



# STAR/CSF-FW Times



Helping students achieve a choice in education!



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HOLIDAYS 2007

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## Vision Statement

The Board of Trustees of STAR Sponsorship Program, Inc./CSF FW is dedicated to increasing educational options for children in Tarrant County whose parents do not have the financial means to provide an education best suited to their children's unique needs.

We believe the well-being of the entire community is enhanced when children are given a quality education that allows them to achieve to their utmost ability. Therefore, we intend, wherever possible, to encourage partnerships with schools, parents, community organizations and concerned citizens in supporting its children to achieve the American dream.



## STAR STUDENTS *Shine*

This year there are 64 students participating in the STAR program. STAR students are required to maintain an A/B Honor Roll, strive for perfect attendance, achieve outstanding conduct marks and write their sponsor throughout the year. The first quarter results are in and our STAR students shined! We firmly believe that

when a student puts in effort and attends class, academic results follow. Our students have proven this to be true yet again! We had 46 students achieve PERFECT attendance and 58 students displayed exemplary behavior. ALL of our STAR students this quarter kept their tardiness to a



STAR Students 2007-2008

minimum resulting in 56 great report cards. The rest are striving to reach that attainable goal of Honor Roll performance!

## A Grandmother's Dream

One family truly feels they hit the jackpot when their name was picked from almost 10,000 applicants for a scholarship from the Children's Scholarship Fund of Fort Worth. Currently a junior in High School, Alonzo is grateful for the opportunity CSF FW gave him and his family. In 1998 Grandmother Ruth left the Chicago public education system to take care of her grandchildren in Texas. Her top priority was to provide

them a solid education. Having received a BA in education and a Masters in Administration, Ruth had dedicated her career to education as a teacher, counselor and principal for Chicago Public Schools. She was searching for a way to provide such an education and was awarded a scholarship from the CSF FW lottery.

Alonzo was then able to enroll at Our Mother of Mercy in 3rd grade and with the guidance of Grandmother Ruth, Alonzo graduated valedictorian in 2005 from OMM! Now at Nolan Catholic High School Alonzo rides the bus every day from White Settlement grateful for his education. He aspires to be an engineer after college. To help bolster this dream, Alonzo spends his summers at Texas Wesleyan University enrolled in Tex Prep.

*"She taught us education was most important."*

*-Alonzo, about his grandmother*

## In Memory of Ms. Lola Maye Smith

The Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Veronica Ct #89 has given a gift to STAR Sponsorship in memory of Ms. Lola Maye Smith, a 1949 graduate of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School. Funds were collected

in honor of Lola Maye by her daughter's, Ms. Carolyn Smith, colleagues who were impressed by the service of the Ladies Auxiliary of which both Lola Maye and Carolyn were active members. Carolyn took the opportunity to focus on

education. Carolyn is also a graduate of Our Mother of Mercy, class of 1971, and wanted the gift to benefit a current student and possible member of the church. "Our Mother of Mercy gave both my mother and me an educational

foundation that prepared us for life," Carolyn said. This presents a scholarship opportunity for an outstanding student at Our Mother of Mercy. The legacy continues of excellence in education from one generation to the next.

## Student Travels to Boston



STAR student Chyna Pinto

STAR student Chyna Pinto was selected to attend the NAIS People of Color Conference/Student Diversity Leadership Conference held this year

in Boston, MA. The Student Diversity Leadership Conference is a multiracial gathering of upper school student leaders (grades 9-12) from around the country that focuses on self-reflecting, forming allies, and building community. Chyna, a junior, traveled with 3 other Fort Worth Country Day students November 28 and returned December 1. "By the

time Saturday came, I was exhausted but the knowledge and friendship I gained in my four days in Boston are worth my tiredness," Chyna said. Participants developed effective cross-cultural communication skills and learned networking principles and strategies to help further diversity initiatives at their schools. Chyna plans to use this new knowledge in January at Fort Worth Country Day's own Diversity Day.

## letter *From a student*

"I just want to thank you for believing in me. Even though we have never met in person you are very special to me! I can't wait to write you letters from college and I will write you again (I know that's a long time from now but I have goals! And thanks to you I am closer to reaching them!) God Bless you and thank you again."  
-Alyssa, 3rd grader, Calvary Christian writes her sponsor

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*"An investment in Knowledge always gives the best return."*

*-Benjamin Franklin*

Please let us know if you know someone who would like to sponsor a student  
We have many students on a waiting list who would benefit from their sponsorship!