



# PARENT PRIDE

## A Message from our Principal

Chris Morgan  
Principal



Hello KHS Parents, Students and Community Members:

As we are nearing an end to the fall semester, I wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you to all for welcoming me to Kempner and the wonderful support I have received from the community, faculty, staff and students. We truly have the best students, parents and faculty in the district.

We have had many great things happen at Kempner this fall semester and your support plays a significant part in what occurs at Kempner High School, both academically and with extra-curricular activities. This semester alone we have had the following awards, recognitions and overall achievements:

**Tennis:** Team Tennis District Champions

**Cross Country:** Reagan P. finished 5th overall and Mya P. finished 7th overall at the district meet, which qualified them for the regional meet.

**Band:** 3rd Place at USBands Music in Motion - Houston Edition 3rd Place in Prelims and Finals; Best Drum Majors at Sam Houston State University Marching Festival; Unanimous 1st Division rating at UIL Region 13 Marching Contest

**Choir:** The following students made Region Choir: Obie O., Mikayla R., Mimi S., and Flynn M.

**Orchestra:** The following students auditioned for and made the Texas Music Educators Association All-Region Orchestra: Silas U., Freshman, String Bass; Allen K., Sophomore, Cello; Jonathan U., Sophomore, Cello; Jonathan L., Junior, Violin.

**Speech/Debate:** The Speech and Debate team is ranked in the top 3% of debate teams in the state and in the nation. Recently two students qualified for state: Evan R. and Hoai M. in acting events.

**Football:** We had a great year. The players fought hard every game, and showed their no quit attitude on a weekly basis.

**Volleyball:** Had several athletes get special recognition in the district (Samantha B.-First team, Kelsey Y.-Second team, Chelsea O. - Second team, Kenna S.-Second team, Alexis P.-Honorable Mention)

*continued on next page*

### Administration 2014 – 2015

#### Assistant Principal Alpha Split

	Asst. Principals	Room	Ext.
A – C	Rachel Cortez	(115)	#42308
	Gloria Mendez		#42398
D – K	Matt McCabe	(115)	#42333
	Gloria Mendez		#42398
L – P	Stephanie McDowell	(700)	#42325
	Marilyn Dardar		#42310
Q – Z	Kyle Lovetinsky	(700)	#42307
	Marilyn Dardar		#42310

#### Counselor Alpha Split

A – Dh	Renee Edwards	(701)	#42390
	Angela Christiano		#42315
Di – Kh	Erin Swanson	(701)	#42420
	Angela Christiano		#42315
Ki – N	Jennifer Kipping	(701)	#42313
	Michelle Hernandez		#42316
O – R	Donna Minix, Lead	(701)	#42314
	Michelle Hernandez		#42316
S – Z	Kerry Jongeward	(701)	#42312
	Michelle Hernandez		#42316
	Lisa Campbell, CCR	(216)	#43140

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## Principal's Message continues...

**Baseball:** Early baseball scholarship signings. Connor B. (University of Oklahoma), Karan P. (University of Texas San Antonio), Nicholas A. (Texas A&M Corpus Christi)

I am sure I am forgetting several accomplishments and for that I apologize. We are so honored to have such incredible students at KHS. The School Spirit has been amazing so far this year and I am so proud of our students for their support of all our teams and Fine Arts. Keep it up Students!!! Our Fall Banquets are coming up as well, so be looking for communication about the times and dates.

Our motto at Kempner this year is I AM KHS, which we incorporate into every aspect of student success. We as a faculty are committed to ensuring every student is successful and well prepared for future endeavors.

Again, I am very thankful to be able to work with the amazing students at KHS, as well as their dedicated parents, and staff. I feel extremely privileged to be the principal of Kempner High.

Chris Morgan  
Kempner High School Principal

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Sugar Land, TX 77498  
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## Fort Bend Education Foundation Awards KHS

Through the years, Kempner has been awarded \$47318.18 in grants by the Fort Bend Education Foundation.

Established in 1992 to benefit students of Fort Bend ISD, this non-profit organization is governed by a volunteer board of directors that includes local business, industry, and community leaders. The Foundation provides funds to support innovative academic projects and staff development activities where traditional funding is not available. Some examples of the many grants funded to teachers include digital microscopes, math manipulatives, mobile science labs, big books, "History Alive" materials, and gardening systems. Since its inception, the Fort Bend Education Foundation has awarded over \$30 million dollars in grants to Fort Bend ISD teachers and schools. Please consider supporting the Education Foundation by volunteering your time at any one of our fundraisers, adopting a new teacher, donating an auction item, or attending the annual gala in February. **If you are looking for a great way to pay tribute to a teacher or loved one, consider making a donation to our Tribute Fund.**

More information about the Foundation can be found on the website, [www.fortbendisd.com/foundation](http://www.fortbendisd.com/foundation) or you may contact Brenna Cosby, Executive Director at 281-634-1113.

Pictured: Andy Ralph, FBEF President  
Mr. Dupre and Mr. Larry Patterson



## Congratulations Academic Excellence Award Winners!

Over four hundred Kempner High School students were honored at a ceremony on November 20th. These students earned Fort Bend ISD's Academic Excellence Award by achieving all A's or a 4.7 grade point average for both semesters with no semester grade below 80 for the 2013-2014 school year. We are very proud of these amazing students!

## New Cougar Website

Have you visited the new Cougar website? Stay up to date on all things KHS at <http://khscougarpride.weebly.com> Find faculty contact information, Clubs, Calendar of Events and much more!

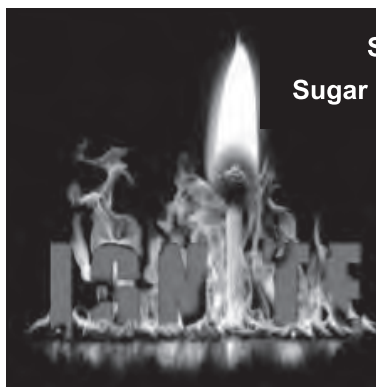


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## Student Ministries Sugar Land Methodist Church



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[www.sugarlandmethodist.org/students/high-school](http://www.sugarlandmethodist.org/students/high-school)  
431 Eldridge Rd. (Corner of 7th St. & Eldridge)

281.634.8913

Follow IGNITE High School on Facebook and Twitter



**WEEKLY**  
♦ Sundays...10:10-11 am: Sunday School;  
5-7 pm: dinner, games and worship  
♦ Wednesdays...6:30-8 pm: "High Life"  
♦ Thursdays...4-6 pm: Coffee House



## Flu Season Is Here!

Flu season is here and our temperature required to stay or go home is now 100.0 instead of 100.4. The best way to prevent the spreading of flu is to cough onto your sleeves, wash hands frequently, and stay home until you are fever free for 24 hrs. and make sure students get plenty of rest. If your child is feeling ill they must come to the Clinic so we may take their temperature and we will have them call from the clinic. Thank you for sharing your children with us and allowing us to take care of them.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.  
Cecilia Ross, BSN, RN and Shelia Sterns, LVN

## Kempner Sports Medicine overCome throUgh stRength & couragE

### Breast Cancer

Thank you to all the people of the Kempner Community that helped support the Kempner Sports Medicine team in their efforts to raise money for breast cancer awareness again this year. Kempner Sports Medicine has donated the \$850 that was collected to Methodist Hospital Cancer Fund to help Sugar Land residents. The girls sold 800 wristbands at a dollar a piece and also collected additional donations. These funds go to help Fort Bend County Cancer patients fund their additional needs (anything that is needed except medical bills) like medications, transportation, wigs, etc. If you were unable to donate and would still like to, please go to [houstonmethodist.org/sugarland](http://houstonmethodist.org/sugarland).

Current trends show that about 1 in 8 U.S. women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. Early detection through screening and increased awareness has helped in being a survivor. Please remember to do your monthly breast self-exam and for more information go to [www.breastcancer.org](http://www.breastcancer.org)

## Air Force JROTC

Kempner High School's Air Force JROTC (Unit TX-924) is a very successful program. Their mission statement, "To develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community", is proven in their activeness in the community through service hours and various competitions. JROTC strives to instill positive leadership qualities and integrity into every student.

On November 1st and 2nd a large number of cadets volunteered at Wings Over Houston (an annual air show in the Houston area). They helped check tickets and then were able to explore and learn about the world of aviation. The corps participates in this every year and uses it to enrich their in-class curriculum.

The drill teams from TX-924 went and competed at the CE King "Salute To Veterans" drill meet November 8th. The teams competed in 10 phases and placed in 8 of these phases. They went on to win the Overall Championship trophy from a field including 20 other high schools. The drill teams will compete again on December 6th at the Bayou Classic drill meet at Willowridge High School.



Here are the cadets who volunteered at Wings Over Houston

## Key Club Happenings

### Volunteer activities include:

- Helping special needs children make super hero masks at a family fair
- Assisting at Try Andy's Tri as road marshals helping the competitors navigate the run course
- Working at the Cougar Classic Cross Country Meet as marshals, concessions, and the finish chute

### Future activities include:

- Hosting a teacher's luncheon the week before finals
- Working as a group at The Sugar Land 30K Run with a member singing the National Anthem
- A car wash is in the planning as a fundraiser

## Choir Holiday Show

Kempner Choir Holiday Show  
December 9th @ 7:00 p.m.  
KHS Auditorium  
Admission is FREE!



Here are all of the competitors from the CE King Competition.

## KHS FFA's Successful Fall!

Kempner FFA members proudly won two banners at the District III FFA Leadership Development Event competitions held in Needville, TX. The Radio Team of Sadie Thompson, Sheldon Shahan, Nikki Miller and the Senior FFA Quiz Team of Courtney Ramirez, Megan Grahmann, Michelle Grahmann, Claire Chernosky placed in the top 10 in our area. Congratulations to Anika Gupta, Brianna Cortez, Cailin Wong, and Madie McVey for participating in the events. Kempner FFA members worked hard at their practices preparing for the competitions. Way to go Cougs!!w



FFA broke the KHS school record at the County Fair this Fall! Total Sales of SAE Projects was over \$108,000! Kempner FFA had a strong showing at this year's Fort Bend County Fair. Congratulations to all of our FFA students!



1st place Champion Ag Mechanics Team with patio chair project  
**Ag Mechanics Team members:** Collin Willis, Issac Lieb, Angie Diaz, Paige Zukywich, Anthony Gonzales, & Jordan Jones

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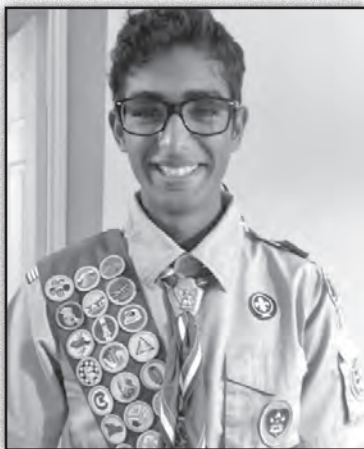
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## Aamir Mukadam Earns Eagle Scout Rank!

Aamir Mukadam from troop 797 recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout the highest rank awarded to Boy Scout. He is a junior at Kempner High School. Aamir began his scouting in year 2004 as a Cub Scout and he earned his highest award in Cub Scout "The Arrow of light" in 2008. He entered Boy Scout troop 797 and started his eagle journey. He has earned 48 Merit Badges; he also has held leadership position of Instructor, Patrol leader, Assistant Patrol Leader. And now after he became an Eagle Scout he has become Junior Assistant Scout Master of his troop.



For His Eagle service Project He had to create an area where the kids could relax and meditate at Nehemiah Center Downtown. To accomplish this task he had to get rids of all grass and weeds and then planted flowers he also put some benches where kids could sit and relax he also added a bird bath along with some stones and a cross on the tree.

During the process of satisfying the requirements for the Eagle rank, Aamir has performed more than 50 hours of community service in addition to the 204 hours he and fellow scouts and several leaders contributed to his Eagle Scout project at the Nehemiah Center Downtown. Congratulations Aamir!

## Best Buddies in the Spotlight!

It is a year of "firsts" for Kempner's step towards inclusion and acceptance of all students! Three of our KHS Best Buddies were invited to the Debra Duncan Great Day Morning Show on November 21st and participated in a fashion show and were participants for the Champion of the Year fundraiser.



## KHS Speech & Debate

Kempner Speech & Debate took 3rd Place Sweepstakes at the Katy Taylor TFA/TOC tournament out of 55 competing schools on November 15th. Fourteen students broke to elimination rounds in nearly all areas of competition. Sufyan Yousaf took 1st place speaker in policy debate. Emma Eyvazian broke to semis in Student Congress. Evan Rossi and Hoai My Ho took 1st place in Duo Acting and placed in several other acting events. Evan and My are also qualified to compete at the TFA State Tournament in El Paso. Armaan Bhimani and Waleed Vohra took 1st place in Public Forum Debate. Students who broke to elimination rounds in their events were Daksh Kapoor, Kunal Tanwani, Rafay Siddiqui, Saheel Tejani, Albert Aickareth, Abishek Prasad, Samee Ali, Muhammad Saad, Fatima Qadri and Ali Khan.

The Kempner High School speech and debate team is ranked in the top three percent of all high school debate teams in the State of Texas and in the top three percent in the nation.



## Kempner Best Buddies September – November 2014 – Honors and Recognitions

- Robert Whaley was honored as Senior Musician of the Week in Band
- Hayden Buckles was honored as the Beau for homecoming week for Best Buddies
- Hayden was honored as honorary football captain at last Kempner Home game of the season and did the coin toss.
- Robert was honored and recognized as a band senior at last football game of the season.

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## Spanish National Honor Society Recognized by FBISD

The KHS chapter of Spanish National Honor Society has been continuing their tradition of service this fall. Providing cultural and language experiences for all levels of Spanish, every other Friday during all lunches the Spanish Honor Society hosts Fiesta Friday in T-12. On October 31st the focus was Dia de los muertos, where students who came got to learn about this Mexican celebration to honor ancestors. Other Friday Fiestas have offered games, music, and of course the opportunity to practice Spanish.

Upcoming activities for the Spanish Honor Society include their annual tribute to teachers, Toast the Teachers! by delivering coffee or cocoa and toast made to order to staff the mornings of semester exams. The NIETOS project - volunteering at area nursing homes by visiting Hispanic residents who don't often get visitors that speak Spanish - continues to be well received, and rewarding for SHH members. Spanish Honor Society members are proud to be making a difference for students, staff and community. They were recognized by the FBISD School Board on October 22nd for their national accomplishments.

*FBISD board recognition  
of the KHS Spanish Honor  
Society on Oct. 22*



## Author Alfredo Corchado Visits AP Spanish Students

On November 11, 2014 the Kempner AP Spanish Language and Culture students in Ms. Fuentes' class were given the rare opportunity, thanks to the Houston World Affairs Council, to meet with esteemed Mexican-American author and journalist Alfredo Corchado. Students prepared for the visit by researching his background and work, which includes his recently published book, "Midnight in Mexico" which relates his experience as a journalist facing the violence and drug cartels in his home country. After discussing growing up the son of migrant workers and his struggle to find his sense of purpose and identity, his career as a journalist for the Wall Street Journal and Dallas Morning News, he read an excerpt from his book to the students before moving on to the Q&A session entirely in Spanish. Several students received autographed copies of his book. They were inspired by his story, and felt meeting and speaking with him brought the themes previously discussed in class about immigration, and national and cultural identity were brought to life and made more meaningful. Class member Makayla Slater commented "He taught me that working hard and never giving up leads to great success." Classmate Kayla Silver added "I learned to recognize a country by its beauty and accomplishments, not its faults." Priya Pai observed "Mr. Corchado has shown me that the success of a country depends upon its people, and that we can make a difference in our country. His ability to do what is right even when faced with danger is so inspiring, and has given me confidence to do the same in my life- to defend what is right, and to defend the people." Ms. Fuentes found her students' appreciation of the opportunity to meet with Corchado, their interaction with him, and their understanding of the connection to their learning an indication of the caliber of our student population at KHS. We are KHS!



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## Marching Band Receives High Ratings!

Congratulations to our Cougar Marching Band for 3rd Place at USBands Music in Motion - Houston Edition 3rd Place in Prelims and Finals, Best Drum Majors at Sam Houston State University Marching Festival Unanimous 1st Division rating at UIL Region 13 Marching Contest!

### Individual Honors:

- 5 Students earned a chair in the TMEA Region 13 Symphony Orchestra
- 1st Chair Oboe - Gabriel Malcaba, also earned All-Area Honors
- 3rd Chair Bassoon - Aaron Walker
- 1st Chair Trumpet - Evan Jones, also earned All-Area Honors
- 2nd Chair Bass Trombone - Stephen Gutierrez
- 1st Chair Tuba - Jason Baker, also earned All-Area Honors



UIL at the Berry Center



KHS Marching Band participated in the Veterans Day Parade on November 11th

# Cougar Athletics

## \*Tennis\*

The Varsity Tennis Team won the District Championship in Team Tennis for the first time in school history! The team reached the semi-finals in the Area Tournament. Team members include:

Dinda Aryaputri	Julian Chiu
Charlie Cyprus	Jennifer Duong
Jimmy Ho	Hsuan Huang
Akhil Jonnalagadda	Sneha Karnam
Lucy Li	Cathy Ngo
Vashon Nguyen	Alex Pascualado
Ankur Patel	Sunee Quirante
Preethi Srinivasan	Danny Tran
Valerie Tran	Von Tran
Leandro Viray	

The JV team placed 2nd overall in district team tennis competition with a 6 and 1 record. Additionally, the JV tennis Team captured first place overall at the Brazoswood Invitational held on November 7th. The Freshmen Team placed second. Freshman Lance Tenorio has won the gold medal in Boys Singles in both the Lamar Consolidated Invitational and the Brazoswood Invitational. Alex Ho has captured a silver and a gold medal in each of the tournaments.

## \*Baseball\*

Congratulations to Seniors Nick Anderson - A&M Corpus Christi; Connor Berry - Oklahoma and Karan Patel - UTSA for signing National Letters of Intent to play baseball.



# Kempner High School PARENT PRIDE

For the Parents, Teachers and Community of  
Kempner High School

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8 Parent Pride

December 2014/ Issue 3

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### How to Submit an Article for Publication in the Parent Pride

If you have some news to share regarding your student's achievement or news regarding your club's events please send an email to Heidi Hutchens at [hahutchens@windstream.net](mailto:hahutchens@windstream.net) or Barbara Budny at [fbudny@comcast.net](mailto:fbudny@comcast.net).

Our next deadline for news items is **March 6, 2015!** We appreciate your support!