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Advanced technology gives CAST Med students strong start

CAST Med High School was the place to be Sept. 19 as students, industry professionals and representatives from various partner organizations gathered together for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the school's newly refurbished auditorium.

CAST Med Principal Eddie Rodriguez hailed local community members, including local colleges and universities such as San Antonio Community College and The University of Texas at San Antonio who are helping students earn up to two years of college credit and providing exciting summer learning opportunities.

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New propane buses provide environmental benefits, cost savings

Over the past eight months, San Antonio ISD has been awarded four grants totaling more than \$2.25 million, which will be used to buy propane buses for the District's fleet. The grant monies, which come from both state and national agencies, have been used to purchase 43 buses so far, with an additional 20 to be purchased in the future.

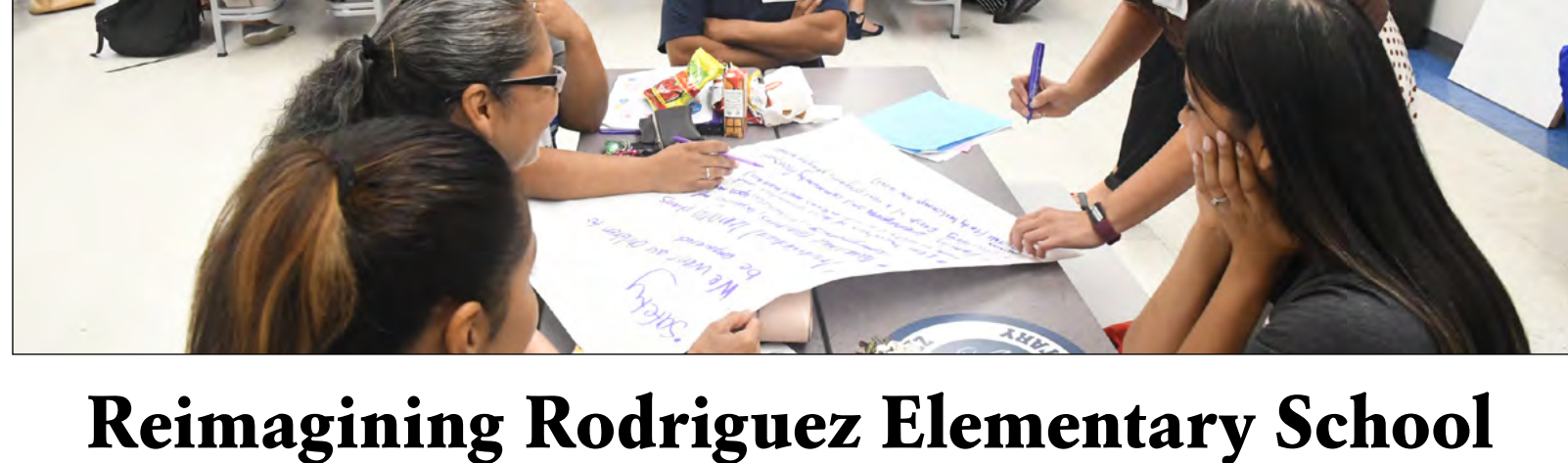
The most recent grant was awarded to the District in August from Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust settlement through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

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National Merit Commended Students

Congratulations to Sam Houston student Payton Gogo (*left*) and Travis Early College High School students Nicolas Rios (*middle*) and Christopher Del Rio (*right*) for being named Commended Students though the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Over 1.5 million students took the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last October and entered the National Merit Scholarship Program. Less than 2.5 percent of these students were named Commended Students.



Reimagining Rodriguez Elementary School

Families, community members and SAISD staff gathered together on Tuesday to discuss the development of a new Rodriguez Elementary School, which will open in the fall of 2020. Attendees shared their hopes and dreams for the new school, discussed what model of school they would like to see as well as talked about the timeline leading up to the school's opening. Parents and community members broke off into small groups to share what they considered most important to include in the reimagined school.

Living history

To commemorate Diez y Seis de Septiembre, Mexico's Independence Day, student members of the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica at Jefferson High School held several performances of the original play *El Grito* last week. Performances re-enacted Mexico's call for independence from Spain through skits, speeches, mariachi music and folklorico dance.



Toyota Teacher of the Year

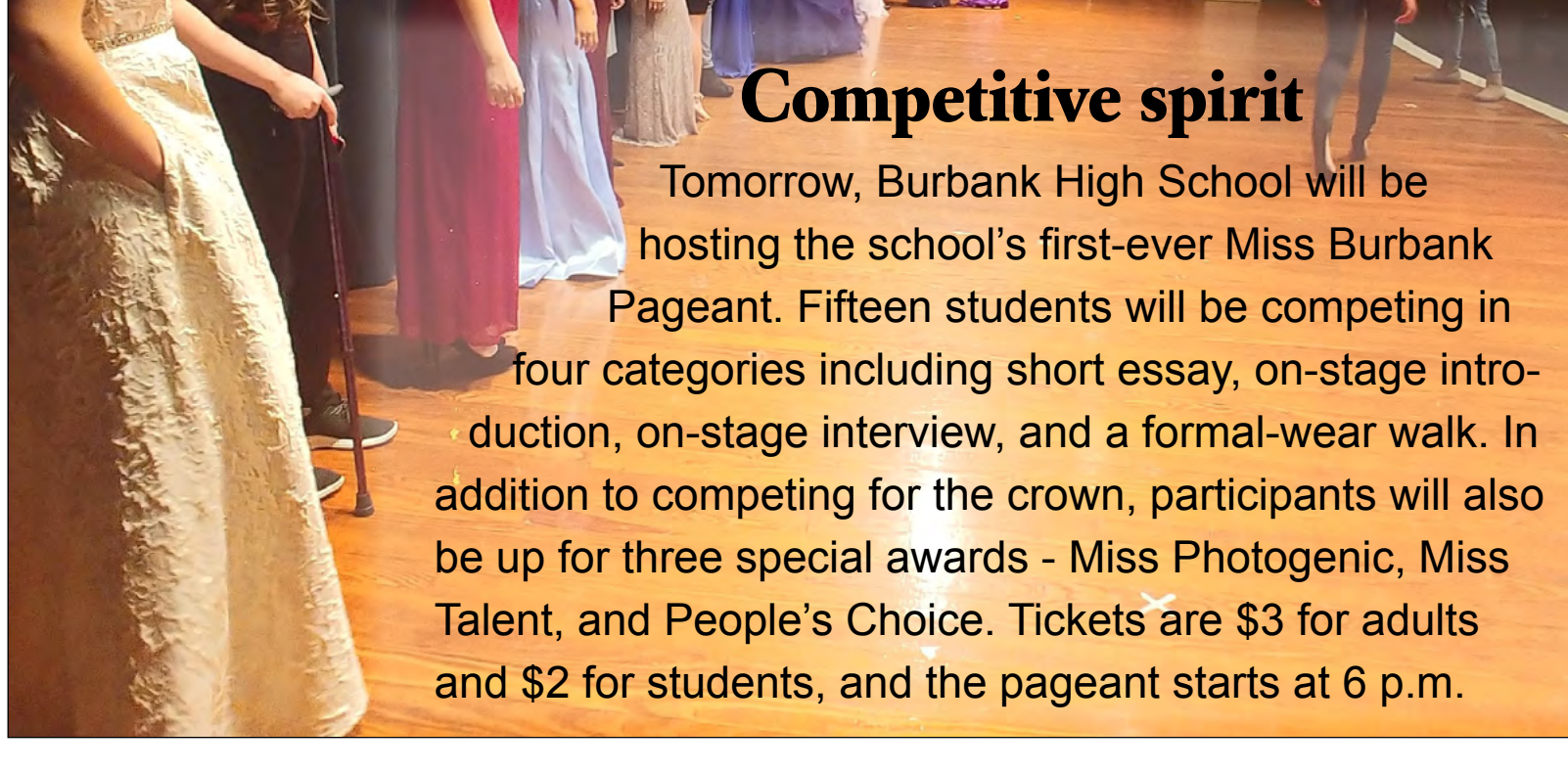
Carvajal Elementary School teacher Andrea Greimel has placed second in the nationwide Toyota USA Family Teacher of the Year competition, coordinated by the National Center for Families Learning. The award, now in its 23rd year, recognizes that families play a crucial role in the success of children and salutes educators who are exceptional at using intergenerational approaches to engage students and their families in education. The campus will receive \$5,000 as part of the award to help foster dual language learning on the Carvajal campus.

iPads for all!

Spurs center forward LaMarcus Aldridge visited Young Men's Leadership Academy earlier this month to chat with students and help hand out over 80 iPads to the campus. Silver & Black Give Back, the nonprofit arm of Spurs Sports and Entertainment, provided the iPads. The gift makes YMLA a one-to-one campus, meaning that all students have access to a personal iPad to help enhance their learning throughout the year.



This week's closing shot



Competitive spirit

Tomorrow, Burbank High School will be hosting the school's first-ever Miss Burbank Pageant. Fifteen students will be competing in four categories including short essay, on-stage introduction, on-stage interview, and a formal-walk. In addition to competing for the crown, participants will also be up for three special awards - Miss Photogenic, Miss Talent, and People's Choice. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students, and the pageant starts at 6 p.m.