



Submitted photo by ROSEMARY MARTINEZ
Principals from Mary Immaculate and St. Monica wore St. Rita spirit shirts to celebrate St. Rita Catholic School's extended competition high score.

Rival schools join forces to boost giving campaigns

By ROSEMARY MARTINEZ
Contributor

For decades, Mary Immaculate School, St. Monica and St. Rita have been archrivals on the football field. This year, they took the rivalry in a direction that would benefit all three schools — the Super Bowl of Giving.

Each fall, all three schools reach out to their communities with annual giving campaigns in an effort to bridge tuition gaps and ensure a quality education for students. Since the schools are nonprofit organizations and are parish-based, they rely heavily on campaign contributions to lessen tuition increases, expand educational services and programs, and provide funds needed for operations.

“The annual campaign is an integral part of all of our schools’ budgets, and it helps to keep our tuition costs down to a more affordable level,” said Elena Hines, principal of St. Rita Catholic School.

The schools ask parents, staff, faculty, alumni, friends and parishioners to contribute to their campaigns. In the past couple of years, the economy has played a large part in reducing involvement in the campaigns, and one of the schools experienced participation as low as 33 percent.

“This year’s friendly competition is just an example of one of the ways all the schools work together to support Catholic

IN THE CLASSROOM

Post stories and photos about your school’s activities on neighborsgo.com, and you might see them in an upcoming edition.

education,” said Patricia Dulac, principal of St. Monica Catholic School.

This year, the three rival schools challenged each other to achieve 100 percent participation from their school families. With more than just bragging rights at risk, they announced the Super Bowl of Giving competition and began tracking progress.

When the dust settled at the end of the contest, all eyes were on the scoreboard: St. Monica had the highest percentage within its scheduled campaign dates and ended with 94 percent, and St. Rita’s 95 percent was the highest over the entire length of the competition. Mary Immaculate had the highest percentage in the shortest amount of time — 94.3 percent in six weeks and six days.

“All three schools improved awareness of their giving campaigns and their importance in helping provide a quality Catholic education,” said Matt Krause, principal of Mary Immaculate School.

Rosemary Martinez contributes to neighborsgo.com on behalf of Mary Immaculate School.

AUSTIN ELEMENTARY

Traditional transportation



Submitted photo by PATTY ZUBRITSKI
The Austin Elementary School PTO treated the school’s staff to a holiday luncheon, continuing a long-standing tradition. The staff rode to the luncheon in a horse-drawn carriage. Chere Brickman welcomed guests into her home, where they had lunch catered by J. Macklin’s Grill.

COPPELL MIDDLE SCHOOL EAST

Spellbound



Submitted photo by JANICE COBERLY
Coppell Middle School East recently hosted its annual spelling bee, with 36 students competing for the title of spelling champion. After 17 rounds and two hours of spelling, eighth-grader Rutvik Choudhry (center) was declared the winner. His final word was xenophobic. Sixth-grader Praneeth Maddula (right) finished second, and eighth-grader Joseph Scholtz finished third. The students will represent East in the Coppell ISD spelling bee Jan. 19.