Woods’ Kudos

Students recognized in safe driving program

Students and their sponsors from several NISD high schools were recognized at the statewide Teens in the Driver Seat Summit by the Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) program for their efforts to prevent teen driver crashes through the TDS program. Brandeis HS received the third place TDS Cup, an award given to the top TDS Program schools each year. Joseph Leal from Brandeis HS was recognized for his service on the TDS Teen Advisory Board for the 2013-14 school year. Presley Price from Brandeis HS was appointed for a second term to the TDS Teen Advisory Board for 2014-15. Communications Arts HS won first and third place for their videos in the Driving the Message Contest, and O’Connor HS received third place for their poster design in the Driving the Message Contest.

Clark school publications receive star awards

The Clark HS Chronicle and Witness staffs each received a bronze star award from the Interscholastic Press Association. Recipients of the star awards represent the top 10 percent of student newspapers and yearbooks in the state of Texas. Clark HS was the only high school in San Antonio to receive a star award for both publications. Adviser is Michelle Elizondo.

Villarreal dedicates SPARK (School Park)

The rain may have moved part of the ceremony indoors, but spirits weren’t dampened as the students and staff at Villarreal ES held a pep rally and ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of their new SPARK.

SPARK is a school park program that turns public school property into neighborhood parks to be enjoyed by the community outside of regular school hours. The SPARK Park is a partnership with San Antonio Sports, the City of San Antonio, and NISD.

Guest speakers included Dr. Brian Woods, superintendent; Bobby Blount, Board president, George Block, San Antonio Sports; and Councilman Cris Medina, District 7.

To commemorate the first “official” race on the SPARK track, students created bobble heads (pictured) of their campus administrators, Councilman Medina, George Block, Dr. Woods, and District administrators who were in attendance.

Students “Pi” their math teachers

The sixth grade math team at Jordan MS held a “Tournament of STAARs” during the two weeks of STAAR review. Classes earned points based on attendance, behavior, and homework completion. Their motivation? To pie (or Pi) their math teachers! The class with the most points at the end of the period got to individually throw pies at their teachers. Students who normally had excuses for not doing their work were suddenly putting in the most effort. “The students wanted the success as much as we did and their efforts paid off,” said Melissa Balzer, 6th grade math and Pre-AP math teacher.

Pictured are (from l-r) Sixth Grade Teachers Erica Gottardy, Rey Dela Cruz, Erin McKinney, Melissa Balzer, and Jennifer Bennett.
Students work together at GT Showcase

Roller coasters, model buildings, 3-D sidewalk chalk art, and silent film creations are all in a day’s work for GT students from Vale, Zachry, and Connally middle schools. The schools collaborated for the first ever Sixth Grade ALPHA GT Showcase, an event that placed students into mixed groups to compete in challenges and activities based on the three units covered in their GT curriculum of modern art, structures, and optical illusions.

The Showcase was organized by GT Specialists Shauna Garner from Vale and Connally middle schools; Laura Barrera, Zachry MS; and Lizzy Aguilar-Cruz, Vale MS. Students also showcased their best work by bringing one of their unit projects and creating higher-level questions for their peers to answer. Parent volunteers and 8th grade ALPHA students came together to make the event a success.

Pictured are (from l-r) Jacob Koscinski, Vale MS, and Ray James, Connally MS, working together to complete a marble roller coaster challenge.

Reading Club students learn about more than books

For the Harry Potter (After School) Reading Club at Ott Elementary School, reading is just a part of what they do. What the group really does is bring books to life.

In its second year, the Reading Club read the first and fourth books in the series, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone” and “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.” The students voted on which books to read and divided into two groups. Fifth grade teachers Sue Moffitt and Rose Stone serve as sponsors of the club.

“The Reading Club ties into curricular goals, so it isn’t all about wizardry and potions,” says Moffitt. “It is also about science, mathematics, and life lessons.”

As a culminating event at the end of the year, the group held a Muggle Quidditch Game. To read more about this Reading Club, go to http://nisd.net/news/articles/53878 and click here to view pictures from their exciting Quidditch game.

Pictured are (from l-r) Jac Clyborne, Katelyn Morrison, Starr Ford, Adriana Alvarez, Sunshine Ford, Cara Purcell, Michaela Frederick, Shadhed Abdelaziz, and Haya Abdelaziz.

Never too young to help

Kindergarten students at Northwest Crossing ES know that you are never too young or small to reach out and give a helping hand to others. Knowing that summer is quickly approaching and that many families won’t have access to meals at school, the pint-sized students held a food drive. With a goal of 100 nonperishable canned or boxed food items, the students collected 136 lbs. All five Kindergarten classes collected and counted every single item to keep track of their progress. The community service project benefits local families through the San Antonio Food Bank.

Pictured with their teacher Julie Goertz are (from l-r) Austin Jordan, Yra Guy, Joyce Mallari, Analy Uribe, Abdul-Malik Bahau Aldin, Xoe Owens, Aiden Delangel, Maddison Adkins, and Nissi D’dungu.
**Around the District**

**And the winner is ...**

Luna MS was the winner for selling the most Six Flags tickets at their campus. That “rascally-rabbit” Bugs Bunny and his friends will stop by the school on Friday, June 6, to host a party for staff to thank them for being a good partner. The Partnerships Office wants to remind everyone that ticket sales end June 5 and all payments should be received by their office by June 12.

**Perk of the Week**

Get your getaway car

Planning a summer vacation? Avis Rental inside the Sears Automotive Center at Ingram Park Mall is offering NISD employees a 10 percent discount off auto rentals. For more information, please call 520-5836.

**WOW!**

Northside’s extensive energy management program saves the District more than $1.25 million a year in utility bills, and collected more than $290,000 in CPS Energy rebates!

**Campus Roundup**

**Stevens HS students compete in FCCLA contest**

Students from Stevens HS participated and placed in the Texas Association Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) competition. Senior Sydney Hicks advanced in her event and will compete at the national level in July. FCCLA is a career and technical student organization for young men and women in family and consumer science education, grades 7-12. The program provides an opportunity for students to compete in fashion, culinary arts and teaching events at local, state, and national levels. Pictured are (from l-r, front row) Demia Cortez, Sydney Hicks, Sophia Walker, Miranda Perez, and Brittney Gordon; and (back row) Ericka Gonzalez, Magda Talavera, Shawn Marshall, Savannah Jost, and Tiffany Davis.

**Kuentz students win in local art contest**

Students from Kuentz ES participated in the Helotes Humane Society Art Contest. Winners included fifth graders Trinity Stratford, first place, and Elena Ruiz, third place; fourth grader Jaedyn Lawrence, second place; and third grader Aubrey Carson, second place. Pictured are the girls checking out the kittens that they got to name, (from l-r) Ruiz, Stratford, Lawrence, and Carson.

**Middle school holds first Tech Expo**

Folks MS hosted its first annual Technology Expo. Sharing their projects, videos, and hands-on tech activities, each department demonstrated to parents, students, and community members the multiple ways technology is used at Folks MS. Pictured are (from l-r) Nicholas Dowell, Nicole Moroles, and Keri Kuiper explaining a video project to School Namesake Dr. John Folks.

**Warren students earn national certification**

Forty-nine Warren HS construction students successfully completed the rigorous National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Core certification in one year. This is a first for a NISD school. The students received their certification after completing training and assessments. Associated Builders and Contractors Inc., NISD’s NCCER-training sponsor, verified student performance for certification and recorded their achievements in the national registry. Pictured are the newly-certified students, (from l-r, front row) Hector Ramirez, Daniel De La Rosa, Tristen Lopez, Clayton Helfert, Teacher Bryan Haecher, David Benavides, Brianna Martinez, Andrew Rodriguez, Pablo Villanueva, and Noel Medina-Graves; (second row) Isaac Ramon, Nick Garcia, Aaron Delacruz, Daniel Del Toro, Miles Robinson, Brandon Deluna, Brandon Dehoyos, Michelle Trevino, Fabian Sanchez, and Frank Perez; and (back row) Francisco Fuentes, Lee Shaffer, Andrew Rodriguez, Chris Paulsen, Javier Gonzalez, Ethan Garcia, Jesse Leza, Scott Porter, Alberto Sanchez, Josh Stuit, Brett Sepulveda, Martin Chavez, and Shahin Shams.

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