

Success Xpress



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL LIASION NEWSLETTER

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JBSA Partners With San Antonio Schools

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Joint Base San Antonio senior leaders and school superintendents from three counties joined forces to create a partnership benefiting school children and making a positive impact on the community during a ceremony March 24 at the Gateway Club.

Reaching more than 20,000 children across 23 local school districts, the multifaceted Destination Tomorrow's Leaders (DTL) program ensures every student, regardless of home environment, has at least one positive role model.

The largest components of DTL are the Adopt-A-Classroom and mentoring programs.

The program aims to improve academic achievement, self-esteem and social competence while avoiding problem and high-risk behavior by providing a relationship with a caring adult friend working to help youth achieve their potential.

Superintendents from 10 San Antonio area school districts signed a declaration during the ceremony pledging their support to DTL.

Keith Toney, a Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, said bringing everybody together was an important milestone. "Our local education agencies have a long history of supporting our military children. By signing this declaration, they are agreeing to (adopt) policies and practices inherent in the DTL program" which will lead to a more consistent and uniform mentoring program benefiting

all children, Mr. Toney said.

"I am thrilled that this new partnership will allow our relationship with the military to grow even deeper and serve so many more students," said Dr. John Folks, Superintendent of Northside ISD. He added that children in San Antonio face many challenges which can affect school performance.

"Unfortunately, we have many students who, for a number of reasons, don't get to spend a lot of quality time with their parents. Many students live in single-parent homes or with grandparents or other relatives. A lot of our families are struggling financially and parents work multiple jobs just to pay for basic necessities.

This can make a child feel very unsettled, which in turn affects their behavior and their grades at school," he said. Having positive role models, especially from the military, will help students in the district overcome those challenges, Dr. Folks said.

"I can't think of a better role model and mentor for our students than a member of the military. This program has the potential to make an enormous impact on our students and their futures. *Cont. on Page 3*



APRIL: MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

First Lady Michelle Obama & Dr. Jill Biden to Launch Military Families Initiative April 12th

Source:

www.bluestarfam.org/blog/view/michelle-obama-jill-biden-military-families-service

A Nationwide Call to Action



First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden will launch a national initiative to support and honor America's service members and their families on Tuesday, April 12th at the White House.

The initiative aims to educate, challenge, and spark action from all sectors of our society — citizens, communities, businesses, non-profits, faith based institutions, philanthropic organizations, and government — to ensure military families have the support they have earned.

In the days following the launch, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden will travel across the country to highlight the courage and strength of our military families, and the ability of our veterans and military spouses to strengthen our communities. They will also meet with men and women who are taking action, and lending a hand to those that have served our Nation.

For years, Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden have been committed to supporting our Nation's military families, advocating for their priorities, and shedding light on their stories. They have visited military communities at home and abroad, learned about the unique challenges our troops, veterans and their families face, and have seen firsthand the commitment to service that defines so many of our military families. This initiative builds on the President's directive to establish a coordinated and comprehensive Federal approach to supporting military families, and will work to reconnect military families with all communities.

"As a grateful nation, it is our sacred responsibility to stand by our military children, just as they and their families stand by us."

First Lady Michelle Obama

Web Resources

Military Child Education Coalition - www.militarychild.org

Military Children's Interstate Compact Commission - www.mic3.net

PCSing Overseas?

DoDEA has launched an Online Student Pre-Registration System for School Year 2011-2012, with the aim of reducing the time parents will have to wait at the school registration site. The new program will also allow school officials to better predict school enrollment for the upcoming year, make more informed decisions regarding teacher and staff requirements, and prepare in advance for special services, supplies, and other classroom needs. Parents can pre-register their children by visiting the website: <https://registration.dodea.edu/>

For more information please visit:

<http://www.dodea.edu/pressroom/releasesDisplay.cfm?prId=20110322>

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JBSA Partners With San Antonio Schools cont.

"Research shows that just 15 minutes a day of positive contact with an adult makes students feel centered and cared about and increases their self-esteem, reduces their stress and gives them a sense of belonging. This in turn helps young people avoid making risky or dangerous choices," he said.

JBSA school liaison officers will match JBSA members and organizations with local schools requesting mentors or Adopt-A-Classroom participants. The program is based on the time-tested adage that every child counts, said Lori Phipps, Lackland school liaison officer. "Our military members are investing in the future of our society. It makes a difference, a difference that for a child in school can boost grades, improve discipline and enable the ability to interact socially. There is always that one person who made a difference in our lives and this is our opportunity to be that person," Ms. Phipps said.

Cindy Ybanez, also a Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, said DTL extends beyond academics to reach students on a personal level. "It will be a proactive approach to mentoring, allowing the student and the mentor to discuss issues (important) to the student. Studies have shown that a large and growing segment of our youth lack a caring, responsible adult in their lives. DTL can help fill that void," Ms. Ybanez said.

Interested in the DTL Program - please contact either of the JBSA School Liaison Offices for more info.

TAKS Testing Tips

Physical

- Get a good night's sleep & eat a healthy breakfast.
- Wear comfortable clothing (follow school dress code).
- Take your prescription medications and wear glasses/contacts if needed.

Reduce Anxiety

- Be on time to school.
- Pace yourself during the test. Remember you have as much time as you need.
 - Tackle questions one at a time.
- Don't panic if you have a memory lapse or mental block. This is normal. Go on to the next item and come back to the trouble spot later.
- Don't expect to *know* the answer to every question. Expect some items to be too hard. Just do your best.
- Avoid unnecessary clock-watching, but do be aware of the time.
 - Ignore other test takers.

Test-Taking Strategies

- Read all directions carefully.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help.
 - Try to eliminate one or two choices to a question.
- Answer the easiest questions first. Skip over the more difficult items and come back to them later.

Think positively & Don't give up!

Stop Bullying NOW!

The U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration has a campaign called Stop Bullying Now, which offers advice to kids, parents, school officials and others about steps they can take to address bullying. The theme is "Take a Stand. Lend a Hand. Stop Bullying Now!" Their website has a page with games and cartoon webisodes to help kids learn about bullying and how to stop it. Another page was created especially for adults that includes resources about bullying awareness, prevention and intervention. These resources can be found at the following link: <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/adults/default.aspx>



Grab Bag News You Can Use

Operation Purple Camp The National Military Family Association's Operation Purple camps are a time for having fun, making friends, and reminding military kids that they are the Nation's youngest heroes. The mission of the Operation Purple program is to empower military children and their families to develop and maintain healthy and connected relationships, in spite of the current military environment. The program is joint or "purple"—and open to children and families of active duty, National Guard or Reserve service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service and NOAA. The Operation Purple program includes camps for teens, family retreats at the national parks, and camps geared to address the needs of children and families of our nations wounded service members. The 2011 Operation Purple camp applications are now available at

<http://www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple/2011-camps/>

Island Lake Camp Looking for a summer camp opportunity for youth 8-13 years old during the weeks of 2-15 Aug 11? Consider having your child apply for one of five chances for Air Force youth to attend Island Lake Camp, located in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Camp tuition is being provided at no-cost through a generous offer from the Island Lake Camp owners who wish to support military families by providing each of the Armed Forces Service Branches free spaces at the camp. Parents are responsible for transportation either to/from the camp or one of the bus pickup points – Queens or Yonkers, NY; Paramus or Livingston, NJ; and Philadelphia, PA. Interested Air Force youth must submit a letter that describes, "The reasons why I should be selected to go to Island Lake Camp." Camp selection priority will go to youth affected by current or recent parental deployment and should indicate such in their essay. Entries must be submitted electronically to David.Brittain@pentagon.af.mil or fax to 703-604-0323. For camp information, families can visit www.islandlake.com **Deadline is May 13th**

The Air Force Teen Leadership Camp is a 5 day residential program which provides youth a glimpse of what university life is like while developing their leadership skills. Activities include team building, High/Low ropes course, conflict resolution, public speaking and more. This camp is for high school students freshman (must have completed 9th grade) to senior year in the spring of 2011 who are interested in leadership, team dynamics and peer mentorship. More information is available at www.afyouthprograms.com or contact your local Youth Programs. **Deadline is April 15th**

Home-School Curriculum Swap

Buy used curriculum for cheaper than publisher prices!
Base resources to support homeschoolers will also be present.

Friday, May 20, 2011
9 am - Noon
Youth Center, Bldg 8420

Call 671-2388 for more information or to reserve your spot to sell used curriculum
(Bring your own table or \$5 per spot with table provided)



Apply to Fly!!!

AF Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville AL (25-30 July11). Youth will experience, imagine and interact through Space Shuttle mission simulations, tours of the center and the chance to witness firsthand the everyday challenges faced by astronauts. The camp is an inspiring week of fun and enriching space activities.

More information is available at www.afyouthprograms.com or contact your local Youth Programs. **Deadline is April 15th**



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*Every Child * Every Chance * Every Day*