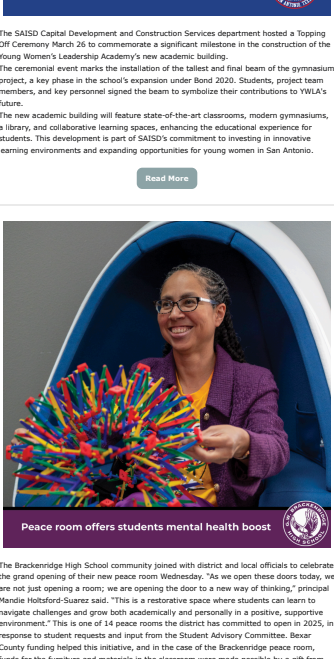




## NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT



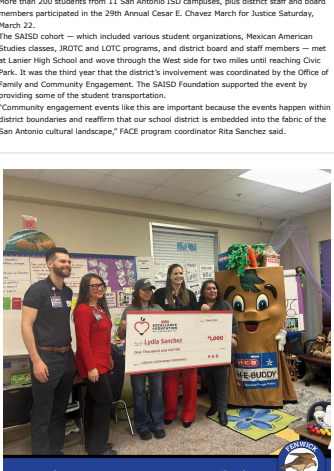
### YWLA celebrates bond construction milestone

The SAISD Capital Development and Construction Services department hosted a Topping Off Ceremony March 26 to commemorate a significant milestone in the construction of the Young Women's Leadership Academy's new academic building.

The ceremonial event marks the installation of the tallest and final beam of the gymnasium project, a key phase in the school's expansion under Bond 2020. Students, project team members, and key personnel signed the beam to symbolize their contributions to YWLA's future.

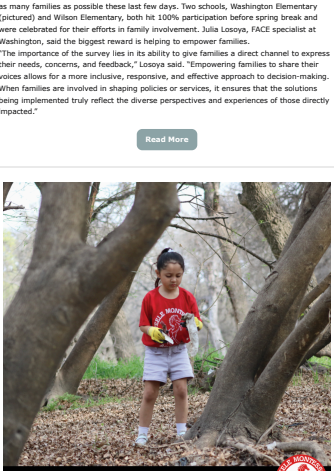
The new academic building will feature state-of-the-art classrooms, modern gymnasiums, a library, and collaborative learning spaces, enhancing the educational experience for students. This development is part of SAISD's commitment to investing in innovative learning environments and expanding opportunities for young women in San Antonio.

[Read More](#)



### Peace room offers students mental health boost

The Brackenridge High School community joined with district and local officials to celebrate the grand opening of their new peace room Wednesday. "As we open these doors today, we are not just opening a room; we are opening the door to a new way of thinking," principal Mandie Holtsford-Suarez said. "This is a restorative space where students can learn to navigate challenges and grow both academically and personally in a positive, supportive environment." This is one of 14 peace rooms the district has committed to open in 2025, in response to student requests and input from the Student Advisory Committee. Bexar County funding helped this initiative, and in the case of the Brackenridge peace room, funds for the furniture and materials in the classroom were made possible by a gift from the Carol Lee Jones Educational and Cultural Fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation through the SAISD Foundation. Lee Jones was a proud Brackenridge High School alumna whose estate annually funds projects and programs at her alma matter that keep students in school. Pictured is Bexar County Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores, Precinct 1, enjoying one of the flexible seating options in the room. Clay-Flores is an alumna of Brackenridge and a local advocate for mental health.

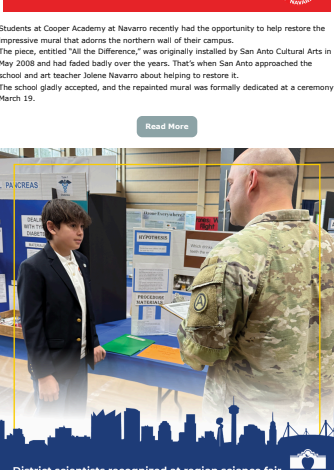


### Students experience history at Chavez March

More than 200 students from 11 San Antonio ISD campuses, plus district staff and board members participated in the 29th Annual Cesar E. Chavez March for Justice Saturday, March 22.

The SAISD cohort — which included various student organizations, Mexican American Studies classes, JROTC and LOTO programs, and district board and staff members — met at Lanier High School and went through the West side for two miles until reaching Civic Park. It was the third year that the district's involvement was coordinated by the Office of Family and Community Engagement. The SAISD Foundation supported the event by providing some of the student transportation.

"Community engagement events like this are important because the events happen within district boundaries and reaffirm that our school district is embedded into the fabric of the San Antonio cultural landscape," FACE program coordinator Rita Sanchez said.



### Fenwick teacher named H-E-B award finalist

Congratulations to Lydia Sanchez, a teacher at Fenwick Academy, for being named an H-E-B Excellence in Education finalist in the Lifetime Achievement Category. Ms. Sanchez is a second grade dual language teacher. She was surprised in front of her students before spring break with the announcement of her recognition. As part of the honor of being a finalist, Sanchez received a check for \$1,000 for herself and another \$1,000 for Fenwick.



### Schools celebrate 100% Family Survey completion

After a huge effort over the last eight weeks, the Office of Family and Community Engagement (FACE) is in a final push this week to receive responses to its annual Family Survey, which asks questions about how families interact with their schools. So far, more than 12,000 families have responded, and the FACE team hopes to hear from as many as possible these last few days. Two schools, Washington Elementary (pictured) and Wilson Elementary, both hit 100% participation before spring break and were celebrated for their efforts in family involvement. Julia Losoya, FACE specialist at Washington, said the biggest reward is helping to empower families.

"The importance of the survey lies in its ability to give families a direct channel to express their needs, concerns, and feedback," Losoya said. "Empowering families to share their voices allows for a more inclusive, responsive, and effective approach to decision-making. When families are involved in shaping policies or services, it ensures that the solutions being implemented truly reflect the diverse perspectives and experiences of those directly impacted."

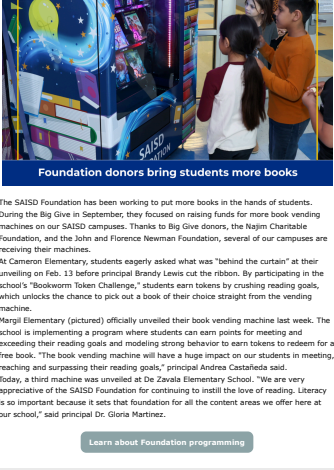
[Read More](#)



### Basura Bash offers students hands-on learning

Steele Montessori was one of several San Antonio ISD schools that kicked off their spring break by giving back to the community at the 30th annual Basura Bash event, which focused on removing trash and litter from San Antonio's waterways. Steele, which has participated for nine years, focused its efforts in the Olmos Basin, where children, parents, teachers and an administrator worked together to remove the trash that threatens the nature in the area. Students cheered as they removed cans, plastics, and even a bowling ball alongside their parents.

[Read More](#)



### Student artists contribute to mural restoration

Students at Cooper Academy at Navarro recently had the opportunity to help restore the impressive mural that adorns the northern wall of their campus. The piece, entitled "All the Difference," was originally installed by San Anto Cultural Arts in May 2008 and had faded badly over the years. That's when San Anto approached the school and art teacher Jolene Navarro about helping to restore it. The school gladly accepted, and the repainted mural was formally dedicated at a ceremony March 19.

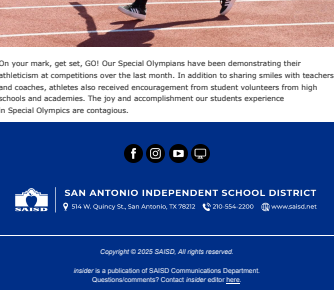
[Read More](#)



### District scientists recognized at region science fair

Students from three campuses — Twain Dual Language Academy (pictured), Young Men's Leadership Academy, and Young Women's Leadership Academy, competed and placed in the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair last month. More than 50 middle school and high school students earned recognitions at the regional level, with 13 students from two schools being recognized for the Texas Science & Engineering Fair in College Station March 28-29.

[See the awards](#)



### CTE students introduced to world of investing

More than 65 high school students in four comprehensive high schools are receiving some life-changing investment tips through the First Generation Investors program. The program aims to teach high school students essential investing topics, including compound interest, diversification, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), as well as personal finance topics like budgeting and credit. Volunteer mentors from local universities deliver the lessons, and at the end of the program, all of the students who complete the program are awarded a \$100 grant to invest in a select set of mutual funds.

[Read More](#)



### Construction students assist in creation of beds

SAISD Career and Technical Education is continuing its partnership this year with local nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Last week, Sam Houston High School and Lanier High School construction programs built 40 beds each for children in the community. Jefferson High School construction will attend a build next month to create another 40 beds.

[Read More](#)



### Military instruction director earns city veteran award

Colonel Jerry Cheatom, Director for Army Instruction, was recognized as the District 2 Veteran of the Year for his service to our community. The City of San Antonio's Veterans Advisory Commission and the Military and Veteran Affairs Department organize the awards, recognizing outstanding service to fellow veterans and contributions to the community. The awardees were chosen from nominations submitted by the community. Established in 2024, the Veteran of the Year Award honors veterans who have demonstrated exceptional service to fellow veterans and made significant contributions to community and civic organizations. The award recognizes one veteran from each Military City USA® district, as well as one city-employed veteran, regardless of rank, who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces.



### Travis future educators honored at pinning event

Travis Early College High School Associate of Arts (AAT) Teaching Program celebrated a pinning ceremony March 6 at San Antonio College. Juniors and sophomores in the program were recognized. Upon graduating from high school, students will receive an Associate of Arts degree in teaching. Coordinator and teacher Clinton Robertson says it was a proud moment for his students. "SAISD has created a pathway that smoothly transitions students into the teaching field in a quicker way," Robertson said. "It allows them to have their first experience as teachers in the classroom as a sophomore in high school. It helps solidify the student's desire to become an educator."



## NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION



### Foundation donors bring students more books

The SAISD Foundation has been working to put more books in the hands of students. During the Big Give in January, they focused on raising funds for more book vending machines on our SAISD campuses. Thanks to Big Give donors, the Najim Charitable Foundation, and the John and Florence Newman Foundation, several of our campuses are receiving their machines.

At Cameron Elementary, students eagerly asked what was "behind the curtain" at their unveiling on Feb. 13 before principal Brandy Lewis cut the ribbon. By participating in the school's "Bookworm Token Challenge," students earn tokens by crushing reading goals, which unlocks the chance to pick out a book of their choice straight from the vending machine.

Margit Elementary (pictured) officially unveiled their book vending machine last week. The school is implementing a program where students can earn points for meeting and exceeding their reading goals and modeling strong behavior to earn tokens to redeem for a free book. "The book vending machine will have a huge impact on our students in meeting, reaching and surpassing their reading goals," principal Andrea Castañeda said.

Today, a third machine was unveiled at De Zavala Elementary School. "We are very appreciative of the SAISD Foundation for continuing to instill the love of reading. Literacy is so important because it sets that foundation for all the content areas we offer here at our school," said principal Dr. Gloria Martinez.

[Learn about Foundation programming](#)



## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



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



### Stay up to date on board meetings with the latest Board Bytes video.



## CLOSING SHOTS

