Congressional Art winner named

Miranda Miranda, a senior at Stevens HS, placed first in the 2019 Congressional Art Competition for the Texas 20th Congressional District. She received $1,500 and an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for her and her parents. Sierra Dreamkowski, a student at Jay HS, placed third and received $500. Art teachers are Jaylin Von Berg at Stevens HS and Carol Weissler at Jay HS.

NISD student artists place at VASE

The Texas Art Education Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) competition allows academically eligible high school students an opportunity to present and defend their original artwork one-on-one with a certified art juror in order to qualify for state.

This year, NISD student artists had 46 art pieces advance to state and 26 received state medals. In addition, four students were double medalists.

Students are: Cami Bosquez, Emilie Frazier, and Anna Klunke, Brandeis HS; Victor Rogelio Cedpeda dela Garza and Katelyn Morrison, Brennan HS; Madi Fransella and Kyomi Rangel Nishimura, Clark HS; Isabelle Elenes, Health Careers HS; Tarynn Williams Haan and Camryn Stone, O’Connor HS; Korina Burciaga, Toby Graham, Mai Deguchi-Kelly, Miranda Miranda, Anne Marie Overton, Madison Tienda, Duong Tran, and Cyann Williams, Stevens HS; and Genevieve Alpar, Margarita Vias Bernal, Noela Joston, and Kathryn Taylor, Taft HS.

Deguchi-Kelly, Miranda, Alpar, and Taylor were double medalists.

Middle school choir students perform; sing and dance to movie theme songs

More than 1,300 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade choir students from all 20 NISD middle schools joined their voices (and choreographed dance moves) for the 12th annual “Together We Sing” performance held this past weekend at the Northside Sports Gym.

This year, the performance was a “night at the movies,” with such notable theme songs as “Hooray for Hollywood,” “Ghostbusters,” “9 to 5,” and “Power of Love.”

New this year, the middle school teachers divided into two groups and sang acapella separately as the Women of Winter and Men of the North. Singing “Vuelie” from “Frozen” and a mash up of songs from “Stand by Me,” “The Thing,” and “Dirty Dancing,” their performances were well-received from their students and the standing-room only audience.

As a finale, the students performed “We Go Together” from “Grease.”

Guest choral clinician and choreographer was John Jacobson, who has staged hundreds of huge music festival ensembles in his association with Walt Disney Productions as well as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, presidential inaugurations, and more.
Students turn lost into found

Have you ever lost your sweater or jacket and not remembered where you left it? NISD schools gather lots of lost jackets over the school year, and Esparza ES is no exception. Lost sweaters on their campus end up on a rack near the cafeteria.

First grade students in Elizabeth Chavez’s bilingual class had questions about the many sweaters that were hanging on the rack. Who do they belong to? How can we return them to their owners?

The students decided to take on the quest of returning as many of the items to their rightful owners. Brainstorming sessions turned into written letters, communicating with staff, and scripts turned into messages for the morning announcements.

At the beginning of April, there were about 60 sweaters on the rack. Using analytical and problem-solving skills, the students were able to return 40 sweaters.

“Each time they passed the lost and found area, the students were so excited to see fewer sweaters hanging there,” said their teacher, Elizabeth Chavez. “They’ve made a difference on our campus and I predict this will not be the last time their voices will be heard.”

GT students are out of this world

Students from Brauchle, Carson, Kuentz, McAndrew, and Thornton elementary schools joined forces to “jettison” from mission to mission at the Space Race Simulation held at Kuentz ES. These 200 students are in ALPHA/GT classes and have been studying space and space exploration this school year.

Dressed in their best space suits complete with backpacks (aka Primary Life Support Subsystem), the students rotated through stations designed to put the space crews to the test. Using higher-level problem-solving skills, they glided through the shuttle dock, volcanic ash eruption, rocket races, moon mining, mission control, and even had dinner in outer space with comet cones.

Student puts emotion into poetry

Josiah Cavazos, a third grade student at Rhodes ES, had his poem titled “Emotions” published as part of the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition. He and other poets were honored at the Guadalupe Center recently where he was able to meet other poets and read his poem in front of a packed house. The poetry competition, in its 92nd year, is organized by the San Antonio Public Library. Pictured is Cavazos with his teacher Chris Sandrin.

Scholastic Book Clubs

Scholastic Book Clubs and James Patterson are partnering to give $500 and 500 Scholastic Book Clubs Bonus Points to teachers to build their classroom libraries. Click here for more information on the Scholastic Book Clubs giveaways for classroom libraries or contact the Grants and Recognitions Department at 210-397-8562.