

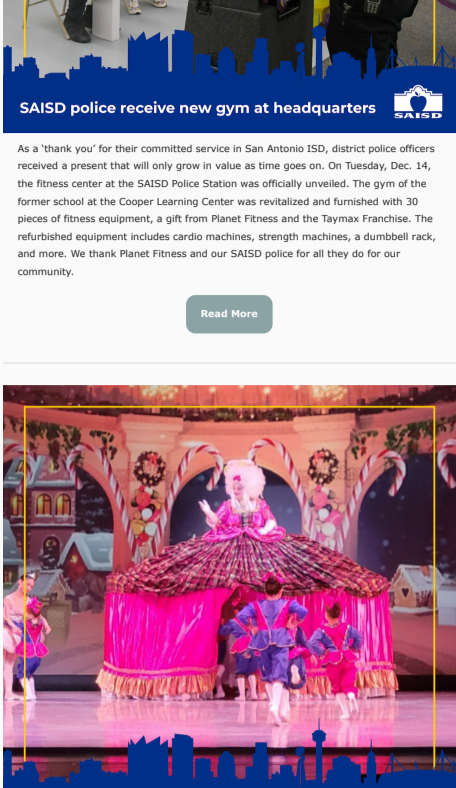
insider

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EDITION

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

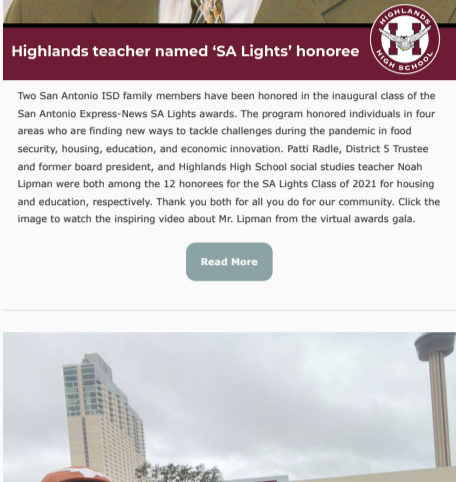
AROUND THE DISTRICT



SAISD police receive new gym at headquarters

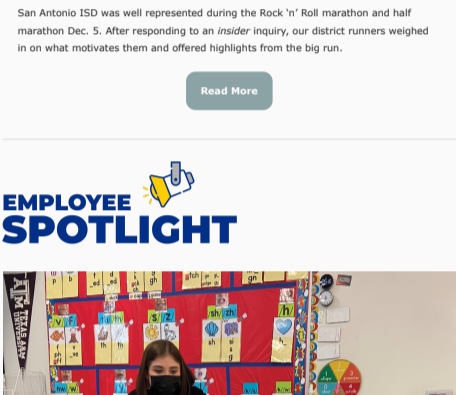
As a 'thank you' for their committed service in San Antonio ISD, district police officers received a present that will only grow in value as time goes on. On Tuesday, Dec. 14, the fitness center at the SAISD Police Station was officially unveiled. The gym of the former school at the Cooper Learning Center was revitalized and furnished with 30 pieces of fitness equipment, a gift from Planet Fitness and the Taymax Franchise. The refurbished equipment includes cardio machines, strength machines, a dumbbell rack, and more. We thank Planet Fitness and our SAISD police for all they do for our community.

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Saenz brings Mother Ginger figure to life

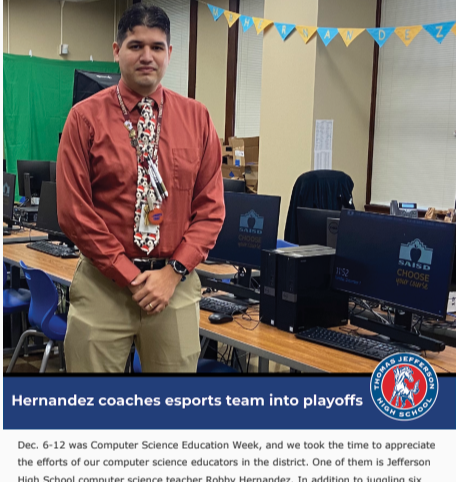
Transportation Routing Supervisor Katelyn Saenz was one of only seven front line workers representing multiple vocations — educators, nurses, a paramedic and a doctor — selected to make a cameo as the iconic character of Mother Ginger in Ballet San Antonio's Nutcracker performance. Her performance was Dec. 10. She is pictured above with the Polichinelle children.



Highlands teacher named 'SA Lights' honoree

Two San Antonio ISD family members have been honored in the inaugural class of the San Antonio Express-News SA Lights awards. The program honored individuals in four areas who are finding new ways to tackle challenges during the pandemic in food security, housing, education, and economic innovation. Patti Radle, District 5 Trustee and former board president, and Highlands High School social studies teacher Noah Lipman were both among the 12 honorees for the SA Lights Class of 2021 for housing and education, respectively. Thank you both for all you do for our community. Click the image to watch the inspiring video about Mr. Lipman from the virtual awards gala.

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SAISD employees run Rock 'n' Roll SA

San Antonio ISD was well represented during the Rock 'n' Roll marathon and half marathon Dec. 5. After responding to an *insider* inquiry, our district runners weighed in on what motivates them and offered highlights from the big run.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



GEC teacher aims to make learning exciting

Our special education employees in the district are on the front lines, helping our students and cheering on their victories every day. Margil Elementary General Education Curriculum Special Education Teacher Ilse Faz takes pride in bringing all the energy and excitement to her students as they discover their abilities in reading and writing, and social and functional skills. Her connection to the job is a deeply personal one.

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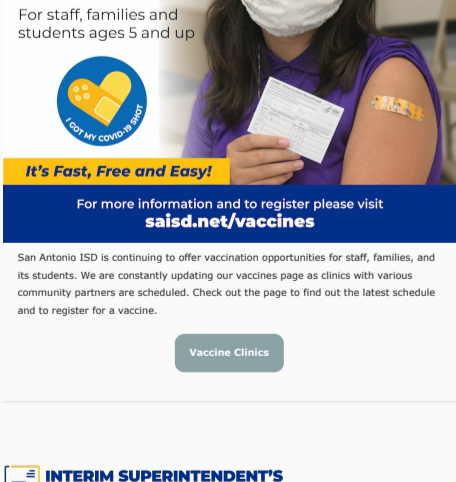


Hernandez coaches esports team into playoffs

Dec. 6-12 was Computer Science Education Week, and we took the time to appreciate the efforts of our computer science educators in the district. One of them is Jefferson High School computer science teacher Robby Hernandez. In addition to juggling six computer science course preps and one calculus class, he has also helped coach the Jefferson esports team into the quarterfinal round of the playoffs this year.

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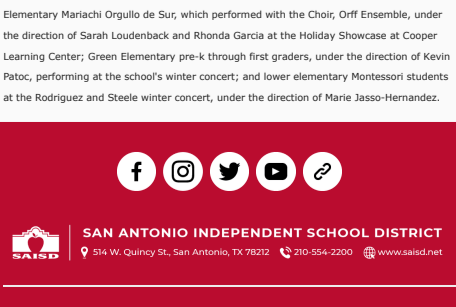
SPIRIT OF GIVING



District, Food Bank distribute 1,490 food packages

In partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank and The RK Group, San Antonio ISD provided nearly 1,500 holiday meal packages to families during two mega food distributions at Alamo Stadium. More than 100 volunteers, including our family and community engagement specialists, helped the events run smoothly. It was one of many projects at the district and campus levels in which the SAISD family came together to help out during the holidays. Here are a few more examples: at Kate Schenck Elementary School, the community gathered 287 toys to donate to Christus Santa Rosa Hospital. Fox Tech, ALA and CAST Tech high schools collected toys for Toys For Tots. Lanier High School athletics collected toys for the Good Samaritan Center. At the district level, employees donated nearly 200 books to be redistributed through the HEB Read 3 program. Employees also donated 375 food items to create 12 full holiday meal bundles for families in the district. It was truly a season of giving in the SAISD family.

HOLIDAY FUN



Ogden Elementary had a series of dress-up days throughout the month of December to show holiday spirit and encourage attendance. Pictured are photos from elf day, plaid day, and reindeer day. Many campuses throughout the district celebrated the opportunity to dress festively to keep the mood merry and bright leading up to the break. Looking good, Lions.

REMINDERS

Second set of compliance training, role-specific training due Jan. 10

Choice schools open to all county residents

Did you know that San Antonio ISD choice schools are open to all families in the county? Even if you don't live in the district, your child can apply to be part of our powerful programs. Application deadline is Jan. 14 and you can apply to your child's top three programs.

[SAISD Choice](#)

SLEEVES UP TO HELP END THE PANDEMIC

Upcoming vaccination and booster clinics

For staff, families and students ages 5 and up

It's Fast, Free and Easy!

For more information and to register please visit [saisd.net/vaccines](https://www.saisd.net/vaccines)

San Antonio ISD is continuing to offer vaccination opportunities for staff, families, and its students. We are constantly updating our vaccines page as clinics with various community partners are scheduled. Check out the page to find out the latest schedule and to register for a vaccine.

[Vaccine Clinics](#)

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

[Click to read Dr. Jaklich's most recent letter](#)

STUDENT PERFORMANCES

As the winter holidays approached, student performance groups began to wow audiences with their artistic skills. Pictured, from top left, are Twain Mariachi Los Lobos, under the direction of Jose Soliz, performing at the Operations Service Center building; Graebner Elementary Mariachi Orgullo de Sur, which performed with the Choir, Orff Ensemble, under the direction of Sarah Loudenback and Rhonda Garcia at the Holiday Showcase at Cooper Learning Center; Green Elementary's pre-k through first graders, under the direction of Kevin Patoc, performing at the school's winter concert; and lower elementary Montessori students at the Rodriguez and Steele winter concert, under the direction of Marie Jasso-Hernandez.

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