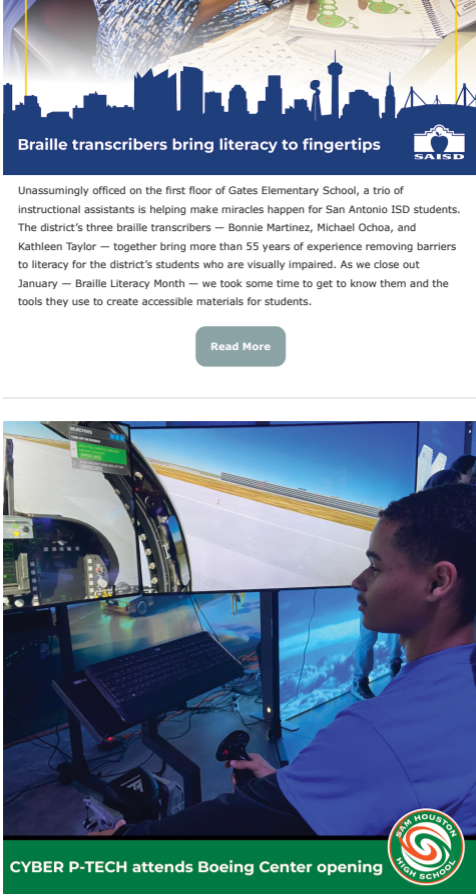


## NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



### Braille transcribers bring literacy to fingertips

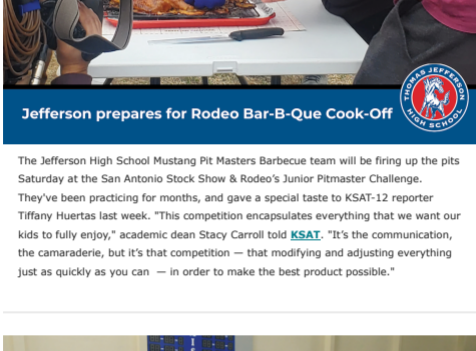
Unassumingly officed on the first floor of Gates Elementary School, a trio of instructional assistants is helping make miracles happen for San Antonio ISD students. The district's three braille transcribers — Bonnie Martinez, Michael Ochoa, and Kathleen Taylor — together bring more than 55 years of experience removing barriers to literacy for the district's students who are visually impaired. As we close out January — Braille Literacy Month — we took some time to get to know them and the tools they use to create accessible materials for students.

[Read More](#)



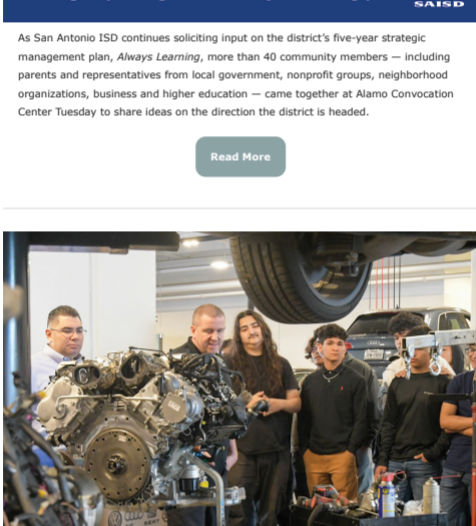
### CYBER P-TECH attends Boeing Center opening

Sam Houston High School Cyber P-TECH students attended a ceremony at Tech Port on Tuesday that celebrated the renaming of the facility as The Boeing Center. Students and staff enjoyed the new flight simulators and other STEM activities at San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology Area 21. "It was an amazing surprise," senior Jacob Owens, who hopes to become a pilot, said. "I definitely liked the flight simulator. I felt like a little kid; it was just amazing."



### Schenck robotics team attends Spurs STEM Fest

The Schenck Elementary robotics team had the opportunity to attend the Spurs STEM Fest last week. With sponsorship from Valero, the nine fourth and fifth graders who comprise the team enjoyed interactive exhibits about all things science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. To top off the fun, they each received vouchers for themselves and two guests to the Spurs game Friday night. "The students loved coding the robots and playing the cybersecurity game," digital librarian and robotics teacher Janeth Renshaw-Montero said. They made hover crafts and rockets, learned some basic hacking skills, used virtual reality to fly planes and drones, and built a computer. "They loved it all," Renshaw-Montero said, "including learning about how STEM offers skills for future careers and opportunities."



### Jefferson prepares for Rodeo Bar-B-Que Cook-Off

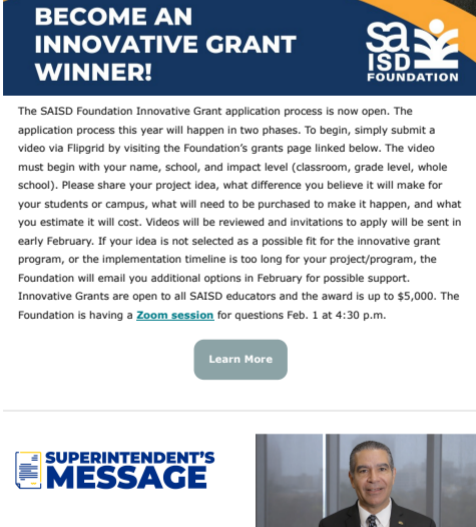
The Jefferson High School Mustang Pit Masters Barbecue team will be firing up the pits Saturday at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo's Junior Pitmaster Challenge. They've been practicing for months, and gave a special taste to KSAT-12 reporter Tiffany Huertas last week. "This competition encapsulates everything that we want our kids to fully enjoy," academic dean Stacy Carroll told [KSAT](#). "It's the communication, the camaraderie, but it's that competition — that modifying and adjusting everything just as quickly as you can — in order to make the best product possible."



### Focus groups weigh in on Always Learning plan

As San Antonio ISD continues soliciting input on the district's five-year strategic management plan, *Always Learning*, more than 40 community members — including parents and representatives from local government, nonprofit groups, neighborhood organizations, business and higher education — came together at Alamo Convocation Center Tuesday to share ideas on the direction the district is headed.

[Read More](#)



### Lanier Auto visits Cavender Audi lab repair facility

Lanier Auto Tech students visited Cavender Audi and toured the auto lab repair facility. They met the technicians and learned about the skill sets needed to become successful in the auto industry. At the end of the visit, the students got to see one of two vehicles The Cavender Auto Group is donating to the Lanier Auto Tech department — a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe. The relationship was facilitated by the SAISD Foundation. "We are working to bring more deep partnerships like this to specific programs," Foundation executive director Judy Geelhoed said.



### Choice schools share offerings at mini-fairs

Eighth grade mini-fairs were hosted at campuses throughout the district from Jan. 3-17. The fairs were small, expo-style presentations provided by SAISD high school representatives. Students had the opportunity to meet and visit representatives from 17 high school programs. Many of the high school presentations were led by students, giving eighth graders peer-to-peer information about their academic options. The fairs provided eighth grade students with the opportunity to gather information to make informed decisions regarding high school offerings. Over 3,000 eighth grade students participated in the mini-fairs.

## NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION



### BECOME AN INNOVATIVE GRANT WINNER!

The SAISD Foundation Innovative Grant application process is now open. The application process this year will happen in two phases. To begin, simply submit a video via Flipgrid by visiting the Foundation's grants page linked below. The video must begin with your name, school, and impact level (classroom, grade level, whole school). Please share your project idea, what difference you believe it will make for your students or campus, what will need to be purchased to make it happen, and what you estimate it will cost. Videos will be reviewed and invitations to apply will be sent in early February. If your idea is not selected as a possible fit for the innovative grant program, or the implementation timeline is too long for your project/program, the Foundation will email you additional options in February for possible support. Innovative Grants are open to all SAISD educators and the award is up to \$5,000. The Foundation is having a [Zoom session](#) for questions Feb. 1 at 4:30 p.m.

[Learn More](#)

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Watch the superintendent's latest *Quick Takes* with Jaime Velasco.

### BOARD BYTES



Trustee Patti Radle shares highlights from the Jan. 23, 2023 board meeting.

## CLOSING SHOTS



Many members of the San Antonio ISD Familia celebrated the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through [multiple activities last week](#). Pictured are the Young Men's Leadership Academy band at the school's 5K run, Sam Houston High School marching band at the city's 36th annual march and celebration, M.L. King Academy students speaking at the city march's opening ceremony, Bowden Academy and Nelson Early Childhood Education Center at their campus-based marches, and St. Philip's Early College High School at the city march.



