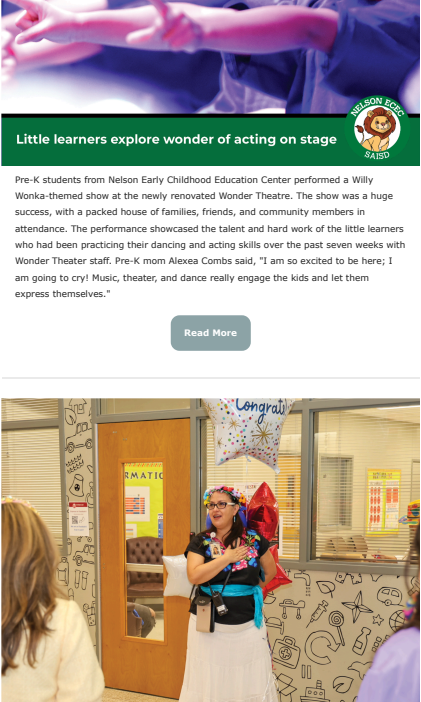




NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

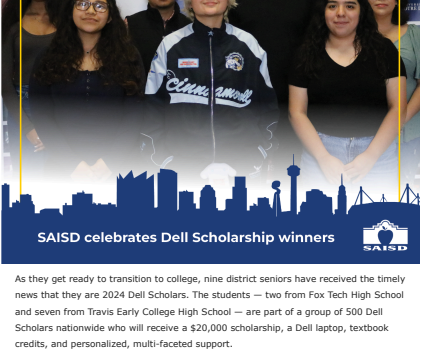


Little learners explore wonder of acting on stage



Pre-K students from Nelson Early Childhood Education Center performed a Willy Wonka-themed show at the newly renovated Wonder Theatre. The show was a huge success, with a packed house of families, friends, and community members in attendance. The performance showcased the talent and hard work of the little learners who had been practicing their dancing and acting skills over the past seven weeks with Wonder Theater staff. Pre-K mom Alexea Combs said, "I am so excited to be here; I am going to cry! Music, theater, and dance really engage the kids and let them express themselves."

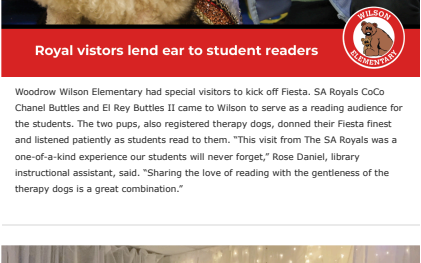
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Principal honored for support of Dual Language



The San Antonio Area Association for Bilingual Education surprised Irving Dual Language Academy principal Mayra Gutierrez-Ibarra to let her know she had been chosen as the 2024 SAAABE Administrator of the Year. The award is given to an outstanding leader who is motivated by excellence, is a proven master of implementation and support, and continually advocates for student needs and the success of Bilingual/Dual Language or ESL programs at their campus. Congratulations, Ms. Gutierrez-Ibarra!

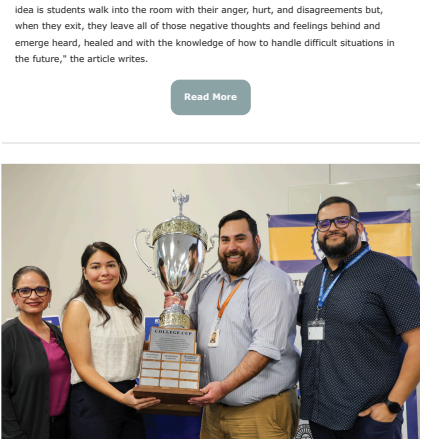


SAISD celebrates Dell Scholarship winners



As they get ready to transition to college, nine district seniors have received the timely news that they are 2024 Dell Scholars. The students — two from Fox Tech High School and seven from 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.

[Read More](#)



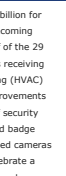
Royal visitors lend ear to student readers



Woodrow Wilson Elementary had special visitors to kick off Fiesta. SA Royals CoCo Chanel Butties and El Rey Butties II came to Wilson to serve as a reading audience for the students. The two pups, also registered therapy dogs, donned their Fiesta finest and listened patiently as students read to them. "This visit from The SA Royals was a one-of-a-kind experience our students will never forget," Rose Daniel, library instructional assistant, said. "Sharing the love of reading with the gentleness of the therapy dogs is a great combination."



Restorative justice makes impact at YMLA

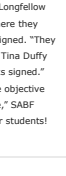


The [UP Partnership](#) recently featured the healing circle room at Young Men's Leadership Academy in an article about the importance of restorative justice. "The idea is students walk into the room with their anger, hurts, and disagreements but, when they exit, they leave all of those negative thoughts and feelings behind and emerge heard, healed and with the knowledge of how to handle difficult situations in the future," the article writes.

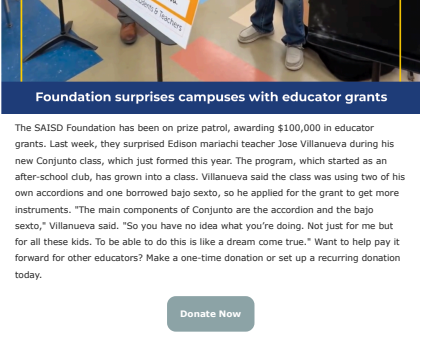
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Jefferson wins College Cup for Fall 2023 enrollment



Another College Cup is in the books. Jefferson High School recently received the award from Postsecondary Initiatives for having 60% of their 2023 graduates enroll in college in Fall 2023. The numbers are a result of hard work and collaboration between students, families, counselors, and college bound advisors — who collectively put in thousands of hours trying to get each graduating class set up for postsecondary success. "I can relate to that feeling of being overwhelmed," Jefferson college bound adviser Paloma Ibarra said. "I was first gen, too. I had someone to help me, and I want to do the same thing for them."



SAISD Bond 2020 progress updates



In November 2020, SAISD voters approved two propositions totaling \$1.3 billion for major renovations, technology and security. The results of the bond are becoming increasingly visible with construction underway or completed at nearly half of the 29 schools receiving major renovations. Work also is progressing at campuses receiving bond-funded improvements to their heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems. More than half of the district's campuses are receiving HVAC improvements under the bond program. Also, planning is underway for a second round of security measures. In this round, all SAISD schools will receive intrusion alarms and badge readers for access control. And those schools that have not received updated cameras will receive them. In the area of technology, the district is preparing to celebrate a major tech milestone: By fall 2024, for the first time in SAISD history, every classroom will provide students with the same access to the latest technology!

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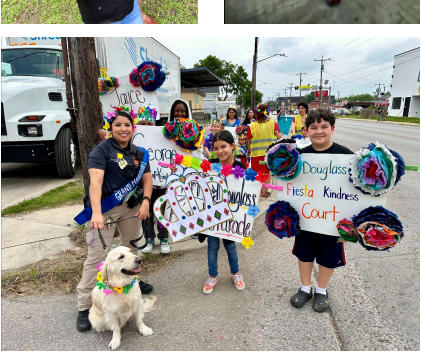
Students meet author, attend SA Book Festival



Longfellow Middle School partnered with the San Antonio Book Festival, part of the group's Authors in Schools program. As part of the program, Pedro Martin, author of "Mexikid," visited Longfellow the week before the festival. Martin shared stories from his own journey and described a bit of his writing process. All students in attendance received a free, signed copy of Martin's book to take home. The next day, Longfellow students were provided transportation to the festival at Central Library, where they received more books, got to hear from more authors and get their books signed. "They were excited to get free books and meet the authors," Longfellow librarian Tina Duffy said. "They wanted to hear the authors and waited in line to get their books signed." In the end, connecting students with authors has one main objective: "The objective is, of course, to get our city's students motivated and excited to read more," SABF executive director Lilly Gonzalez said. Thank you, SABF, for investing in our students!



NEWS FROM THE SAISD FOUNDATION



Foundation surprises campuses with educator grants

The SAISD Foundation has been on prize patrol, awarding \$100,000 in educator grants. Last week, they surprised Edison mariachi teacher Jose Villanueva during his new Conjunto class, which just formed this year. The program, which started as an after-school club, has grown into a class. Villanueva said the class was using two of his own accordions and one borrowed bajo sexto, so he applied for the grant to get more instruments. "The main components of Conjunto are the accordion and the bajo sexto," Villanueva said. "So you have no idea what you're doing. Not just for me but for all these kids. To be able to do this is like a dream come true." Want to help pay it forward for other educators? Make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation today.

[Donate Now](#)

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

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

BOARD BYTES

Trustee Sarah Sorensen shares highlights from the April 15, 2024 board meeting.

CLOSING SHOTS

Can you believe Fiesta is over? What a wonderful, celebratory 11 days. All around the district, our schools engaged in the festivities, hosting on-campus parades, participating in city-wide parades, hosting Fiesta royalty, among many other celebrations. Pictured are King Antonio's visit to Twain Academy; campus parades at Highland Hills and Ogden elementaries; Brackenridge High School at the Battle of Flowers Parade; Harris Middle School at the King William Fair; Sam Houston at the Fiesta Flambeau; a cascarrón battle among perfect attendance winners at Lowell Middle School; and a joint parade between Douglass and Herff Elementary, which will merge next year: ¡Viva Fiesta!

