



insider

THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM
SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



More than 2,000 4th graders visit Burbank farm

Elementary students from across the district have visited the Burbank Agricultural Sciences Farm this week for the return of the school's Ag in the City program, the first time the event has taken place since 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. "This year we said let's bring it back and let's bring it back with a bang, so we invited all elementaries across the district," Shelby Parker, Agriculture Science Director at Burbank High School, said. The fourth-grade students visited in six groups over two days (Nov. 14 and 16), touring the farm facilities, engaging with the animals, planting seeds, making simple recipes, and learning about careers and educational opportunities in agriculture.

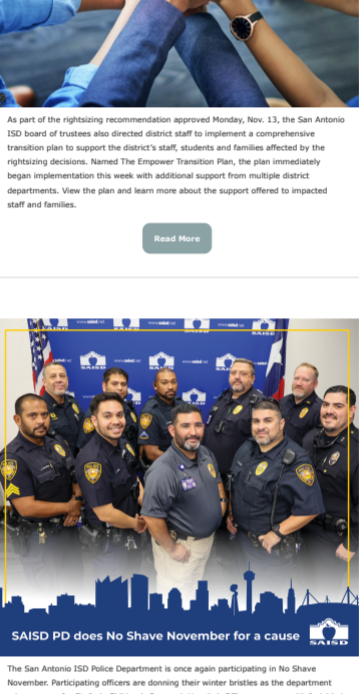
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SAISD to have representation at Macy's Parade

Highlands junior Benjamin Mendez has a lot to be thankful for this year. The trombone player in the Mighty Owl marching band is on his way to New York City tomorrow to begin rehearsals for the Macy's Great American Marching Band, a All-Star band with top musicians from all over the country tapped to march in the Macy's Day Parade on Thanksgiving. Mendez is the first musician from SAISD to have earned this distinction. What makes it even sweeter is that he was supported by the SAISD Familia, including some generous Highlands alumni, to get there.

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Travis senior shares culture with community

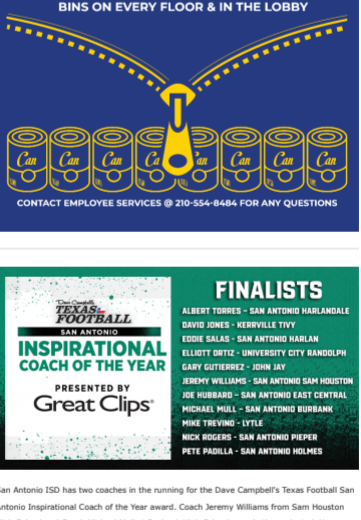
Dakota Osife has spent most of her life proudly and publicly sharing her Native American heritage through dance and other cultural activities. The Travis Early College High School senior is an enrolled member of the Navajo/Diné Nation, and a committee member of the local organization United San Antonio Novos. Osife, a College Board Class of 2023 National Indigenous Recognition Awardee, says she tries to bring Native culture to the forefront of discussion. "There's a misconception that Native Americans are not here anymore, and that Native Americans don't exist anywhere except Arizona and Oklahoma," she said. "A lot of families move out for more opportunity. We are just like everyone else. We can all look at the culture and appreciate it together."

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District staff volunteer at food drive, serving 680

SAISD, in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank, hosted a drive-through food distribution at Alamo Stadium Wednesday. More than 100 volunteers from central office, campus staff, local businesses and government agencies helped serve families who came out to receive food before the holiday week. In total, 680 families were served.



Jefferson students create art for SAMministries

Just in time for Thanksgiving, students in Louie Gutierrez's ceramics class at Jefferson High School used their talents to help fight hunger, especially in those experiencing homelessness. They partnered with SAMministries for the 23rd annual Empty Bowls Event, creating 70 bowls that in turn generated \$2,100 to help provide food and shelter for those experiencing homelessness in San Antonio. "Making the bowls really made me happy because it was going to a good cause, and I like to give back to my community," Syrus Cardenas, a ceramics student, said. "The fact that the bowls were sold for \$30 is a great feeling, knowing that people would actually buy my work for that much. These bowls maybe even changed someone's life knowing that they are loved."

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THE EMPOWER TRANSITION PLAN 2023-2024

As part of the rightsizing recommendation approved Monday, Nov. 13, the San Antonio ISD board of trustees also directed district staff to implement a comprehensive transition plan to support the district's staff, students and families affected by the rightsizing decisions. Named The Empower Transition Plan, the plan immediately began implementation this week with additional support from multiple district departments. View the plan and learn more about the support offered to impacted staff and families.

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SAISD PD does No Shave November for a cause

The San Antonio ISD Police Department is once again participating in No Shave November. Participating officers are donning their winter bristles as the department raises money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Officers you see with facial hair around the district are participating in this event. Female officers are also displaying bright colors on their nails in proud support of the children at St. Jude. The fundraiser continues throughout the month. If you would like to donate in their honor, visit the link below.

[Donate Now](#)

NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

H-E-B, Unilever fund grants on Texas Recycles Day

In partnership with Unilever and H-E-B, the SAISD Foundation held a celebration for Texas Recycles Day Wednesday at Cotton Academy (pictured), featuring a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school's new outdoor recreation area, and the celebration for the top elementary schools in the Foundation's recycling contest this fall. Supported by an in-store fundraising campaign and donations from both Unilever and H-E-B, the SAISD Foundation awarded 20 local elementary schools and academies with grants totaling \$40,000 as recognition for their recycling efforts. Top recycling campuses included first place Green Elementary, second place Mission Academy, and third place Japhet Academy, who won a bonus grant for collecting the most pounds of recyclable materials. Grants provided to the schools as well as the improvement of the outdoor recreation area at Cotton — to include seating, outdoor learning spaces, and a share structure — were funded through the partnership between Unilever and H-E-B.

Community gathers to celebrate distinguished alumni

The SAISD Foundation welcomed SAISD alumni and other community supporters to the 12th Annual Inspire Awards Nov. 6. SAISD students, including the Caballeros Distinguidos from Briscoe Elementary (pictured) welcomed guests who came to celebrate honorees Minnie Abrego-Sanchez (Highlands), Friend Goldsmith (Jefferson), Peggy Drake Holland and Leon Holland (Wheatley), and Richard of the Foundation, Patti Radle. Alumni in attendance received a gold honor cord as they entered the event. Guests could see the Foundation's grant funds at work as the Wilson Cy-Bears robotics team demonstrated what they could do with Legos; the Burbank agricultural science students showed the pigs, ducks, chickens and goats they are raising; and theatre students from the Lion King Jr. summer theatre camp displayed their costumes and props.

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REMINDERS

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COMMUNITY DRIVE

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FINALISTS

ALBERT TORRES - SAN ANTONIO HARLANDALE
DAVID JONES - KERRVILLE TIVY
EDDIE SALAS - SAN ANTONIO HARLAN
ELLIOTT ORTIZ - UNIVERSITY CITY RANDOLPH
GARY GUTIERREZ - JOHN JAY
JEREMY WILLIAMS - SAN ANTONIO EAST HOUSTON
JOE HUBBARD - SAN ANTONIO EAST CENTRAL
MICHAEL MULL - SAN ANTONIO BURBANK
MIKE TREVINO - LYTLE
NICK ROGERS - SAN ANTONIO PIEPER
PETE PADILLA - SAN ANTONIO HOLMES

San Antonio ISD has two coaches in the running for the Dave Campbell's Texas Football San Antonio Inspirational Coach of the Year award. Coach Jeremy Williams from Sam Houston High School and Coach Michael Mull at Burbank High School were both nominated. You can support them with your votes through Dec. 8.

[Vote Now](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

BOARD BYTES

Trustee Christina Martinez shares highlights from the Nov. 13, 2023 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

Nov. 11 marked Veterans Day, and campuses across the district took the opportunity to honor those in the community who have sacrificed so much with their service. Recognitions included campus ceremonies and appreciation meals as well as participation in city-wide events recognizing all those who serve and have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Pictured are: Lanier High School, Collins Garden Elementary, Forbes Elementary, Crockett Academy, Highland Hills Elementary, Harris Middle School, Young Women's Leadership Academy, and Mission Academy. On behalf of the entire SAISD Familia, we wish to express our gratitude to all of our nation's military veterans — today and everyday.

