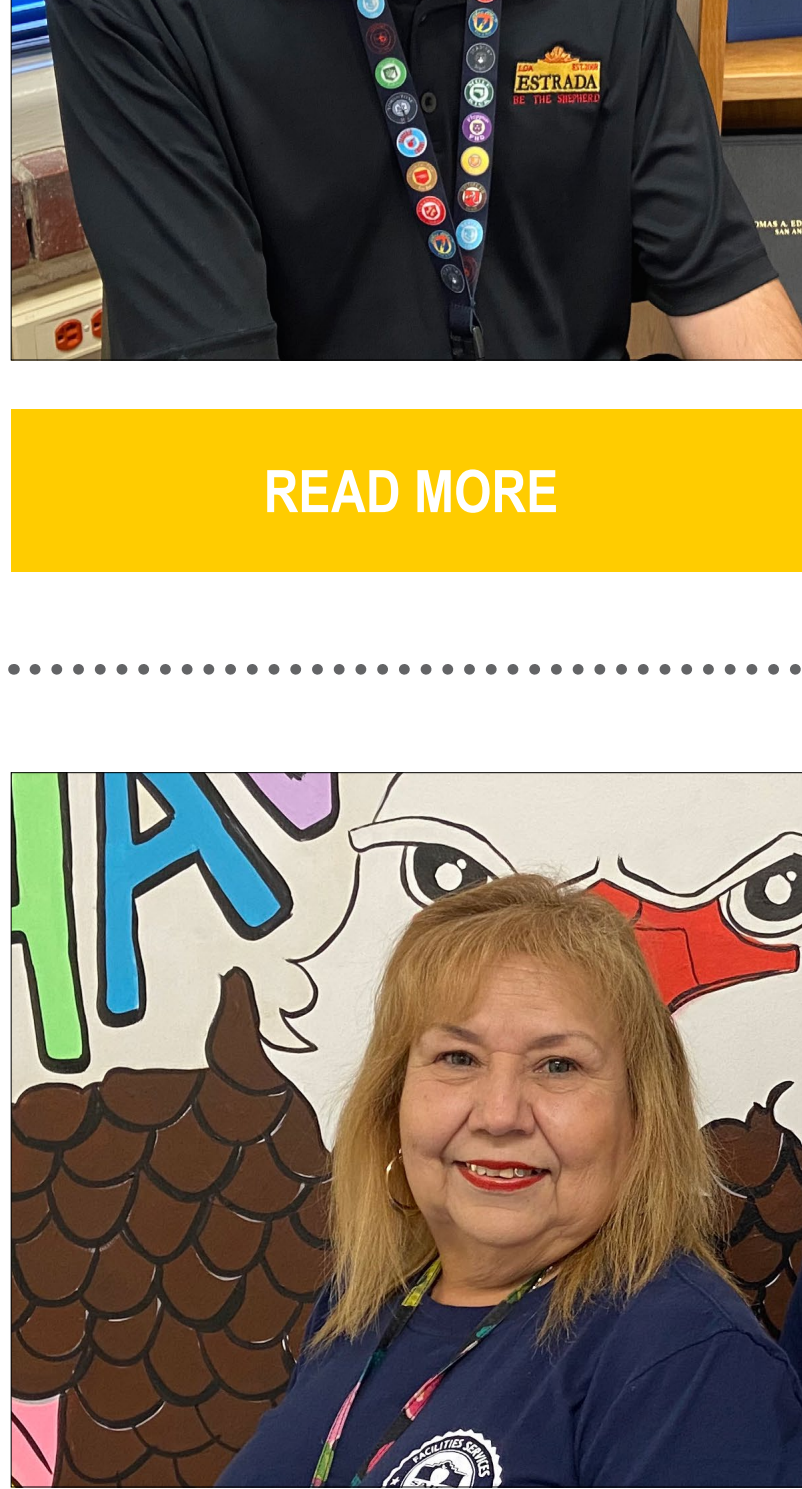


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Estrada teacher uses gifts to inspire students

James Ybarra teaches math at the Estrada Achievement Center. He uses his special skills and the challenges he has overcome with his autism to connect with his math students. In October, Americans observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and we celebrate Ybarra and all our employees who work with disabilities every day to make great experiences for our students.

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Custodian pair has 35 years combined service

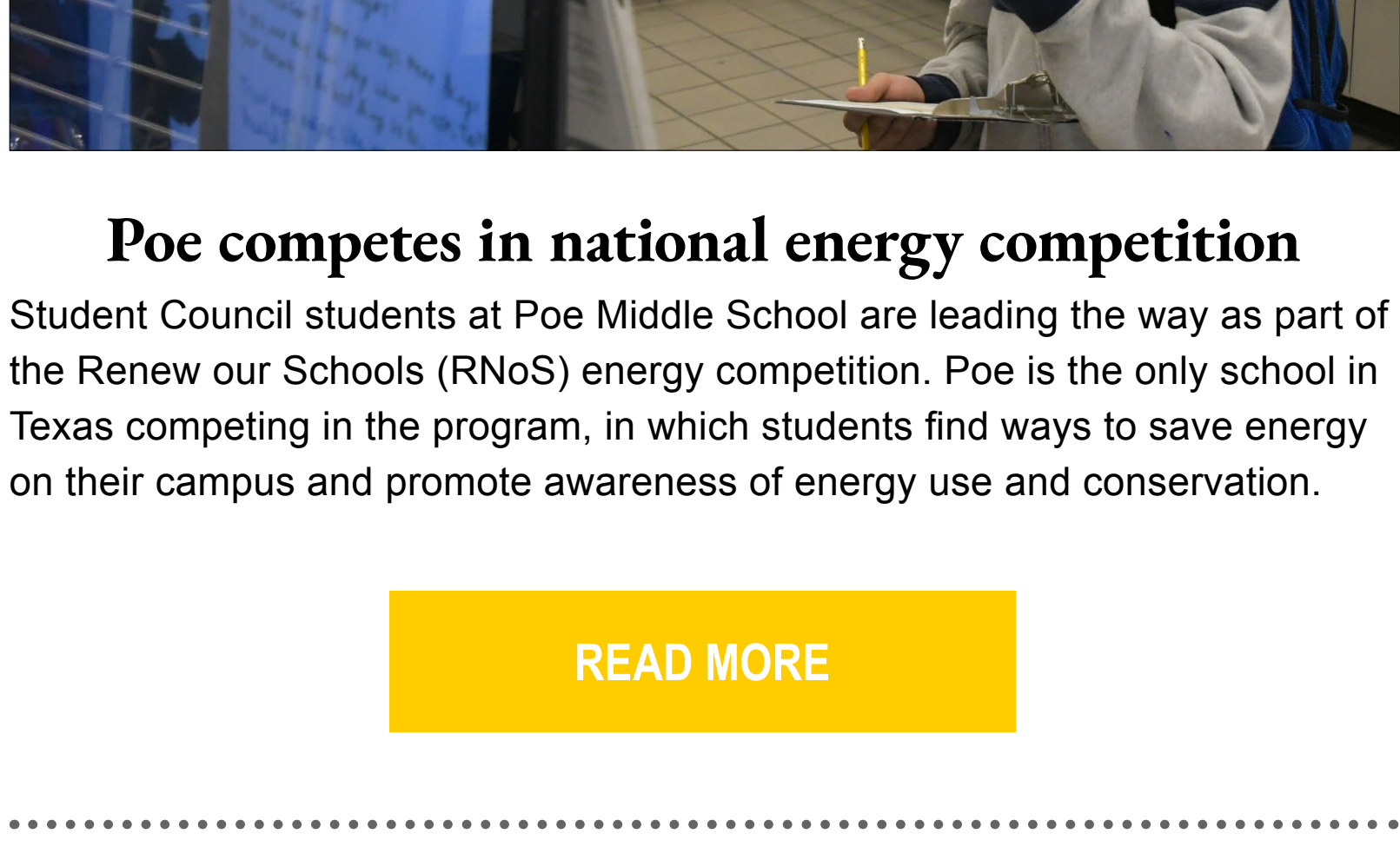
On the J.T. Brackenridge Elementary School campus, Miss Bea and Margie have seen a lot of changes. Together, they — Beatrice Blanquiz and Margarita Negrete — have more than 35 years of experience as custodians there, with over 18 and 17 years of tenure, respectively. They've met a lot of teachers, a lot of students, and they still recognize many of those students out in the community.

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Alumni, foundation honored at Inspire Awards

The SAISD Foundation hosted its annual Inspire Awards Oct. 6, honoring three distinguished alumni and one local family foundation. This year, the Foundation honored architect Boone Powell (Jefferson High School) Nature Conservancy State Director Suzanne Scott (Highlands High School), and judge Catherine Torres-Stahl, (Fox Tech High School). The Greehey Family Foundation was recognized for supporting SAISD's expansion of its dual credit offerings with a \$1.5 million gift through the SAISD Foundation over the last three years. Tomorrow, Scott and Torres-Stahl will each speak to students at their respective alma maters. Torres-Stahl will speak to female students in a talk centered around inspiring Latina women. Scott will be speaking to environmental science students and others with an interest in that area and conservation. Later this month, Powell will speak with architecture students at Jefferson High School.



Jackson wins EXCEL award for SAISD

Perry Jackson, who teaches fourth grade at Neal Elementary, was honored with the 2021 KENS 5 Credit Human EXCEL Award for SAISD. The award honors teachers' innovative practices in the classroom and during remote learning last year. "It's especially an honor because I know how hard every single teacher was working last year to make sure students had positive outcomes," Jackson said.

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Poe competes in national energy competition

Student Council students at Poe Middle School are leading the way as part of the Renew our Schools (RNoS) energy competition. Poe is the only school in Texas competing in the program, in which students find ways to save energy on their campus and promote awareness of energy use and conservation.

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Community invited to give input on bond projects

A series of community design "charrette" meetings (a French word meaning an intense period of design or planning) for the San Antonio ISD Bond 2020 program is scheduled throughout October and November 2021. Willie Burroughs, SAISD Chief Operations Officer, called the community charrette meetings an opportunity to bring everyone together to build a shared vision for the future and the improvement of our schools. The meetings kick off at Brackenridge High School tonight with focus on Brackenridge, Lamar Elementary, and Bowden Academy.

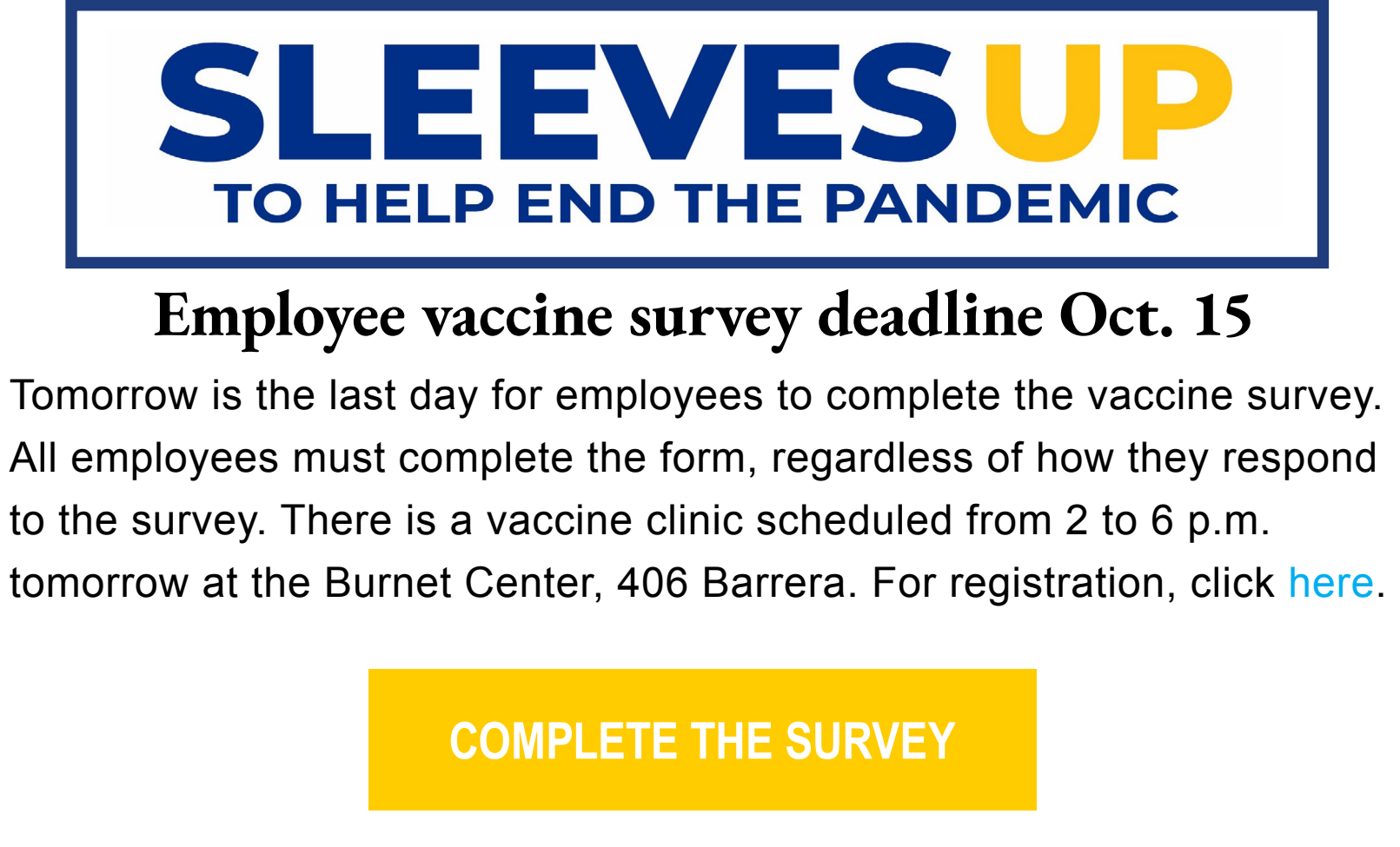
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High-tech learning in a 100-year-old classroom

Highland Park Elementary was formally established in the fall of 1914 and has created a longstanding legacy – more than 100 years' worth – of education and generations of family members attending the historic school. The area has changed dramatically over the years, and so have the educational offerings at Highland Park. The campus has evolved with the times and has now added a science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) classroom.

[READ MORE](#)



Celebrating our district coaches

October 6 was National Coaches Day. We want to thank the hundreds of coaches across the district for being mentors and leaders to our student athletes, in and out of season. You make a difference for our students, now more than ever. In honor of the day, we profiled two coaches — Coach Marissa Muniz at Highlands High School and Coach BJ Alzaid at Poe Middle School. These coaches have been building bridges and collaborations on their campuses and in their communities to give our student athletes great experiences. A big thanks to them and to all coaches for all you do.

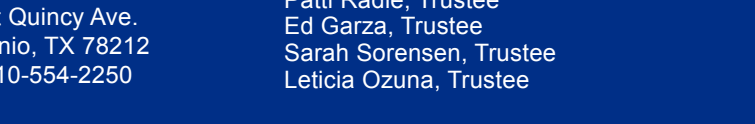
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Hispanic Heritage Month's roots in SAISD

As Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close, we want to call your attention to one of our own — Gil Coronado, a former Lanier student, who was instrumental in making the official celebration a month-long event. Here's the story of his fateful trip to Washington, D.C., that made such a big difference.

[READ MORE](#)



Jordan has a heart for second chances

October is National Principals Month. Our principals in SAISD are the best, working tirelessly to make sure teachers have all they need to support our students. This month, we will be profiling several principals. Principal Michael Jordan oversees the school at the Juvenile Detention Center. With a heart for education, he prides himself on his ability to connect with and provide education to students who may need those second chances. Follow our social media throughout the month for more principal profiles.

[READ MORE](#)

Last chance to pledge to United Way

The United Way annual giving campaign runs through Thursday, Oct. 21. The need is still great, and there is still time to set up a pledge and help your department or campus earn prizes. Help us get to 100% – all contributions have impact, no matter the amount!

[SET UP YOUR PLEDGE](#)

SLEEVES UP TO HELP END THE PANDEMIC

Employee vaccine survey deadline Oct. 15

Tomorrow is the last day for employees to complete the vaccine survey. All employees must complete the form, regardless of how they respond to the survey. There is a vaccine clinic scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Burnet Center, 406 Barrera. For registration, click [here](#).

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY](#)

Closing shots of the week

While he was in town for the SAISD Foundation's Inspire Awards, during which he served as emcee, ABC News journalist John Quifones visited two of his former schools. He first visited the students of the Media and Film Institute at Brackenridge High School.

He also visited Rhodes Middle School, where he was welcomed with fine arts performances. He met with the Rhodes News Team and students in the technology magnet.

