**Inside Aldine**

**ALDINE ISD RECEIVES MAYOR’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Houston Mayor Bill White, far right, poses with Aldine ISD Board President Rick Ogden and Superintendent Nadine Kujawa after presenting the district the first-ever Mayor’s Award for Excellence during a recent Houston City Council meeting.

Mayor White praised Aldine ISD for being a two-time national finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education and for the strides the district has made in educating a diverse student population. Aldine officials attended the Broad announcement in Washington, D.C. in September.

**WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AISD**

“Having urban school districts preparing students for jobs in a future is one of the best things a city can do, both to attract those jobs and to improve everyone’s quality of life. That’s why I appreciate so much Aldine ISD’s ability to offer a quality education on a national scale.”

Bill White
Mayor, City of Houston

“The naming of Aldine ISD as a national finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education confirms what we’ve known all along: the excellence in Aldine’s programs. It is satisfying to know that one of the school districts supplying students to North Harris College has received this national honor, not once but twice.”

Dr. David Sam
President, North Harris College

“Being named a national Broad Prize finalist for two consecutive years is well deserved. It is a tribute to the hard work of teachers and all the educators and staff who perform one of the most important jobs in our society: that of educating our children.”

Jan MasinoMac
Metrogal Gallery Furniture

“It is definitely an asset to the business community to have such an outstanding school district in Aldine ISD on our service area. They continue to impress us with their professionalism and dedication. They are certainly a worthy candidate for this award and definitely deserve all of the recognition they have received.”

Carolyn Milton
President, North Houston Greenpoint Chamber of Commerce

Aldine ISD board members and administrators were on hand in Washington, D.C. this fall when the national winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education was announced.

Aldine ISD was one of five national finalists for the award. Norfolk (VA) Public Schools was named the recipient of the 2005 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

On hand for the announcement were Aldine ISD Board President Rick Ogden, Superintendent Nadine Kujawa, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson and other AISD administration. Also on hand for the announcement, which was held in the Library of Congress, was U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

The Broad Prize for Urban Education is an annual award that honors the most outstanding urban school district in the United States that has made the greatest improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students.

As a finalist, Aldine ISD received a $125,000 award from the Broad Foundation for college scholarships.

“We want to thank the Broad Foundation for their generous gift and for recognizing the strides Aldine ISD has made in educating all of its children,” said Mr. Ogden. “Nadine and her team of administrators, principals and teachers should be commended for all of their hard work and energy they have put in over the years in seeing to it that all children in Aldine receive a quality education. We are pleased with producing the nation’s best.”

“We are so appreciative of the Broad Foundation for selecting Aldine as one of its five national finalists and for the generous gift they provided to help Aldine students attain a college education,” Mrs. Kujawa said. “Even though we were not the ultimate winner, being recognized on the national level endorses the long hours and hard work many have put in over the years in educating our children. Our board should also be commended for its vision and leadership in making academic gains among all of our students to top priority.”

For the second consecutive year, Aldine was one of five national finalists from a field of 100 school districts who were identified by the Broad Foundation as being eligible candidates for the award based on size, low-income enrollment, minority enrollment and urban environment.

Once the five national finalists were named, the Broad Foundation’s review board of 18 prominent education leaders from across the country – with the help of the National Center for Educational Accountability (NCEA) – analyzed extensive quantitative and qualitative data and used their collective knowledge and experience to determine the five finalists.

Last April, a team of researchers and practitioners, under NCEA’s guidance, conducted a site visit to Aldine where they interviewed school board members, AISD administrators, staff members, community members and visited schools in the Aldine Senior High vertical area, where they gathered additional quantitative and qualitative data.

Following the site visit, a selection jury met during the summer to review the information and select the winner. The four other finalists were Houston Public Schools, New York City Department of Education, Norfolk Public Schools and the San Francisco Unified School District.

Also on hand for the announcement in Washington were Dr. Wanda Bamberg, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, Dr. Linda Rodriguez, Aldine area superintendent, Cecil Hunson, principal of Aldine Senior High School, Raymond Wright, principal of Jefferson Middle School and teacher representative Carolyn Milton.

Emmett W. Hill
resigns from Board

Long-time Aldine ISD Trustee Emmett W. Hill submitted his letter of resignation from the board due to health concerns.

Board President Rick Ogden regretfully read Hill’s letter of resignation during the board’s Oct. 18 meeting. In his letter, Hill, who was appointed to the Position 2 seat in 1991 and elected the following January, said the decision to resign was a difficult one for him to make.

“I want to thank each and all of you for your support while serving on the Board. I also want to thank you for your prayers since I have been ill and solicit your continued prayers. This is difficult, as the Board has been very important to me since I was first recommended in 1991. It has been a rewarding experience to be involved with such great people as I have worked with throughout these past years. It has also been an honor to serve the teachers, students and other personnel in this high-performance district.”

Ogden and fellow board members A.P. Jones, Dr. Vola M. Garcia and Art Martillo thanked Hill for his service to the district with personal remarks and remembrances.

During his 14 years on the board, Hill held all four offices and chaired numerous committees. He also served as a program committee member of the Gulf Coast Area Association of School Boards.

Hill has been a resident of the Aldine community for 45 years and is a graduate of Carver High School. Hill devoted 31 years to the students and staff in Aldine ISD serving as a teacher, coach and assistant principal. He and his wife Sarah have four children, who are graduates of Eisenhower High, Carver High and Lane School.
Dear Parents:

This edition of Inside Aldine highlights a recognition that all parents, taxpayers and employ-
ees of Aldine ISD should be especially honored to receive. Our school district has been
named a national Finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education for two consecutive
years. This means that in 2005, Aldine ISD along with New York City De-
partment of Education, Boston Public Schools, San Francisco Unified School District, and Nor-
folk Public Schools in Virginia, are the five best urban school districts in the nation.

Congratulations to all of you for the role you played in helping make this possible. Taxpayers,
thank you for continuing to place trust in Aldine ISD and contrib-
uting the funding we need to deliver a quality education that is nationally recognized. Educa-
tors and all employees of Aldine, thank you for the many jobs you perform to educate and support learning including transporta-
tion, security, serving nutritious food, maintaining maintenance and construction, counseling, health services, record keeping and, of course, teaching. Parents, thank you for the importance you assign to the
improvement of education and good dis-
cipline at home and at school.

Many leaders of Houston and the Aldine Houston region have taken
note of the Broad recognition. For example, Tuti Nelson, the
chairman of the Houston Association of Realtors which represents
more than 25,000, said: “Realtors many times have to be
able to sell the schools in an area as much as the home, so having such an acclaimed school district in
the area makes our job all the easier. The parents of students living in Aldine ISD should feel proud to know that
their children are receiving an education from one of the best school districts in the nation.”

Congratulations to all our Aldine supporters for such an impor-
tant recognition. We didn’t win the Broad Prize this year, but be-
ing a Finalist for two consecutive years is a tremendous honor and
blessing!

Sincerely,

Nadine Kujawa
Superintendent of Schools

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Aldine ISD to expand M.O. Campbell Educational Center

Plans are underway to expand AISD’s M.O. Campbell Educational Center by 2,000 seats by the spring of 2007. The Aldine ISD Board of Education unanimously approved the expansion plans during its Sept. 13 board meeting.

Our board and administration believe that by expanding the Campbell Center, more parents and fam-
ily members will be able to attend major events, such as graduation. said Aldine ISD Superintendent Na-
dine Kujawa. “We are undertaking this effort now so we will be able to meet needs of our growing school district.”

The Campbell Center, which opened in 1994, is home to athletic events, graduations, conversations, meet-
ings and community events. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blannon said the 2,000 new seats will be located in the north end of the arena. The expansion will cost approximately 65 million. “No bonds will be issued for this project,” Dr. Blannon said. “The construction costs will be covered by our district.”

Dr. Blannon added that construc-
tion will begin in the spring of 2006 and will be completed by the spring of 2007.

During the construction process, events and athletic contests will not be disrupted.

“Other than relocating the field house during the 2006 football sea-
m.O. Educational Center

son, events will not be effected by the constrution.” According to Dr. Blannon, undertak-
ing this endeavor now, will save the district money in the long run.

“As our graduating classes continue to grow, one day we will have to move to another venue outside of the district (if the Campbell Center is not expanded) if we want to com-
modate all who want to attend graduations. We also believe con-
stucting a new center will be in the best interest of our students and would occur in the next four to five years, so by doing this now we can offset the anticipated increased costs by undertaking this expansion plan now,” he said.

The Campbell Center currently seats 5,000 people.

Aldine ISD students come to the aid of Katrina evacuees

Aldine ISD students and personnel once again came to the aid of those who needed help by generously giving of their time and resources to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees who were displaced from their homes by the devastating storm.

Karina wavered hance from Ala-
Bama to Louisiana and the Gulf Coast region unhabit-
able. Hundreds of thousands of evacuees relocated to the Houston area with many of them moving to Aldine to find shelter and comfort.

They came to the right place.

Aldine ISD has enrolled, close to 1,700 students from the affected ar-
eas and soon after the news spread that Aldine ISD Math and Science Magnet, Karina left for the Gulf Coast region. Aldine students and staff members rolled up their sleeves and went to work organizing fund-raising efforts to help their new neighbors.

Aldine schools and support facilities raised and donated thousands of dol-
ars - from the Red Cross, the United Way and other hurricane relief efforts. Money has also been raised to help
individual families, many of whom were taken in by AISD staff members. Aldine ISD students and personnel also donated nonperishable food items, school uniforms, blankets, bottled water, clothes for children and adults and one school even held a blood drive. Students and staff members also gave of their time to volunteer as shelter guards that housed Katrina evacuees.

“I am so proud of our Aldine family and the way it came to the aid of its neighbors in the area,” said Aldine ISD Superintendent Nadine Kujawa. “It has been proven over many many years that when there is a need, the Aldine family will answer the call and do whatever is neces-
sary to help its fellow man and in this instance, our family went above and beyond the call of duty.”

While just about every school in the district has taken in Katrina evacu-
ees, Nimitz High School has enrolled the most. 150. Nimitz principal Ken Krippel said he was proud of the way his students and staff members accepted their new friends.

“Our new students have been through an unprecedented experience. It is not unusual for them to get upset over their new surroundings, but our folks here have made them feel welcomed and I’m very proud of that,” Krippel said.

“I’m also very pleased with the way our staff has stepped up to the plate to accept these new students and make them feel right at home at our new school.”

Aldine ISD students named to JFTK Honor Roll

Seven Aldine ISD schools were recently named to the Just For The Kids (JFTK) and Texas Business and Educa-
tion Coalition (TBEC) Honor Roll.

The seven schools named to the JFTK Honor Roll were: Anderson Academy, Thompson Elementary School, Oleson Elementary School, Worsam Elementary School, Grantham Academy, Hambirk Middle School and Rague Middle School.

According to JFTK, the seven schools were named to the Honor Roll for being the most consistent perform-
ers in educating all student groups over at least three year period of time and for ranking highest in their individual peer groups, which are the schools across the state that most closely approximate their size and student population makeup.

“It is important to the business com-
unity of Texas to celebrate these Honor Roll schools,” said John Ste-
vens, executive director of JFTK. “We are counting on the students of these schools to one day run our
state, so it is vital that they be well educated and prepared for the 21st century workplace.”

“The only way to effectively measure where improvement is occurring or where it needs to take place is to
analyze academic results,” said Mike Hudson of JFTK. “The academic results of these Honor Roll schools are outstanding.”

JFTK is a nonprofit data analysis and research organization founded in 1995 by Texas business leader Tom Luce. The organization’s purpose is to raise state standards and increase student academic achieve-
ment in Texas. JFTK publishes in-
formation on how schools perform over time and lists high-performing schools in the state on its website at www.just4kids.org.

TBEC, formed in 1989, is a non-
profit organization of business executives and education leaders dedicated to improving the perfor-
mane of public school system

AISD trustees adopt new tax rate

During the Oct. 18 Board of Education meeting, AISD trustees approved the 2005-06 tax rate at $1.79 ($1.64 for the maintenance and operation fund and 6.9 cents for the interest and sinking fund) per $100 valuation.

The new rate represents a 2-cent increase from the 2004-05 tax rate. The increase was needed in order for the district to maintain and oversee the public schools in Aldine ISD and to continue to pro-
vide a quality education for Aldine ISD students.

The tax rate will help fund the dis-

AISD trustees adopt new tax rate
A group of educational leaders from Scotland visited Carnegie High School October...
AISD to host 5th annual Academy National Invitational

For the fifth consecutive year, AISD’s M.O. Campbell Educational Center will host the Academy National Invitational basketball tournament, considered the preeminent high school basketball tournament in the nation.

The tournament will run Dec. 28-30 and will feature six teams in USA Today’s Top 25 boy’s rankings, according to tournament director Hal Pastner. “The Academy National Invitational has become the top high school basketball tournament in the nation,” he said. “We appreciate AISD ISD allowing us to use this outstanding facility to host this event. This is one of the top facilities anywhere and the Campbell staff do a great job of making sure the tournament runs smoothly.”

The tournament field, which will feature a National Division and a Texas Division, was announced at a press conference held on Dec. 1 at the Campbell Center. On hand representing AISD ISD was Dr. Archie Blanson, deputy superintendent of the district.

“We are proud to host this outstanding event for the fifth straight year,” Dr. Blanson said. “We are looking forward to another excellent tournament and we encourage basketball fans to come out and see some of the best talent in the nation and state.”

The National Division will feature Oak Hill Academy (No. 2 in the nation), Fairfax, CA (ranked No. 3 in the country), Neumann-Goretti of Philadelphia (No. 7 in the nation), Kingwood High School (ranked No. 11 in the country), Georgia’s Wheeler High School (ranked No. 17 in the country) and, Bellaire High School (ranked No. 21 in the country). Also in the National Bracket will be the Fort High of Alabama and Pebble High of Louisiana.

The Texas Bracket will consist of Aldine Senior High, Eisenhower Senior High, Houston Jones, Alief Hastings, Cornerstone Christian, Spring Westfield (ranked No. 24 in the nation), Houston Wheatley and Fort Bend Hightower.

The game will feature some of the top individual players in the nation, including Aldine Senior High junior center Gary Johnson, who is ranked as the No. 1 junior in the nation by Slam magazine.

Tickets are currently on sale at any Academy Sports and Outdoors store. Tickets are $10 per day, which will allow fans to watch eight games a day.

The Texas Division final will be held on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 6:30 p.m., followed by the National Division title game at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.visionsports.com.
Tell me about Aldine ISD.

Aldine ISD has approximately 57,000 students. Seventy-seven percent are economically disadvantaged and 24 percent (mobility rate) move from one campus to another or to another district during the course of the school year.

Tell me about the quality of Aldine’s education program.

Aldine has earned seven Recognized ratings for academic achievement from the Texas Education Agency, and was one of five national finalists for the Broad Prize for Urban Education in 2004 and 2005.

Considering the demographics and quality of Aldine’s educational program, is there a need for business partnerships?

Absolutely. Aldine needs additional assistance to help all of our students perform at the same academic levels as students from more affluent communities. Business partners help Aldine neutralize the impact of poverty and mobility. From Aldine’s point of view, education is everyone’s business.

How can businesses help Aldine ISD remain a high performing school district and continue to improve in the delivery of educational services?

Many campuses express the need for mentors, tutors, assistance with special projects, Texas Scholars and Career Day presenters, and assistance with school supplies.

How can our company get involved?

Contact any principal or Ben G. Wilson, assistant superintendent of community and governmental relations, at 281-985-6202 or send an E-mail to bwilson@aldine.k12.tx.us.
For more information on student internship programs, call Franklin Higgins Director of career and technology education, at 281-985-6650.

Leighann Reese from R.I.T.E. working with PK students at de Santiago.

Joni Weir of Kelly Productions, left, dropped off supplies to Smith Academy and teacher Kristine Rinaldi.

Joyce Lewis, of Smith Academy, accepts school supplies from Ronnie Matthews, and Tonia Brown of Greater Commission MBC.

Mark Lang from The World’s Finest Chocolate made a presentation to students at Stovall Academy.
McDonald's
“When I think of Aldine, the district's commitment and dedication each day to the education of students is what comes to mind. I see this commitment and dedication throughout the year. The achievement of Aldine’s vision (Producing the Nation’s Best) and goals is very visible as you visit schools. You can see it.”
Howard Kelly
Owner (Aldine Bender at Aldine Westfield, Aldine Westfield at FM 1900, Kenwick at FM 1960)

Greater Greenspoint Re-development Authority
“My most recent impression was when I visited the Hall Night High School. I am so proud of Aldine School District and for the commitment Aldine makes to ALL students. Aldine recognizes that many children, through no fault of their own, are not able to attend traditional high schools. The Hall Night facility beautifully addresses this very pressing issue by providing a facility offering evening classes and resources (if needed) for day-care and school itself. It gives hope to students, where they thought they had none. Bravo Aldine!”
Sally L. Bradford
Executive Director

Liberty Tax
“Being a business partner with Aldine ISD I have met so many dedicated employees who truly love the students and their jobs. I think Aldine ISD is going to get bigger, better and see a bright future for the school district with the leadership and employees in place.”
Paul Shah
Owner

ExxonMobil Production Co
“Aldine ISD strives for the Best. The fact that we are recognized across the nation for offering a quality publication is a true indication.”
Linda R. Aratiza
Aldine Improvement District

“Aldine Improvement District is pleased to recognize that Aldine’s schools are doing a great job and we are fortunate to have them in this community.”
David Haves
Executive Director

North Houston Bank
“Aldine ISD is an outstanding school district that goes the distance in preparing your young people to be successful.”
Jane Grothe
Vice President

Greater Greenspoint Management District
“The Broad Prize is a well-deserved one for the Aldine District, where “Producing the Nation’s Best” is more than a vision, it’s a vocation. The Broad Foundation’s goal of reducing achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students is expertly demonstrated day in and day out at AISD because “Producing the Nation’s Best” leaves no room for anything less. Congratulations, Aldine, on yet another well-deserved honor!”
Jocklynn Keville
Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs

Brookside Funeral Homes
“The Aldine ISD is, and has been, a prominent figure in the community for many years and is constantly proving proven leaders in the business community. The district is more than cooperative with organizations such as the YMCA, the Chamber of Commerce and others to improve the overall quality of the community I have been impressed with their achievements and the awards they have received over the years and consider them worthy recipients of any accolades that have been bestowed on them.”
Ray Shotwell
President, Chairman, North Houston-Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce

Be An Angel Fund
“Children are the heart and soul of humanity- they represent all that is good within us. Be An Angel Fund believes that no child should be denied the opportunity to experience life at their fullest potential. It is encouraging to see Aldine Independent School District work to support and strengthen the business environment, which in turn serves the needs of all families and children alike. The quality of this district and their commitment to excellence is a shining example for others to follow.”
Marti Boone
Executive Director

Fitness Connection Greenspoint
“Fitness Connection has enjoyed working with the staff and students of Aldine ISD. In fact, I recently observed students participating in a major cleanup project in the Arial area and helping with the makeover of a house belonging to a child whose family has suffered a great deal of misfortune. The students not only did a good job of organizing and working, they also made up half the volunteers who came to help. Aldine is doing a very good job of preparing students to become contributing members of our society.”
Rick Zimmer
President

InvetsTex Credit Union
“I spent all my school years in Aldine ISD-graduating from Aldine High School. It’s great to work with a district that has been a Broad finalist two years in a row. What an honor for the Aldine area!”
Jana Anders
Vice President Marketing

Aldine-Greenspoint YMCA
“Among the things I appreciate and respect Aldine ISD for doing, has to do with your long-standing commitment to ‘develop the nations best’. Aldine ISD trustees, administrators, faculty, staff plus community volunteers do this not just 180 school days a year, but in Saturday School, Summer School, After-School in the classrooms, on the stage, on the field and so on. The YMCA considers it a privilege to be your partner and learns volumes by observing your business practices, community partnership strategies and most importantly your commitment to kids.”
Ralph Wheeler
Executive Director

WHAT OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS ARE SAYING ABOUT ALDINE ISD

Panchos
Papadakis
Paradis Cemeteries
Pepsi Bottling Group
PepsiCo
Phoenix Fastener & Supply, Inc
Photo Plus
Print Makers, Inc
Proline Marketing
Prosperity Bank
Randall’s #934
RedCircle Rewards
Subway
Ross & Baruzzini
Sam Houston State University
Sam’s Club
Scholastic Books, Inc
Seguro’s and Desco
Seven Trent Environmental Services
Shady Acres Baptist Church
Shell Oil
Showcase Awards
Smith International
Sonic
South Trust Bank
Southwest Teacher Supply
Spaghetti Warehouse
Special Olympics
SRA
Stax Office Supply
State Rep. Sylvester Turner
Stiege Rostoll
Stewart & Stevenson
Summit Dental Center
Tamu - College Station
Target
Texas Beauty Group
Texas A&M MSC LEAD Program
Texas Children’s Health Plan
Texas Executive Women
Texas Parks & Wildlife
Texlon Lake Environmental Educational Center
Texas Southern University
Sports USA
The Visualization Program
Toms Food Inc.
Toys“R”Us
Triten Corporation
Tuttle Development Company
Universal Essentials-Gymnastics
University of Houston Downtown
University of Phoenix
Urbancampus.com
Valic
Vivian Disocetea
Walker & Wems
Waldenbooks
Wanggreens
Wall-Mart
Washington Mutual
Wells Fargo Bank
What A Burger
Williams Smokehouse
World Service
YMCA

Greater Greenspoint District congratulates Aldine ISD, a National Broad Prize Finalist.

Register online for Greenspoint area road construction updates, news and events by visiting www.greenspoint.org

Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel
salutes
Aldine ISD,
a National Broad Prize Finalist

Bring this coupon in and receive
$10.00 off of our weekly rate or our weekend Breakfast for Two Package

Not to be used with any other discount or coupon. Based on availability. Certain high-occupancy dates apply. Expires 4/3/2006.

Panchos
Papadakis
Paradis Cemeteries
Pepsi Bottling Group
PepsiCo
Phoenix Fastener & Supply, Inc
Photo Plus
Print Makers, Inc
Proline Marketing
Prosperity Bank
Randall’s #934
RedCircle Rewards
Subway
Ross & Baruzzini
Sam Houston State University
Sam’s Club
Scholastic Books, Inc
Seguro’s and Desco
Seven Trent Environmental Services
Shady Acres Baptist Church
Shell Oil
Showcase Awards
Smith International
Sonic
South Trust Bank
Southwest Teacher Supply
Spaghetti Warehouse
Special Olympics
SRA
Stax Office Supply
State Rep. Sylvester Turner
Stiege Rostoll
Stewart & Stevenson
Summit Dental Center
Tamu - College Station
Target
Texas Beauty Group
Texas A&M MSC LEAD Program
Texas Children’s Health Plan
Texas Executive Women
Texas Parks & Wildlife
Texlon Lake Environmental Educational Center
Texas Southern University
Sports USA
The Visualization Program
Toms Food Inc.
Toys“R”Us
Triten Corporation
Tuttle Development Company
Universal Essentials-Gymnastics
University of Houston Downtown
University of Phoenix
Urbancampus.com
Valic
Vivian Disocetea
Walker & Wems
Waldenbooks
Wanggreens
Wall-Mart
Washington Mutual
Wells Fargo Bank
What A Burger
Williams Smokehouse
World Service
YMCA

EDUCATION IS EVERYONE’S BUSINESS

Inside Aldine
Winter 2005
Page 7
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

AISD students, local businesses team up for clean up project

Aldine ISD students teamed up with members of the North Houston Greenspoint Chamber of Commerce’s Neighborhood Revitalization Committee and corporate sponsors Fitness Connection and Taqueria Arandas to sweep, scrub, landscape and beautify neighborhoods within the Airline Improvement and Greater Greenspoint Districts.

Fitness Connection and Taqueria Arandas created the idea for the “neighborhood enhancement” project and the committee agreed to create a workable plan for the idea. “Arandas franchises and Fitness Connection recognized an opportunity to make a difference in our community and both companies were thrilled to be involved,” said Rob Clair, executive vice president of Arandas Franchises.

Aldine ISD students volunteered for the clean-up campaign as part of Make a Difference Day. Make a Difference Day is a national day of helping others, a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Make a Difference Day was created by USA Weekend Magazine and is an annual event that takes place the fourth Saturday each October.

Aldine ISD students and staff members have been actively involved in Make a Difference Day for a number of years. In 2004, three million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Aldine ISD students, along with employees from Fitness Connection and Taqueria Arandas, joined up to pick up trash, clean up graffiti and landscape. One deserving family was selected for a makeover of their home.

Other contributors to the project included Greenspoint Mall, Best Buy the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, The Outdoor Remedy and Attractions Limousine and Town Car Service. Make a Difference Day is held in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation. Actor-philanthropist Paul Newman awards $10,000 in charitable donations to 10 Make a Difference Day awardees.

PHILLIP TOWNSEND ASSOCIATES AND FRANCIS ELEMENTARY

Perfect attendance pays off.

Ms. Pope and Mr. Pierce.

BUSINESS LUNCHEON AT HALL CENTER FOR EDUCATION

Hall Center for Education recently hosted a luncheon for Aldine ISD business partners. Principal Jeanette Strahan gave her guests an overview of the programs offered at the school. Additionally, the group heard from two Hall graduates who extolled the virtues of the school. Pictured are business partners touring the school following the luncheon.

Carroll Academy Business Partner: Walt Clay – ExxonMobil Terminal Superintendent, and Ruby Allen, Principal.