

April 10, 2014

Public invited to 'pave the way' for students' futures

The renovation of SAISD's historic Alamo Stadium and adjacent Convocation Center is providing a unique opportunity for the community to leave its own legacy upon the site where lasting memories have been created.

Fans of these iconic treasures are invited to do so by helping pave the new Plaza Walk, which will connect the two San Antonio landmarks.

Bricks now are available for purchase through the SAISD Foundation.

Your investment of \$100 will leave your mark on the Plaza Walk for years to come.

It also will support the new Athletic Hall of Fame program being kicked off this year, as well as provide much-needed financial support for all the students who are part of the athletic, band and spirit programs in our high schools.

You can use your brick to honor your favorite coach, teacher, student, alumnus, team, as a memorial to someone who has passed on, or leave your own family's heritage.

The possibilities are endless.

Installation will begin once renovations to Alamo Stadium are

completed, which is expected to be early summer.

The Convocation Center has been open and operating since January.

The \$35 million in updates to both are funded through SAISD Bond 2010.

Those interested in assisting us in paving the way for our students' futures may call 554-2235 or visit:

www.SAISDFoundation.com.



Incoming SAISD sophomores 'Salsa into Summer'



Hundreds of 9th-graders Districtwide and their families recently explored their enrichment options by attending an event celebrating summer learning. With its Fiesta-like

atmosphere at the Alamo Convocation Center, "Salsa into Summer" provided a fun preview of opportunities to explore exciting real-world learning opportunities to help rising sophomores prepare for their chosen professions.

Over the summer, SAISD will hold 30 one-to-two-week Summer Career Academies to be offered in partnership with employers and institutes of higher education.

Participation is free and students may select the academies that interest them most.

Many will be hosted at District high schools, while the University of Texas at San Antonio's downtown campus will offer architecture and



Stopping by the Fox Tech HS table are student Candy Diaz and mom Lucy Alvizo-Diaz. Presenter is career and technology teacher Cathy Wells.

interior design. Aerospace and manufacturing will be among the fields available at the St. Philip's College academy.

PSAT prep sessions will be provided by Princeton Review at cafecollege.

Following are just some of the offerings:

- Programming/gaming – To include the opportunity to work with program developers

and computer science engineers to learn coding, game design and website development.

- Urban gardening – To teach students how to build an urban garden, providing information about soil composition, plant selection and how to build a raised bed garden.

- Culinary – To teach kitchen sanitation, chopping skills, preparation and cooking. Students will team up with members of their kitchen crew to see who will be the "Top Chop."

When not at the host sites, students will go to colleges and universities to preview their higher education options and visit related companies and organizations to get a first-hand look at individuals at work in careers within their fields of interest.

The academies, staggered to run from June through August, are a project of SAISD's GEAR UP college readiness program.

Leading the way to literacy

This trio of reading enthusiasts can hardly wait to return to their school libraries to share with students all they are learning at the Texas Library Association's 101st Annual Conference. They were among some 60 SAISD librarians attending the event at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. This year's theme was "Lead Out Loud," and highlights included presentations from seven authors. Shown (l to r) posing with one of their favorite props are librarians Veronica Schmittou, Graebner ES; Esther Polendo, Schenck ES and Tracy Mapus, Crockett ES.



Courtesy photo

In the Team Up Challenge home stretch

Putting the final touches on their pitch to convince the Team Up Challenge review committee why their community project is worth a \$20,000 grant are Brewer ES 3rd-graders.



Last fall their project promoting community-wide health, fitness and a garden was selected a semifinalist, earning \$2,500 in seed money. Brewer is among 20 San Antonio-area groups including nine from SAISD now vying for one of the five top prizes to be announced later this month. After evaluating presentations this week from all semifinalists, committee members will make their recommendations.

The public also will have the opportunity to help pick the winners through online voting. With the Brewer team on presentation day were Team Up Challenge scholar Sarah Simis (foreground) and teacher Rachel Fiddelman.

Cast your ballot for your favorite school at: www.teamupchallenge.com/vote/

Kudos from KONO

Herff ES kindergartners aren't the only ones who know their teacher Claudine Robinson is special. This attribute hit the airwaves when she was announced KONO 101's "Teacher of the Week." Congratulating her are (l to r) principal Dr. Traci Smith, Top Dog and air personality Dave Rios.



Looking ahead to higher education

As the school year nears coming to a close, graduating seniors aren't the only ones with particular cause to celebrate their

accomplishments and to weigh their options for college and universities.

Following are some of SAISD's first

outstanding students who have been extended offers this spring for their bright futures ahead.



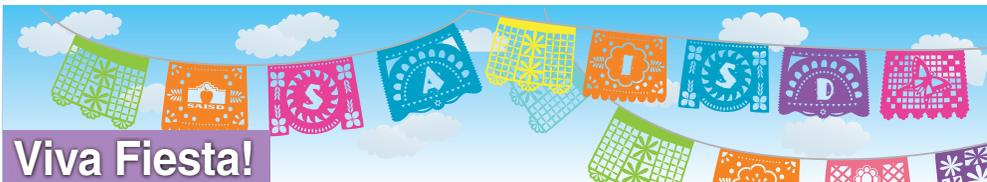
Navarro HS senior Janeva Thomas is the recipient of a \$36,000 scholarship from St. Mary's University for placing second in the school's algebra, trigonometry and geometry competition. Celebrating with her are principal Gustavo Cordova and math teacher Chong Johnson.



Jefferson HS senior Angelica Sosa is the recipient of a \$2,500 scholarship and an iPod mini from Security Services Federal Credit Union. Celebrating with her (l to r) are Jim Laffoon, SSFCU president and CEO, and principal Orlando Vera.



Brackenridge HS junior Richard Martinez is a 2014 Harvard Book Award recipient. Celebrating with him (l to r) are Craig Boyan, an alum of the Ivy League school and the award presenter, mom Rose Wright-Martinez, interim principal Jeannette Vasquez and counselor Mandie Holtsford.



Viva Fiesta!



Her watercolor interpretation of this year's Battle of the Bands Festival's cover design theme "The Magic of Make Believe" earned Alejandra Garrity Artistic Merit from the Battle of Flowers Association. The Jefferson HS freshman's design ranked in the top 30 of more than 400 entries. With her are her proud art teacher and principal, respectively, Marcy Gutierrez and Orlando Vera.



Beacon Hill ES 4th-grader Liana Peckar and mom Juana score a photo op with Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff (left) and former Mayor Henry Cisneros in honor of her design chosen for the Greater San Antonio After-School All-Stars' Fiesta medal.

On sale now - your own piece of SAISD history!

No Fiesta wardrobe would be complete without this latest fashion accessory.

Of course, we're talking about SAISD's first-edition 2014 Alamo Stadium Fiesta medal commemorating the long-anticipated re-opening of a beloved San Antonio landmark.

Supplies are limited so get yours before they're all gone.

Proceeds go to the SAISD Foundation.

Medals are \$8 plus tax (cash and credit cards are acceptable) and will remain on sale weekdays, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Central Office Printing Services Department while supplies last.

For more information call 554-8350.



Batter up for 'Pitch for the Cure'

The lives of those who lost their battle with breast cancer will be honored through an event designed to bring awareness and funding to fight this disease. The evening will begin with a ceremony including a moment of silence and a pink-balloon launch. Each of the featured-match schools (listed below) is asked to invite three breast cancer survivors to throw the first pitch.

The first game will begin at 7:15 p.m.

April 17 (Thurs) - 6:15 p.m. (start of ceremony)
SAISD Sports Complex, 1000 Edwards St., adjacent to Burbank HS
Highlands vs. Brackenridge • Lanier vs. Burbank
Jefferson vs. Edison • Poteet vs. Sam Houston



Proceeds from commemorative T-shirt sales will benefit WINGS, a non-profit organization that provides breast cancer treatment to uninsured South and Central Texas women. For more information email Aimee Silva, Edison HS head softball coach, asilva4@saisd.net.

All SAISD schools and most offices will be closed Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday

Apply now for summer jobs

Attention SAISD employees! The District has a number of summer employment opportunities and applications will be accepted through May 2.

Only current SAISD employees will be considered and positions are available for: paraprofessionals, teachers and administrators.

Notification of summer employment does not guarantee employment since these positions are contingent upon student enrollment and available funding.

Employees interested in summer employment must be available for the duration of the program for which they are hired. Absences as a result of attending summer learning opportunities or professional development are not allowed.

Summer employees are required to attend professional development, with the date contingent upon the program for which an employee is hired.

Completed applications should be submitted electronically no later than 5 p.m. on May 2 to: summerschool@saisd.net.

For more information call 554-2660 or visit: www.saisd.net.



San Antonio Independent School District
 141 Lavaca St.
 San Antonio, TX 78210
 phone: 554-2250
 fax: 299-5790
www.saisd.net

Board of Trustees

Ed Garza, President
 Olga M. Hernandez, Vice President
 Arthur V. Valdez, Secretary
 James Howard, Assistant Secretary
 Debra Guerrero, Trustee
 Steve Lecholop, Trustee
 Patti Radle, Trustee

Superintendent

Dr. Sylvester Perez

insider is produced by the Communications Department.

Leslie Price, Executive Director
 René Lynn, Newsletter Coordinator
 John Lawler, Photographer
 Central Office Printing Services, Design and Layout

insider is the intellectual property of the San Antonio Independent School District. Content may be reproduced upon permission and with appropriate attribution.

The San Antonio Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law.



Follow SAISD on Facebook and Twitter

