



Success Xpress

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO SCHOOL LIAISON

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When Life Gives You Lemons... NISD Elementary Counselors Make Lemonade

By Janina Cleveland and Veronica Ball

Northside Independent School District (NISD) elementary counselors are “on target” when it comes to supporting military youth and their families. Currently, there are over 5,300 students in Northside ISD who have a parent in the military. To address the unique needs of the 2,845 elementary students with military parents and their families, a district committee of elementary counselors was formed during the 2008-2009 school year. This committee was eventually named the Military Family and Children Task Force. This committee meets quarterly to pool resources and share best practices for supporting the district’s military families.

During the 2010-2011 school year, the district’s Military Family and Children Task Force developed a dynamic and unique curriculum for use on each of the 70 elementary campuses in Northside ISD. This curriculum, titled “When Life Gives You Lemons...” was developed by a team of school counselors from the district’s Military Family and Children Task Force. It utilizes popular children’s books as a backdrop for discussions and activities that foster the protective factors that promote healthy development and interpersonal skills. The lessons and activities were developed to provide opportunities for counselors to identify the needs and align resources for military students and families in transition. In addition to children’s literature selections, this book bag includes art activities, games, discussion activities, and resources for our military students and their families who experience loss, moving, family changes, deployment and other transitional concerns. Elementary counselors will utilize these materials to support students in small groups, classroom guidance or individually.



As elementary school counselors, we realize in this rapidly changing world that it is important to empower children to manage change and move to positive action and mind sets. Counselors can help foster skills to cope and facilitate resiliency as a lifelong skill. If students gain these skills, they will be able to manage future challenges. If they do not, every change and challenge becomes a traumatic event through their life span. Students who have learned or acquired resiliency skills tend to have a strong sense of self and purpose, commitment to doing well in school and greater confidence in one’s own efficacy. Students, who have the protective factors needed to manage change, know how to make lemonade when life gives them lemons. These “lemons” are no longer seen as an obstacle, but an opportunity to grow and learn!

Janina Cleveland is an Elementary School Counselor for Northside I.S.D. at Galm Elementary in San Antonio, Texas. She has 29 years of educational experience, 20 of those years as an elementary school counselor.

Veronica Ball is the Northside I.S.D District Coordinator of Elementary Guidance Services and Student Advisory Programs. She has 33 years of educational experience, 14 years in counseling.

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. John Dewey

College Corner

Holly Haby

College & Career Advisor

Medina Valley High School

Unknown, challenging, exciting! I think that is the best way to describe the college application process for both students and parents. I hope my advice helps lead you from the unknown into the challenge so that the excitement of being accepted is the end result. The process and advice I have written about below is focused toward 4 yr Universities with a strong emphasis on universities in Texas. I have had the great pleasure of helping students become accepted to MIT, Notre Dame, Oklahoma State, Univ. of Oklahoma, Kings College & Syracuse of New York, LSU, and several others over the last six years and I believe it is a similar to the process I have described but I like to meet individually with students on these types of applications because each has a unique challenge to be overcome for admissions success.

Seniors: August, September, and October. The www.applytexas.org is the common application for all state universities and www.commonapp.org is the application used for many out of state and private Universities in or out of Texas and the majority of those University applications have been open since August 1st. I am hoping that at this time you have already taken an ACT/SAT and had those scores sent to at least 4 universities, if not: go back into your account and get those scores sent as soon as possible! Get your application completed, with essays (if a university has an optional essay, then it is not optional they must want it or they would not even give you the option), and don't forget to fill out and submit the scholarship portion too. The Scholarship deadline is usually even earlier than the admission's deadline but yet it can't be submitted until after you have completed the application. Request your high school send your transcript to all schools you are going to apply. HINT: There is no reason to wait to submit your transcript or your scores even if you have not submitted your application it actually can help get your application into review or get you accepted sooner because then your application file is complete as soon as your application gets to the university!

Within 10 working days of submitting your application you should receive an email or letter with a university id number so that you can monitor your admissions progress on line.

Juniors: Take the ACT/SAT if you have not already taken it or retake it if you need to bring up your scores. It is best to take it more than once due to the fact some universities use a "super score", in which they take the highest score in individual areas to come up with their own score to be used for scholarships, etc.

Sophomores: Take advanced classes, stay involved with organizations, build leadership skills and plan to take the ACT/SAT this spring.

Freshman: This is the year you begin to build your GPA and your resume. Get involved, take advanced classes!

Holly Haby is the College & Career Advisor for Medina Valley I.S.D. at Medina Valley High School in Medina Valley, Texas. Holly has 21 years of educational experience, 5 1/2 of those years as an College & Career Advisor.



Homeschool Highlights

RANDOLPH/FORT SAM HOUSTON: The Randolph Military Homeschool Group meets each Thursday, 11am – 2pm at the Randolph AFB Youth Center. We will not meet the week of Thanksgiving. Art class will be held from 12:30-1:30pm and is open to all ages at no cost. Families are encouraged to bring a sack lunch to enjoy on the playground and learn about opportunities, activities, and events as well as share experiences, ask questions, and encourage one another as we face the unique challenges associated with being a homeschooling military family.

Our monthly LNO (Ladies Night Out) will be held on November 29, 2011. Day/Time TBD.

Join us on Facebook to get up-to-date information about what's going on with the Randolph Military Homeschool Group. Just search for: RANDOLPH AFB & FORT SAM HOUSTON HOMESCHOOLERS

LACKLAND: The Lackland Homeschool Group meets each Thursday, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Lackland AFB Youth Center.

Homeschool Classes Starting in January (9 weeks): Quilting/Sewing & Physical Education - Must have 12 participants for classes to begin

Great Homeschool Web Resources:

Texas Homeschool Coalition www.thsc.org

Family Educators Alliance of South Texas (FEAST)
www.homeschoolfeast.com

San Antonio Home Education www.homeedsa.com



Teen Armed Forces Action Plan

Thursday, Nov. 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. * Friday, Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to noon * FSH Community Center

This conference gives military dependents an opportunity to share with teachers, school leaders and Fort Sam Houston Commanders ideas on improving military dependent life. Submit issues and applications to participate in the conference to school leaders, Child, Youth and School Services Programs (CYSS) or submit online at JBSA.AFAP@GMAIL.COM



JBSA School Liaison Offices

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ESC 20 Workshops - Supporting Children of Military Parents--FREE

Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute (GRI)

November 9 and 10, 2011, ESC 20, No Charge
8:30 to 4 both days

This workshop provides strategies for guidance counselors, social workers, school personnel, and military parents on how to assist children of the “other military” who are deploying at a very high rate, leaving family members, especially children, to cope with having an absent parent. The material applies to grief, loss, and separation encountered by all families with absent parents, such as divorced, incarcerated, or separated parents. Attendees receive valuable training materials, breakfast and lunch both days, since this workshop is funded by the Department of Defense. Please register at www.militarychild.org instead of iLearning.

FREE On line course
ESC 20 web site and
iLearning:

Supporting School Age Children of Military Parents, Course # 110610-K23.

Answers frequently asked questions about the military deployment, reviews military terminology, and is interactive. What you want to know about the military, but were afraid to ask. Takes about 1 ½ hours to complete. Certificate is available for credit.

Interstate Compact Agreement for Educational Opportunity for Military Children—Coping with Deployment and Transfers, Course # CC111206-K23

December 6, 2011, ESC 20, No Charge, 1 to 4 p.m.

This course provides important updates on the compact between states and overseas schools, which support the children of military parents coming into the Region 20 and San Antonio areas. Additionally, presenters will cover updates on deployment issues and assistance available to military families before, during, and after deployments.

Contact information for these workshops:
Dr. Dan Gomez, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Counseling Specialist,
Education Service Center
Region 20, 1314 Hines Ave
San Antonio, TX 78208
210 370-5343

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS)

Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) demonstrates the Army's commitment to Families of the Fallen. The mission of SOS is to provide enhanced services to these families through a holistic and multi-agency approach. The Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) SOS is a dedicated Survivor Services program, designed specifically to meet the needs of our Surviving Families in South Central Texas, with dedicated resources, and a commitment to providing first class service for as long as the family desires. SOS will provide extended assistance and long term support to surviving family members, ensuring that Surviving Families' concerns are addressed expeditiously regardless of military branch, component, or cause of death. JBSA SOS will ensure Survivors receive ongoing support throughout the grief process, coordinate support groups, provide information and referral services, and other assistance as needed.

Felicia Hilliard - Survivor Outreach Services- Support Coordinator

3387 Patch Road, Bldg. 3387 Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

(210) 221-1841/ 221-3787 usarmy.jbsa.asa.mbx.survivor-outreach-services@mail.mil

Our Survivors are Never Forgotten!

Don't miss out.....

Lots of resources available for our military families!!

Stay up to date on the happenings, scholarship information, and so much more!!

JBSA School Liaison Office Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/JBSA-School-Liaison-Offices/193387964064493>

Follow us on Twitter: @jbsa_slo

Lackland Homeschool Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/115950925179349/>

Randolph/Fort Sam Homeschool Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/196677577041043/>



follow us on
twitter

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Young Warrior Camp

Teens (13-18 yrs old) and Pre-Teens (9-12 yrs old)


November 21-23, 2011

Cost: \$50.00 per person

Deadline to register: November 11, 2011

Space is limited to 12 youth for each age group

Lackland's Young Warrior Camp is a 3 day/2 night experience that gives youth a chance to gain long lasting leadership skills, basic camping/outdoor skills and will help give youth better coping skills for when a loved one is deployed. Activities to be included are camping, biking, hiking, and numerous leadership activities; meals will be provided. All activities will all be conducted on Lackland AFB. A mandatory parent meeting will be scheduled; details to be handed out upon registration. Contact Lackland Youth Programs for more information at 671-2510.



**Adopt-A-School/
Classroom Program**


Foster a better understanding of the community's school system

Create a sense of personal involvement with interaction between JBSA and our schools

Work with a school to provide volunteerism or resources supporting classroom instruction

Furnish support as an individual, office, squadron, or private organization

Please visit www.lacklandfas.com/airman_liaison.html to download an application, or contact lackland.slo@us.af.mil



Squadrons, Offices, Private Orgs that are interested in Adopting a School/Classroom should contact their local School Liaison Office. This program offers the flexibility to participate in the lives of local children and around your busy schedules.

We are in need of mentors throughout the JBSA-area. If you can give 1 hour a week of your time (schedules vary per school) please contact your local School Liaison Office. We have requests from schools that we cannot fill at this point!

TAPPestry Conference: A Great Opportunity for Parents and Professionals

The 21st annual Teachers, Administrators, Parents and other Professionals (TAPPestry) conference will be held at ESC-20 in San Antonio on Saturday, February 25, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

The 2012 conference, “Planting the seeds...for a world of opportunities” brings together parents and professionals for a day of shared wisdom, ideas, strategies and resources. Participants will walk away with real tools to create successful outcomes in the classroom, at home, and beyond high school.

This collaboration results in a wonderful opportunity for learning, networking, sharing, support and fun. Experts from various fields will present breakout sessions on topics such as bullying, behavior, autism, post-secondary options, social inclusion, classroom strategies and more. Parents, teachers and professionals will learn together about the latest research and techniques to maximize success for families and students in special education.

Save the Date!
¡Reservan esta fecha!

TAPPestry Conference 2012
Conferencia TAPPestry 2012

Saturday, February 25, 2012



Parent/Student Education Saturday Series Workshops

Demystify the challenge of preparing your teens for college and learn how to navigate the educational minefield of finding the ever-elusive scholarship. Join EP21 for action-packed FREE workshops held on select Saturdays from 9:00-10:30 a.m. Workshops are held at the UTSA-Downtown Campus, Aula Canaria-Buena Vista St. Bldg #3, 1.328 Lecture Hall, 510 W. Durango Blvd. Visit www.EP21.com to register for a free invitation to future workshops, periodic updates, and more details!

November 12, 2011	The Admissions Process; 2 year/4 year/Public/Private/In-State/Out of State
December 10, 2011	Paying for College/Financial Aid/FAFSA/TASFA
January 21, 2012	Special Issues: Scholarships/Foster Youth/Military Dependents/Mobile GO Center & FAFSA Completion
February 18, 2012	Selecting a College/Selecting a Major
March 24, 2012	High School Counselor Panel - Best Practices - Q & A
April 21, 2012	What do College Professors expect panel?
May 12, 2012	College Student/Parent Panel - Q & A

Presented in an engaging, fun and practical style, the series is designed to help parents and their teenagers learn together how to access college financial aid. The sessions feature **Nippy Betz** from [Empowerment 21](http://Empowerment21.com), a nonprofit organization that helps teens prepare for life after high school. Betz is the founder of EP21, which has helped provide educational and job training opportunities for thousands of teens and college students. A retired Air Force Major, he has been a guest speaker for many area organizations helping teens earn merit-based scholarships and pursue their educational goals.