SAISD

insider

The latest news and events from San Antonio Independent School District

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Graebner teacher receives statewide Rising Star award

Gerardo Villegas Juarez, a fifth-grade teacher at Graebner Elementary School, was named this year's statewide Rising Star elementary teacher in the H-E-B Excellence in Education awards. The honor was announced May 5 during a Zoom call organized in lieu of the statewide contest's annual banquet, a tradition modified by the coronavirus pandemic. Villegas Juarez will receive a $5,000 check and a $5,000 grant will go to his school.

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WE ♥ OUR TEACHERS

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week, SAISD!

Despite the change to virtual learning environments across the District and the nation, SAISD teachers have risen to the challenge and are doing amazing things in the digital space with our students! See below for some special 'thank you' messages for teachers.

Former San Antonio mayor Julián Castro has some words for San Antonio ISD teachers as a proud graduate!

Former San Antonio Spurs player Sean Elliott sends his appreciation for San Antonio ISD teachers.

SAISD graduate, ABC News correspondent, and current host of *What Would You Do?* John Quiñones has un gran abrazo for all teachers and special words for SAISD teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Texas Americana singer-songwriter Radney Foster wanted to share a special message, and share a song in honor of all Texas teachers.

Thank you to the SAISD Foundation and TeachersCan.org for their video contributions!

TEXAS IB SCHOOLS COLLEGE FAIR

Online College Fair for IB students

International Baccalaureate® (IB) students from Luther Burbank and Thomas Jefferson high schools will have the opportunity to attend their own college fair and still maintain social distancing rules thanks to the efforts of the Texas Council for International Studies (TCIS) and Texas IB Schools (TIBS).

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YWLA ranked one of best schools in nation

Congratulations to Young Women's Leadership Academy for coming in No. 25 in the nation among both private and public high schools in the Challenge Index. The Challenge Index is the oldest high school ranking system in the country, beginning in 1998 in both Newsweek and The Washington Post. It is the only list that does not rely on test scores, which are more a measure of student family income than school quality. It is also the only list that compares private and public schools.

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Travis senior chosen as SAC Distinguished Graduate

Each year, the academic programs at San Antonio College recognize one outstanding graduate from each program. This year, Yasmin Banuelos, a senior at Travis Early College High School, has been selected as the San Antonio College Distinguished Graduate in Liberal Arts. Yasmin will receive special recognition at the commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9, by wearing a cord to signify her status as well as have a special mark on her diploma that notates this prestigious honor. Each department's Distinguished Graduates' names are inscribed on department plaques at the conclusion of the academic year. Yasmin was a member of Gamma Sigma Girls, Girl Up, National Hispanic Honor Society, and the National Honor Society. By participating in a dual credit program with her high school and San Antonio College, she became the first in her family to attend college. Yasmin has maintained a 4.0 GPA while balancing volunteer work, academics, and extracurricular activities in both high school and college.

This is the second year in a row that a Travis student has been awarded this honor.

BOND 2016

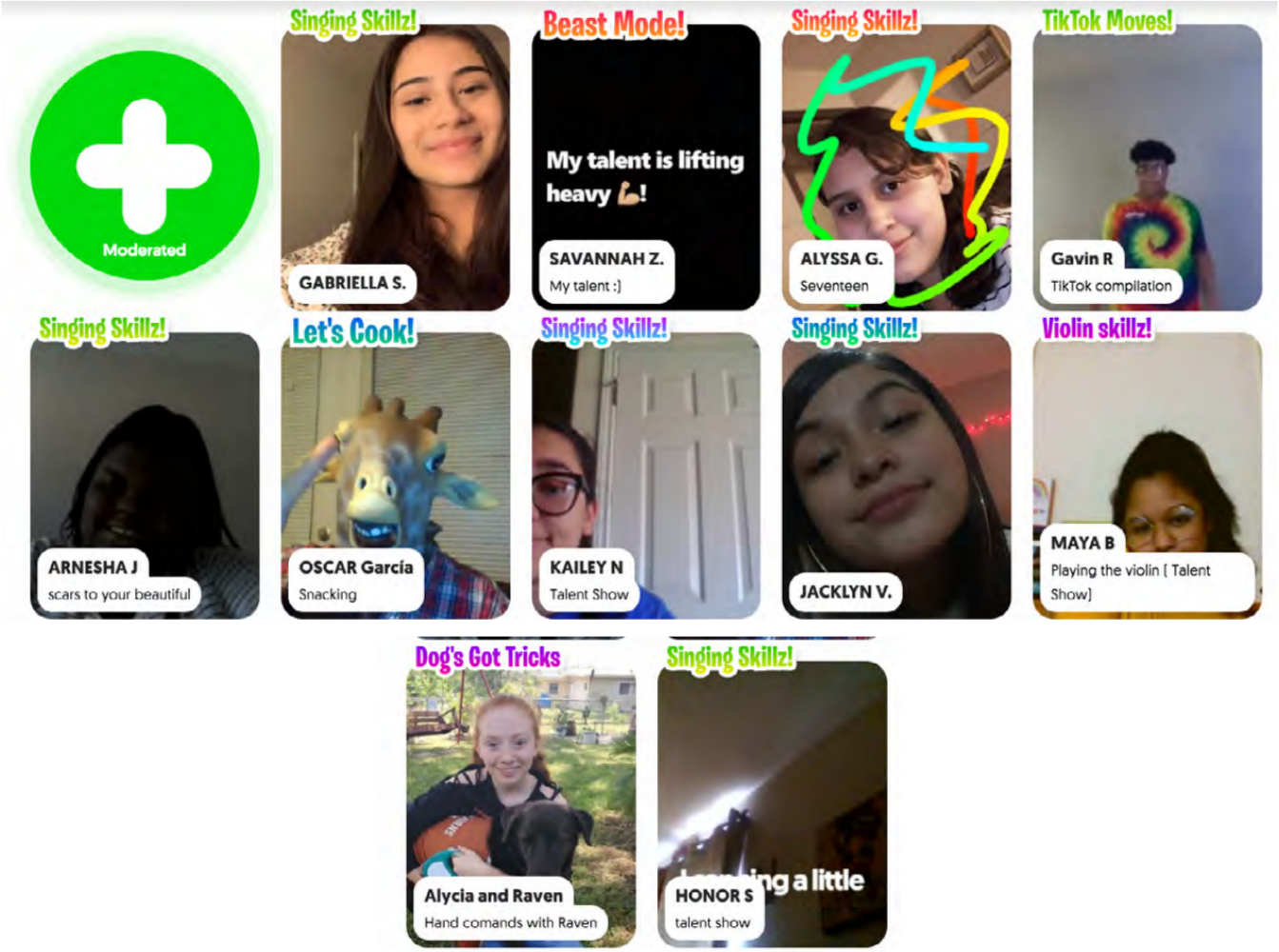
LEARN MORE ABOUT BOND 2016 HERE

<BEFORE

AFTER>

Jumping for joy in new dance space

Edison High School students will soon have the opportunity to “exercise” their creativity in a brand new dance studio space! The previous studio had a limiting 10-foot-high ceiling, where the new space features a 20-foot-high ceiling, wood floors and a state-of-the-art sound system. During a walk-through last week, Edison teachers noted the space will expand their students’ horizons, giving them the opportunity to rehearse and perform in a space that meets and exceeds state guidelines for fine arts learning.



CAST Med hosts virtual talent show

Eleven talented CAST Med students participated in the school's first-ever Virtual Talent Show on May 1. From singing, to dog training, to power-lifting, students had the chance to show off their skills to the school community.

"I thought we could use something fun to bring us all back together," said Margo Gomez, CAST Med physical education teacher and mastermind behind the talent show. "I had no clue that some of these students had those talents. I am beyond proud of them!"

Student Honor Smith placed first, Gabriella Silva placed second, and Jacklyn Vargas placed third. To view the students' talent video submissions, click on the image above.

Mask makers donate proceeds to Food Bank

CAST Tech's Aren Quiroga, a freshman, and his brother Asier Quiroga, a junior, have been on a mask-making mission. The pair made 174 face masks, selling them to the community for donations. At the end of April, the boys donated all of the money they made, $2,400, to the San Antonio Food Bank. State Farm matched the boy's donation, and more, so that almost $7,000 was donated to the SA Food Bank. The money will provide almost 50,000 meals.

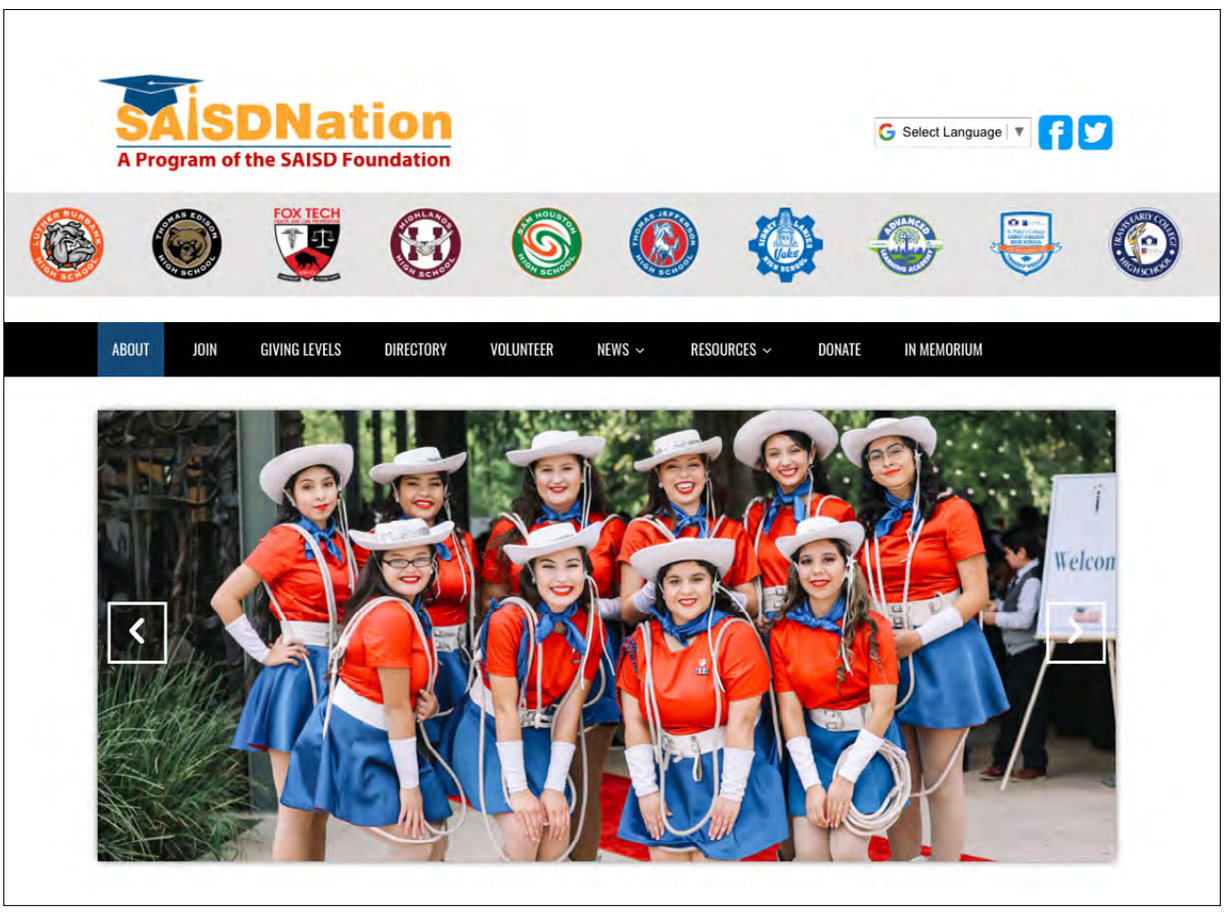
"We are just so proud of them," said Linda Quiroga, the boys' mother. "At first they were going to donate 50 percent of the profits, but then they saw a news story about all the people lined up to use the Food Bank and they decided to give 100 percent of the donations to the Food Bank."

Virtual Signing Day

Last year, 1,200 students attended Destination College's Signing Day at the Alamo Convocation Center. And this year, after the event was taken online because of COVID-19, more than 7,000 viewers were part of the online celebration. The virtual event celebrated high school seniors who have committed and are going to and through college. A number of SAISD seniors were featured during the virtual event, hosted by SA2020 and the San Antonio Education Partnership. San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and former San Antonio Mayor and HUD Secretary Julian Castro made special appearances. Click here to watch the recorded event on YouTube.

Cinco de Mayo/Teacher appreciation celebration

Will Rogers Academy planned a Teacher Appreciation Week parade to coincide with Cinco de Mayo celebrations earlier this week. Families lined the parade route, displaying handmade signs with heartfelt words of appreciation for their teachers. In addition to the celebratory activities of Will Rogers Academy, other SAISD schools are observing this special week by thanking teachers with surprise gifts, meal deliveries and additional parades.



SAISD Foundation launches "SAISD Nation" to engage alumni, friends

The San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Foundation is increasing its focus on engaging alumni and friends, launching a new digital community that will help it do just that – the SAISD Nation.

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This week's social media stars

This week's social media star is Schenck Elementary! Schenck's Facebook page is constantly updated with announcements, videos and photos that keep their students, parents and community involved during SAISD's digital learning.

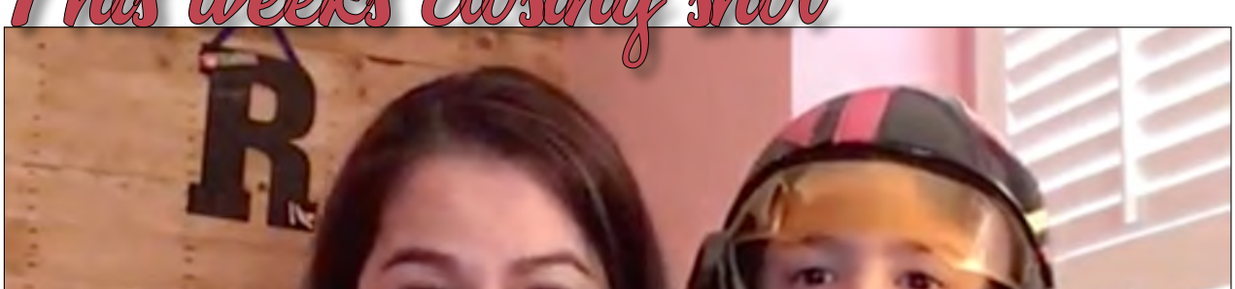
Insider staff is on the lookout for the most fun, creative, informational or educational social media posts and accounts. Please send submissions to dsilliman1@saisd.net for a chance to be featured in the next issue.

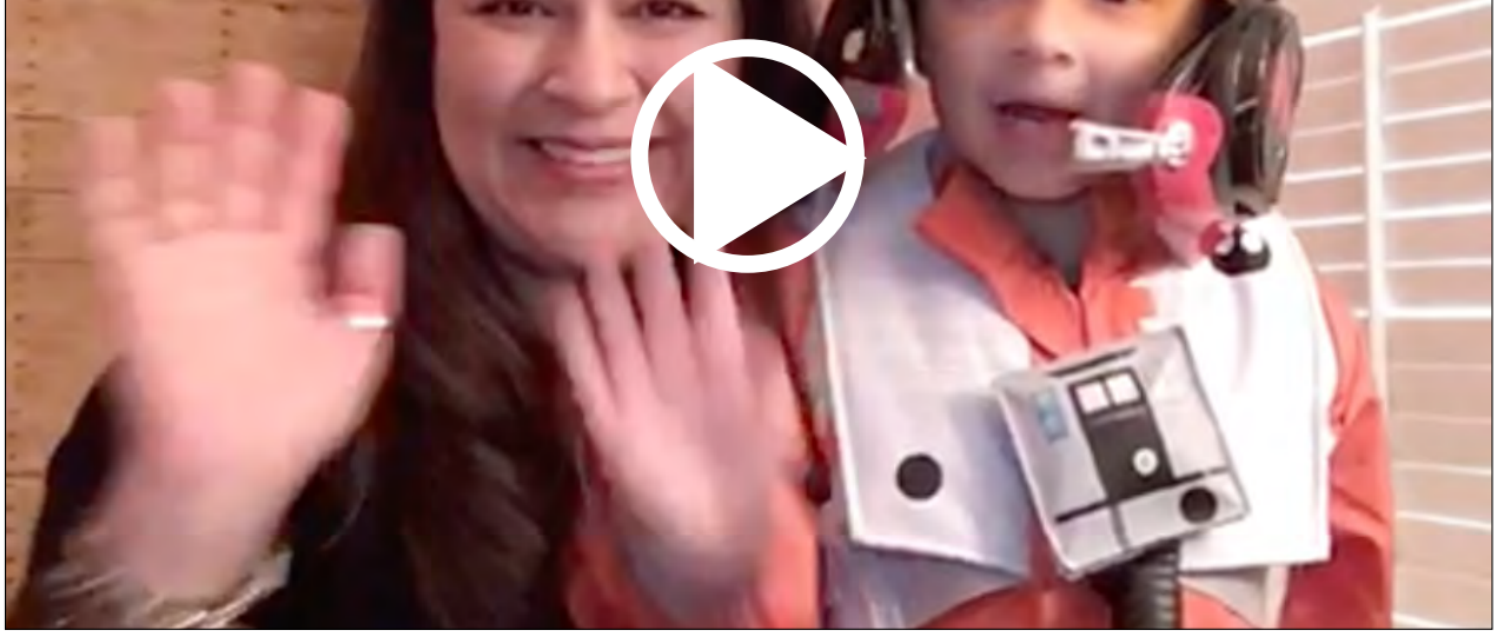
@SchenckES

Compete the 2020 Census today!

Census results have a direct effect on your political power, because they determine how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives and the makeup of state and local governments. The more accurately your community is counted, the more accurately your community will be represented. Your Census answers also determine the amount of funding your community will get for public schools, health clinics, fire departments, and more. By participating in the Census, you're strengthening your community's future. Go to www.2020Census.gov to complete the Census questionnaire online or call (844) 330-2020 to talk to a live Census employee who can help you fill out your questionnaire over the phone.

This week's closing shot





Top Three Reasons

This week, Master Pre-K Teacher Leslie-Jade Romero from Franklin Elementary School and her son Gavin tell *insider* readers the Top Three Reasons why she loves virtual teaching. See also a recent tweet of hers, which went viral. A new employee's Top Three will be featured in every issue of *insider* while employees are working remotely, so email your two minute or less video to dsilliman1@saisd.net.

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