



Coppell Middle School West
National Junior Honor society officers Evana Flores (left), Landry Walker, Rohan Panaparambil and Jenna Bartley led the induction ceremony for 96 new members May 24.

Photo submitted by LORI NJO

Honor society inducts 96 students at ceremony

By LORI NJO
Contributor

Coppell Middle School West inducted 96 students into the Renaissance Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society at a recent candle-lighting ceremony.

The seventh- and eighth-graders were selected for membership based on their academic achievements, leadership, service, character and citizenship.

The induction program began with NJHS member Annie Xie providing piano selections and prelude music. Vern Edin, principal at CMS West, welcomed the large crowd of students, parents, relatives and community members who attended the program.

Faculty sponsors Missy Schliep and Carson Thompson distributed service pins to more than 60 NJHS members who completed at least 30 service hours. Thompson then discussed the impact that the service

hours have had on the CMS West campus and the community.

Schliep, along with NJHS historian Evana Flores, showed a PowerPoint presentation of pictures of students involved in a variety of service opportunities from the past year.

During the induction ceremony, school NJHS president Rohan Panaparambil, along with Evana and officers Jenna Bartley and Landry Walker, provided information about the origins of NJHS and its importance at CMS West.

Each new NJHS member was called to the stage and inducted into chapter membership. The ceremony concluded with newly inducted members and their parents, along with existing members and their parents, celebrating at a reception in the school cafeteria.

Lori Njo contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Coppell Middle School West.

NEW MEMBERS

Seventh-graders: Brian Austin, Ashley Bartlett, Braden Bedichek, Berkeley Bonneau, Seshu Brahma, Brittan Bresnahan, Rachel Buigas-Lopez, Chris Burdine, Austin Cain, Linda Castranova, Sarah Cenicerros, James Clifford, Surta Dave, Trace Douglas, Emily Ely, Liam Foley, Mahatee Garikipati, Ali Gentry, Manali Gore, Taylor Greaves, Maha Haque, Mia Harp, Jay Harrison, Charlotte Hayden, Andrew Herubin, Riley Hill, Ludia Hong, Shawn Huang, Emma Jett, Spencer Johnson, Greg Johnston, Ethan Judd, Chaitanya Kalathuru, Sneha Karkala, Allison Kennedy, Annabelle Kim, Courtney Kline, Daniel Koh, Surbhi Kumar, Anna Kustar, Sydney Lambert, Sydney Legee, Melissa Len, Courtney Lombardo, Sarah Kate Lookabaugh, Makena Lopez, Alexis Lowery, Kaustubh Madiraju, Alexis Martinez, Owen Miller, Aditi Mukund, Jaimee Nguyen, Emily Ninh, Sonia Patel, Chandler Peck, Archana Prabhakar, Arthi Prabhakar, Ajay Prabhu, Ariel Pritchard, Mayuri Raja, Sajani Raja, Kailey Rivera, Elizabeth Sapp, Lillie Saunders, Pratheek Sharyala, Bobby Shi, Julia Sicar, Cassidy Smith, Harrison Smith, Katrina Songco, Shane Steiger, Logan Swicegood, Arthi Tarugu, Emily Tepera, Marisa Thakady, Drew Tucker, Bruno Turati, Ajay Verma, Andrea Villarreal, Alan Wang, Andrew Weaver, Jancie Yoo, Kevin Yuan, Katy Yut and Reid Zaworski

Eighth-graders: Apurva Bachal, Jimena Flores Sanchez, Sruti Gorantla, Claire Halpin, Megan Moore, Jacob Nemeck, Freddie Purches, Ethan Tan, Stephanie Teffeteller, Alexandria Vazquez and Lydia Yu

MARY IMMACULATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Eighth-grade grads receive high school scholarships

By ROSEMARY MARTINEZ
Contributor

Six graduating students of Mary Immaculate Catholic School in Farmers Branch, which goes through eighth grade, received scholarships in tribute to their work during junior high school.

Two of these students, Maddie Spicer and Alexa Almaguer, were honored at a presentation dinner June 17. The Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation awarded \$500 Spirit of Love Scholarships to both girls for using their talents to serve their community.

Maddie, a resident of Farmers Branch, plans to attend Newman Smith High School. Alexa, a Carrollton resident, has been accepted into the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts to focus on dance.

Schoolmate Courtney Newman of Farmers Branch received a \$1,400 renewable academic scholarship from Bishop Lynch High School. Irving resident Allie Armato, one of only eight recipients to be

MORE INFO

To learn more about the Rebekah Leah Rivera Foundation's 2011 Spirit of Love Scholarship Award Dinner, visit rebekahleahrivera.org. To learn more about Mary Immaculate Catholic School, call 972-243-7105 or visit mischool.org.

awarded the Terrae Altae Scholarship, will receive half of her tuition from the Highlands School in Irving as her scholarship.



Sam Truxal

The Fr. Patrick H. Koch, S. J. Alumni Association awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Sam Truxal of Coppell to attend Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas. John Paul II High School in Plano awarded a \$500 scholarship to John Paul Gura, a resident of The Colony.

Rosemary Martinez contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Mary Immaculate Catholic School.

VALLEY RANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Austin adventure



Photo submitted by DONNA FULTZ

Valley Ranch Elementary School fourth-graders recently took a daylong trip to Austin. Students, teachers and chaperones visited the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and went to the Texas Capitol. At the Capitol, students sat quietly and observed the House Gallery, where state Rep. Linda Harper Brown of Irving announced and welcomed them. Brown shook hands with the students and posed for a picture with them.

Family shares what makes husband, dad special

STAFF REPORT

Editor's note: In response to a request for nominations of great area dads in a recent issue, Dorothy Johnson of Carrollton called to share about her husband of 13 years, Brady.

We sent her some questions about Brady, who recently finished his last days working with Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD special education students, and threw in a couple for their children Christian, 10, and Daniel, 5. Here's some of what they had to say.

Dorothy

Tell us a little about Brady.

Brady is a wonderful father and husband. As a family, we love to travel, especially to amusement parks. We recently came back from Universal Studios in Orlando, where we had the chance to visit The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.



Dorothy Johnson

What makes him a good father?

What makes Brady an amazing father is his sense of humor and his patience. After working a long day, Brady still finds time to throw the ball with the boys, take them to the park or read books to them.

Brady is able to juggle being a dad and a husband while I'm attending school full time. He is a super dad.

What do you appreciate most about him?

What I appreciate most about Brady is his patience and willingness to do anything



Dorothy Johnson (not pictured) said her husband, Brady, is a wonderful father to their sons Christian (left), 10, and Daniel, 5. The family lives in Carrollton.

for his family. Whenever I am stressed out with my homework, he takes the boys to the park or outside so I can get some alone time to finish my work. He does this without me asking him.

What has he taught you?

Brady has taught me to see how wonderful and unique special ed kids are.

Some of the students Brady works with

are nonverbal, which means they don't talk. But he will sit there and have a talk with them and not treat them any differently. Also, he tries to do special things for his students to celebrate their accomplishments.

After spending the day with him and watching him interact with his students, I saw the love and appreciated him a lot more.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Brady is a very quiet person, and because of this, most people don't realize how wonderful he is. He doesn't complain or toot his own horn. So this is why I wanted to take this opportunity and do it for him.

Christian

What do you like most about your dad?

He is really fun.

What do you like to do with your dad?

Play sports like football, soccer and badminton.

How does he make you feel special?

He tells me nice things about me.

Does he make you laugh? How?

Yes, he tells me funny jokes he has learned from his elementary students.

Is there anything you'd like to say to him?

Yes, I love you.

Daniel

What do you like most about your dad?

I like that he plays with me.

What do you like to do with your dad?

Play the Wii (video games) and sports.

How does he make you feel special?

He gives me bear hugs.

Does he make you laugh? How?

Yes, he makes up funny and silly words.

Is there anything you'd like to say to him?

Thank you for being my daddy!

Ruth Haesemeyer, editor of Carrollton/Farmers Branch/Addison neighborsgo, compiled the information for this report. She can be reached at 214-977-8024 or ruthh@neighborsgo.com.

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Maddie Spicer

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Courtney Newman

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