

### Team Sem's First Year Brings Exemplary Status

The Sem family is certainly celebrating a successful first year, and now there is even more excitement as they return to school. The new school motto is "Succeed and Expect More", a message that was true school-wide last year. Now it is a daily anthem heard around the school at 8:10 as announcements end and learning begins for the day.

Isabel Pierce Sem Elementary proudly received Exemplary status for the 2006-2007 school year. The elementary school was one of five new schools last year, whose namesake has helped the Frisco community flourish during its recent growth.

Starting a new school is exciting for both students and teachers. Preparing students for the challenges that the TAKS test brings is a challenge itself, however the teachers at Sem Elementary had been planning a successful path all along the way for their students.

It takes a school community to help each child find success, and at Sem, even the youngest students took part in preparing third, fourth and fifth graders for the TAKS. The primary grades teamed up with older grades for activities such as "TAKS Survivor" and "Writing Camp". Perhaps the warmest well-wishes were conveyed through encouraging notes, as well as boisterous cheers at Friday 'Sembly for students taking the TAKS test. Whether the fourth graders were teaching new reading strategies to younger first graders, or Principal Mrs. Choate and Assistant Principal Ms. Parker served as judges for "Writing Idol", everyone played a part in surrounding third, fourth and fifth graders with the support and encouragement they needed to be successful. The success is sweet indeed, as the faces of the students at Sem show.

Team Sem has launched into its second successful year; teachers have already begun to collect data and work alongside administration in order to help this year's students experience the rewards of excellence.