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## Top 10 students have strong motivation, ambitious goals

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - The top 10 students of Dallas High School were recently ranked, with only tenths of a point separating them. They're all young, bright and college bound. So, what makes them so smart?

Academic success just came naturally for some of these students, while others grew up in an environment where they were constantly encouraged to do their

best.

"My parents always helped me study and wanted me to be successful," said Jen Moser, ranked seventh with a 3.75 grade point average (gpa. All A's would be 4.0.) Moser describes herself as a determined person who always strives to do her best. "I've had difficulties," she said, citing a short attention span in math. "But I work through them."

The daughter of George Thomas and Donna Moser, she would like to pursue a career in women's rights legislation and

*"The more you do,  
the more doors open  
up for you."*

**Jennifer Vodzak**  
Ranked 3rd in class

foreign relations, and run for political office. "Actually, I'd like to be the President of the United States," she said. "Because I see things that go on in the

government that make me angry."

She credits her teachers at Dallas for their hard work. "Dallas has a lot of great teachers. I can't really single any out. Everyone has an impact on me. I really love Dallas."

Moser will attend George Washington University in the fall. She was also accepted to Boston University, Hunter College, Pace University, Simmons College and Suffolk University.

Jennifer Vodzak, ranked third with a 3.9 gpa, also believes her parents and

teachers set her in the right direction. "They always instilled in me to put your best effort into everything," said the daughter of John and Ann Vodzak. "The teachers at Dallas are a great bunch of individuals who really love what they do and that comes through."

Although Vodzak has always earned A's, she doesn't think the grade is the only goal. "Getting A's isn't the answer to everything. It's more important that you

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## Organizers gear up for '98 auction

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**BACK MOUNTAIN** - It's getting to be that time again. Auction time that is. In just a little more than a month thousands of people will flock to the 52nd Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Auction.

The festivities will take place July 9-12 on the library's grounds. Auction goers will eat delicious food served by the Rotary Club and other vendors, find fabulous bargains under the many tents and bid to their hearts' content.

But, the event doesn't happen by itself. Every year devoted volunteers give up oodles of their free time to ensure the event goes off without a hitch.

Under the direction of Ruth Tetschner, this year's auction chairperson, the organizers are in good shape as they head into the final stretch.

There will be some changes this year. The book booth now has a permanent home in the basement of the new children's wing and bidders will see more collectibles

See AUCTION, pg 8

## Breakfast ceremony honors student achievers

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - The Guidance Department and PTSO honored nine months of Students of the Month recently with a buffet breakfast. Each month's winners sat together, some with sponsors who provided them each with a \$50 savings bond. The breakfast marks the end of the first year of the program. The school administration

and State Representative Phyllis Mundy joined in to congratulate the students exhibited outstanding achievement throughout the year.

Each month a student, teacher or community member may nominate a student for the Student Achiever, Creative Student, School Spirit or Citizen award. The chosen students are then presented with a \$50 savings bond from a community sponsor.

Robyn Jones, guidance counselor, told the room full of students, "You are a dynamo group of kids. You should feel so very proud of yourselves and know how special every one of you is."

Jones believes this program implements the "triangle" in education that brings together three important points, the home, community and school.

Mundy, who was present at the first Student of the Month

presentation, gave her support to the district, PTSO and students.

"We do appreciate everything you do," she told the group. "The community has really come together. Every single person can make a difference and a lot of people in this room have made a difference. You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a star athlete (to do that)."



POST PHOTO/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

## Reading the wind

"How do you tell which way the wind is blowing?" asked WBRE-TV weekend weatherman Don Seestead. "This way!" responded students at Westmoreland Elementary School. Seestead was at the

school recently as part of a celebrity reading program. Cody McHutchinson and Rebecca Yannuzzi joined their classmates in the response.

## Schools get brand new language curriculum

By KYLIE SHAFFERKOETTER  
Post Staff

**DALLAS** - Elementary school children will start next year with a brand new set of books that take an integrated approach to language arts. Lessons in reading, writing, phonics and spelling will be threaded together throughout the curriculum to help students understand how all these subjects work together.

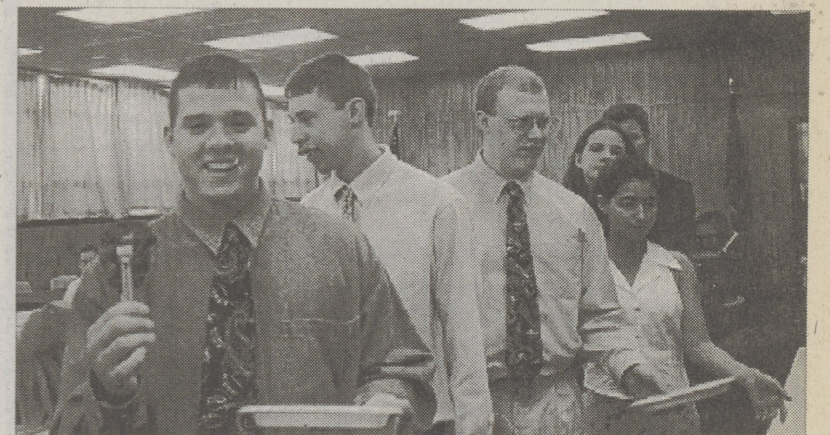
At its regular meeting, the Dallas school board heard a presentation by William King of Harcourt Brace publishing company. King discussed the benefits of the Signatures series of school books and what they accomplish.

"The program is more than just reading. It's a total plan with reading, phonics, spelling and English. Also, it's more efficient to use an integrated program," said King.

Dr. Gil Griffiths, superintendent, said the entire program for both K-5 elementary schools would cost \$125,000. The program includes books for children, teachers' manuals and planners.

Sam Barbose, Dallas Elementary principal, said the teachers have been evaluating different K-5 reading series for the past 18

See LANGUAGE, pg 8



Lining up to chow down, Students of the Month, Dawn Dixon, March; Jeff Levinson, December; Mrs. O'Malia from the Dallas Federated Women's Club; Kevin O'Malia, December; and Tony Luizza, December.

## Storm rips Back Mountain

A series of fierce storms carrying high winds, lightning and heavy rain did damage around the region Sunday night. At left, a tree limb rested on a car on Pinecrest Ave. in Dallas Borough. Below, a tree was down on Mountain View Drive, Dallas Township. More photos on page 8.



■ **Memorial**  
Classmates honor memory of Seth Linsinbiger, who died in 1996. Pg 3.

■ **Movin' on up**  
Lake-Lehman soccer, volleyball teams advance in state playoffs. Sports.

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