

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 5/16/2008

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Hurst Hills Wins Dancing Gold

144 Students Dance in East vs West Competition

After a long wait for judges to tabulate scores, the Hurst Hills ballroom dance team received their gold trophy and medals for an outstanding performance in front of a packed house.

Six HEB schools competed for top prizes, along with six Dallas ISD schools in the third annual Colors of the Rainbow Team Match, presented by Tarrant County Youth Collaboration, which manages the Dancing Classrooms North Texas program.

HEB teams took the following trophies and medals:

Gold

Hurst Hills Elementary School

Silver

Bell Manor Elementary School

Midway Park Elementary School

River Trails Elementary School

Bronze

Shady Brook Elementary School

Wilshire Elementary School

Dallas ISD schools won three gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

While judges tabulated team scores, the HEB ISD Performance Team, which features sixth grade students from last year's program, entertained the crowd with salsa and swing dances.

Dancing Classrooms is a social development program that Pierre DuLaine began in New York public schools and that is featured in the award-winning documentary, "Mad Hot Ballroom" and the feature film, "Take the Lead," starring Antonio Banderas.

Students take 10 weeks of dance during their P.E. class. Students learn merengue, rumba, tango, foxtrot, and swing. Research conducted by UTA on HEB and Fort Worth schools last year showed that the dance classes had significant impact on students' social awareness, including optimism and self confidence, and social support.

Dancing Classrooms is another example of the many innovative programs available to HEB ISD students. This program is available because of the district's membership in Tarrant County Youth Collaboration (TCYC), which contacted Pierre Dulaine and is acting as project implementation manager.

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