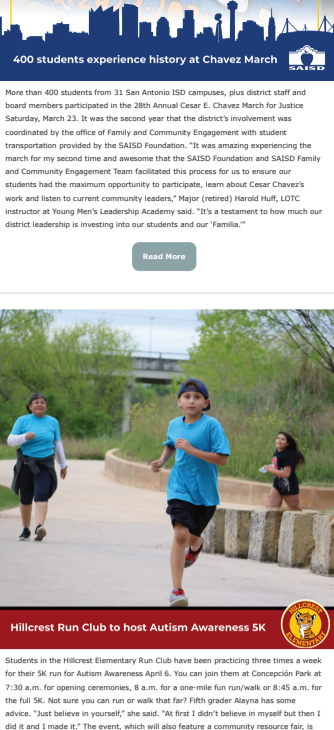


NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



400 students experience history at Chavez March

More than 400 students from 31 San Antonio ISD campuses, plus district staff and board members participated in the 28th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice Saturday, March 23. It was the second year that the district's involvement was coordinated by the office of Family and Community Engagement with student transportation provided by the SAISD Foundation. "It was amazing experiencing the march for my second time and awesome that the SAISD Foundation and SAISD Family and Community Engagement Team facilitated this process for us to ensure our students had the maximum opportunity to participate, learn about Cesar Chavez's work and listen to current community leaders," Major (retired) Harold Huff, LOTC instructor at Young Men's Leadership Academy said. "It's a testament to how much our district leadership is investing into our students and our 'Familia.'"

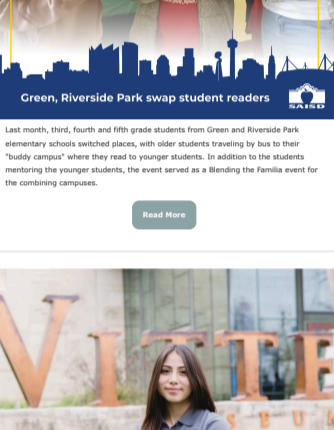
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Hillcrest Run Club to host Autism Awareness 5K

Students in the Hillcrest Elementary Run Club have been practicing three times a week for their 5K run for Autism Awareness April 6. You can join them at Conception Park at 7:30 a.m. for opening ceremonies, 8 a.m. for a one-mile fun run/walk or 8:45 a.m. for the full 5K. Not sure you can run or walk that far? Fifth grader Alayna has some advice. "Just believe in yourself," she said. "At first I didn't believe in myself but then I did it and I made it." The event, which will also feature a community resource fair, is free and open to the public. Over the last year, the student run club has been building their physical fitness as well as social-emotional health through the after-school activity.

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Families at MLK, Miller receive LEGOs, literacy lessons

Because of the generosity of donors to the Leah's Lego Kits program, 77 first grade students between M.L. King Academy and Dorie Miller Elementary have new LEGO kits to use with their families at home. The students are the latest beneficiaries of the fundraiser of Leah Hernandez, a St. Philip's Early College High School student who has been collecting LEGO kits and funds to provide engaging STEM materials to young engineers. These most recent events mark three campuses of first graders who have received LEGO kits from the program. During the event, Family Hour, a program within The Office of Family and Community Engagement, collaborated with the event sponsor to model literacy strategies with families and students that can be used at home to support student academic outcomes. Each family in attendance received a book and reading guide to add to their home library. LEGO kits were donated by the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions, San Antonio Police Department Central Safe Unit and the Texas Disper Bank.

[Read More](#)



New middle school to open at CAST Med

San Antonio ISD and CAST Schools officially announced CAST Imagine Middle School at a ceremony March 6. CAST Imagine Middle School will provide students with experiences to discover their passions, identify their strengths, and create any future they can imagine. Families who attended the event were welcomed with an open house tour full of STEM activities.

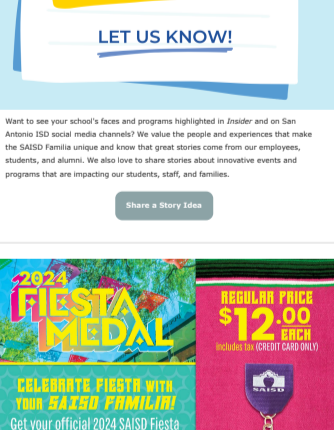
[Read More](#)



District educators build gardens at Madison campus

More than 20 educators from schools across the district gathered at Madison Elementary before spring break for a kick-off workshop celebrating a partnership between Gardopia Gardens, Big Green, and San Antonio ISD. The new program will invest \$250,000 in SAISD schools to boost school garden initiatives and aims to expand grant opportunities while supporting local food and school garden projects across San Antonio.

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Green, Riverside Park swap student readers

Last month, third, fourth and fifth grade students from Green and Riverside Park elementary schools switched places, with older students traveling by bus to their "buddy campus" where they read to younger students. In addition to the students mentoring the younger students, the event served as a Blending the Familia effort for the combining campuses.

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IB student expands goals through virtual exchange

Alma was an International Baccalaureate (IB) student in her second year at Jefferson High School when she joined Culturingu's Global Social Entrepreneurship Journey (GSEJ). Through engagement with Libyan students in this project-based exchange, Alma came out of the program a more knowledgeable and motivated student. Before participating in Culturingu's GSEJ, Alma thought she would go into a career in environmental law, as a result of her previous experiences working on local climate initiatives. After being pushed to look at climate issues on a global scale, she realized that there was another aspect of environmental law that intrigued her: international environmental law.

[Read More](#)



P-TECH students tour Bond construction site

A group of Highlands High School P-TECH students got an up-close look at the construction industry on Wednesday when they received a personal tour of the Highlands High School Bond 2020 construction site. Frank Garcia, senior superintendent for Satterfield & Pontikes Construction, Inc., the project's general contractor, led the tour, touching on topics ranging from the basics of building foundations to building performance and sustainability. Tour stops included the two new weight rooms and the competition gym, which, when completed, will have a capacity of just over 1,000. A new practice gym, training room, mat room for wrestling, and new restrooms are also included in the project, which is scheduled to be completed by fall. P-TECH at Highlands, an early college high school in partnership with St. Philip's College, provides students the opportunity to earn an associate degree and industry-approved certifications in the areas of aerospace, engineering, manufacturing and welding.

ALA hosts virtual meeting with astronaut

NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara spoke with students at the Advanced Learning Academy on March 8 from aboard the International Space Station. The event also featured a STEAM Fair where students showcased STEM projects related to astronomy, astronautics and space technology. Community partners San Antonio River Authority and the San Antonio Astronomical Association also partnered with ALA for this out-of-this-world event.

Attendance drawing sends student to Drake show

Leslie Ortiz (right), a Burbank 10th grader, had the surprise of a lifetime when she learned she was the school's winner of a pair of tickets to the sold-out Drake concert that took place on March 15. The drawing was one of the latest initiatives at Burbank targeted at increasing student attendance. The school, which also employs monthly incentives such as pizza parties, attendance bags, competitions and family outreach, has raised its daily attendance rate by 3.7% over 2022-2023. What made this particular incentive special was that it was initiated by a parent. Juan Ramirez (left) is a 2000 graduate of Burbank, has two children at Burbank, and is a member of the IB parent boosters.

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NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

Foundation offers transportation grants for field trips

Field trips bring one-dimensional lessons to life and provide hands-on learning to make concepts memorable, and that's why the SAISD Foundation works to grow these valuable experiences and ensure they are accessible to all our students by covering transportation costs for one grade level, per school, per year. The first five months of this school year, the Foundation transported more than 3,300 students from 36 schools to field trips around the area. Can you help? Just \$100 gets the wheels on another bus rolling for more student experiences. You can join in the efforts by donating with "Field Trips" in the comments.

[Support a field trip](#)

REMINDERS

Have a STORY?

LET US KNOW!

Want to see your school's faces and programs highlighted in *Insider* and on San Antonio ISD social media channels? We value the people and experiences that make the SAISD Familia unique and know that great stories come from our employees, students, and alumni. We also love to share stories about innovative events and programs that are impacting our students, staff, and families.

[Share a Story Idea](#)

2024 FIESTA MEDAL

CELEBRATE FIESTA WITH YOUR SAISD FAMILIA!
Get your official 2024 SAISD Fiesta Medal before they're all gone!

Available while supplies last at:
CENTRAL OFFICE PRINTING SERVICES
514 W. Quincey St. | San Antonio, Texas 78212
(210) 554-8350 | www.saisd.net/printingservices

REGULAR PRICE \$12.00 EACH
Includes tax (CREDIT CARD ONLY)

SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Fiesta is coming! Now is the time to order your 2024 commemorative SAISD Fiesta Medal, complete with paper picado charms. Medals are \$10 this week and \$12 starting April 1. Stop by Printing Services on the first floor of the Central Office building to get yours today. Credit cards only.

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

BOARD BYTES

Trustee Christina Martinez shares highlights from the March 19, 2024 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

On your mark, get set, GO! Our Special Olympians have been demonstrating their athleticism at track meets this month. In addition to sharing smiles with teachers and coaches, athletes also received encouragement from student volunteers from high schools and academies. The joy and accomplishment our students experience in Special Olympics are contagious.