

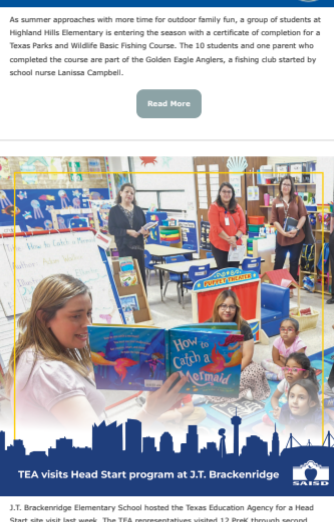
## NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



### Children's Cabinet draws local, national leaders

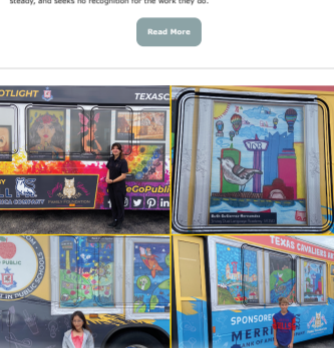
A major step in the implementation of the district's *Always Learning* strategic management plan, the SAISD Children's Cabinet launched Wednesday, May 24. A diverse group of 77 students, parents, educators, community members and national leaders gathered in person and on Zoom in the first meeting of the external advisory board that will help the district create the conditions for all students to thrive. "Since I got here a little over a year ago, I wanted to launch a Children's Cabinet," Superintendent Dr. Jaime Aquino said. "It is crucial to ensure that our children are not overlooked in our policymaking and in our implementation strategy and that's why we are here."

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### Student Advisory Committee wraps up year of service

The Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee ended their year of service in grand style: with a lavish banquet on the 22nd floor of the Hilton Palacio del Rio in downtown San Antonio. The groups of student leaders from across the district presented their proposals for improving school safety and increasing mental health treatment across the district. It was an emotional afternoon that served as the conclusion of many hours this year discussing ways to improve the student experience at SAISD. Thank you for your service and your voices!



### District receives two grants for student job training

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded San Antonio ISD two Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grants. SAISD received a total of \$746,442 in funding to purchase equipment to support dual credit programming at Edison, Fox Tech, and Highlands High School. Fox Tech and Edison used funds to purchase several 3D anatomy visualization and virtual dissection tables for anatomy and physiology courses in partnership with San Antonio College. Highlands High School used the funds to purchase manufacturing training units for dual credit courses through St. Philip's College. Pictured are Bryan Daniel, Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission and check signer, and Dr. Johnny Vahalik, Assistant Superintendent of College, Career and Military Readiness.



### Campus fishing club prepares students for a catch

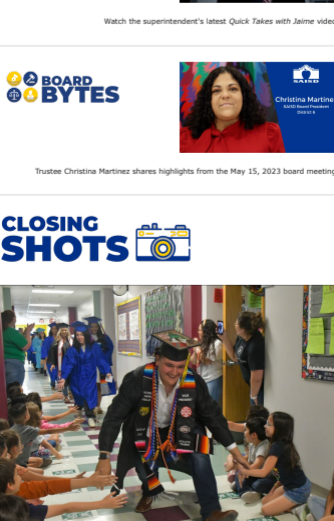
As summer approaches with more time for outdoor family fun, a group of students at Highland Hills Elementary is entering the season with a certificate of completion for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Basic Fishing Course. The 10 students and one parent who completed the course are part of the Golden Eagle Anglers, a fishing club started by school nurse Lanissa Campbell.

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### TEA visits Head Start program at J.T. Brackenridge

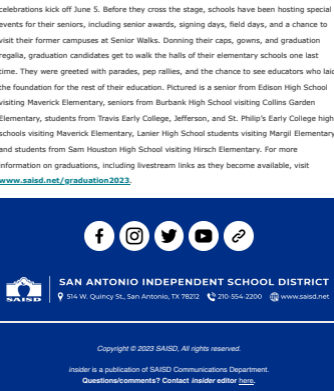
J.T. Brackenridge Elementary School hosted the Texas Education Agency for a Head Start site visit last week. The TEA representatives visited 12 PreK through second grade classrooms, took a bus tour of the neighborhood surrounding the school, and participated in round-table discussions to learn more about Early Childhood Education and the other special population centralized supports the district provides, as well as how TEA can support districts in offering these services. "Early childhood is a critical time for our scholars, and we are holding high expectations for them — always learning!" principal Marco Morales said. "It's important to ensure their tasks are developmentally appropriate as we serve 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds. The work is hard, and our scholars and families experience many challenges, but ZIP codes will not be a determining factor in their academic success here at J.T or SAISD, and it's important for TEA to see that and understand how they can support our work."



### Douglass teacher wins inaugural Lighthouse Award

Douglass bilingual kindergarten teacher Blanca Hernández is a recipient of one of 10 inaugural HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) Lighthouse Awards given to teachers across the nation. Formally announced May 8 for Teacher Appreciation Week, the awards from the learning technology company, in partnership with acclaimed speaker and author of *The Lighthouse Effect*, Steve Pemberton, were given to teachers who embody the key characteristics of a teacher lighthouse — someone who is humble, steady, and seeks no recognition for the work they do.

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### Student artwork appears on side of VIA buses

The work of four talented San Antonio ISD artists is now featured on VIA Metropolitan Transit buses. Go Public revealed the bus wraps featuring winners from their high school art contest and the Texas Cavaliers River Parade elementary art contest Saturday. Congratulations to Ruby Gamez from Brackenridge High School, Ruth Gutierrez-Hernandez from Irving Dual Language Academy, Metz Juaquez Aguilar from Herff Elementary, and Otto Hargeshimer from the Advanced Learning Academy. We can't wait to spot your work rolling around town!



### Campuses celebrate completing registration goals

As many members of our SAISD Familia are getting ready to go on summer break, schools have been working hard, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, to make sure students are enrolled and ready for next year. It's a lot of work to assist families with technology and make sure they have everything they need, but two campuses — Storm Elementary and Hillcrest Elementary — are already at 100% registration for next year. The secrets for both of them are a dedicated staff and data clerks committed to helping families get ready for next year. Pictured is Dorothy Gamez, data clerk at Storm.

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### CAST Med DEPOT team earns council nod

Team DEPOT at CAST Med, four young women who are working on social disparities of health and diabetes prevention, and who won the statewide Speak Up Speak Out civics fair, were recognized at City Council last week, receiving a citation from the City. "This honor is a true testament of your willingness to use innovation and your knowledge to raise awareness of health," the citation read. "Your presentation on this disease and social determinants of health, earned your school funds to implement this impressive project at the local level. The team's poise, unwavering focus, and collaborative efforts are emblematic of San Antonio's excellence."



### Congratulations 2023 SAISD Dell Scholars

As they get ready to transition to college, 13 district seniors have received the great news that they are 2023 Dell Scholars. The students — from CAST Med High School and Travis Early College High School — are part of a group of 500 Dell Scholars nationwide who will receive a \$20,000 scholarship, a Dell laptop, textbook credits, and personalized, multi-faceted support.

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### Tynan principal receives city Head Start award

Gregorio Velazquez, principal of Tynan Early Childhood Education Center, has won the 2023 David Chavarría Award for Head Start leaders. Velazquez, who has been in education for 19 years, has spent the last 10 serving as principal of the Tynan campus. "I am overjoyed, surprised, and thankful," Velazquez said of receiving the award. "I get to work with amazing teachers, staff, and parents every single day in the East Side of San Antonio. I personally feel that as teachers and administrators in early childhood, we are the catalyst to change our nation's future, one PreK student at a time." The award, in its third year, is named for the former principal at Knox Early Childhood campus, and honors the hard work of Head Start leaders who exceed expectations and contribute to the success and growth of the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Head Start and Early Head Start Child-Care Partnership program.



### District Teacher of Year receives city-wide award

Christopher Reese, theatre teacher at Sam Houston High School and SAISD Distinguished Teacher of the Year for the high school level, was named the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award by the Alamo Area Alliance of Black School Educators at a banquet last week. An alumnus of SAISD, he attended Pershing and Douglass Elementary Schools, Poe Middle School and graduated from Highlands High School. He has now been teaching in the district for the last six years. "I was generally surprised that I'd now considering I was surrounded by so many examples of excellence," Reese said. "That room was full of love and the conviction that we are doing the best we can for students. Winning this award is an indication that someone has seen what I do with and for my students and validates the decision to become an educator even when education is not truly appreciated in this country. Great educators brought me here, and it is my job to simply pay it forward. My teachers invested in me, and now it's my turn to invest in my students."



### Alumni help surprise students with scholarships

It's been a whirlwind month of delivering good news for the SAISD Foundation, first surprising teachers with Innovative Grants, and now surprising students across the district with scholarships to help pay for their first years of college. In several cases, scholarship donors and school alumni were present to help make the award. On Monday, Burbank alumni surprised Christopher Mendez (above) with the Luther Burbank First Generation Scholarship, funded by the class of 2001. It was one of 14 scholarships totaling \$21,500 awarded at Burbank on Monday, one of the first stops the Foundation made this week.

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### Supervisor's MESSAGE

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



### BOARD BYTES

Trustee Christina Martinez shares highlights from the May 15, 2023 board meeting.



### CLOSING SHOTS



Graduation is growing near — students from across the district have begun traveling to Alamo Convocation Center and Alamo Stadium for rehearsals before the seven days of celebrations kick off June 5. Before they cross the stage, schools have been hosting special events for their seniors, including senior awards, signing days, field days, and a chance to visit their former campuses at Senior Walks. Donning their caps, gowns, and graduation regalia, graduation candidates get to walk the halls of their elementary schools one last time. They were greeted with parades, pep rallies, and the chance to see educators who laid the foundation for the rest of their education. Pictured is a senior from Edison High School visiting Maverick Elementary, seniors from Burbank High School visiting Collins Garden Elementary, students from Travis Early College, Jefferson, and St. Philip's Early College high schools visiting Maverick Elementary, Lanier High School students visiting Margil Elementary, and students from Sam Houston High School visiting Hirsch Elementary. For more information on graduations, including livestream links as they become available, visit [www.saisd.net/graduation2023](http://www.saisd.net/graduation2023).