Parker of Lone Star Designs, Eddy, TX.

Despite entering into his third and final career change, Perkins continues to cherish the close ties he has established with students at Aquilla ISD. In fact, some of Aquilla's recent graduates now work with him in his Woodway studio.

For additional details, visit their website at [www.music-mathmasters.com](http://www.music-mathmasters.com). Please see the ad in this issue or contact Perkins at 571-991-6916. Visit the studio on September 7th at 100-C Midway Center, Woodway, Texas. Studio, 254-829-2397; E-mail, [clperkinsSr@aol.com](mailto:clperkinsSr@aol.com); business email, [music-mathmasters@skybeammail.com](mailto:music-mathmasters@skybeammail.com).

## MCC president selected to participate in 2013 Fulbright Seminar for U.S. Administrators

(From MCC Website) McLennan Community College president Dr. Johnette McKown is one of 20 U.S. higher education administrators selected to participate in the 2013 Fulbright Seminar for U.S. Administrators in International Education conducted by the Fulbright Commission in Berlin, Germany.

The seminar will provide an in-depth look at the higher education system, culture and society of Germany through briefings, government meetings, campus visits and cultural events.

McKown will have the opportunity to meet and interact with international and U.S. colleagues at the



Dr. Johnette McKown

seminar, which is designed to build partnerships, encourage study abroad participation and support international students.

For more information, visit <http://www.cies.org/IEA/overview.htm>.



# CASTRO

Continued from page one

180 degree change from everything I had ever known. I struggled the first year with the change. I rebelled in every possible way that I could. I didn't try and didn't talk in any of my classes,



ChiAnne Castro

and as a result, my grades dropped dramatically and I didn't have any friends. I felt so alone and mad at my parents for messing up my life and taking me from my friends. It wasn't until I was talking to my counselor that I had an epiphany about what my parents were really doing. They were actually taking me from a bad, unhealthy environment to one that is caring and better for me in every way possible. It was then that I decided to change and be more involved in this new school. If it weren't for my parents moving me to a new school, I probably wouldn't have the determination, communication skills, and drive to be better."

Castro was determined to continue to work hard when she transitioned to high school; she wanted to complete as many college courses to lighten the financial burden on her parents. This was not an easy feat because Meyer High School is known for academic rigor and high expectations. She would stay up for hours in the evenings completing homework assignments and working on projects, passing up opportunities to have a part-time job or hanging out with friends. Not only did she perform well in the classroom, but she was a campus leader and active member in the community. She participated in organizations and student activities throughout

her high school years such as National Honor Society (Vice-President), Phi Theta Kappa, Young Life, Key Club (Vice-President) and Diversity Club, Varsity Volleyball and Track, Internship at Brazos Children's Center (80 hours), and Rapoport Academy-Quinn Middle School tutor. To her surprise, Castro realized close to high school graduation that she was only a few classes away from completing an AA degree. Thus, she decided to forego a relaxing summer break after graduation and enrolled in summer sessions at

McLennan Community College.

Castro was willing to sacrifice her social life to take as many courses in high school and upon graduation to achieve a goal. All of her hard work and dedication paid off and it will be another moment of pride and accomplishment for her and her family when she receives her AA degree this summer. Castro will take all her experiences in high school and the community to effectively contribute to Texas State University and the physical therapy profession.

## MCC Offers 2-in-1 English and Reading Courses for Fall

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- ENGL 0301.40 (meets 8/27-10/14) & ENGL 1301.F6 (meets 10/17-12/13)
- ENGL 0301.14 & READ 0302.05 (meets 8/26-12/13)
- ENGL 0301.47 & READ 0302.25 (meets 8/27-12/13)
- READ 0301.03 (meets 8/27-10/14) & READ 0302.F1 (meets 10/16-12/13)
- READ 0301.23 (meets 8/27-10/14) & READ 0302.F2 (meets 10/16-12/13)
- ENGL 1301.29 (meets 8/26-12/13) & HPRS 1101.01 (meets 8/27-10/17)

Students can get more information from their advisors.



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Linda McDonald, ABR



# Central Texas Think Tank launches into action

By WB Gunter

When you have a concern, an overwhelming issue that has to be addressed, do you know where to look for answers or find someone who can help? Do you know what it's like to need help getting services and being turned away, or frustrated to the

point of exhaustion? Can you imagine what it must feel like to not have solutions for those who depend on you? Those questions and more are why the Central Texas Think Tank or CT3 is initiating strategies and workable solutions for the Central Texas community.

Central Texas Think Tank is an organization comprised of active community advocates who evaluate concerns and with experts, plan and resolve issues concerning society, industry, social issues and more. Members offer a variety of expertise, from education, health care, technology, and finance. The CT3 intends to engage in advocacy, social policy, and political strategies to promote social and/or economic reforms through research and data collection.

CT3 membership is open to anyone willing to put in the commitment and enact worthwhile changes that will benefit all members of the community. Anyone skilled at, effective in, desire to do, contribute to, and work on..., is invited to join the Central Texas Think Tank by putting those skills into action. CT3 meets the 2nd Saturday of every month from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM at The Harker Heights Community Church located at 202 E. Beeline, in Harker Heights TX.

July 18, was officially named Nelson Mandela Day in South Africa. All around the US and other countries, volunteers were asked to take 67 minutes to help serve others in their communities, neighborhoods, and cities. 67 years represents the

length of time former President Mandela spent fighting for others both in and out of captivity. CT3 members got out in the community, offered their services, and generously gave more than 67 minutes of their time.

CT3 community event, "Advancing The Dream," will take place August 24 at the Moss Rose Community Center, 1103 E. Ave. E, in Killeen. CT3 member, Rhonda Brown, states, "In 1963, thousands of ordinary Americans marched on Washington, gathering at the Lincoln Memorial to call on the country to live up to the founding American principle that all are created equal. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., words echoed across the country and around the world. Fifty years later, we will ask: How far have we come? How far do we have yet to go? What do the legacies of Dr. King's speeches, the marches, and

the movement offer in our time to people struggling to live faithfully in a world still riddled with injustice and despair? Join us August 24, 2013 promptly at 10:00 as we gather to remember that dream and reflect on how it still resonates and challenges us today."

Panel members will represent several generations since the march to discuss, "Advancing the Dream: Where Are We Now?" The breakfast menu will include, fish, grits, collards, fruits and coffee. CT3 welcomes the community to serve the community, so we, as a community will be able to thrive. To learn more about CT3, or to volunteer your time and services, please attend the meetings or contact Mrs. Rhonda Brown by emailing Rhondak30@email.phoenix.edu or visit the Facebook page for Central Texas Think Tank.

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Living by her favorite philosophy, that of Maya Angelou's poem Phenomenal Woman, Green prides herself at always doing her best in everything that she does. Green states the business name, "Magnificent Hair Care," is a result of heavenly inspiration because she has not invested in her business alone: God did it! Although she runs a full service spa and all services are above par, she specializes in natural hair pressing, jheri curls, perms, and relaxers.

Because family is very important to Green, she enjoys spending her time away from the spa with them, as well as mentoring youth. Magnificent Hair Care is located at 2405 JJ Flewellen Drive (inside the clubhouse), and is open Monday - Saturday. Call Green personally for your next appointment - (254) 304-1754.

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# Waco High's Thompson to participate in Miss Texas Teen USA pageant

By Linda Crawford with Michelle Wilkinson

She has always been older than her actual years, always a step ahead of her time, it seems. Anyone who knows Daria Thompson will agree that she is not the typical 15-year-old, and recently, she added more evidence to support this claim. She learned that she has been selected to represent McLennan County in the 2014 Miss Texas Teen USA pageant scheduled for November 29 - December 1, 2013 in Houston.

Why is such an accomplishment for Thompson not a surprise? Again, she is always a step ahead of her time. One of Waco High's gifted and talented students, this sophomore sports a high GPA and a very tender heart. When she was only 13, as an 8th grader at Lake Waco Montessori Elementary, she was a volunteer with special needs students. In addition, she also spent time reading to pre-K and kindergarten students at the school.

Thompson has participated in a variety of other positive learning experiences as well. Such activities include being a freshman cheerleader at Waco High and attending Peace camp. Peace camp teaches students about the dangers and consequences of bullying and the overall benefits of having good manners. Thompson was among the



Daria Thompson

few students who were privileged to be selected to meet dignitaries at the United Nations in New York, and she participated in modeling and acting at Barbizon in 2012, walking away with a crown and sash for the Miss Congeniality title.

According to the pageant website, Miss Texas Teen USA is an "official preliminary to the Miss Teen USA pageant, independently conducted and produced by The Crystal Group." Thompson and the other contestants will be judged in three categories: Interview Competition, Swimsuit Competition, and Evening Gown Competition. "The Miss Texas Teen USA pageant is looking for ambassadors to represent Texas, throughout the state,

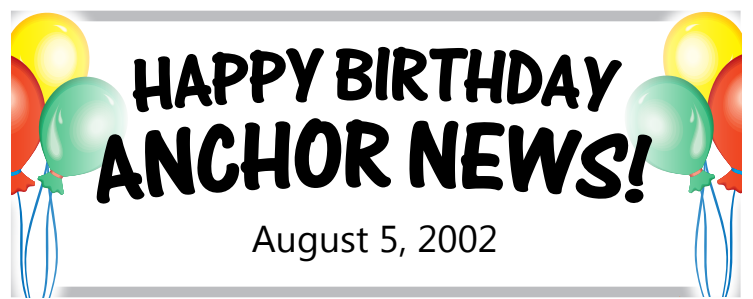
as well as, nationally.... young women who possess the entire package of poise, personality, intelligence and beauty," continues the website. This is a perfect description of Thompson.

She will compete with over 100 other Texas teenagers, as she travels to Houston, Texas to compete for the Miss Teen Texas USA 2014 title. The winner will make personal appearances at special events, receive a victory package consisting of prizes, jewelry, travel, a new wardrobe, and in pageants past, educational scholarships, and will represent the state in the Miss Teen USA pageant.


To participate, Thompson is responsible for raising her entry fee of \$1095. Since the fee is due immediately, she is seeking donations from the community, local businesses and organizations, family and friends.

"Sponsorships are the foundation of this event," explained her mother, Michelle Wilkinson of Waco, "and your donation will assist Daria in her quest to reach her goal of becoming the next Miss Texas Teen USA. While donations are non-refundable, they may be tax deductible for a business as an advertising expense."

For questions or to make donations, please contact Wilkinson by sending an email to [m\\_wilkinson01@yahoo.com](mailto:m_wilkinson01@yahoo.com).



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# Organizing for College

**By Jennifer Snyder**

Your dorm room looks cute...now what?

We have been looking forward to this day for twelve long years and here we are...at college! Classes will start soon and in addition to feeding ourselves and doing our laundry, we have to manage to keep up with college classes. The biggest obstacle for most college freshmen is time management. Without Mom and school officials to keep us in line, we are left to our devices in the midst of the most freedom we have ever had!

Here are some ways to start smart at school:

1. Start with a bound calendar. A bound calendar will not get lost and you can see exactly what is in store for each day. Be sure to schedule yourself some study time every day...and stick to it!

2. Color-code each class then purchase pens (ultra fine point Sharpies are ideal), folders, spirals, and any other items in those colors. It may be helpful to utilize plastic file pockets to hold papers that are not currently relevant yet will be needed again before finals.

3. Create a folder on your laptop for "School" then a sub-folder for each class along with one for administrative and financial documents related to your enrollment and one for each extra-curricular activity. Only classes need



Jennifer Snyder

to be color-coded though.

4. Mirror your electronic folders in your email Inbox.

5. Make sure you have a place to study, complete with a way to file important information.

6. Calculate how long it takes to get from point A to point B, this could be from dorm to first class then next class, etc. If you have a moderate amount of time between any two classes, plan to go to the library rather than the local trendy coffee shop.

If you take care of your business first then it will be easier to play when the work is done.

Congratulations on your new phase of life and like all things, it is only as good as you make it.

Have a Neat day!

*Jennifer Snyder is CPOO of Neat as a Pin Organizing Experts, www.neatasapin.net, (254) 715-3888.*

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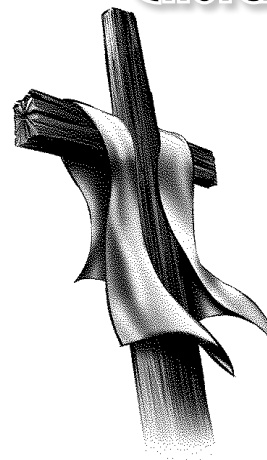
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# Education in America



Ron Oliphant

## By Ron Oliphant

In order to talk about education in America, we must go back before the United States was actually formed. In the early 1600s colonists traveled from Great Britain to the new world with high hopes of gaining land and religious freedom. A new start for a family attracted men and women with various skills and abilities that would be helpful when it came to building a new town. At that time the idea of a formal school was just an idea. Children were educated at home by parents and so your reading and arithmetic levels were determined by your parents aptitude. If momma wasn't literate and a math genius, neither were you. Similar to today, this was not a problem shared by the wealthy. If one could afford it, a private tutor could be arranged and some parents sent children back to Great Britain for proper schooling. As the colonies grew and formed, public schooling was made available but at a cost. The necessity for proper education became a major priority and so schools began to form to educate the people.

In 1635, Boston Latin School became the first public school established in the colonies. Located in Boston, Massachusetts the school is currently educating students today and has produced Harvard presidents and governors. Public schools cost money and so at that time if you could not afford tuition you just could not attend.

On July 4, 1776, the colonies declared independence from Great Britain and became the United States of America. For the new states, education became a major priority and the develop-

ment of public schools systems moved to the top of the things to do list. There was a time when the federal and state government did not give money to local schools. Schools were maintained locally but as time passed, the fight to keep up with other countries forced the government to get involved.

Many problems would plague education in America but one of the major hurdles would be segregation. Prior to the civil war African Americans did not go to school and the free blacks up North struggled to be literate. In the Southern states such as Texas, the laws prohibited teaching enslaved African Americans to read and write. During the reconstruction era, which is the period after the Civil War, grants to build schools for the newly freed African Americans would begin a new era in education. At that time schools were called, black or white only. This would, of course, change because the feeling was black schools did not receive the same quality supplies and resources. Government money had to be distributed fairly.

Now although segregation is no longer a problem, money for books, computers and school trips, remain a testy subject. Today, schools are paid for by local taxes and federal or state government money. Our children are tested and how they fare on the test, dictates how much money the school district receives. Teachers can get more money in the form of a bonus, when their students pass certain tests. It has been debated over the years whether the tests are fair. It also has been debated whether certain schools should receive more money than others.

History reveals a truth that I wish parents would acknowledge. The school system has constantly improved over the years. Our children, no matter what race or how much money their parents earn, can receive a quality education in America. The important parts such as arithmetic and the ability to read and write, are freely taught to all. Thus, children should be excited and appreciative when it's time to head back to school.

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# Doth this offend you?

By Matthew Reed

Jesus in John 6 had spoken to the Jews that they must eat of his body and drink of his blood. They murmured and said, "This is a hard saying. Who can receive it? We know his father and mother. How can he say he came down from heaven."

Scripture had already foretold of his coming but because they were either ignorant of the scripture or just flat out rejected this part of the word, they did not accept his words. (Some people think they can pick and choose those parts of the scripture they agree with and reject those that offend them.) Then there are those that do not believe in God. It is evident that in the make-up of this crowd, that one or more of these types of people were present. Henceforth they rejected his teachings and murmured. John 6:61 states that when Jesus knew in himself of their murmuring, He asked a question— doth this offend you?

Now we know that this article is written to minister to those of us that say we are followers of Christ, hoping to stand the judgment and escape the wrath of God that is to come on unbelievers and sinners. Do you murmur when you see in scripture, "For this cause shall a man leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife."?

Do you murmur when scripture states that when you look upon a woman with



Pastor and Mrs. Reed

a thought to commit adultery, it is sin. Do you murmur when you are commanded to love everybody black and white, Jew or gentile, rich or poor? Do you murmur when you are commanded to forgive others their trespasses? Do you murmur at the thought of helping the poor? Do you murmur at the principle of working?

Does it offend you that is written that if they would not work they should not eat? Are you offended at the scripture thou shalt not kill (unborn babies are included in this scripture)? Does it offend that you are commanded to love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them, which despitefully use you, and persecute you?

Are you offended that you have to forsake all that you have in order to be Christ's disciple? Do you murmur and

reject any of these scriptures? If you are a believer aspiring to make heaven your home you must accept all of God's written word. If any of God's word offends you, you're going to find yourself not walking with Jesus.

Remember it is he and he alone that has the words of eternal life, Amen! Do not let men deceive and cause you to come against the word of God. The church is often tempted to comprise the word of God in order to have friendship with the world. Do you think it is written in vain "friendship with the world is enmity with God."

Men philosophize that things have changed. This is none sense. People have changed, they now receive a lie for truth, they think it's okay to hate, and they've left things that are normal and right for the abnormal and

wrong. They've perverted marriage, sex and their reasoning. They've perverted their ways. God never intended things to be as they are today.

My grandmother, if she were alive, would say it's a pity; it's a pity. Men do not have morals, integrity or equity (a sense of fairness). Bankers are stealing, doctors killing, policeman are disregarding the laws they are sworn to up hold, church

people are compromising the Word of God, etc, etc. People have changed. The Word of God has not changed and God has not changed. What God was blessing yesterday he is blessing today and tomorrow.

The things he was cursing in the past, he is cursing presently and will be cursing them tomorrow! In other words, whatsoever would send you to hell yesterday will send you today and tomorrow! Amen!

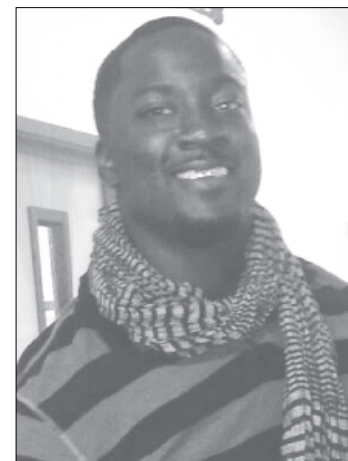
## Derrick Smith named Dean of Students at Rapoport North Campus

By Tanisha Burrus

He is known for his passion for young people. He treats each child like his own and he builds relationships as he speaks into the lives of children. Derrick Smith has taught physical education to pre-k through 4th grade students at Rapoport Academy Elementary-East campus for a year and a half. The children feel comfortable and safe with Smith. They trust him because they know he is real.

"The rapport Coach Smith builds with each student is amazing! You can see the excitement on the student's faces as they enter his class," says Catrena Thomas, a Rapoport Academy staff member.

This year, Smith will continue to touch the lives of



Derrick Smith

young people at Rapoport Academy Elementary, but he will do so in a different capacity. He will move to the North campus where he will serve as Dean of Students.

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# The body, soul and spirit constitute the total person, Part 3

*Continued from the July issue of The Anchor News.*

**By Ruby McCray**

The Apostle Paul ended his first letter to the church at Thessaloniki by saying, "Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

"And God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ...'" (Genesis 1:26a). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7).

Paul said, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2, The King James Version). "Dear Friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit" (3 John 2, New Living Translation).

My children are grown, now, and have children of their own, yet I've gained a few more mentors who have shed still more light on our three-part being. The first, Pastor Thurman Schrivner, The Living Savior Ministries, Justin, Texas, Minister Katie Souza, Expected End Ministries, Maricopa, Arizona, and Pastor Bill Johnson, Bethel Church, Redding, California.

Since mankind is a spirit with a soul that lives in a body, he is a vertical being. In order to survive in those three areas, he must stay attached to the places from which he was created; if not, he will die. Since he was formed from dirt, he has to eat food that grows in the dirt; if not, his body will eventually die. God blew His Spirit in man so that he became a living soul. Man's spirit has to stay attached to God; if not, the spirit will die, spiritually. First, let's look at the physical part of man.

"Then God said, 'Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky,



**Evangelist Ruby McCray**

and the small animals that curry along the ground—everything that has life.' And that is what happened" (Genesis 1:29-30).

Animals, birds and creeping things that scurry on the ground are not vertical. God did not blow His breath into them so that they became a living soul. Remember, He just spoke them into existence on the sixth day of His creation, before He made man.

"Then God said, 'Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.' God made all sorts of wild animals, livestock, and small animals, each able to produce offspring of the same kind. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:24-25).

If the animals and birds don't stay attached to the ground by eating what grows from the ground, they will die. The cattle, sheep, goats, horses, etc. constantly have their heads down eating grass. The giraffes eat grass and leaves of trees. They become what they eat. The flesh-eating animals are still attached to the ground because the animals and people that they eat have eaten the vegetation; thus they got the vegetation indirectly. When animals and vegetation die, if not bothered, they will go back to dirt. Everything must stay attached to the place from where it was called.

If fish leave the water, they die, because they were called out of the water (Genesis 1:20-23). If the heavenly bodies leave their place, they die (Genesis 1:14-19). What happens to a falling star?

God blew His Spirit in man so that he became a living soul. Man's spirit has to stay attached to God; if not, the spirit will die, spiritually. God told only Adam that he could eat from every tree except the tree of knowledge of good and evil or he will die (Genesis 2:15-17). Eve was not created at that time.

God was not talking about a physical death, but a spiritual one. When mankind lives in rebellion to God's laws, he is nothing more than 'a walking dead'

(Matthew 8:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-7; 5:11-14; Colossians 2:13-15; 3:1-11; Revelation 3:1-6 plus so many more).

The spirit of man is the only part that can communicate with God. That's the part to which so many of us pay no attention. No, I'm not judging, I'm only inspecting the fruit that I see (Matthew 7: 15-20). Thus, we conclude by saying in order to survive, man must stay connected to the earth by eating the proper food for nutrients, and stay con-

nected to God in prayer (fellowship) and by studying (eating) His WORD (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:1-4; John 1:1-5).

Please join us in September as we continue this study. You may not believe me, but...just what if I'm right?

*Evangelist Ruby McCray is the founder of A City of Refuge Ministries. For questions or comments write to A City of Refuge Ministries, P. O. Box 2025, Waco, Texas 76703 or e-mail rubyacorm@yahoo.com.*

## Reading and Comprehension

**By Mona Dunkin**

What is smarter? The ear? Or the eye?

As babies we learned to speak by hearing the spoken word and in as many languages or dialects to which we were exposed. Are we not equally capable of reading by being exposed to the written word?

Whether you are aware of it or not, you "read" everything you see. You walk into a room of fifteen people and unwittingly scan the room – from left to right. Suppose that you are only in the room for a few seconds and leave. You meet someone going into the room who asks, "Who is here?"

How many can you name? When you scanned the faces they automatically registered as familiar or unfamiliar. Current faces were mind-matched with familiar pictures and given a conclusion. New input needed was alerted and left for more learning. Although you did not start from left to right and say each person's name aloud (or even mentally), in reality you "read the room."

You already are a speed reader more than you give yourself credit for. What about billboards that you understand even as you unobservantly speed by? You instantly grasp the meaning without sounding out every word.

Reading faster and for more comprehension is obtainable through recognizing the phenomenon of the eye being smart. Embrace it and expand upon your eye knowledge.

Information enters the brain through one of the five senses - see, hear, smell, taste



**Mona Dunkin**

and touch – and is stored in the mind. The more senses involved, the greater the comprehension; seeing, hearing and doing holds onto more information – and thus stores into long-term memory more than hearing does alone.

Everything has a learning curve. Familiarity with the alphabet necessitated the mechanics of observing the shapes, drawing the letters, hearing how the symbol sounds and the placement of letters to form words. We meticulously read aloud and were graded on our ability to do so. We de-coded the symbols.

As we moved from grade to grade and quit reading aloud, although our lips were stilled, did we continue to read word-for-word in our mind? What about comprehension? If one's mental reading speed is in the 200 word-per-minute range, more than likely you are silently reading word for word to yourself.

Eye-movement accounts for only 5% of reading time. The remaining 95% involves the mental association of one's past knowledge with

present information. Speed reading/learning is about thinking meaning, seeing pictures (for comprehension) and recognizing symbols as familiar friends.

- See it as a fun challenge, a new adventure in learning.

- Pre-determine why you are reading the material. Information? Entertainment? Obtain skills? Testing? This will set you up for the depth of attention needed to be given to obtain desired comprehension results.

- Learn as much as you can before delving into the text. Set yourself up for greater comprehension by looking at any pictures and reading the info under then. Notice things bolded for emphasis, scan for new words and define them, go to a map and determine the world-location in which the event takes place, and take the end-of-chapter comprehension test first.

- Become a reading detective. From news articles to fairy tales, look for who, what, when, where, why and how. Is the information clearly given or inferred?

- Focus on bunching words together, rather than word-for-word mental recitation. Remember the billboard?

Speed reading is a lot like learning a second language. Not to worry—the eye is just as smart as the ear. A mark of intelligence does not only know the answers but also where to go to obtain what is still needed.

*Need a speaker? Mona Dunkin, Motivational Speaker, Trainer and Personal Success Coach may be contacted at mona@solutionprinciples.com Click on Motivational Messages and Sign up for weekly blog posts.*



# Listach brothers make history at Rapoport

The month of May was an historic month for Rapoport Meyer High School.

In the 15-year history of Rapoport Academy, Patrick Listach was the first athlete to be offered an athletic scholarship to play sports at the college level. This historic event took place on May 15 at the Doris Miller YMCA. Patrick was surrounded by his family, special friends, Rapoport administration, coaches and teachers, and his teammates and peers when he signed to join the 2013-2014 Texas Wesleyan Men's Basketball team, under the leadership of Head Coach, Brennen Shingleton. Patrick also, received a four-year academic scholarship to attend Texas Wesleyan University.

Patrick definitely took the road less traveled to get to this point. He grew up playing baseball and has a natural gift for the game, but he was determined to prove that he could play basketball just as good. Although his parents, Lisa and Melvin Carter, were supportive of what he wanted to do, they encouraged him to continue to play baseball and focus on his natural gift.

"Melvin used to say, 'Son, you can play anything you want to play because you are a real athlete. You can be a good basketball player if you work hard. However, you have a natural gift in baseball. Basketball isn't natural for you,'" Patrick said. He went on to say, "I really didn't want to play baseball but when I got on the field Melvin was right. It was natural. I didn't have to think about it. It felt right. I realized what he meant but I still wanted to be a good basketball player too."

Patrick worked on his basketball skills every chance he could. Melvin and Patrick's Uncle Zeke worked with him. Patrick admits that he didn't always like what Melvin was telling him but he chose to listen and found himself getting better and better over time. Patrick was unable to play on varsity his freshman year be-



Blaine and Patrick Listach

cause of a UIL rule relating to charter schools. He received All-District honors his sophomore year, junior and senior years and Regional honors his junior and senior year.

Even though he was not recognized by Super Centex nor selected to play in other all-star games when his personal stats were worthy of such recognition and selection, he is still pleased.

"I'm not really sure why I wasn't selected to play in any of the other games or why I didn't receive Super Centex recognition. I guess maybe it's because I went to Rapoport, and we really aren't recognized like all of the other schools in our area. I can say I've been given an opportunity to play ball in college and that's what matters most to me. I worked hard for this opportunity."

Patrick and Blaine's grandfather, fondly known by all as 'Big Daddy', passed away last December. Big Daddy was Patrick's hero and when he became ill and doctors gave little hope of his recovery or of his leaving the hospital, Patrick recalls this as being the worst time of his life. However, Big Daddy did get to go home and he was at Patrick's first home game this season.

"I am thankful that God gave me that memory and the time we all got to share with him before he died. It was hard playing and not seeing him in the stands or hear him saying, 'Come on Bubba'. I prayed a lot. I used the love he had for me and my love for him to mo-

tivate me," said Patrick.

Patrick's mother, Lisa, is very proud of her son. "There are no words to describe the emotions involved in watching your son defy the odds and succeed. Patrick is a true example of how hard work, determination, commitment to your goal, and countless hours of practice helps you to overcome obstacles and can even change the course of your life."

On May 10th in Austin, Texas, Rapoport sophomore, Blaine Listach, placed 3rd in the 1a high jump division at the 2013

UIL Texas State Championship Track & Field Meet clearing 6'8." Blaine also marked his name in the Rapoport history books when the school competed in the 2012 UIL Texas State Championship Track and Field Meet placing 5th. This was no easy task considering Rapoport does not have a track and field facility for their athletes to practice. Rapoport athletes use the parking lot areas of their school, as well as the football field at the Doris Miller YMCA as their practice facilities. The Axtell High School coach allowed Blaine to come over to their facility a few times to practice prior to competing at both his regional and state meet.

So just how did he learn to high jump?

"In 7th grade my coach told me what to do," explained Blaine. "I don't really practice but I have a high vertical that allows me to jump. The Axtell High School coach worked with my coach to help me a little this season."

He anticipates continuing to work with a high jump coach to learn the specifics of how to train for

the high jump event.

"The guys who placed 1st and 2nd this year at state were both seniors. They each congratulated me and told me that I was going to be really good. That was encouraging."

Blaine aspires to high jump with a NCAA Division 1 school, and reuniting with his big brother at Texas Wesleyan University is "always a good option." Blaine is also, a two year All-District recognized basketball starter for the Rapoport Ravens varsity basketball team.

"Melvin and I are continuously amazed by Blaine," said Lisa. "We have truly enjoyed watching our boys play together these last two years at Rapoport. If we had our way, we would love to see them both play at Texas Wesleyan together in two years. But in support of what Blaine aspires, it is our mission to find a good high jump coach to work with him to get him prepared for next track season. We've been told that if he clears 7.0, the division one schools will recruit him. That's his goal and we will do our part in helping him attain it."



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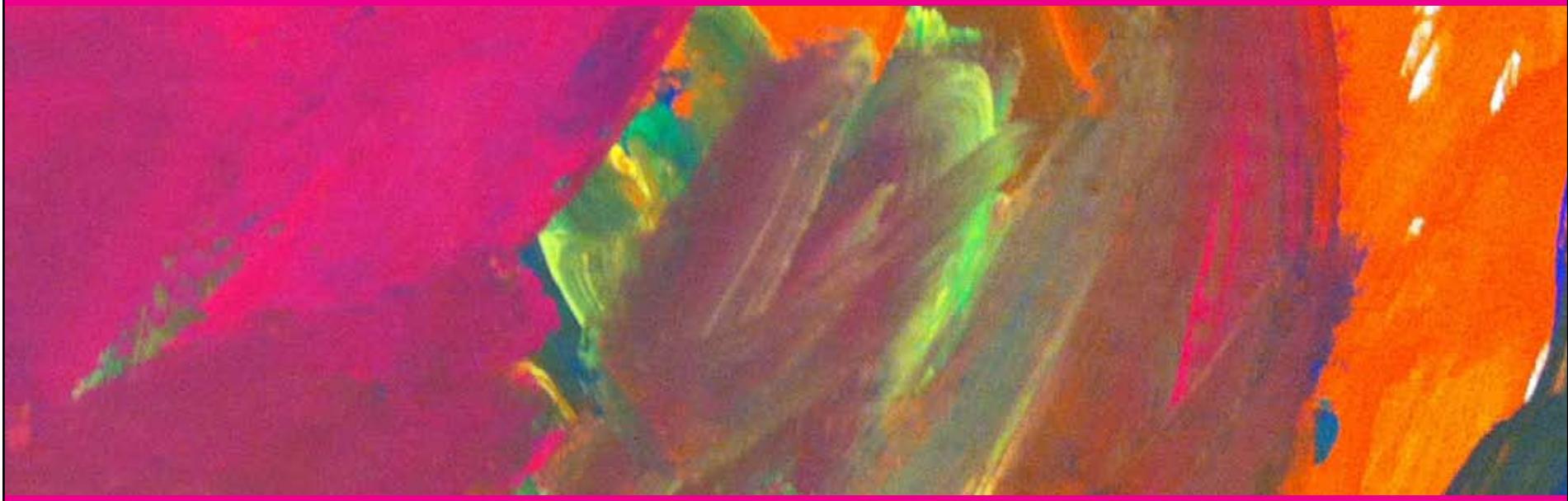
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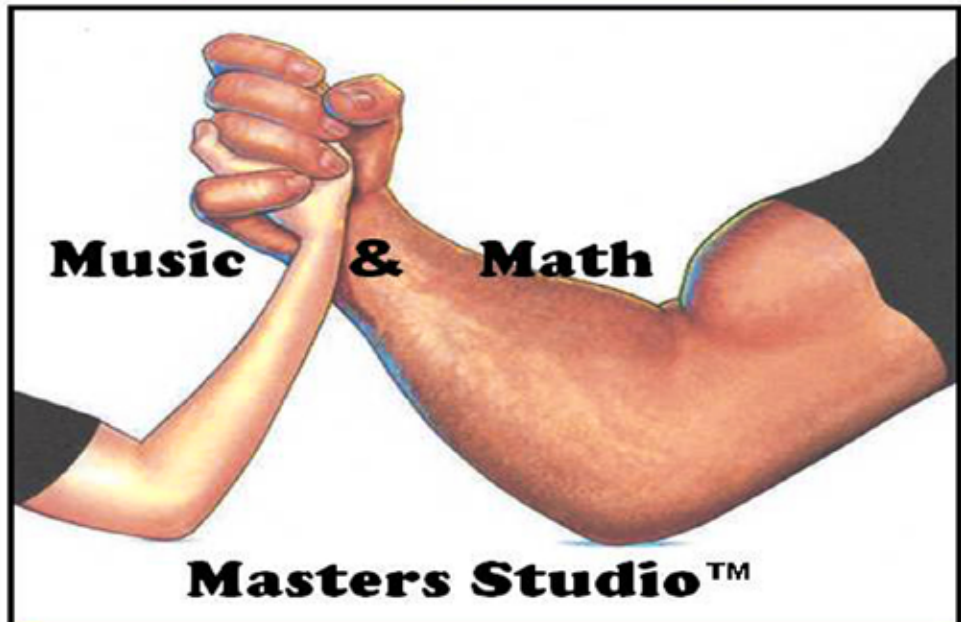
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