

EANESPIRATION AWARDS

Congratulations to our EANESpiration winners!

Good Samaritan Award

Don Gray

Don has taken customer service to a new level for our children. He knows each bus rider by name and has students practice the songs they learn in music class while riding the bus. He also encourages the students to sing happy birthday to one another on their special day. At the beginning of the school year, he invited all of the parents and families of bus riders to a pizza party so he could meet everyone, and even footed some of the bill. His nomination reads, "Mr. Don is a valued member of our team and sets a great example for patience, service and dedication to children!"

Kathy Rodrigue

Kathy is a dedicated volunteer at Barton Creek Elementary. She stepped up and shared homeroom parent duties when no one else would, and comes in every week to take care of important duties. Not only does she help organize the Thursday folders, but she does it seamlessly. She also runs the Box Top Drive and has done so for at least four years. Her nomination reads, "It is people like Kathy that make me proud to work at our school!"

Betty Courtney, Marcie Contreras and Elva Martinez

When a Cedar Creek Elementary

employee's husband passed away suddenly, the cafeteria staff stepped in and helped tremendously. The staff knew the son of the staff member loved the cafeteria's barbeque chicken, so they boxed up some chicken and had it sent home to the family. It was perfect timing because that night, several friends and family members were visiting to pay their respects. Their nomination reads, "The comfort that this simple act provided to my family cannot be measured. As I personally witnessed, the staff in the

working right or if there is anything else he can help with. Pete will help you with any problem ANY time you ask him. He can be in the middle of a work order and will stop to check on your problem, and always with a pleasant attitude. His nomination reads, "Pete is always going out of his way to help the staff. He is someone who can be counted on 100 percent!"

Fritz Klabunde, Transportation

Fritz is an exceptional employee who has demonstrated his professionalism and leadership, especially during unfortunate bus accidents. He is always one of the first at the scene to assess the situation and ensure the safety of the students on the bus. He understands the importance of every procedure that must take place to ensure that all students are accounted for, an analysis of the accident is documented and that the bus driver is evaluated immediately following.

His nomination reads, "Eanes ISD is very fortunate to have such an outstanding employee who looks after the best interests of the district. He is indeed a hero to both the district and the students."

Anthony Davis, Maintenance & Operations

No one has a can-do, yes ma'am, yes sir attitude like Anthony Davis. He is always available and supports our cus-



Cedar Creek cafeteria understand this and work hard to make a difference in other people's lives."

Heroes Award

Pete Castillo

Pete goes over and beyond the call of duty all the time. Every time he is called, he is thorough, polite and friendly to everyone. He stops by after the work orders have been complete and checks to see if everything is

todians through thick and thin, while remaining focused on the health, safety and cleanliness of facilities. He is responsive, honest, helpful and has a smile that warms our hearts. His nomination reads, "We appreciate all of the things Mr. Anthony does behind the scenes to keep our school running!"

Maintenance Grounds Crew for Valley View Elementary: Raul Aguilar, Mike Tackett and Norm Hopkins

The grounds crew for Valley View was nominated for their responsiveness and their attention to detail. Their nomination reads, "Our grass, sidewalks, ramps and exterior of our building always looks so well-maintained. We are proud to have guests on campus and that our outside is reflective of the care and attention we give to the students inside!"

Angel Morales, Warehouse

Angel is described as "truly an angel." He always responds to emergency requests at a moment's notice and does so in record time with a smile and a great attitude. He is always eager to help and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. His nomination reads, "Angel is proactive in finding solutions and his positive attitude and professional work ethic are an inspiration!"

Educational Impact

Adult Transition Services Job Coaching Staff: Ilirjane Dauti-Shita, Ryan Harkrider, Casey Kennedy, Richard Pounds, Lisa Rose, Wendy Tarrant

This group of individuals has come together this school year and built a foundation for our students to thrive. Each one of the 11 students in the program has a successful job placement in the community. A typical day in the ATS Program includes accompanying the students to and from each of their job placements, assisting them in making their meals, teaching the students independence in the community on the Metro system, accompanying them to their continuing

education classes, assisting wheelchair-bound students in the restroom, teaching them to shop for their groceries independently, helping them check their individual bank accounts online, and self-help skills needed to be successful independent adults.

The staff is also responsible for taking data on students to ensure they are making progress on their individual education goals. Their nomination reads, "Our staff is flexible, reliable, and the best team we could have possibly assembled."

Bill Bechtol, Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Bill Bechtol was nominated for his commitment to excellence, his collaboration and coordination and his support of the board, staff and students. He is known for holding teachers as the District's most valuable asset and optimizing the use of instructional and professional learning time. His nomination reads, "Eanes students are unaware of the work behind the scenes that gives them a quality education. Bill is the selfless person who revels in their joy and is happy to remain unnamed... but not this time!"

John Kangas, Facilities

John has displayed leadership and commitment to the district by making a positive, noticeable and significant impact in facility scheduling. John is responsible for coordinating every single facility event in the district and he has done a wonderful job in communicating with groups and making sure they are successful, safe and secure. His nomination reads, "John's commitment to ensure the district recaptures and recovers the costs to run events is a phenomenal feat. He is one of the unsung heroes of Eanes ISD."

Angela Manley and Susan McBride, Maintenance & Operations

Angela and Susan were both nominated for their efficiency and professionalism in the district. Angela takes great pride in being accurate and

concise with calls for assistance and has taken the extra effort to learn how to monitor classroom comfort along with building operators. Her work ensures that the district is more efficient in day-to-day operations and she is always cheerful.

Susan is very focused on making the funds go as far as possible as she manages the third largest budget in the district. She is committed to supporting campus operations and takes great pride in doing so.

Caroline Nelson, Special Education

Caroline is described as ethical, friendly, smart and trustworthy. She has a true talent to be able to approach different Special Education issues and the parents in our community have benefitted tremendously because of her. She makes a connection with families, earns their trust and encourages involvement and the recommendation to always do what is best for the student. This year, Caroline implemented the Sib Shops curriculum, which helps children who are siblings of special needs children and it has been a wonderful resource. Her nomination reads, "Caroline has integrity, is easy to talk to and a valuable resource to the district. Her work is vital in maintaining healthy, harmonious connections between general education and special education."

Louis Nesby, Maintenance & Operations

Louis is credited for being a wonderful help at Bridge Point Elementary. As soon as he hears of an issue at the school, he is immediately on the problem and his work is appreciated. His nomination reads, "Louis really takes care of us at Bridge Point and is always a team player with a great attitude."

Rick Roberts, Maintenance & Operations

Rick is described as an incredibly pleasant and hard-working individual. No matter the work order or task presented, he always follows through

with a smile. He shows such commitment to the district by always putting his all into his work and doing so in a positive manner. He is a true maintenance “ninja” who comes and goes doing what is needed before anyone is even aware! His nomination reads, “Eanes ISD is fortunate to have a carpenter of Rick’s capability and more importantly, one with such a professional demeanor.”

Kevin Schwartz, Information Services

Kevin was nominated for his exceptional job of mentoring students interested in learning about technology and showing them what it is like to have a career in information services. Kevin meets with students weekly, providing learning opportunities, tasks and encouragement, but most of all, giving students a specific career direction to pursue after graduation. His nomination reads, “Kevin and the IS department have accepted the spirit of mentorship by giving back in providing training to high school students and it’s wonderful to see!”

Jason Thomsen, Information Services

Jason is known for going above and beyond what is expected of him. He is very timely when assigned work orders and puts everything into his job. He goes into the schools with a bright shining smile and eagerness to give assistance. He comes in early and stays late to complete work orders assigned to him before the next school day. His nomination reads, “Jason is highly regarded in the district and continues to shine and show compassion each day.”

Innovation Awards

Leticia Hinojosa, Community Education

Leticia has done an incredible job of bringing the 21st Century to Community Education. She works to make sure the district is tech-savvy and uses streamlined processes. Her work to bring the registration process out of the Dark Ages has helped save in staff time, paper and of course, lowered costs. She also increased Community Education’s web presence and facilitated mass email alerts to parents to foster better communication. Leticia works tirelessly every day to come up with new ways to improve Community Education. Her nomination reads, “Dr. Hinojosa is truly an inspiring innovator whose programs bring in over a half million dollars annually to support teacher salaries. She does so much for the District and we appreciate her!”

Jason and Malena Petersen, Volunteers

This year, the Cedar Creek library theme is “Read Around the World” and in support of that, the Petersens brought in a museum display case filled with artifacts and fossils from their personal collection. While Malena is a consistently reliable volunteer who helps students and teachers, Jason provides a hands-on learning experience in history and science to students. Their nomination reads, “The Petersen family has made a huge impact on Cedar Creek Elementary

as library volunteers. The children are always completely absorbed and entertained when they come to visit.”

Tim Wysong, Transportation

Tim Wysong’s picture should be posted in the dictionary for the definition of service. He sets an example for us all on response time for action as well as innovative, cost-saving programs for the District. Communications or concerns sent to him are immediately addressed and always with a positive attitude. Tim has brought so many positive changes to our district including increased cameras for monitoring, propane-powered buses, positive behavior supports for students, shortened and more efficient bus routes, advertising on buses to produce revenue and more efficient accounting for field trips, to name a few. His nomination reads, “Tim has brought a ‘can do’ attitude to provide the best possible service to all constituents. He is a model employee!”

Presented by:

