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Independent
School District**
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www.neisd.net

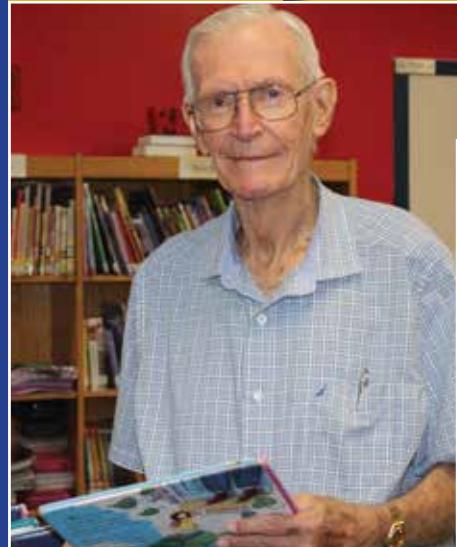
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FALL 2018



Activities and Achievements

Vineyard Ranch hosts “Frida Friday”

Students at Vineyard Ranch Elementary School celebrated “Frida Friday” as part of Hispanic Heritage Month. On Friday, Oct. 12, students took part in a campus wide event celebrating the life and work of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo. Students dressed up as Frida, drew and painted her portraits, and attended an interactive lesson with an actress portraying the painter.



Frida Kahlo was a featured unit of study during Hispanic Heritage Month. Vineyard Ranch teacher Eileen Brzozowski incorporates art education and appreciation to students during the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) special rotation for all grade levels. Parent volunteers and teachers joined forces to make “Frida Friday” a success for everyone involved.



Harmony Hills “Walks to School”



Students, parents and staff at Harmony Hills Elementary School kicked off National Walk to School Day on foot bright and early Wednesday, Oct. 10. Principal Phillip Bennett helped escort students with glow sticks and flashing lights on the half mile walk from the Harmony Hills Cabana Club to the elementary campus.

This is the second year in a row Harmony Hills has organized a National Walk to School Day event. Counselor Alice Pearce participated with the students, and says it is a fun way to encourage them to stay active.

“This is one of our favorite events during the school year,” said Pearce. “It really encourages the kids to walk and stay active. So many of them live in the neighborhood, and this gets them out and lets them see that they can participate with their friends. It’s a fun event.”

Councilman John Courage, City Council District 9, provided flashing lights for the students to hold or put on their backpacks during the walk.

Colonial Hills named a “Cool School”

Colonial Hills Elementary School was named a “Cool School” and featured on KSAT 12’s SA Live in October.

The Cool Schools program is a collaboration between Go Public, SA Live and participating school districts. Cool Schools highlights the great things happening in San Antonio-area school districts through school submissions, and asks the community to vote for their favorite.

Colonial Hills highlighted its spectacular wellness program and school garden. To view the video, go to: www.ksat.com/sa-live.





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Why Go Public?

- Every day, teachers, administrators, and staff work to provide students the foundation and opportunities to succeed in life.
- In our schools, students are engaged in active, hands-on learning, from building rockets to planting gardens.
- There are countless stories of students overcoming obstacles, thriving under the rigor of academics, and achieving their dreams.
- Providing an education for all children not only serves the individual and family, but also creates a strong workforce.



Teachers receive first-time supply grants

For the first time, the North East Educational Foundation (NEEF) awarded supply grants to North East ISD teachers. Fifty lucky teachers, selected by a random drawing, received \$200 supply grants during New Teacher Orientation held on Aug. 13. Another 150 teachers were selected at the District's Convocation events to also receive \$200. In total, NEEF gave away \$40,000 for teachers to use in their classes.

"This is just amazing," said new Roosevelt High School teacher, Cassandra Garrison. "At my last district, this sort of thing is unheard of. I know many new first-year teachers or teachers from other districts like me need all the support and supplies we can get. Here at NEISD, I can honestly say I feel supported. This is just a great start for me, and I cannot be happier I came back to this District."



NEEF mascot Sparky snaps a photo with these lucky recipients of a \$200 supply grant.

North East Educational Foundation Jerry Comalander's Fore! the Kids Tournament

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NEEF funds \$300,000 in innovative grants for teachers

This year, the North East Educational Foundation (NEEF) distributed more than \$300,000 in innovative grants to North East ISD teachers -- the largest amount in its history.

The grants were presented on an "Innovation Celebration Grant Tour" where

community partners, NEEF Board of Directors, and Sparky the NEEF mascot traveled via school bus to surprise teachers.

One tour stop brought them to Northwood Elementary School to surprise Marcy Hildebrand with a \$3,762 grant for collaborative learning areas that will increase her students' critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills.

"This grant is going to provide a space where all our kids can learn together in a comfortable and expressive atmosphere," said Hildebrand. "I cannot thank you all enough."

The tour could not have been possible without the generous support from businesses including LPA, Energy Testing & Balancing, H-E-B, Cleary Zimmermann, Marksman GC, Pfluger Architects, Joeris, PBK, Terracon, Zachry Construction, RBFCU Retirement, Jostens/High School Achievements, Guido Construction and Garza/Bomberger & Associates.



Teacher Marcy Hildebrand gets a big surprise -- and a big check.

Visitor "buzz in" system enhances school security



Signs direct visitors where to stand, so that they can show their drivers license for verification or open the door with employee IDs.

Thanks to the 2015 bond, North East ISD has strengthened campus security by providing keyless access card readers, and a new building entry monitor and intercom door release system. This new system allows staff inside the building to "buzz in" visitors outside the main entrance. While this was an adjustment at first, administrators say parent feedback has been largely positive.

"The majority of parents are able to see the benefits of the system and how we are working hard to keep their children safe," said Wilma Payne, Principal of Camelot Elementary School. "Now some parents will automatically take out their IDs without having to be asked."

"Parents have verbalized coming in that they appreciate the extra measures for our students' safety," said Jennifer Lomas, Principal of Las Lomas Elementary School. "For the office

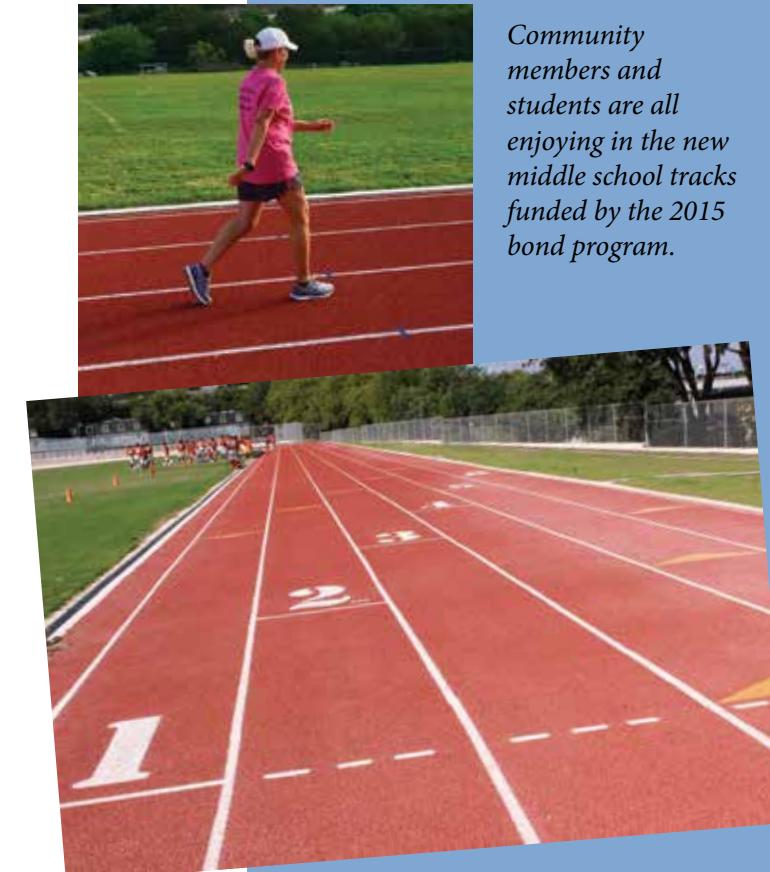
staff, it was difficult for the first couple of days during peak times trying to provide excellent service to the person ringing the bell, standing in front of you and answering the phone all at once. But we are rocking and rolling now!"

The new security additions are just one piece of the plan NEISD has in place to ensure the safety of its staff, students and visitors.

Middle school tracks benefit students and community

The 2015 bond helped provide community members and students at 14 middle schools a new place to stay active. The construction project included removing previous "red-dog" cinder surfaces on existing tracks and replacing them with an all-weather synthetic track surface system.

By August 2017, construction on the new tracks were complete at Eisenhower, Harris, Krueger, Nimitz, White and Wood middle schools. Students at Bradley, Bush, Driscoll, Garner, Lopez, Tejeda and Tex Hill saw their new tracks installed by August 2018.



Community members and students are all enjoying in the new middle school tracks funded by the 2015 bond program.



NEISD to open new Pre-K Academy at West Avenue

On Monday, Oct. 8 the North East ISD Board of Trustees approved a recommendation to transition West Avenue Elementary School into the North East ISD Pre-K Academy at West Avenue. The Pre-K Academy will open on the first day of the 2019-2020 school year.

West Avenue has one of the smallest enrollments of NEISD schools. At the same time, the District has seen an increase in demand for full day pre-kindergarten. Research shows that early intervention with children has a significant impact on their future success in academics. The new Pre-K Academy will feature an enhanced academic curriculum to include after-school care.

West Avenue Elementary School will continue to operate throughout the remainder of this school year. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, West Avenue students will be relocated to neighboring elementary schools Dellview and Olmos.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Frederick Shinlever

Frederick Shinlever is the Co-President of the Madison High School Band Boosters. In the past, he has also served as bus captain and head chaperone, and has helped build props for the marching band and winter guard, along with many other tasks. He is a trumpet player, performs with the San Antonio Chamber Winds, and volunteers with Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps.

"Volunteering is a way for me to support and watch my sons perform in the programs they are involved in, and it's also a way for me to give back to those programs for the positive impact that they have had on my sons," said Shinlever.

"I also recently retired from a 28-year career as an Airborne Infantryman in the Army, and for a lot of my career I was gone on deployments. Volunteering is a way for me to spend more time with my sons."

Frederick and his wife Jennifer (also a band volunteer) have two sons. Riley Shinlever is an eighth grader at Harris Middle School and Seth Kennemore is a senior at Madison.



Frederick's family loves doing things together, including this family fun run.

Retired veteran regularly volunteers at Colonial Hills

When Robert Barry retired from his job of 50 years, he had no problem finding things to keep him busy. For the past four years, this former Army veteran has spent every Wednesday volunteering at the Colonial Hills Elementary School library. With hundreds of books and plenty of little hands and eager minds pining for them, keeping everything in its place is an endless job that he holds dear to his heart.

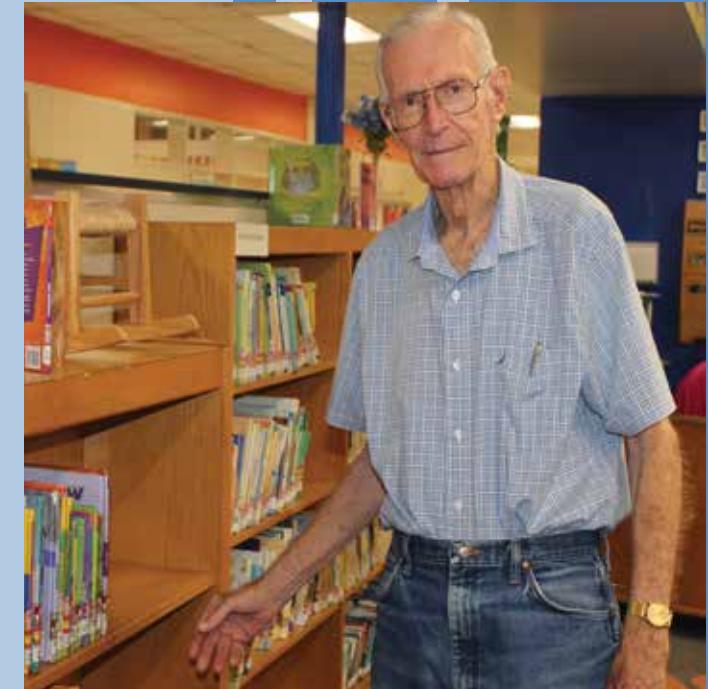
"I file by author alphabetically," said Barry. "Being somewhat a nitpicker makes it easy to work a job that is endless. Ms. Allen teaches the students how to use the library, and I put the books back in their original location so that the kids can find them again."

Barry understands the need for children to develop a love for reading at a young age. He himself nurtured this love for books with his own children, along with the love for math and science. Colonial Hills staff considers themselves lucky to have such a dedicated and valuable asset to the team.

"North East ISD is lucky to have such a faithful volunteer in its schools," said Marva Allen, librarian at Colonial Hills. "Mr. Barry is a tremendous help to me and the kids here at this school."

And while Barry enjoys being around the students and meeting people, he says that most of all he enjoys the service he provides to the campus.

"The whole staff is great and so long as they need my help, I will be here."



Robert Barry has loved reading since he was a young boy. It inspires him to help grow the next generation of readers.

CONGRATULATIONS! To our Grammy-Nominated NEISD Teacher



Music teacher Matthew Trevino from Roan Forest Elementary School is one of 25 music teachers from across 16 states who were selected as the semifinalists for the 2019 Music Educator Award by the Recording Academy and the Grammy Museum. The winner will be announced during Grammy Week 2019. Fingers crossed!

SAVE THE DATE: NEISD Career Expo

The North East ISD Career and Technical Advisory Council is hosting the 21st Annual CareerExpo for middle and high school students. The event will be held on:

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

6 - 8 p.m.

Blossom Athletic Center Gym and Parking Lot
12002 Jones Maltsberger Road

The purpose of the Career Expo is to inform students of training, educational programs and career opportunities in many different fields. This event may be the first step students have in choosing their career pathway.