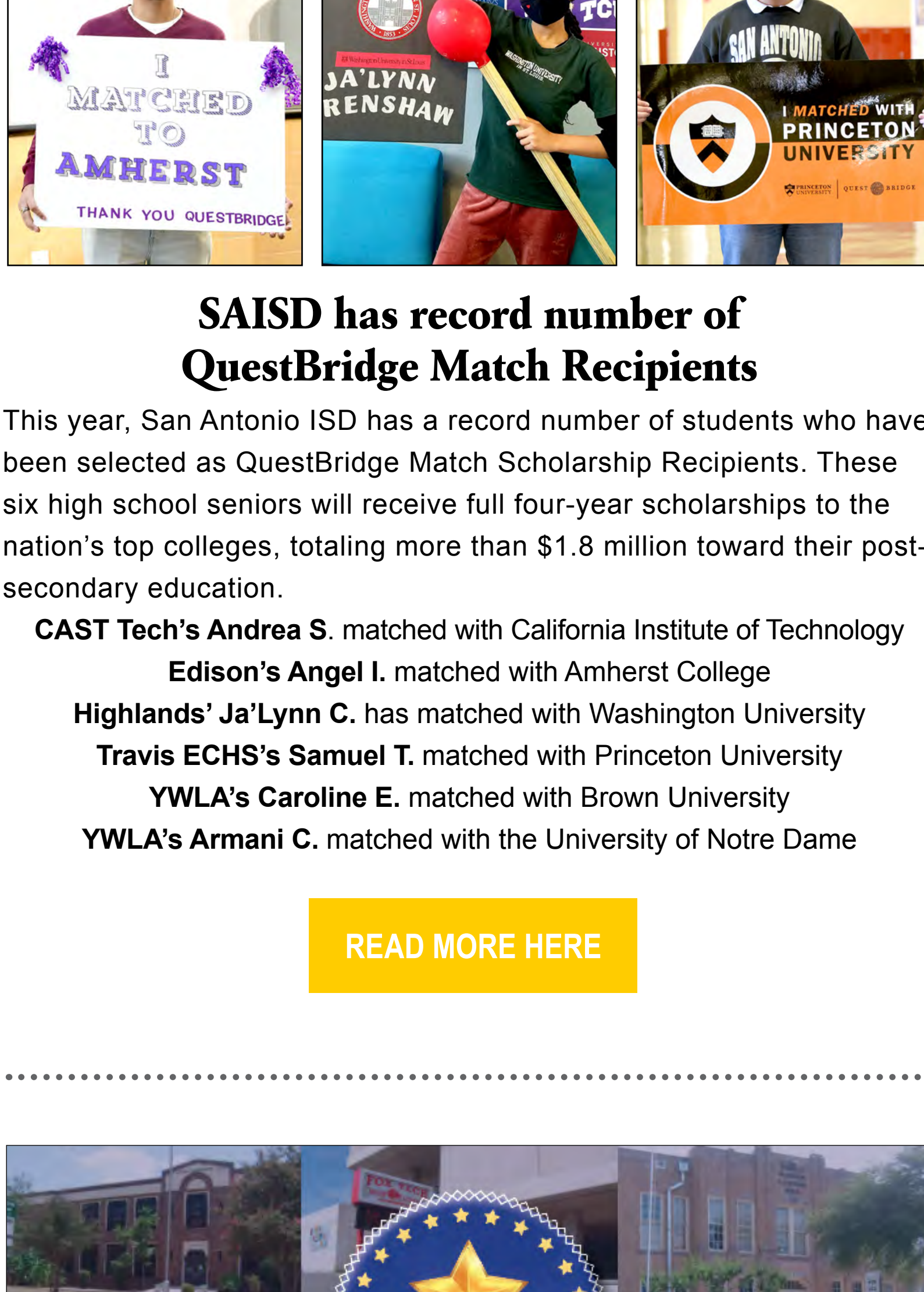


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SAISD has record number of QuestBridge Match Recipients

This year, San Antonio ISD has a record number of students who have been selected as QuestBridge Match Scholarship Recipients. These six high school seniors will receive full four-year scholarships to the nation's top colleges, totaling more than \$1.8 million toward their post-secondary education.

CAST Tech's Andrea S. matched with California Institute of Technology
Edison's Angel I. matched with Amherst College
Highlands' Ja'Lynn C. has matched with Washington University
Travis ECHS's Samuel T. matched with Princeton University
YWLA's Caroline E. matched with Brown University
YWLA's Armani C. matched with the University of Notre Dame

[READ MORE HERE](#)

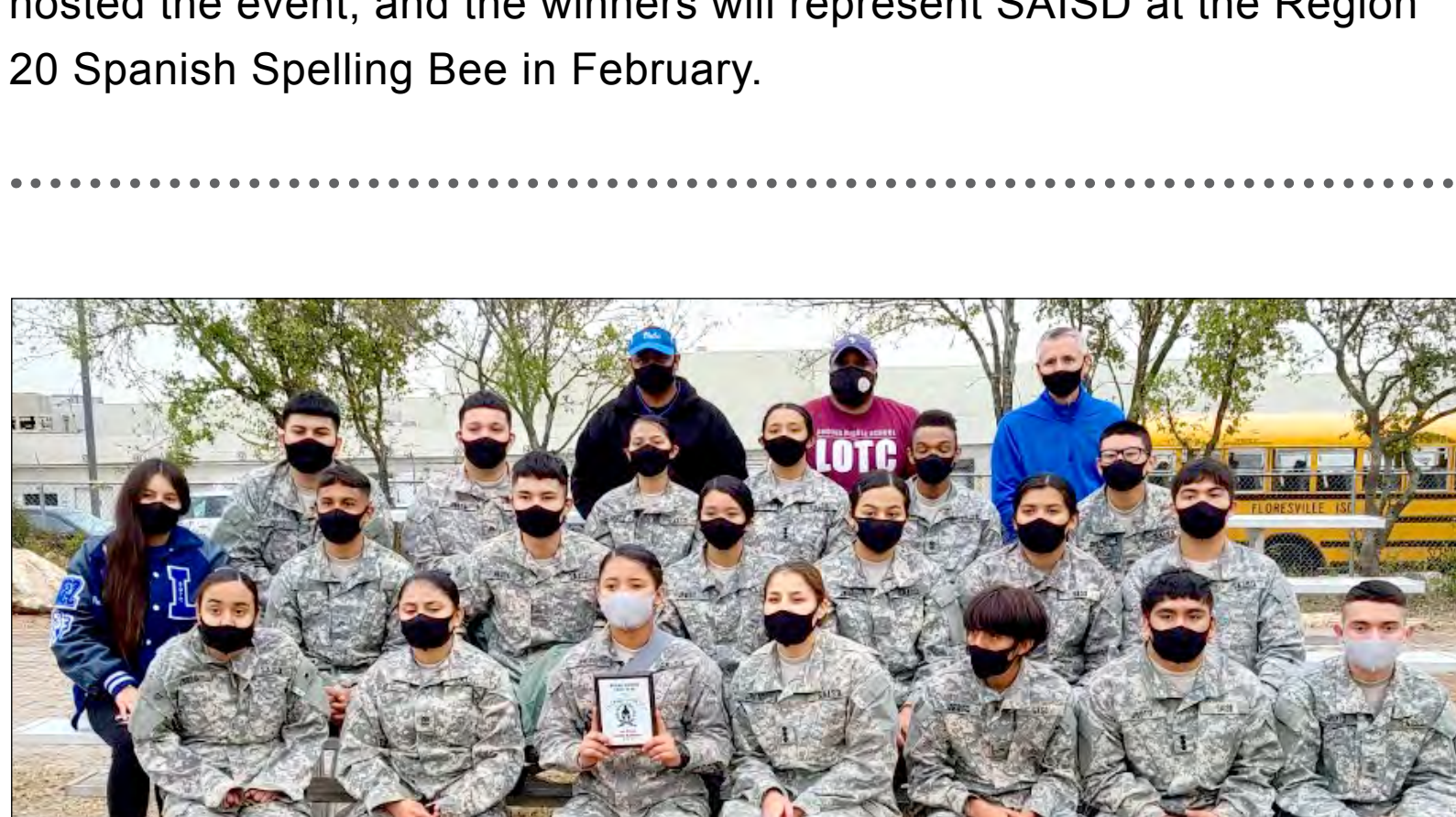


7 SAISD schools place in Children At Risk rankings

Out of 550 San Antonio area schools, seven SAISD campuses received eight top placements in the 2020 Pandemic Edition School Rankings, produced by the nonprofit Children At Risk – a statewide research and advocacy think tank.

This year's rankings were labeled the "pandemic edition" because the emergence of COVID-19 changed the way Children At Risk calculated its data – resorting to a three-year analysis with newly added indicators. SAISD schools rated highly in the top 10 lists and in two of the new indicators: Racial Equity and Pace Setter Schools.

[VIEW WINNERS HERE](#)



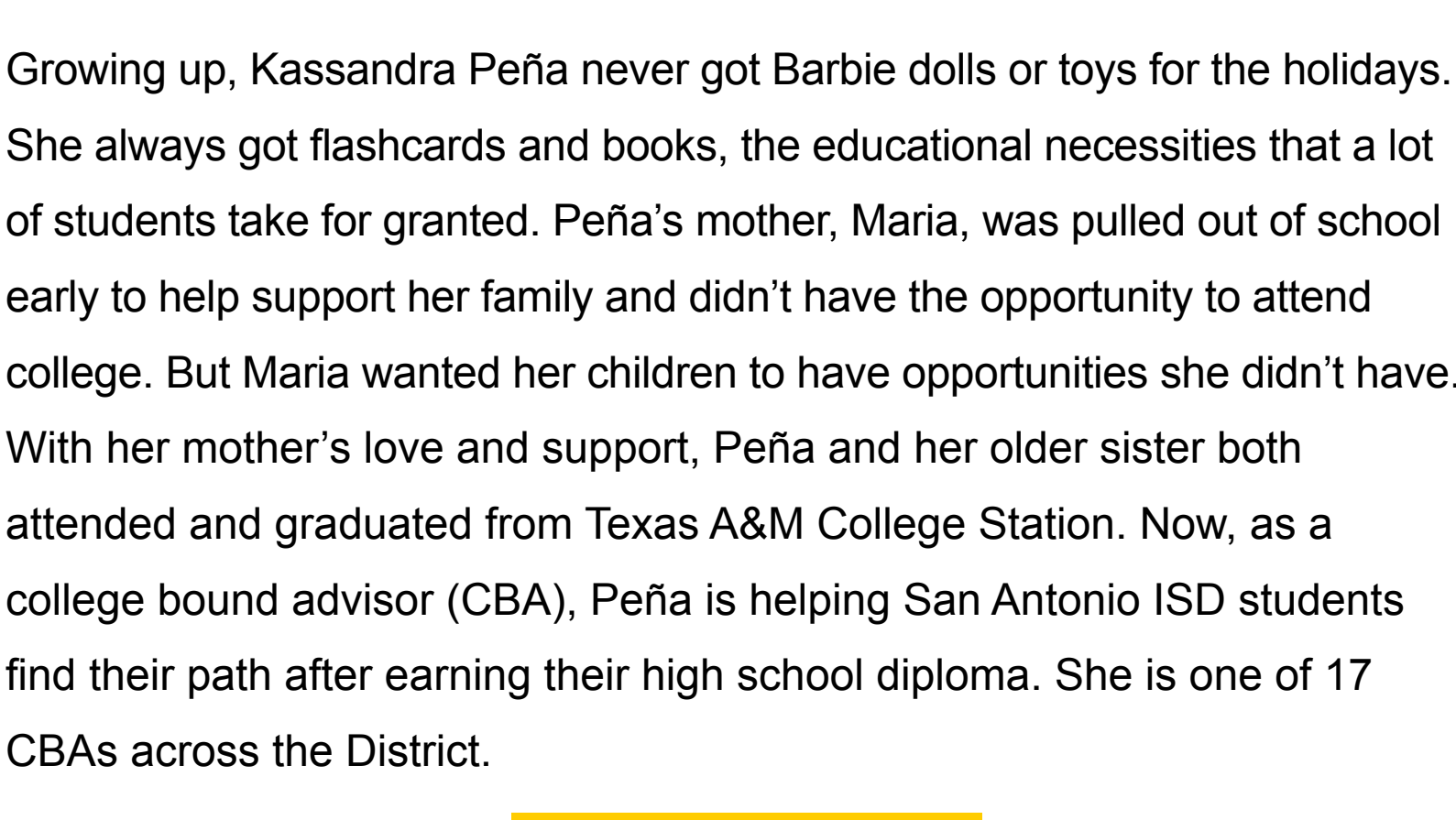
Spanish Spelling Bee champions

The SAISD World Languages Department conducted its Annual Spanish Spelling Bee (Concurso Anual de Deletreo en Español) virtually this year, and three students were named winners at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Jimena G. from Maverick ES: elementary school champion
Angie M. from Mark Twain Academy: middle school champion
Paola J. from YWLA: high school champion

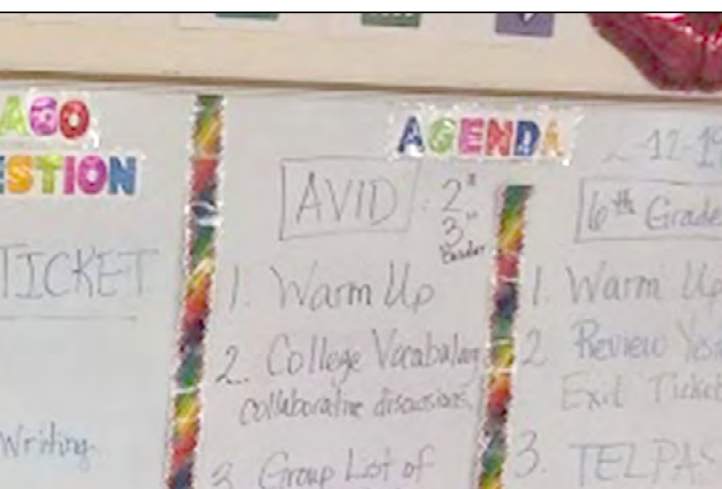
"Events like this promote literacy, enrich academic vocabulary and foster healthy competition," said Martha L. Vasquez, district coordinator of SAISD World Languages. "Our contestants from more than 30 campuses did not simply rote study their long list of words, they inquired about their meaning, etymology, and multiple definitions. I am proud to emphasize that our sponsors, students, and all involved in this event did not allow the pandemic to become the stumbling block that would make us cancel the spelling bee this year."

The World Languages Program and the Dual Language Department hosted the event, and the winners will represent SAISD at the Region 20 Spanish Spelling Bee in February.

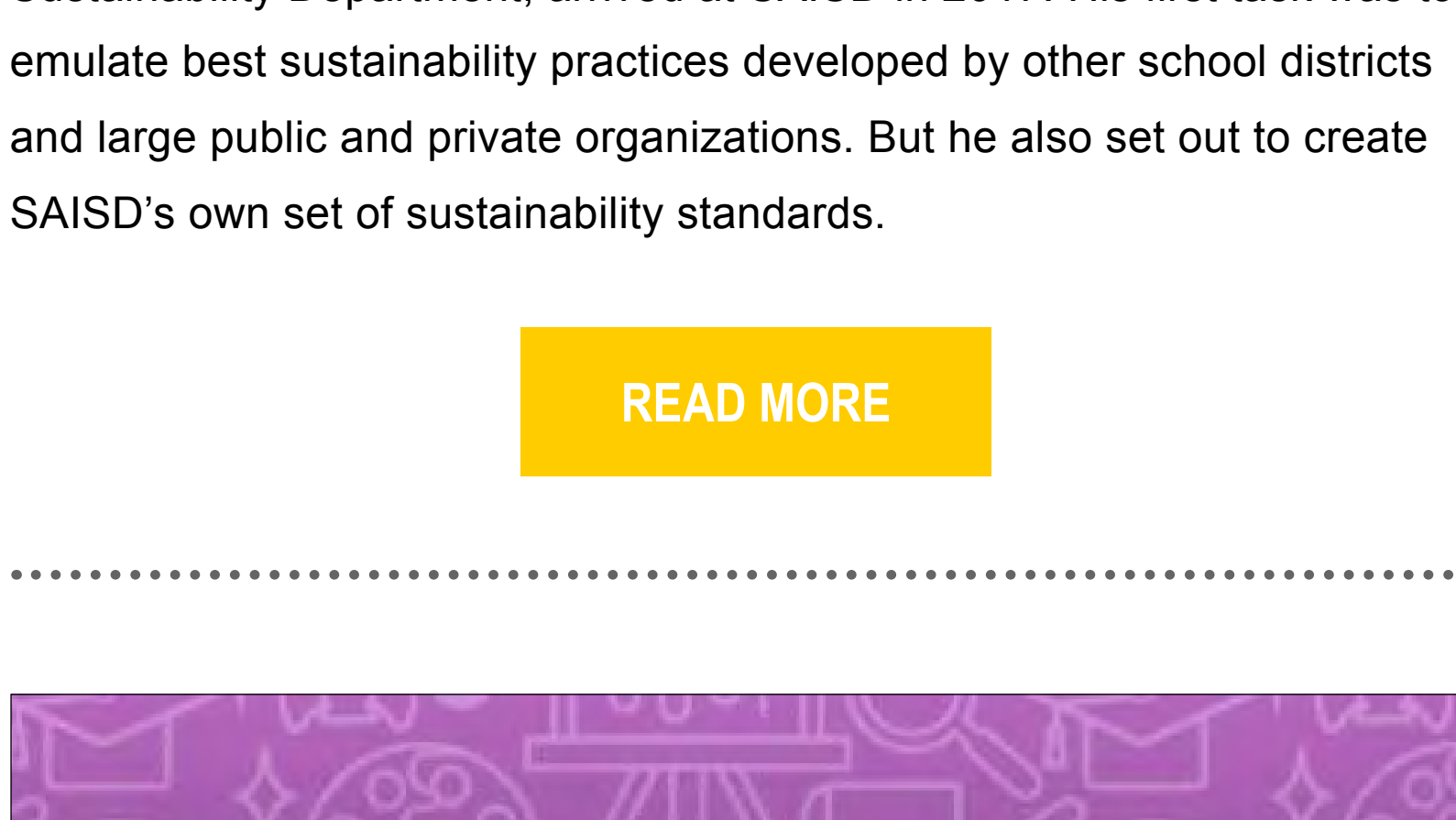


Lanier JROTC places in local competition

The Lanier High School JROTC Female Explorers placed second in the Urban Raider Challenge, hosted by Northeast ISD this past weekend. The competition included four physically demanding challenges, including a team rucksack run, team rope bridge construction, an obstacle course, and a combat fitness challenge.



Cadets organized and competed in teams of six or eight, depending on their level of experience, in all four events across a six-hour block of time. The team-oriented events required a combination of teamwork, physical endurance, and leadership. And, speaking of the Voks, how about Lanier's big football win this past weekend? For the first time in 15 years, the Lanier football team won the District Championship outright. Congrats, Voks!



SAISD college bound advisors, paving the way for student success

Growing up, Cassandra Peña never got Barbie dolls or toys for the holidays. She always got flashcards and books, the educational necessities that a lot of students take for granted. Peña's mother, Maria, was pulled out of school early to help support her family and didn't have the opportunity to attend college. But Maria wanted her children to have opportunities she didn't have.

With her mother's love and support, Peña and her older sister both attended and graduated from Texas A&M College Station. Now, as a college bound advisor (CBA), Peña is helping San Antonio ISD students find their path after earning their high school diploma. She is one of 17 CBAs across the District.

[READ MORE](#)



Sustainability department 'shooting for the stars'

In just a few short years, the San Antonio ISD's investment in its sustainability program has paid off substantially not only in energy reduction and recycling initiatives, but with cost savings that go back into our schools. Aaron Stein, who is the director for the District's Energy and Sustainability Department, arrived at SAISD in 2017. His first task was to emulate best sustainability practices developed by other school districts and large public and private organizations. But he also set out to create SAISD's own set of sustainability standards.

[READ MORE](#)



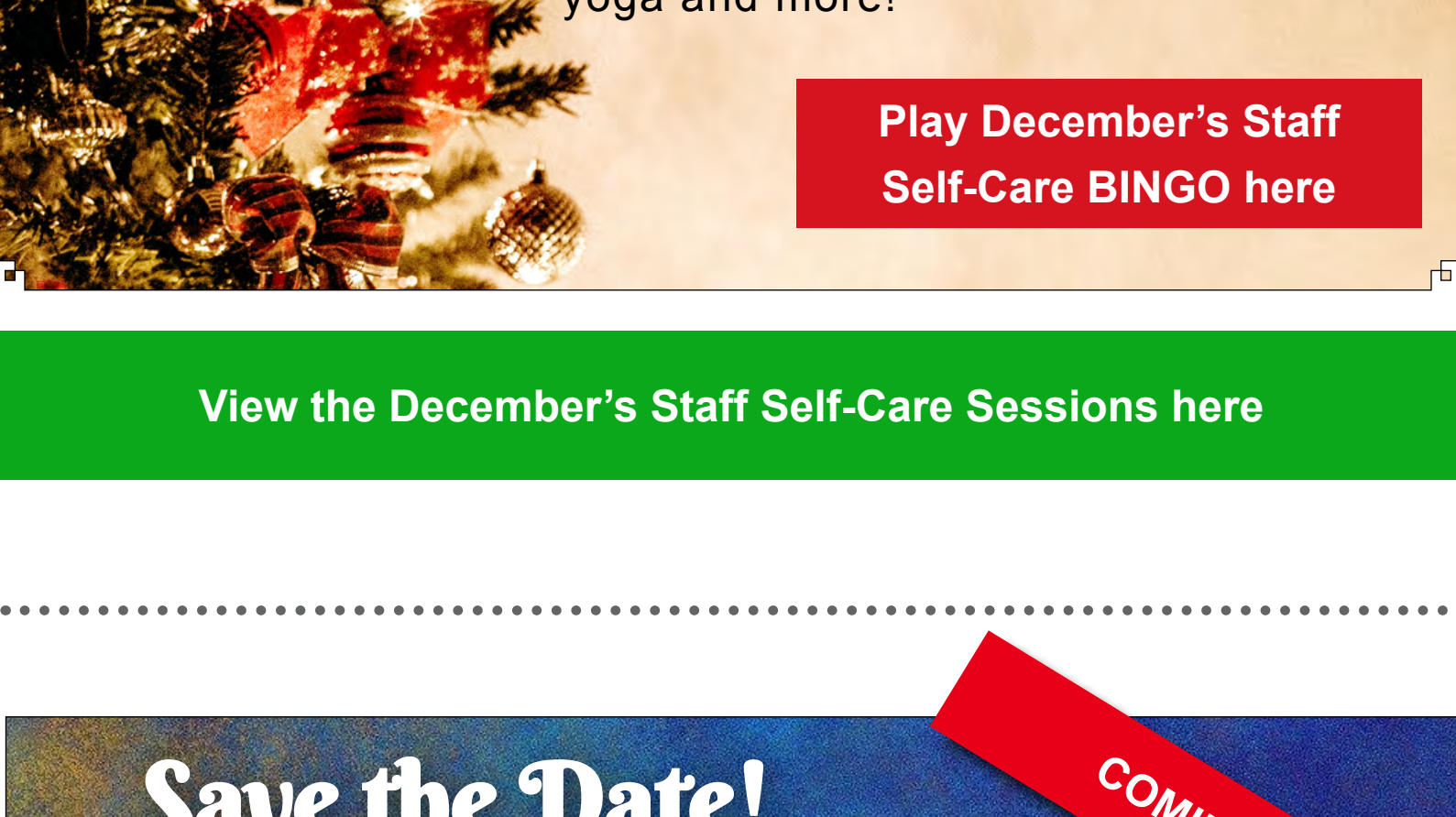
Coming in January:

A single landing page for all Frontline products

Previous Frontline access links are changing effective Jan. 4

San Antonio ISD is in the process of making access to its Frontline Education more user friendly for staff members. To simplify how to get to any Frontline product, employees will be able to access all programs from one Frontline Landing Page, which they can bookmark. The website will be live the week of Jan. 4 when employees return from winter break.

[READ MORE](#)

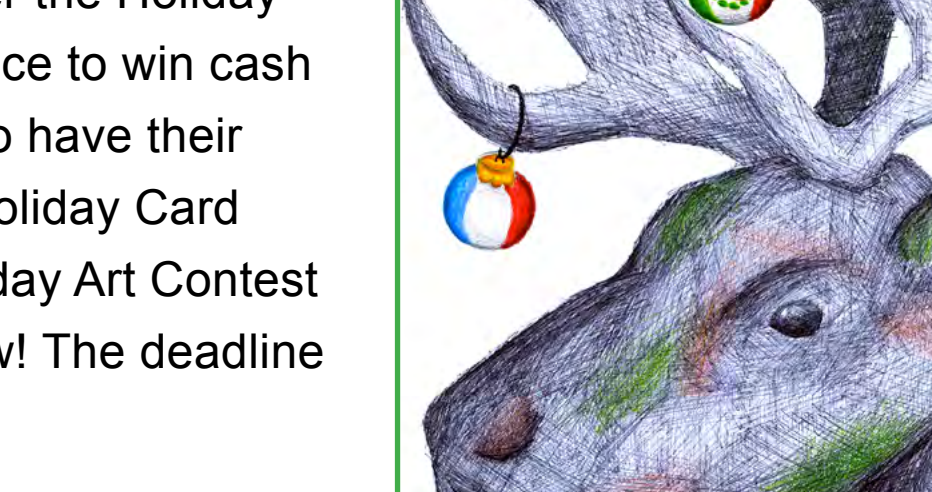


Please help SAISD reach our goal for the 2020 United Way Campaign! As of Monday, \$158,000 has been raised, but we still have time to reach the District goal of \$230,000. [Give today!](#) Use your SAISD email address and employee ID (without the first two zeros) to log in! Every gift counts!

Experience SAISD

Families, students, and staff can explore SAISD's 90+ schools, discover a wide variety of resources and extracurriculars, and connect with the district in new ways. Traditionally hosted at the Freeman Coliseum, Experience SAISD has gone virtual for our 4th annual event due to COVID-19 guidelines. This year our new

online platform gives families the opportunity to experience and explore our district in a unique, interactive way. Visit the Experience SAISD website starting Dec. 15 for your chance to win giveaway items! Join us online at www.saisd.net/experiencesaisd

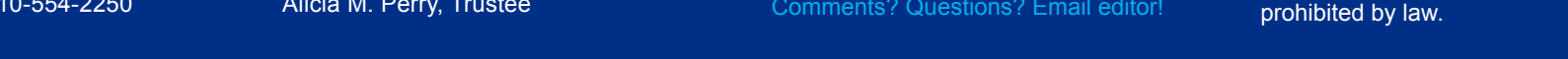


Coping with stress during the holidays

Get ready for December's Self-Care Bingo! The Department of Social, Emotional and Academic Development (SEAD) is continuing this fun challenge through 2021 and is also offering virtual self-care sessions to all District employees. Topics include journaling, guided meditation, laughter yoga and more!

[Play December's Staff Self-Care BINGO here](#)

[View the December's Staff Self-Care Sessions here](#)



It's not too late to get your student-designed holiday cards!

Every year San Antonio ISD students in grades Pre-K through 12 enter the Holiday Card competition for the chance to win cash prizes and art supplies, and to have their design featured in SAISD's Holiday Card set! Want some of these Holiday Art Contest Cards for yourself? Order now! The deadline for ordering is Dec. 14.

[ORDER HERE! \\$10.50/SET](#)

'Tis the season for learning!

A student a Green Academy helps decorate his ACE classroom's holiday tree. Not only does the brightly decorated tree bring holiday cheer into the classroom, students can practice their motor skills by hanging ornaments and work on their sensory skills by touching and feeling the tree as they place their handmade ornaments on the branches, all by themselves. "It gives them confidence that they are creating something that is displayed in their classroom, and it gives them ownership," said Desiree Davila, school counselor at Green.