

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Principal shares culture through Flamenco

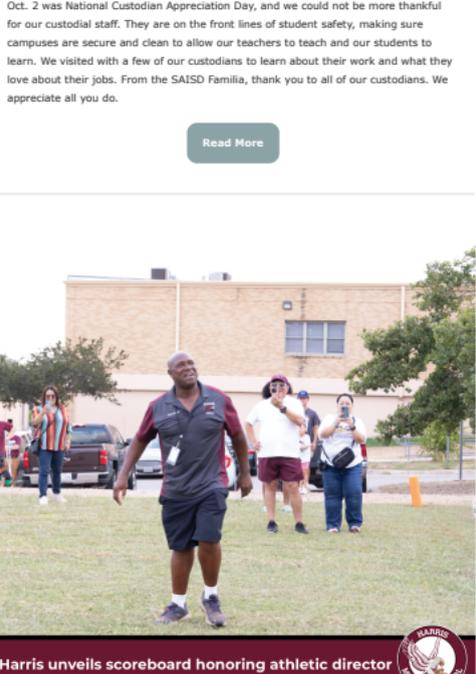
This Principal Appreciation Month and Hispanic Heritage Month, we highlight the talents of Storm Principal Jackie Navar, who professionally dances Flamenco and generously shares this gift with the students and families at Storm and others around the district. Teaching dance in high school is what helped set Navar on the path to elementary education. "I taught little students a step and just to see their excitement through a step, I was like, 'What would happen if I taught them their first word? Or their letters and their sounds?'" Navar said.

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U.S. Secretary of Education pays visit to Twain

Dr. Miguel Cardona, the U.S. Secretary of Education, toured Twain Dual Language Academy Wednesday to see firsthand some of the best practices the campus uses in bilingual education. The Secretary, who supports the power of multilingualism, toured classrooms with Superintendent Aquino, Board President Christina Martinez, Principal David Garcia and Dr. Mario Torres, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at UTSA.



Teaching fellow offers Arabic classes at ALA

Students at the Advanced Learning Academy had the opportunity to choose Arabic Language and Culture as an elective this year. The new course is taught by Lari Habchard, a teaching fellow in the Teachers of Critical Languages Program. ALA is one of only 21 schools across the nation and three in Texas to host a teaching fellow in this year's program, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. At ALA, "Mr. Lari," as the students here call him, teaches the Arabic Language and Culture class to grades 4-7 on the Fox Tech campus and leads weekly cultural activities at the Euclid campus as well.

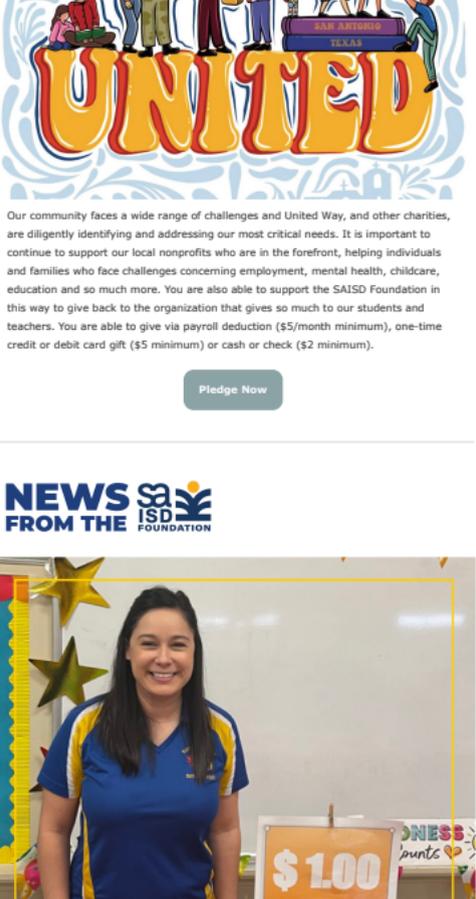
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Transportation plans continuity during rightsizing

If there's one thing rightsizing won't change about the San Antonio Independent School District, it's the diligence and dedication of the Transportation Department. At recent neighborhood meetings, many families and community members have expressed concerns about transportation for students if the Board of Trustees votes to close and merge some campuses in November. But Nathan Graf, senior executive director of the Transportation Department, said students and their families can count on the department to get them to school safely, regardless of how the board votes on the district's rightsizing recommendation. Learn more about the operations of this essential district department.

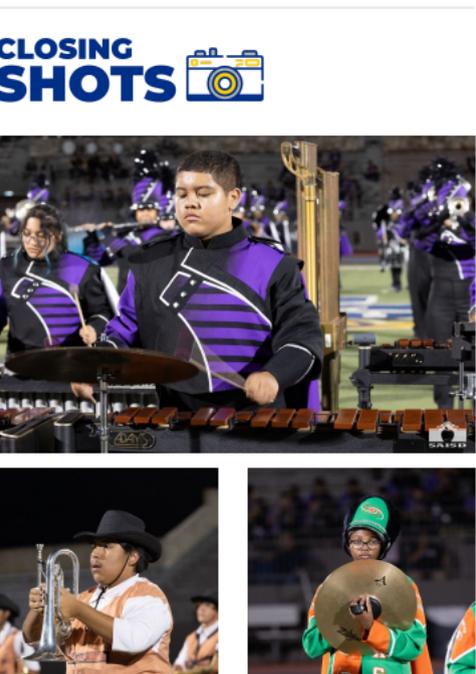
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Honoring those who maintain our learning spaces

Oct. 2 was National Custodian Appreciation Day, and we could not be more thankful for our custodial staff. They are on the front lines of student safety, making sure campuses are secure and clean to allow our teachers to teach and our students to learn. We visited with a few of our custodians to learn about their work and what they love about their jobs. From the SAISD Familia, thank you to all of our custodians. We appreciate all you do.

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Harris unveils scoreboard honoring athletic director

In 31 years at Harris Middle School, Robert Moszee has seen a lot of things. But one thing he didn't expect to see was his name on the new scoreboard at the football field at the Harris Centennial Celebration Sept. 23. "We've got some sneaky folks here at Harris," Moszee said. "They did a good job of keeping quiet about the whole event." The moment came at the end of the centennial ceremony. Retired Harris Principal Dr. Carol Velazquez stood at the podium as the sign was unveiled, and Moszee, who thought he was going to give remarks about having a new scoreboard, got to see that it was labeled "Moszee Field."

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Jefferson student named KENS-5 All-Star Athlete

KENS-5 was at Jefferson High School to award Mustangs quarterback Amonte Carter with the All-Star Athlete honor. KENS-5's Paul Mireles made the presentation to Carter at the Jefferson pep rally with his family and head coach Javier Cardenas on hand. The Jefferson Mustangs football team is off to a fast start with a 4-1 record so far this season, 3-1 in district play. Tune in to KENS-5 tomorrow to watch Amonte's story.

Hispanic Heritage Bus makes stops around district

The Transportation Department is rolling its Hispanic Heritage Bus around the district for Hispanic Heritage Month. When the bus visits a school, students are given a card with pictures on it and then board the bus to find the pictures that matched those on their Loteria bookmark card. When they made their matches, the students received a prize and were able to keep the bookmark. Keep an eye out for this festive rolling lesson as Hispanic Heritage Month continues.

REMINDERS

CENTRAL OFFICE CANDY DRIVE

DONATIONS CAN BE TURNED INTO THE OFFICE OF CHIEF REYES SUITE 1500

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.

LIVE UNITED

Our community faces a wide range of challenges and United Way, and other charities, are diligently identifying and addressing our most critical needs. It is important to continue to support our local nonprofits who are in the forefront, helping individuals and families who face challenges concerning employment, mental health, childcare, education and so much more. You are also able to support the SAISD Foundation in this way to give back to the organization that gives so much to our students and teachers. You are able to give via payroll deduction (\$5/month minimum), one-time credit or debit card gift (\$5 minimum) or cash or check (\$2 minimum).

[Pledge Now](#)

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

It's Mini-Grant season for the SAISD Foundation

Happy World Teacher Day! We are thrilled that The SAISD Foundation supports our teachers through the Mini-Grant program. The Foundation recently funded 18 more teacher projects through Mini-Grants, bringing the total to 79. One of those grants went to Amanda Scecina, a long-time teacher at Madison Elementary. Her "Make it Rain" project allowed her to purchase a Cash Cube, just like on the game shows, which encouraged students to collect "Star Bucks" to spend in their school store. Have a great idea? Apply for a Mini-Grant today!

[Read More About Ms. Scecina](#)

[Apply for a Grant](#)

[Donate to Fund Grants](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

CLOSING SHOTS

As our marching bands prepare for UIL competition, they treated fans to a Pre-UIL showcase at Alamo Stadium Tuesday. All seven of the comprehensive high school marching bands and the new NYLA marching band performed at the event. We wish all of our talented bands the best as they compete in their upcoming contests.