



## Galena Park ISD "Friend of Fine Arts", Lisa Oquin



We have selected to honor Mrs. Lisa Oquin as this issue's *Friend of Fine Arts*. Mrs. Oquin has worked at North Channel Travel in North Shore for twenty-two years and two years ago was selected to handle travel arrangements for the district. She works tirelessly for the students and staff of GPISD making travel arrangements for student trips as well as for staff members attending conferences and workshops. While making hotel reservations and booking airline tickets is

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## GPHS Band Advances to UIL State Marching Contest

The Galena Park High School Marching Band competed in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) State Marching Contest on Tuesday, November 3 at the Alamo Dome in San Antonio. Galena Park was the only band from UIL Region XIX to advance to the UIL State Marching Contest and this marked only the second time in school history that the GPHS "Band of Gold" has advanced to the State Contest.

Sam Harris, Director for Academic Enrichment and Fine Arts, said, "If you remember where we were a few short years ago, this is truly an exceptional accomplishment for our students. Mr. Richard, Mr. Singletary and the GPHS Band members have created an incredible legacy and given our community a program that we all can be very proud of." Dr. Mark Henry, Galena Park ISD Superintendent of Schools, said, "It was a great day to be associated with GPISD...I was so proud of our students and directors".



GPHS band members and band director, Mark Richard, celebrate the announcement that they were selected to participate in the UIL State Marching Contest in San Antonio.

The Galena Park High School Band earned a spot in the UIL Class 4A State Marching Contest by earning a First Division (Superior) rating at the UIL Region XIX Marching Contest held on Saturday, October 17 and then placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the UIL Area F Marching Contest held on Saturday, October 24.

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her job, Lisa goes above and beyond for our staff and students. Each fall, the Texas Music Educators Association Convention opens their online housing the first Monday in October. As this is the largest convention in San Antonio with more than twenty-six thousand people attending the conference, hotel rooms are often sold out by mid-morning that same day. Mrs. Oquin has all the necessary paper work she needs ready to go as well as a pot of strong coffee when she awakes well before sunrise to make reservations for the entire GPISD music staff, ensuring that each has a room for this exciting convention. Working to find the best deals for student trips and many times with very short notice, Lisa helps ease the work load for GPISD directors and sponsors.

A long-time resident of the area, Lisa has been personally involved with her children in GPISD's Fine Arts programs for the past twelve years. She and her husband spend a great deal of their leisure time in and around our schools attending football games as well as band and choir concerts. She tells us, "I personally believe that Fine Arts education serves to nurture and enhance the total student." She says that she's particularly proud of both high schools' bands seeing first hand their efforts and results. "We've come a long way in a short time." Making travel arrangements for Fine Arts teachers and students is not her only experience with the Arts. Mrs. Oquin was a clarinet player in middle school, a member of the drill team in high school and a singer in her church choir. "I'm probably more suited to listening and watching than participating in the Arts. I probably don't sing that well, but I do believe in making a joyful noise!" In her spare time, Lisa enjoys reading, movies and usually takes at least one cruise a year with her husband to unwind and recharge. The Fine Arts department salutes you, Mrs. Oquin, and all you do behind the scenes to support Arts education in GPISD. ■

## Welcome New Fine Arts Staff

Galena Park ISD is pleased to welcome 10 new teachers to the Fine Arts Department for the 2009-2010 school year. They are:

- Erika Agrait, Dance (NSSH 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Imani Anderson, Music (MAC)
- Ash Bell, Theater (NSSH 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Jedmy Centeno, Art (NSSH 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Sena Hattoh, Dance (GPHS)
- Kelley Mansfield, Art (NSSH 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
- Merideth Milum, Dance (NSSH 9<sup>th</sup>)
- Rachel Plitt, Choir (NSMS)
- Luis Pruneda, Art (WAMS)
- Holly Rocha, Art (MAC)

In addition to qualifying for the UIL Area and State Marching Contests, this was Galena Park's fourth consecutive UIL Sweepstakes recognition at the Region Marching Contest. GPHS principal, Steve Kinney, said, "Our band students made our entire community so proud! Each member was so polite, disciplined and excited it was an awesome experience for them as well as me! I have never been more proud of any student organization! Mr. Kinney continued, "They have actually helped the entire Galena Park community grow closer."



The Galena Park High School Band performed at the UIL State Marching Contest in San Antonio, TX

The "Band of Gold" Marching Band finished 17<sup>th</sup> in the UIL Class 4A State Marching Contest among twenty-six of the finest marching bands in Texas. Congratulations to the Galena Park High School Band and their directors (Mark J. Richard and David Singletary) and staff (Charlene Richard, color guard and Martin Quiroga, percussion) on this tremendous accomplishment. ■



Every child in Texas should receive:

- A well-balanced education
- Quality fine arts instruction
- Protected instructional time for arts education
- Opportunities to pursue their passion

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## GPISD Fine Arts Department

- Sam Harris,  
Director for Academic Enrichment and Fine Arts
- Mickey Wininger,  
Coordinator of Secondary Fine Arts
- Deborah Cox,  
Fine Arts Secretary

## TMEA Band and Choir Auditions

Each year more than fifty thousand students enter the audition process hoping to be awarded one of the 1,300 places in the Texas Music Educators Association's All-State Band, All-State Choir and All-State Orchestra. Each of the twenty-eight TMEA Regions hold All-District and All-Region Auditions to select members for these performing groups as well as selecting students from their Region that will advance to the All-State Auditions held in January.

GPISD is located in TMEA Region XIX, one of the most competitive in the state. Students from GPISD compete with other students from Pasadena, La Porte, Deer Park, Channelview, Crosby, Barbers Hill, New Caney, Humble, North Forest and Aldine ISD's. The following GPISD band and choir programs have placed students in the various TMEA ensembles:

School	Band	Choir	Orchestra	Jazz
GPHS	*	12	*	-
NSSH	*	40	*	2
CMS	8	6	1	n/a
GPMS	4	17	-	n/a
NSMS	19	19	2	n/a

\*High school All-Region Band auditions take place in December with the final high school TMEA All-State auditions taking place on January 9, 2010. ■

## New Student Office Assistant: Maranda Mercer



Joining the GPISD Fine Arts office this year is Maranda Mercer, a senior Co-Op program student at North Shore Senior High. She is a member of National Honor Society and National Technical Honor Society while also serving as the President of Family Career Community Leaders of America (F.C.C.L.A). After graduation Maranda plans to attend San Jacinto College North to pursue a career as an elementary teacher through the Home Grown Program. ■

## North Shore Middle School Art Students Earn Recognition



NSMS art students earn awards in two recent contests

North Shore Middle School art students participated in the 35th Annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest sponsored by the Houston Fire Museum, in cooperation with the Houston Fire Department and the Independent Insurance Agents of Houston.

Students had a chance to place in different categories. This year a record five NSMS students earned award recognition, they are:

Giovanni Lewis	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Anna Hernandez	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Curstin Boudreax	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Juan Martinez	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Crystal Lancelin	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade

Students received a ribbon, cash prize, AND an invitation to ride a fire truck with their families in the upcoming Houston HEB Thanksgiving Day Parade.

In addition to the success in the Fire Prevention Poster Contest, two students earned awards for their participation in the Renaissance Festival Art Contest. These students are:

Francisco Luna	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Stefany Cruz	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade

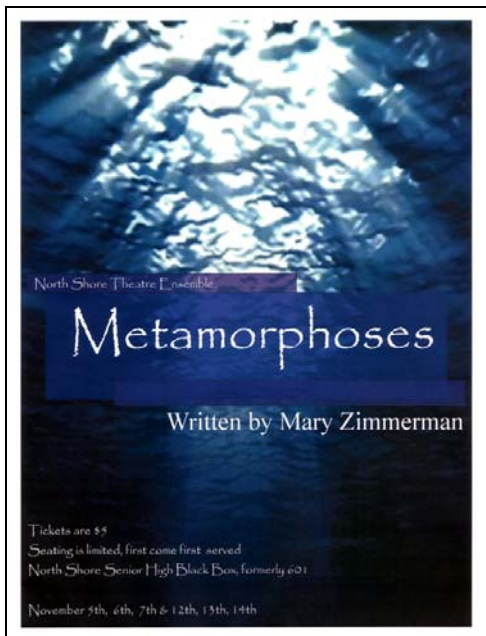
Other exciting news for the NSMS art department includes Edwin Endrade being recently announced as the GPISD Christmas card contest winner. Edwin's design will be used for the official Galena Park ISD holiday card.

Congratulations to all of these talented North Shore Middle School students and their art teachers Stephanie Martinez and Orissa Bey. ■

[www.galenaparkisd.com/finearts](http://www.galenaparkisd.com/finearts)

## Coming Soon: GPHS and NSSH Theater Productions!

Buford Turnover is going to heaven...his family is going through hell! They wanted Daddy's love...but they'll settle for his dough! GPHS Theater Department's production of Del Shore's, "Daddy's Dyin'" is a wickedly funny comedy about a Texas family of heirs who gather to mourn (and perhaps to mine) the memory of their dear ole dad. Scheming Orville, sexpot Evalita, loyal Sara Lee and self-righteous Lurlene are all very frantic when they learn that their daddy's dyin'... mostly because they can't find his last legal will and testament! As old grudges and suppressed desires are aired, this family reunion becomes a wild free-for-all and a "touching, unpredictable and affectionate drama". Performances will be on January 28 & 29 in the Rountree Performing Arts Center at Galena Park High School. Curtain is at 7 pm each evening. The GPHS theatre director is Amy Harris.



NSSH's fall production is Mary Zimmerman's *Metamorphoses* is based on David R. Slavitt's free-verse translation of The Metamorphoses of Ovid. The play is staged as a series of vignettes depicting Greek mythology such as King Midas, Alcyone and Ceyx, Orpheus and Eurydice, Narcissus, and Eros and Psyche. This production will be in the NSSH Black Box Theater, an intimate performance space with seating limited to less than 70 audience members per show. The set includes a three foot deep pool symbolizing the sea, a lake, and other bodies of water associated with the settings of these myths. The production runs November 12-14 and will begin at 7 pm each evening. Ryan Heitzman leads the Theatre department at NSSH. ■

## Fine Arts Photos



Senior members of the North Shore Senior High School Scarlets drill team after performing Victory Line at the September 11 football game.



Bethany Lawrence, a 2007 North Shore Senior High School alumna, performs with the Houston Symphony Orchestra as a substitute oboist in a recent concert at Jones Hall. Bethany played oboe and was drum major for "The Sound of Thunder" Band.



Students from Galena Park and Woodland Acres Middle Schools joined the GPHS "Band of Gold" for their annual Middle School Band Night on October 23