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Happy Holidays from Austin Partners in Education

Holiday Newsletter

As we prepare to join our families for the holidays we look back on 2010, and our larger family of APIE volunteers and partners, and extend our warmest and deepest thanks to each of you. We placed more than 1,500 coaches and mentors in Austin ISD campuses this year, helping thousands of students in our community. This fall we had 4,335 volunteer assignments processed via our website for all of our campuses and partner programs. Thank you for being such an important part of this year's success. Please stay involved, we have much to accomplish together in 2011.



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Please Volunteer Now for Spring:

Please access our [Volunteer Center](#) page and sign up for one of our Classroom Coaching openings for Spring. Just click the program that interests you most and select your preferred time and location. We'll follow up with training information. The hour a week you spend will have a positive impact on the children you work with, and you're likely to find it's the highlight of your week. If you can't commit to the full spring session, buddy up and volunteer with a friend like Texas Teacher Retirement System Executive Director Ronnie Jung does. He and his CFO coach together when they can, but they can cover for each other when one of them has meetings or travel. Contact us with your friend's name and we'll help you buddy up for Classroom Coaching this spring.



JPMorgan Chase Foundation Supports College Readiness with \$100,000 Grant

This fall, JPMorgan Chase Foundation provided generous grant funding to Austin Partners in Education to support efforts to prepare a highly-educated workforce, and to move closer to the goal of all high school students graduating College Ready. The \$100,000 grant will be used to fund the work of College Readiness, an in-school program that identifies, informs, advises, and tutors high school seniors who have achieved high enough test scores to be considered graduation ready, but not high enough to be College Ready according to the Texas Success Initiative. The program teams Austin Partners in Education (APIE) staff with Austin ISD staff. "JPMorgan Chase is committed to increasing the number of high school graduates who are college ready," said Joe Holt, Chairman of JPMorgan Chase in Austin (pictured). "If we can help students make the leap into college, they'll be better prepared to pursue the career of their dreams, buy a home of their own, raise their family and retire comfortably." Please read more on our [Donor News](#) page.

College Readiness Helps Prepare to Earn College Credit

Last year, Lanier High School Senior Tito Sanquiché (pictured) participated in our College Readiness program. Tito worked with our tutors and coaches who helped him prepare for COMPASS testing. He scored high enough that



he was able to avoid taking developmental classes his freshman year. Tito received the College Readiness Student of the Year award at last year's Salute ceremony. Today, Tito is a freshman at the University of Texas at Austin earning college credit. This year in Austin, more than 1,300 students find themselves graduation ready, but have not scored high enough on the TAKS and/or ACT and SAT tests to meet the Texas Success Initiative standards for College Readiness. These students are in the 'gap' that may allow them admission to college, but will require them to take developmental classes their freshman year. Developmental courses add expense and time on the path to college graduation, and do not count toward transcript credit. Additionally, research indicates these courses are a leading predictor for college drop out.

With JPMorgan Chase support, Austin Partners in Education and AISD employees work together to reach into the community and help students avoid the need for developmental courses so they may begin earning credit with their first college courses. This is accomplished via outreach, one-on-one advising, and intense short-term tutoring sessions. Early data tracking indicates a trend toward increased passing grades for students attending tutoring, with frequency of tutoring session attendance resulting in a greater likelihood of passing. Full data analysis will be presented at the end of the school year. This year's goal is to personally advise 800 of the 1,300 identified households and tutor 250 or more students. Read more about the program's outreach, advising and tutoring [here](#) in our Programs sections of the website.

Step-Up Needs Coaches

Get to know Webb Middle School – and Volunteer! This program provides 6th – 8th graders with intense academic intervention. For spring, Step-Up coaches are needed at Webb Middle School for the 2:40 – 3:35 sessions. There are Math openings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and/or



Thursdays and Reading openings on Mondays through Thursdays. Volunteers can pick one or more days a week. This program provides volunteers a chance to work with students where the interaction and coaching can build important

academic success and self esteem that will help students as they enter high school. Please volunteer by visiting our [site](#), or contact program coordinator [Sandy Bootz](#). Learn more about the students at Webb Middle School by reading Superintendent Meria Carstarphen's blog entry, "[Webb Middle School – Where Michael Says Everything is Perfect.](#)" (Photo of Dr. Carstarphen at Webb provided courtesy of Austin Independent School District.)

8th Grade Math

The Numbers are Adding UP – Andrew Holle, an engineer at IBM coached 8th grade Math last year and talked it up with colleagues so much that this year he and 12 other IBM employees now coach an entire class at Burnet Middle School!



That team has been having such a positive experience that they've shared the word, and now *22 more* employees from IBM are coaching starting in January. (Learn more about the great IBM team in the [Spotlight](#) section of our website.) Thank you IBM! People from all over Austin have come out in force to support students during this critical time in their coursework. We know that students who fail Algebra are four times as likely to drop out of school as those who pass, and those that pass are more likely to not only graduate high school, but also to enter college. Thanks to APIE volunteers, 735 students in 33 classes are getting the advantage of small group learning from more than 300 coaches! [Volunteer](#) with them by registering on our website.

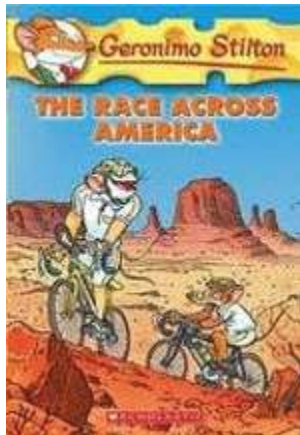
2nd Grade Reading

New Program Manager – The program has new leadership with Miriam Mendoza (pictured at right) accepting the promotion to Program Manager. Miriam has worked in the program for two years as a Program Coordinator and also served APIE as Community Relations Liaison. Congratulations and thank you Miriam!



Five Tiers of Curriculum for Teacher and Student Support – Many people are aware APIE volunteers help struggling students to increase performance toward grade level, but did you know coaches also work in small interactive groups with students who are on or above grade level? The Reading Classroom Coaching program is divided into five proficiency levels – Jalapeno, Bluebonnet, Longhorn, Armadillo and Cactus. For coaching sessions children are grouped

into the appropriate proficiency level so instead of the broader more general approach coaches can work at proficiency level. This allows advanced readers to have the challenges they need to stay engaged. This also provides teachers with necessary support in addressing the various needs present in a single classroom.



New Curriculum for Advanced Readers – This spring, students in the Cactus group will have the opportunity to read Geronimo Stilton’s highly regarded [The Race Across America](#). A lively adventure tale of a race between two mice, the engaging book also provides historical information as the characters travel the country.

Volunteer Count – This year APIE has a total of 339 2nd grade Reading coaches in AISD schools: 175 Reading coaches (English) are volunteering in 24 classrooms, and 164 Coaches in the Compañeros en Lectura program are volunteering in 29 classes. One of those coaches is Kathy Garland, a three year coach from the City of Austin. Watch for more about Kathy in the volunteer Spotlight in 2011.

Mid-Year Training – Mark your calendars for Friday, January 28th. From 12 – 1 a general session will be offered on Behavior and Motivation. From 1 – 2 two break-out sessions will be offered to address the needs of both struggling and advanced readers.

6th Grade Reading

Welcome Jessica Carley – A video is being made for coaches by Program Manager Jannette McLaughlin, who will be leaving APIE in January to prepare for her newest family member, expected in March. Training with her now to take over coordinating this program, and co-producing the video, is Jessica Carley. Jessica joins us from Atlanta where she spent the last eight years teaching,



including time with the Teach for America program. The video will demonstrate facilitating effective discussions, motivating students, implementing activities, and using praise and other feedback tools to inform and engage students.

We're delighted to have Jessica on board, and are grateful to Jannette for the incredible expertise and care she brought to volunteers in this program.



Campus and Community Engagement

Mentors – APIE's Community and Campus Engagement department is grateful for the hundreds of mentors and thousands of other in-school volunteers who are partnering with us this year. City Manager Marc Ott (pictured) is one of about 800 volunteers in APIE's mentor program this year. He and his mentee enjoy lunch, games, and important

time visiting each week. His mentee says he appreciates the respect Marc shows him, and that it makes him feel happy and proud. He sees Marc as a friend, and as the big brother he never had. Thanks to Marc, he says he is no longer lonely and is making friends at school. (Watch for Marc in an upcoming video from the City about volunteerism.) Mentors are still needed for many schools, particularly Spanish speaking volunteers. Mentors meet with their student once a week for 30 – 45 minutes during lunch. Learn more about [Mentor programs](#) on our website.

Celebrating Excellence in Austin Independent School District

Call for Nominations in January – It's almost time for your chance to shine the spotlight on the best in Austin Independent School District. AISD's annual celebration – Salute – is being facilitated in partnership with Austin Partners in Education. AISD will be opening the call for award nominations in January. Scheduled for May 18th at the Long Center for the Performing Arts, Salute recognizes excellence in the following categories:

- **Campus Based Awards** – (six categories): Teacher of the Year, Classroom Coach/Tutor of the Year, Mentor, Partner, Volunteer Group, and Volunteer of the Year.

- **District Awards** – (five categories): Teacher of the Year, Classified Staff, APIE Coordinator, Principal, and Student of the Year.

Salute Sponsors – the Call for Sponsors is open. What a great opportunity to promote your business in front of thousands of teachers, administrators and stakeholders. Contact Debbie Pringle at dpringle@austinpartners.org to learn how. Watch our site for [Salute](#) updates.

Newsletters will be emailed quarterly in 2011. If you do not wish to receive newsletters, please reply to this message with unsubscribe in the subject heading. If you do not wish to receive ANY communications from APIE, then click the unsubscribe link below.
