

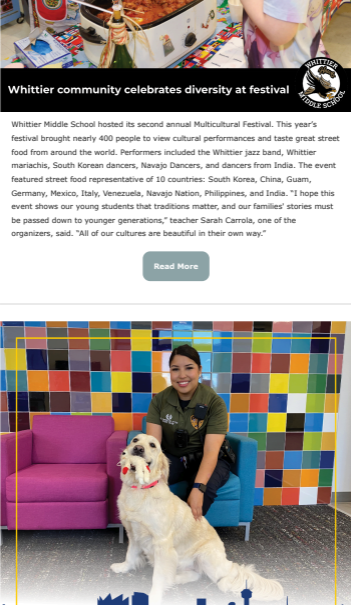
NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



Eclipse event takes science learning outdoors

Members of the SAISD community had their eyes to the skies — with safety glasses, of course — Monday afternoon as The Great American Eclipse passed through the region. Campuses used the opportunity for specialized hands-on science instruction, and many hosted watch parties where students, staff, and even families could witness the rare celestial event together. As totality fell across parts of the district, cheers and gasps erupted as students, and even adults, experienced nighttime in the afternoon for the first time.

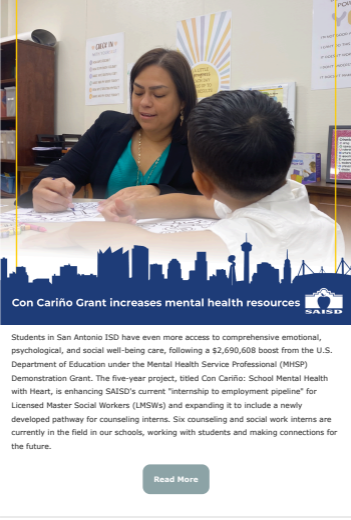
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Summer meals program receives national award

San Antonio ISD Child Nutrition Services received "The Turnip the Beet Award – Gold" from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its efforts in summer meals during Summer 2023. The Turnip the Beet Award recognizes outstanding summer meal program sponsors across the nation who work hard to offer high quality meals to children that are appetizing, appealing, and nutritious during the summer months. Announced in March, this year's awards from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service recognized 140 summer meal sponsors nationwide for excellence in program year 2023: 18 qualified for a bronze award; 67 qualified for a silver award; and 55 sponsors, including SAISD, qualified for gold.

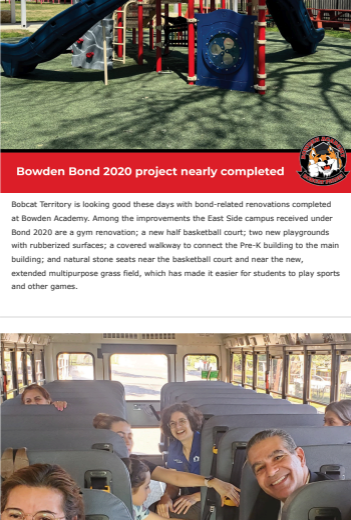
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Tynan brings love and learning to young students

As families and staff get to know each other through blending events, we continue to celebrate the history and culture that closing campuses will take with them to new parts of the district next year. As part of the nationally celebrated Week of the Young Child, we invite you to take an intimate look inside at Tynan Early Childhood Education Center and witness the love, joy, and learning that goes on with some of SAISD's littles learners, and teachers and staff.

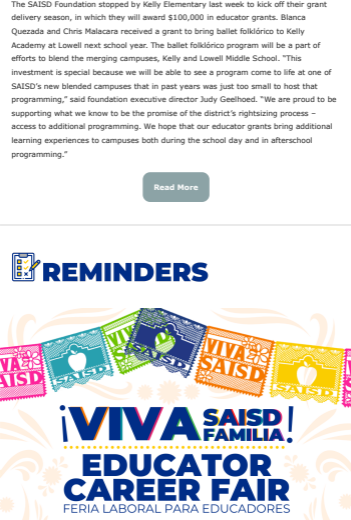
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Whittier community celebrates diversity at festival

Whittier Middle School hosted its second annual Multicultural Festival. This year's festival brought nearly 400 people to view cultural performances and taste great street food from around the world. Performers included the Whittier jazz band, Whittier mariachis, South Korean dancers, Navajo Dancers, and dancers from India. The event featured street food representative of 10 countries: South Korea, China, Guam, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Venezuela, Navajo Nation, Philippines, and India. "I hope this event shows our young students that traditions matter, and our families' stories must be passed down to younger generations," teacher Sarah Carrola, one of the organizers, said. "All of our cultures are beautiful in their own way."

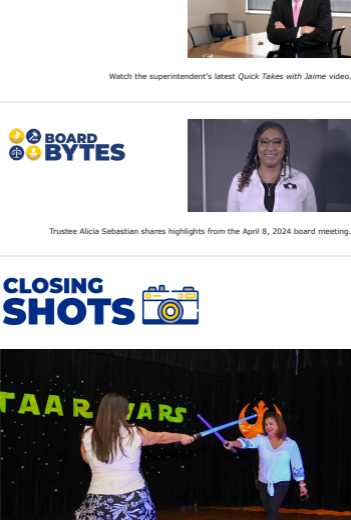
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CARE Team officer assists citizen in distress

It was definitely a case of being at the right place at the right time. Officer Monica Carreon, a member of the SAISD Police Mental Health CARE Team, was driving on Interstate 35 when she saw a woman in distress on the edge of an overpass. With her quick thinking and genuine love for people, Carreon was able to safely get the woman away from the ledge. "I just happened to be passing by," she said. "I'm glad I was there. I help out as much as I can, but I think anyone would really. I just happened to be the one to stop."

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Academic dean works to make math relatable

Maria Mengrone remembers the challenges of learning math. "I struggled with it in high school. I told myself, 'I'm done struggling with this. I'm going to conquer it,'" Mengrone recalls. "And I did it. I earned my mathematics degree." Now, the academic math dean, a 14-year veteran at Sam Houston High School, focuses on making math engaging for her students by making lessons culturally relevant.

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Con Cariño Grant increases mental health resources

Students in San Antonio ISD have even more access to comprehensive emotional, psychological, and social well-being care, following a \$2,690,608 boost from the U.S. Department of Education under the Mental Health Service Professional (MHSP) Demonstration Grant. The five-year project, titled Con Cariño: School Mental Health with Heart, is enhancing SAISD's current "internship to employment pipeline" for Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSWs) and expanding it to include a newly developed pathway for counseling interns. Six counseling and social work interns are currently in the field in our schools, working with students and making connections for the future.

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Pre-K students help design outdoor play area

The Advanced Learning Academy at Euclid held a ribbon cutting for their new outdoor area "The Pre-K Playland," which features several project-based learning spaces that were student led, and kid approved. "They came up with their own ideas and we helped implement them," Pre-K teacher Tomeka Brown said. "We gave them a few guidelines and we let them explore. They watched different types of play from different grade levels. They were able to create the things they needed and decide what centers they wanted." Parents, volunteers and community experts partnered with Pre-K teachers and students to create fun learning spaces for music, reading, science and much more.

Bowden Bond 2020 project nearly completed

Bobcat Territory is looking good these days with bond-related renovations completed at Bowden Academy. Among the improvements the East Side campus received under Bond 2020 are a gym renovation; a new half basketball court; two new playgrounds with rubberized surfaces; a covered walkway to connect the Pre-K building to the main building; and natural stone seats near the basketball court and near the new, extended multipurpose grass field, which has made it easier for students to play sports and other games.

Families try safety features, bus routes for 24-25

Trustee Leticia Ozuna and Superintendent Jaime Aquino joined students and parents at Ball Elementary last week for the Ride the Bus with Us event. Members of the SAISD transportation department gave out free books and created families to safety demonstrations and previews of bus routes for the coming year. The event was part of a continuing series developed to give parents and children across the district the opportunity to experience the routes they will be traveling in the 2024-25 school year. Check the schedule below to find an event near you.

[See Schedule](#)

NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION

Kelly Academy at Lowell receives folklorico grant

The SAISD Foundation stopped by Kelly Elementary last week to kick off their grant delivery season, in which they will award \$100,000 in educator grants. Blanca Quetzada and Chris Malacara received a grant to bring ballet folklorico to Kelly Academy at Lowell next school year. The ballet folklorico program will be a part of efforts to blend the merging campuses, Kelly and Lowell Middle School. "This investment is special because we will be able to see a program come to life at one of SAISD's new blended campuses that in past years was just too small to host that programming," said foundation executive director Judy Geelhood. "We are proud to be supporting what we know to be the promise of the district's rightsizing process — access to additional programming. We hope that our educator grants bring additional learning experiences to campuses both during the school day and in afterschool programming."

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REMINDERS

VIVA SAISD FAMILIA!
EDUCATOR CAREER FAIR
FERIA LABORAL PARA EDUCADORES

April 13, 2024
13 de abril de 2024

9 AM - 12 PM

Lanier High School
1514 W. César E. Chávez Blvd., 78207

RSVP
Confirme asistencia

saisd.net/FiestaJobFair

Know someone who is looking to join the #SAISDFamilia? We're having an educator career fair this Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to noon at Lanier High School. There will be on-site hiring and in-person interviews — plus mariachis, folklorico and Fiesta celebrations. Walk-ins are welcome or share the link to RSVP below.

[RSVP Here](#)

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. Quinley 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 only one week away! Now is the time to order your 2024 commemorative SAISD Fiesta Medal, complete with papel picado charms. Medals are \$12. 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 Alicia Sebastian shares highlights from the April 8, 2024 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

It's officially STAAR time and SAISD students are ready! We've loved watching your pep rallies and celebrations of the work that has gone into preparing students for STAAR testing, which started Tuesday. We're cheering for all our students as they work through the tests these next few weeks, knowing that they have received the best preparation from our instructional staff. Pictured are pep rallies at Irving Dual Language Academy, Sarah King Elementary, and Franklin Elementary, but we'd be remiss not to show you the [Bevonce-inspired song](#) that Cameron Elementary made for their students.

