

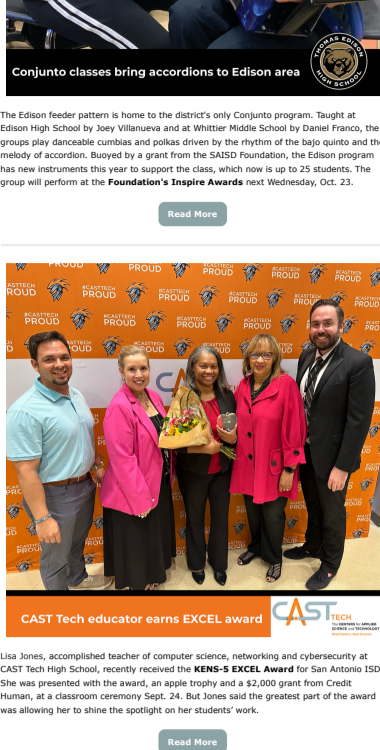


insider

THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM SAN ANTONIO ISD

Volume 25 | Number 6 | October 17, 2024

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Conjunto classes bring accordions to Edison area

The Edison feeder pattern is home to the district's only Conjunto program. Taught at Edison High School by Joey Villanueva and at Whittier Middle School by Daniel Franco, the groups play danceable cumbias and polkas driven by the rhythm of the bajo quinto and the melody of accordion. Buoyed by a grant from the SAISD Foundation, the Edison program has new instruments this year to support the class, which now is up to 25 students. The group will perform at the **Foundation's Inspire Awards** next Wednesday, Oct. 23.

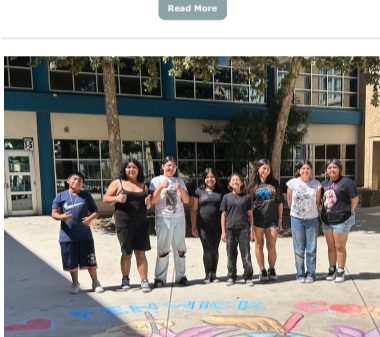
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CAST Tech educator earns EXCEL award

Lisa Jones, accomplished teacher of computer science, education and cybersecurity at CAST Tech High School, recently received the **KENS-5 EXCEL Award** for San Antonio ISD. She was presented with the award, an apple trophy and a \$2,000 grant from Credit Human, at a classroom ceremony Sept. 24. But Jones said the greatest part of the award was allowing her to shine the spotlight on her students' work.

[Read More](#)



Police don pink patches for cancer awareness

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It's a time annually devoted to educating everyone about breast cancer. In the SAISD Police Department, our officers and civilian staff wear pink to raise awareness about the importance of prevention and routine screening for early diagnosis.

"For us, it's really important to show our support as a police department," Lt. Christina Houston said. "It gives us the opportunity to share our support for survivors, for fighters and those who are here supporting those who are dealing with this awful disease. We just want everybody to be healthy and feel supported and know that we are there with them in the fight."



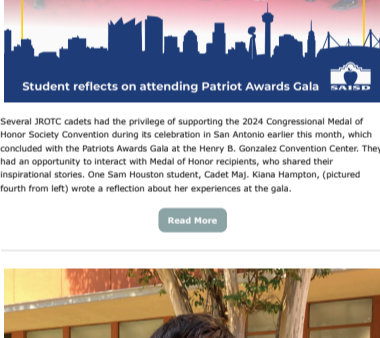
Celebrating our school leaders in October

For National Principals Month, we are sharing stories of some of our amazing principals who are working tirelessly for their campus communities. Today, we bring you the story of Dr. Maricela Alarcón, principal of CAST Med High School and CAST Imagine Middle School. Alarcón, a south sider, brings an extensive background in bilingual education to the position and loves sharing her experiences with the students at the two CAST schools grounded in experiential learning.

"The reason I got my doctorate and the reason I serve as principal on the south side is that I want my students to know that no matter where you come from and who you are, you can accomplish anything in life as long as you have *ganas* — the will, the grit, the determination," she said.

You can read more about Alarcón at the link below, where we are profiling some of our outstanding campus leaders throughout the month.

[Read More](#)

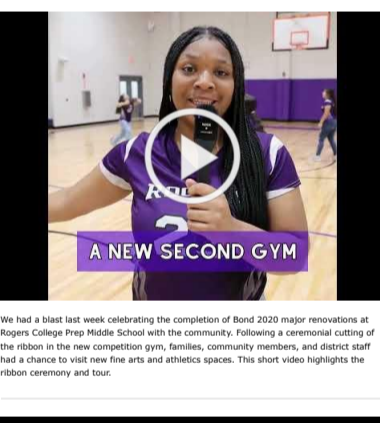


YWLA-P, Fenwick earn nods in Chalk It Up

The results are in and San Antonio ISD had TWO honorable mention spots in this year's Chalk It Up community art contest. Fenwick Academy and Young Women's Leadership Academy-Primary both earned a nod from Artpace for their campus-based murals. "Winning honorable mention was truly a privilege," Fenwick art teacher Joely Montoya said. "I fondly recall participating as an SAISD student, and I wanted my students to share in that experience. Every year, they eagerly anticipate participating in Chalk It Up! Hosting Chalk It Up in the Fenwick courtyard allowed us to be in our element and enjoy each other's company. But more importantly, it fostered their school spirit as we created a temporary yet beautiful mural for our campus."

In total, more than 15 SAISD campuses participated, including a large-scale community event at Brackenridge High School in conjunction with the district's Reading Is My Superpower literacy event.

[View their creations on Facebook](#)



Coach Green smooches swine for Class of 2026

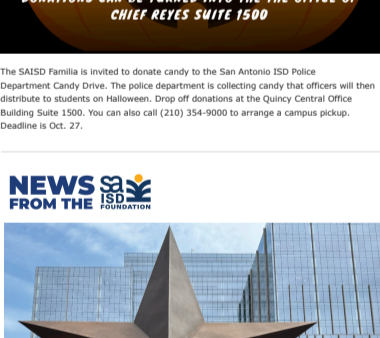
This season Coach Anthony Green had a special task. He had to kiss a pig! The "winner" of the Young Men's Leadership Academy's Kiss a Pig Contest, Green had accumulated the most monetary "votes" to seal the deal in the fundraiser for the class of 2026. The pig, brought in from Burbank Agricultural Sciences, was presented to Green during a weekly pep rally to the delight of cheering students. As for the actual smooch? "I had been preparing myself for a couple of days so when the results were revealed I knew I had to deliver for my students," Green said. "I think it is important to participate in these types of events, so that my kids know that I support them. Whether it's small talk during the passing period or kissing a pig, I want them to always know I am there for them."



Student reflects on attending Patriot Awards Gala

Several JROTC cadets had the privilege of supporting the 2024 Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention during its celebration in San Antonio earlier this month, which concluded with the Patriots Awards Gala at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. They had an opportunity to interact with Medal of Honor recipients, who shared their inspirational stories. One Sam Houston student, Cadet Maj. Kiana Hampton, (pictured fourth from left) wrote a reflection about her experiences at the gala.

[Read More](#)



St. Philip's junior experiences elections first hand

Early voting starts Monday, and one St. Philip's Early College High School student is getting ready to have a front-row seat for the election. Junior Jeremiah Garza will be returning as a paid student election clerk, where he will greet voters and help them sign in, scan their IDs, and help them get situated with a polling machine to cast their votes. Connected through Youth Do Vote, Garza worked the local election in May and is now returning to work the presidential election next month. Not yet old enough to vote, Garza's experiences have already taught him plenty about the responsibility of this civic duty. "I think it is important for people to vote because you get to learn about the different candidates, their backgrounds, and what benefits they will have and what the downsides are," Garza said. "You need to pick someone who can shape the future into a greater future."



A NEW SECOND GYM

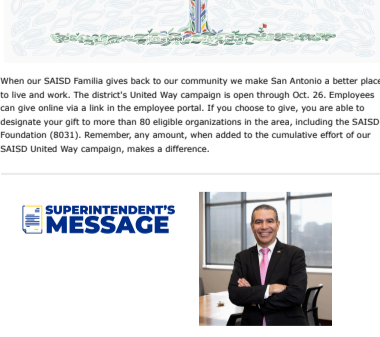
We had a blast last week celebrating the completion of Bond 2020 major renovations at Rogers College Prep Middle School with the community. Following a ceremonial cutting of the ribbon in the new competition gym, families, community members, and district staff had a chance to visit new fine arts and athletics spaces. This short video highlights the ribbon ceremony and tour.



CANDY DRIVE

The SAISD Familia is invited to donate candy to the San Antonio ISD Police Department Candy Drive. The police department is collecting candy that officers will then distribute to students on Halloween. Drop off donations at the Quincy Central Office Building Suite 1500. You can also call (210) 354-9000 to arrange a campus pickup. Deadline is Oct. 27.

NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

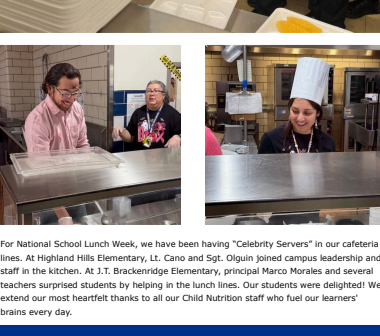


Harris pilots Texas History Adventures program

More than 200 Harris Middle School seventh graders are in Austin today visiting the Bullock Museum as the official kickoff of the Texas History Adventure. A new partnership between the SAISD Foundation, the Battle of Flowers® Association and the San Antonio ISD Social Studies Department, the program aims to highlight the connection between the state's rich history and civic engagement, and deepen understanding of the lands, people and events that have shaped Texas through experiential learning outside the classroom. The program, which will benefit more than 1,100 seventh graders this year across nine middle schools and academies, was announced at a pep rally at Harris Tuesday. "This trip to the Bullock Museum is more than just a field trip," Helen Everberg, president of the Battle of Flowers Association said. "It's a chance to go outside the walls of their classrooms to connect the past with the present and inspire the next generation of Texans to appreciate and contribute to their state's legacy."

[Watch the KSAT-12 story](#)

REMINDERS



REIMAGINE OUR SAISD SPACES

Together, we can reimagine how our former school buildings can bring new life to our communities. Help create positive change by taking our survey.

[SAISD.NET/FRPSURVEY](#)

Reimagine our SAISD Spaces! All members of the community are invited to participate in a survey about repurposing SAISD's former school buildings. Together, we can reimagine how these buildings can bring new life to our communities. Help create positive change by taking our survey. Share Your Voice!

[Take the Survey](#)

When our SAISD Familia gives back to our community we make San Antonio a better place to live and work. The district's United Way campaign is open through Oct. 26. Employees can give online via a link in the employee portal. If you choose to give, you are able to designate your gift to more than 80 eligible organizations in the area, including the SAISD Foundation (8031). Remember, any amount, when added to the cumulative effort of our SAISD United Way campaign, makes a difference.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Watch the superintendent's latest Quick Takes with Jaime video.

CLOSING SHOTS

For National School Lunch Week, we have been having "Celebrity Servers" in our cafeteria lines. At Highland Hills Elementary, Lt. Cano and Sgt. Olguin joined campus leadership and staff in the kitchen. At J.T. Brackenridge Elementary, principal Marco Morales and several teachers surprised students by helping in the lunch lines. Our students were delighted! We extend our most heartfelt thanks to all our Child Nutrition staff who fuel our learners' brains every day.

