SAISD
insider
THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM
SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

District schools host more than 40 eclipse parties

As the moon positioned itself perfectly between the land in Central Texas and the sun on Saturday morning, school parking lots and fields were filled with the SAISD Familia eagerly watching the Ring of Fire emerge from the rare annular eclipse. More than 40 campuses across the district hosted Eclipse Watch parties Saturday, filled with educational materials for families created by the Science and STEM departments. Pictured are community members from the gathering at Democracy Prep at Stewart.

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Children's Cabinet hears updates on rightsizing

Members of the San Antonio ISD Children's Cabinet participated in a panel discussion about rightsizing at its Oct. 13 meeting, the third gathering of the group of parents, educators, community members and national leaders that help guide and monitor the implementation of the district's *Always Learning* strategic management plan. After updates from district staff, the panel, which included principals, legal counsel, a parent, and representation of the San Antonio Alliance, gave honest opinions about their experiences with the rightsizing process so far.

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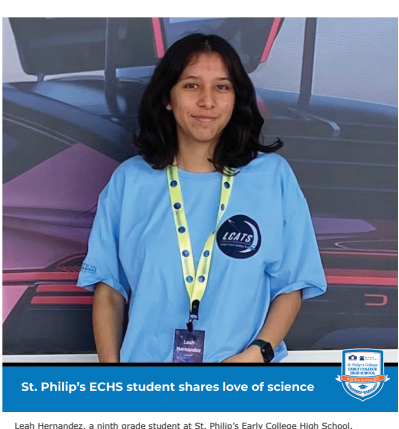

St. Philip's ECHS student shares love of science

Leah Hernandez, a ninth grade student at St. Philip's Early College High School, started building her passion for science, specifically space exploration, at an early age. Hernandez remembers being fascinated with anything related to astronauts and space during her Pre-K classes. "I've known I wanted to be an astronaut since Head Start," Hernandez said. "I always enjoyed the kids' shows and cartoons that talked about space and astronomy-themed things." She has jumped headfirst into those things this year, as one of three students in the district and only 30 students in the city to be accepted to the WEX Foundation's LCATS program, a three-year NASA-commissioned program that allows students to work alongside aerospace and other industry professionals to tackle real-world space exploration challenges. What's more — she has also started a fundraising initiative to inspire future scientists even younger than herself.

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Longfellow teacher wins KENS-5 EXCEL award

Abby Ramos pursued teaching for the most simple and noble of reasons: she wanted to make a difference in the world. The veteran middle school English Language Arts and Reading teacher has done just that, leveraging the power of literacy to change lives. Ramos, one of the district's Distinguished Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023, has now received the KENS-5 EXCEL Award for SAISD. She was presented with an apple trophy and a $1,000 grant from Credit Human, at a classroom ceremony Sept. 26.

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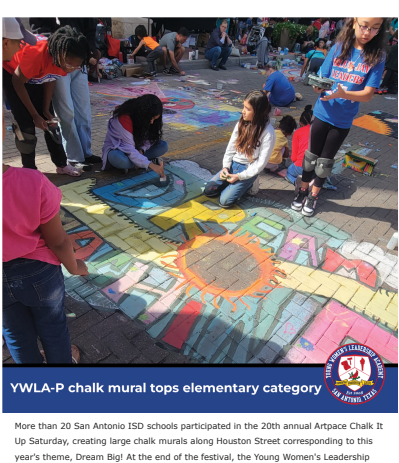

YWLA-P chalk mural tops elementary category

More than 20 San Antonio ISD schools participated in the 20th annual Artpace Chalk It Up Saturday, creating large chalk murals along Houston Street corresponding to this year's theme, Dream Big! At the end of the festival, the Young Women's Leadership Academy-Primary Blue Jays had quite the surprise when they learned they had one first place in the elementary category for the whole competition. Read more about their mural and see some of the other art created at the event.

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Winners selected in Cybersecurity Art Contest

In honor of Cybersecurity Awareness Month, the Office of Information Technology and the SAISD Foundation have teamed for the third annual Cybersecurity art contest. Students had the opportunity to create original works of art that conveyed themes in cybersecurity. In each grade level category (K-5, 6-8, 9-12), first and second place winners were named, receiving prizes funded by the SAISD Foundation of $50 and $25, respectively. Several honorable mentions were also named for each category and all recognized pieces are rotating through as lock screens on district devices this month. Pictured is Aubriella at Neal Elementary, who received her prize this afternoon.

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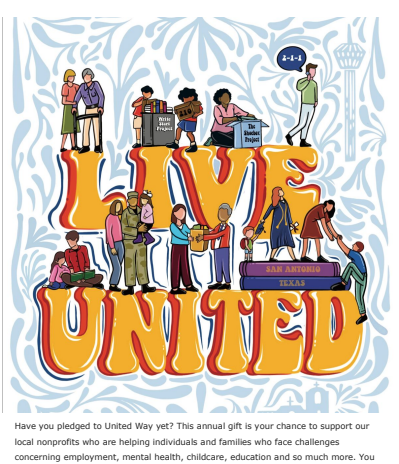
Transportation collects costumes for a cause

When Special Needs Route Coordinator Sandra Herrera showed her coworkers in transportation the **KSAT-12 story** about a costume drive for hospitalized children with the Stay Strong Foundation, the team was moved. The story, which ran Oct. 10, featured Herrera's grandson, Gilbert, who had been treated for leukemia and is now in remission. Wanting to support a cause so close to a team member, Director of Operations Katelyn Saenz messaged the Foundation to find out if SAISD could be part of the costume drive. Their official donation box was delivered the next day. In a little over a week, the department has collected more than 20 costumes, filling the box, plus other additional online donations. Herrera (left) poses with the routing team and some of the costumes they have collected.

REMINDERS

There is still time 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.



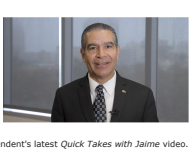
Have you pledged to United Way yet? This annual gift is your chance to support our local nonprofits who are helping individuals and families who face challenges concerning employment, mental health, childcare, education and so much more. You are also able to support the SAISD Foundation in this way to 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

BOARD BYTES

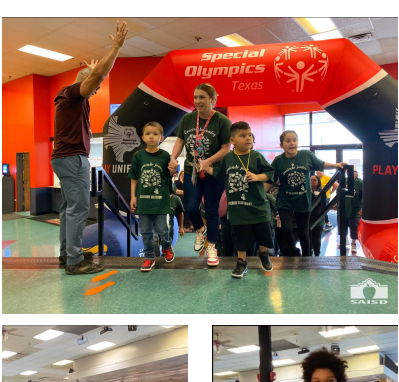
Trustee Ed Garza shares highlights from the October 16, 2023 board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



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

CLOSING SHOTS



STRIKE! Our Special Olympians have been demonstrating their bowling skills at Bandera Bowl this month. Last week, elementary students took to the lanes, and this morning academies showed off their skills. Tomorrow our middle and high school Special Olympians will take their turn. The joy and accomplishment our students experience in Special Olympics are contagious. The bonds our students have with their teachers and coaches is evident, and part of the commitment SAISD has to providing the best services to the members of our Familia who receive Special Education services. The district recently received the results of our **Special Education audit** from the Council of the Great City Schools, informing us as we plan even better service to these important students and families in our community.

SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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