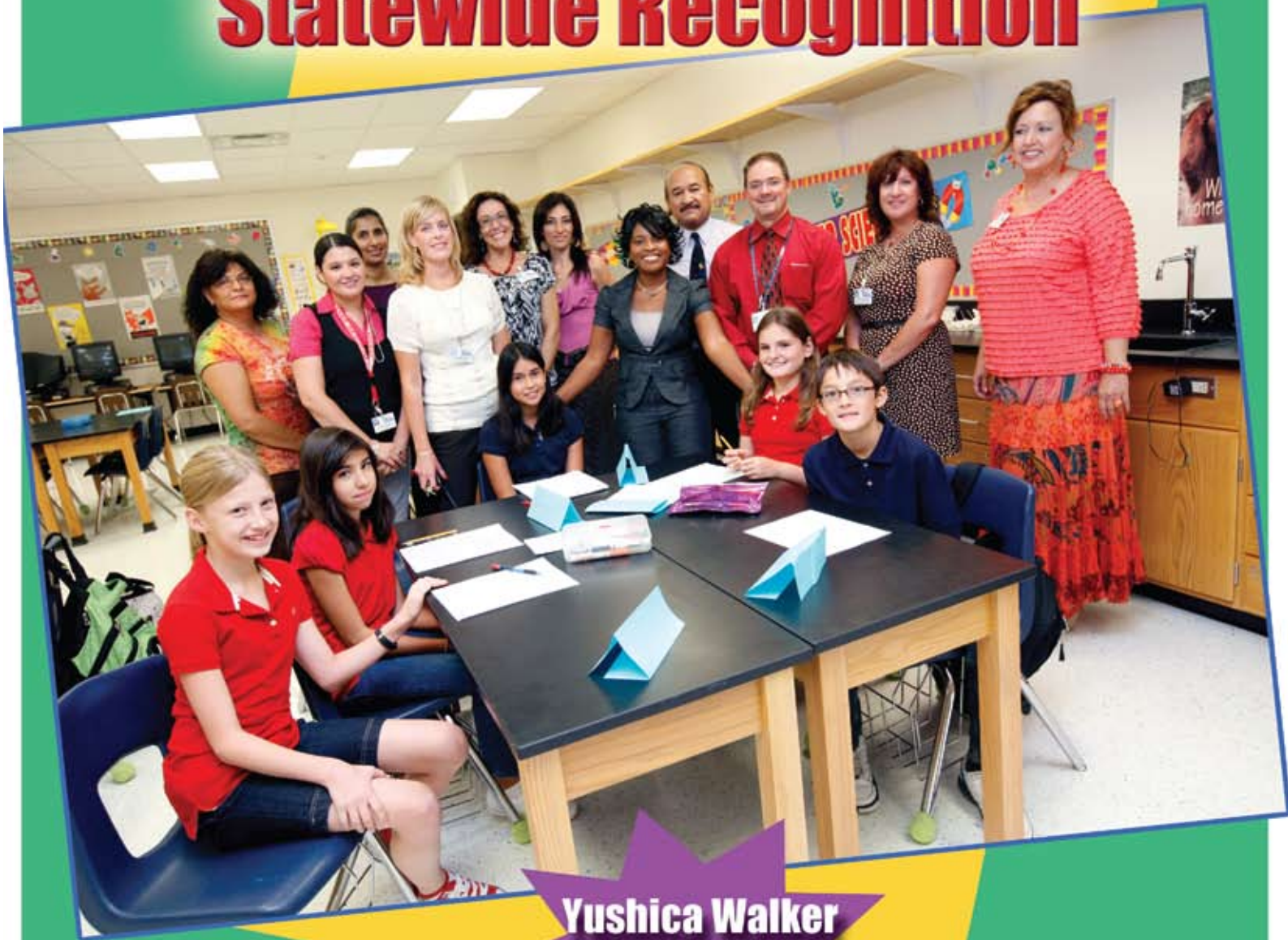


A+ADCOM

Morehead Teacher Earns Statewide Recognition



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Fiddler on the Roof
...plus much more



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The Administrative Communication, ADCOM, is published during the school year by the Public Relations Office of the El Paso Independent School District for its employees. Comments, information and story ideas for ADCOM may be sent to Stella Gutiérrez, Public Relations, P.O. Box 20100, El Paso, Texas 79998, 887-5498, or e-mailed to sxgutier@episid.org. ADCOM is also available online at www.episid.org.

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EPISD educator earns Region 19, state finalist honors

Yushica Walker, a teacher in the El Paso Independent School District, has been named one of only three finalists for the Texas Teacher of the Year in the Secondary Schools division, Texas Education Agency officials announced.

Walker, a sixth-grade science teacher at Morehead Middle School, earned the Education Service Center-Region 19's Secondary Teacher of the Year honor on Aug. 15 and was named EPISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year in May.



Yushica Walker

Walker has been teaching for more than 12 years and has a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with Reading Specialization from Prairie View A&M University and a master's degree in Education/ Administration and Supervision from the University of Phoenix. She is also a proud Army spouse.

She now will interview in Austin for the state Teacher of the Year title next month. The winner will be announced at the TEA banquet and ceremony set for Oct. 30.

Reaching for the Stars



Burges High School graduate and El Paso's first astronaut **John "Danny" Olivas** is set to soar into space once again aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery for the STS-128 mission to the International Space Station.

The launch, scrubbed Aug. 24, 25 and 27, is now set for 9:59 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28, El Paso Time.

Olivas also attended MacArthur Elementary-Intermediate and Bonham Elementary. On his first flight in 2007, Olivas took flags from all three schools with him on his journey into space. He personally returned them to each campus.

For more information on Olivas or on the launch, visit www.nasa.gov.

Students embrace gardening at Delta Academy

Nestled in the confines of the El Paso County Juvenile Justice Center is an oasis for the students of Delta Academy. A garden, they've cultivated from the initial seeds to the watermelon, strawberries, mint and jalapeños that have sprouted.

The Delta Academy students watch and learn about planting – an innovative hands-on science project coordinated by EPISD facilitator Mary Beth Harper. Beyond a science project, math and social studies teachers at the school integrated their curriculum for an even bigger lesson.

“It's good for them to learn that they have to take care of it and water it,” Harper said. “There are a lot of practical life lessons here.”

They incorporated a lesson on dimensions and measurements to build the beds and combined that with a social studies lesson on the history and uses of the plants.

Harper hopes the kitchen staff can incorporate some of the fresh produce into their recipes. They've already brewed tea with their homegrown mint and later there will be salsa from their jalapenos.

“I'm a science teacher and I know one effective way to teach science is through practical applications,” Harper said. “They can use something they learned here when they get out.”

Gardening is not a typical project for students at Delta Academy. These students are high-risk offenders on their last chance to straighten up or face commitment with the Texas Youth Commission. This military-styled program has about 30 juveniles in the center's Challenger Academy that take classes and learn from EPISD teachers while they serve their time.

This project has been important for students for several reasons.



“First, it gives them ownership of a positive science-related experience,” Harper said. “Secondly, their self-esteem is improved because they can be proud of what they have achieved over a period of time in building and growing a garden and then harvesting the fruits of their labors to eat.”

It also has introduced them to horticulture and gives students a connection to nature and potential careers.

“This type of hands-on practical learning is important for all students, but really valuable in teaching concepts and skills to students who struggle with academic achievement,” Harper said.

Senior officer Louis Castillo likes how the gardening program has taken root at the center. “The teachers work with a population of students that others easily write off. However, the instructors at Delta

bring enthusiasm to the teaching environment and that attitude spreads to our students,” he said. “I believe for the first time in a long time, our students have become excited about school and enjoy learning.”

Just outside the classrooms where students sit at computers using Plato, are two gardens filled with a growing crop of cilantro, sunflowers, garlic, squash and chile among other vegetables, fruit and herbs. Gardens are separated in two areas for the female and male students.

The garden was the brainchild of teachers Jane Dignan and Rudy Monarrez. Harper then took on the project and organized it, modeling it after a garden she planted in her own backyard. Just as the vegetation grows, she sees many of her students grow, too.

The project inspired Brandon, one of the students, to grow a vegetable garden and rose garden at home, too. The future culinary artist has already planted tomatoes, onions, oregano and cilantro.

“All the herbs my mom likes,” Brandon smiled. “What I like about planting is it's easy to learn and fun.”

Victor on the other hand, is more impressed with the sunflowers that he planted. “My mom likes sunflowers and they told me if I grew them, I could cut them and give them to my mom.”

Even he looks forward to the day when he can plant a garden of his own with sunflowers, watermelon and maybe some jalapeños.

Luis also likes his time in the garden. But for him, seeing the fruits of his labor, is only a part of the reason. “When you go out there, you forget about this place for a while,” he said.

District announces promotions, welcomes new associate superintendent

New key members to the Superintendent's Leadership Team were recently named to replace those employees who retired or resigned from the district this summer.



Dr. Terri Jordan has been promoted to Chief of Staff from Associate Superintendent of Secondary Schools.

Jordan, who began her career in EPISD in 1986 as a teacher, also has been an assistant principal and principal at Franklin High School, executive director of Technology and Information Systems and an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from Texas Tech University, a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Doctor of Education Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dr. Joseph Lopez has been appointed as the Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction. Lopez began his career in the Dallas Independent School District in 1971 and served in Corpus Christi ISD, Rockford Public Schools in Illinois and most recently Garland ISD. He has served in a wide range of leadership positions: program developer, instructional facilitator, dean of



instruction, assistant principal, principal of elementary and secondary schools, and high level central office positions, including the superintendency. Lopez received his Doctor of Philosophy at the University of North Texas and has taught at New Mexico Highlands University and Texas A&M University at Commerce.



Maria A. Flores has been promoted to Associate Superintendent of Elementary Schools Division from a Director in the Priority Schools Division.

Flores began her career in EPISD in 1985 as a teacher at White Elementary School. She also taught at Guillen Middle School. She has been an assistant principal at Alamo and Alta Vista elementary schools, as well as principal of Hart Elementary School. She was also an ESL instructor at Community College for five years.

Flores has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Master of Arts Degree in Education from New Mexico State University. She also received her administrative certification from UTEP.

Debra Carden has been promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools from Director of Secondary Schools. Carden, who came



to EPISD in 2008, has been a middle school assistant principal and principal with the Santa Fe Public Schools and the Socorro Independent School District, and a middle school principal with the Ysleta Independent School District. She also was a Director of Teacher Education with the Santa Fe Community College and a Director of Secondary Instruction in SISD.

Carden has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Eastern New Mexico University and Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration from the University of New Mexico.

Superintendent's Cabinet is as follows:

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- **Stephen Stiles,** *Chief Technology Officer*

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District names new principals for 2009-10

The El Paso Independent School District recently named the following new principals:

- **Dr. Samuel F. Hogue**, former principal of Jefferson High School in San Antonio, was named the new principal at Andress High School.
- **Luis Liaño**, former principal of Fabens Middle School, is the new principal of El Paso High School.
- **Micaela Varela** was promoted from assistant principal to principal of Polk Elementary School.
- **Cynthia Sanchez** was promoted from assistant principal to principal of Beall Elementary School.
- **Deanna Moseley**, a former assistant principal at O'Shea Keleher Elementary School in Socorro ISD, is the new principal at Bliss Elementary School. Moseley previously worked for EPISD in different teaching capacities.
- **Jesus Medina**, former principal of Schuster Elementary School, is now principal of the new General Colin Powell Elementary School.
- **Elco Ramos**, former principal of Houston Elementary School, is now principal of Crockett Elementary School.
- **Sandra Sanchez** was promoted from assistant principal at Guerrero Elementary School to principal of Crosby Elementary School.
- **Rosa Tarin** was promoted from assistant principal at Lamar Elementary School to principal of Hawkins Elementary School.
- **Alberto Reyes**, former principal of Beall Elementary School, is the principal of the new Herrera Elementary School.
- **Rosa Parga** was promoted from assistant principal at Fannin Elementary School to principal of Houston Elementary School.
- **Ina Lachmann**, former principal of Polk Elementary School, is the principal of the new Lundy Elementary School.
- **James P. Vasquez**, an assistant principal at Hilley Elementary School in Socorro ISD, is the new principal of Moreno Elementary School.
- **Cynthia Donnelly** was promoted from assistant principal at Bond Elementary School to principal of Roberts Elementary School.
- **Anthony Tomasheski** was promoted from assistant principal at Burleson and Burnet elementary schools to principal of Schuster Elementary School.
- **Gina Rodriguez-Nuñez** was promoted from assistant principal to principal at Tippin Elementary School.
- **Blanca Garcia**, former principal of Hawkins Elementary School, is the principal of the new Tom Lea Elementary School.
- **Diane Valverde** was promoted from assistant principal at Bliss Elementary School to principal of Alta Vista Elementary School.

SNAP SHOTS

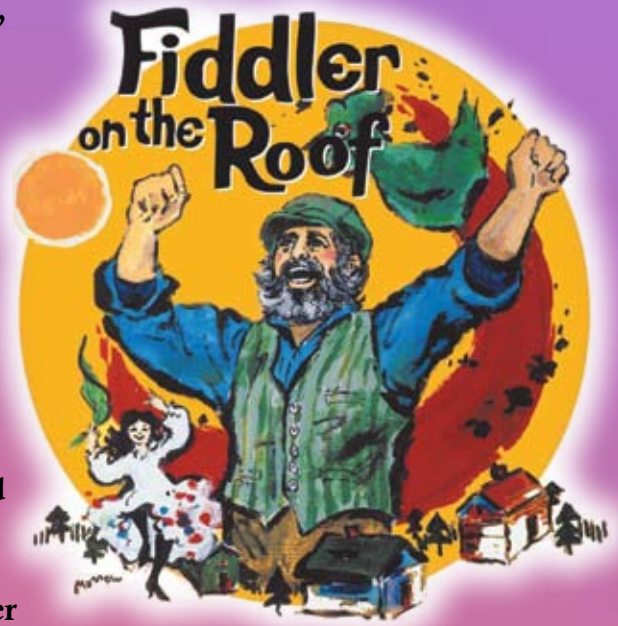


Austin High School theater teacher Adam Zarowski (center) starred as Matthew in "Altar Boyz" this Summer at UTEP's Union Dinner Theater. "Altar Boyz" tells the holy inspiring story of five small-town boys - Matthew, Mark, Luke, Juan and Abraham - trying to save the world one screaming fan at a time. Their pious pop act, including lyrics like "Girl You Make Me Wanna Wait" and "Jesus Called Me On My Cell Phone," worked wonders in the musical's bingo-hall-and-pancake-breakfast circuit. With angelic voices, sinfully spectacular dancing and a touching story, "Altar Boyz" rocked the dinner theater with three weeks of sold out performances.

Musical unites students districtwide



The singing, dancing, musicians and acting talent of high school students from throughout the El Paso Independent School District joined together for the 24th annual summer theater production



of "Fiddler on the Roof" July 22-25 at El Paso High School.

The four-day run brought in crowds of hundreds to see the musical about a small Jewish community and Tevye, a poor dairy farmer with five daughters, who struggles to keep his culture and traditions alive while the world changes around him. Audiences were treated to familiar tunes such as "If I Were a Rich Man," "Tradition," "Matchmaker" and "Sunrise, Sunset."

The summer theater program began in 1986 and was designed as a districtwide collaborative program for teachers and students alike. Selected students entering ninth grade through 12th grade performed in this well-known musical and received instruction in vocal production, acting, choreography, set design, lighting, costuming and make-up. As a result of this great experience, many former students have pursued careers in music, theater and dance at the university level and/or have joined local theatrical organizations.

Fernie Arana, Burges High School theater teacher, directed the production with Donna Ullrich-Mullens, Chapin High School student activities manager, as assistant director. The original choreography was reproduced by Burges dance teacher Irma Acosta. Other EPISD teachers involved in the production were J. Reuben Reza, music director; John Poteat, costume director; Lee Dominguez, assistant costume director; Susan Hernandez, orchestra director; Janice Singleton, technical director; Adam Zarowski, assistant technical director; and Monica Seymore, scenic painting designer.





Once upon a time...

More than 80 EPISD middle school students traveled back to the Renaissance era. They worked like real Shakespearians and shaped their fine art talents in art, music and drama. The culmination of the Advanced Academic Services program was the Renaissance Experience 2009, a festival of art, music, fencing and Shakespearean drama. What a grand way to spend the Summer!

Middle school students experience the Renaissance



Students follow their *DREAMS*

More than 150 students participated in the four-week Developing Research and Early Aspirations for Medical Scholars summer enrichment program. The annual summer pre-med program is designed to help students in the fifth and sixth grade develop an awareness of medical and health-care professions and their contributions to society. The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the EPISD Advanced Academic Services Department sponsored the DREAMS program.





Students write & perform in original musical "Nosotros"



Students in the Theater in Education (TIE) ESOL Summer Camp presented the musical "Nosotros" July 2 at Bowie High School. Under the direction of Hector Serrano, the original musical was written, inspired and presented by students in the Department of English Language Acquisition-sponsored camp.

