Dear La Joya ISD Family,

With the arrival of Fall and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I would like to express my gratitude, to serve as your Superintendent of La Joya ISD.

To our students who come to school each day ready to learn, grow, and shine bright, thank you for inspiring us to do our best work for you. To our staff who strive to ensure success for each and every La Joya ISD student, thank you for ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of our students. To our parents, community groups, residents and business partners who support our students through the investment of time, treasure and talent, thank you for supporting our students inside the classroom and beyond.

You make a difference in the lives of our students each day and your hard work and dedication to our mission are recognized and appreciated! Thank you all for your support in preparing our students for their bright futures ahead. I hope you enjoy a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving holiday!

Blessing to you and your loved ones for a time well spent with family!

With great pride,
Dr. Gisela Saenz
LA JOYA ISD SUPERINTENDENT

La Joya ISD is committed to ensuring that our students have the best opportunities for learning. District officials were so proud to announce that La Joya ISD was selected as the only partner with TEDxMcAllen to live broadcast the 2019 TEDxMcAllen Talks that were held on November 12, 2019. TEDx’s mission is to spread remarkable ideas to local communities, welcoming people from every discipline and culture. TEDx believes passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately the world. The TEDxMcAllen talks featured twelve local speakers who shared inspiring stories, centered around the theme of the event – “We Are All Dreamers.” La Joya ISD was proud to be selected as the sole partner to broadcast the talks live, and the event was streamed on La Joya ISD’s Facebook page for the general public to enjoy. The TEDxMcAllen was also streamed in to classrooms to expose our students to these remarkable ideas in hopes that we spark imagination and creativity.

La Joya ISD officials attend National Blue Ribbon Ceremony

U.S. Department of Education hosted their National Blue Ribbon Ceremony at Washington DC this month, recognizing 362 schools in the nation as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019. Congratulations to E.R. Chapa Elementary School for being one of 26 schools in the state of Texas that earned this distinction. Chapa Elementary Principal Laura Lopez and Supervisor Eliamar Lopez along with our Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gisela Saenz were in attendance to receive this award.

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La Joya ISD OFFICIALS ATTEND NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON CEREMONY

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Con la llegada del otoño y las próximas vacaciones de Acción de Gracias, me gustaría expresar mi gratitud, aprecio y agradecimiento por servir como su Superintendente del distrito escolar de La Joya.

A nuestros estudiantes que vienen a la escuela todos los días listos para aprender, crecer y brillar, gracias por inspirarnos a hacer nuestro mejor trabajo por ustedes. A nuestros maestros, directores, enfermeras, conductores de autobuses, personal de servicio de alimentos, custodios, trabajadores de campo y el personal de apoyo que se esfuerza por garantizar el éxito de todos y cada uno de los estudiantes del distrito escolar de La Joya, gracias por garantizar la seguridad, la salud y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes. A nuestros padres, grupos comunitarios, residentes y socios comerciales que apoyan a nuestros estudiantes a través la inversión de tiempo, gracias por apoyar a nuestros estudiantes en sus estudios.

¿Usted marca la diferencia en la vida de nuestros estudiantes cada día, su trabajo y dedicación a nuestra misión es reconocida y apreciada! ¡Espero que disfruten de unas maravillosas y relajantes vacaciones de Acción de Gracias!

¡Bendiciones para usted y sus seres queridos!

With great pride,
Dr. Gisela Saenz
LA JOYA ISD SUPERINTENDENT

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DISTRICT MISSION:
La Joya Independent School District is committed to providing Educational Excellence through rigor, relevance, relationships and personal responsibility. We are the integral part of learning where students become successful and productive contributors to our global society. We embrace, with passion, the commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration and accountability that will allow our students to imprint the world.

DISTRICT PHILOSOPHY:
La Joya Independent School District is dedicated to the belief that in order for all students to attain mastery of the instructional goals, there must be a district-wide commitment to constant renewal according to the most effective practices and procedures in the most current research findings. In order to operationalize this philosophy in the most comprehensive and organized manner, the district has adopted The Quality District Model. The district’s Mission Statement, Foundation Beliefs and Desired Exit Behaviors: Student Learner Outcomes, exemplify this philosophy.

DISTRICT VISION:
Educational Excellence: The Right of Every Student

Greetings La Joya ISD Students, Parents, Staff, and Community,

With the Thanksgiving break upon us, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to each and every one of our community partners, parents, teachers, staff, administration, and students who make La Joya ISD Shine Bright! As your School Board President, I am dedicated to working with my colleagues on the board to ensure transparency and open communication amongst our community. We are proud to be launching a new series of marketing efforts focused on highlighting the amazing educational opportunities, accolades, and successes of our district, students, and amazing educators. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving holiday!

Your Partner in Education,

Espie Ochoa
ESPERANZA “ESPIE” OCHOA
BOARD PRESIDENT

SCHOOL BOARD
Esperanza “Espie” Ochoa, President
Mary T. Hernandez, Vice-President
Oscar “Coach” Salinas, Secretary
Nereyda Cantú, Member
Armin Garza, Member
Claudia Ochoa, Member
Alejandro “Alex” Cantu, Member

La Joya Independent School District
(956) 323-2545 | www.lajoyaisd.com

SUBMISSIONS
The Diamond News publishes information and events related to La Joya ISD students and staff. Articles for publication or distribution must adhere to guidelines of good taste and value. Send articles, pictures, story ideas, suggestions or questions to:

Public Information Center • 200 W. Expressway 83 • La Joya, TX 78560
956-343-2585 • Fax: 956-580-8896 • diamondnews@lajoyaisd.net

All Region Orchestra
On October 19, Lorenzo De Zavala Middle School cellist, 8th grader Eduarado Garcia, earned a spot in this year’s All-Region Orchestra making him one of the top cello players on this side of the Valley from Roma to Alamo. He and his fellow region members showcased their talents to the public during their November 9th performance at the UTRGV Auditorium greeted to standing ovations.
THE LAST Homecoming

The class of 2020 participated in their last homecoming at Palmview High School ever. During the week of October 15-17, the campus held activities such as: themed dressing days, a community pep rally and parade, as well as a bonfire. Students ended the festivities with a dance held in the cafeteria.

"Homecoming was a little different for me this year because I came to the realization that it was my last one, so I did my best to enjoy each activity as much as I could," senior Alysea Alanis said.

The bonfire and parade stood out to Alanis, which is why it was her favorite event during the week. She said it was very memorable and it is something that she wouldn’t forget.

"Advice that I would give to underclassmen is to enjoy every second and participate in everything to be able to create as many amazing memories as possible," senior Destiney Acevedo said.

Being a varsity cheerleader, Acevedos’ favorite part of the activities was the football game. She got to experience the game from the sidelines and it was the most memorable part. Following her own advice, she decided to go to the homecoming dance for the first time in her high school experience. She really enjoyed it and is glad that she made the choice to go.

"To me, this year was the most special homecoming because it was the first time I participated in the activities and it made me wish I had done it the previous years," senior Sachareth Flores said.

Although Flores enjoyed everything, she enjoyed the dance the most. She is glad that she was able to spend it with wonderful people. She concluded that everything goes by in the blink of an eye and to surround yourself with people that make you happy, which results in the best memories.

"It was my last homecoming that I will ever experience," senior Alysea Alanis Cardenas said. "It was a very chaotic week from finding my dress, getting ready for the game, and participating in all of the events between.”

As a varsity cheerleader, Cardenas was glad that she got to participate in the parade and pep rally. She was able to do things different from a regular student and have fun while doing so. Dressing up and participating during the week with her friends is something that she will never forget.

To top off the night, the Kika Gem Squad stood shoulder to shoulder with the Palmview Rubies to welcome the Lobos on to the field. It was a proud moment for our school as we were excellently represented by these extremely talented young performers.

On Thursday, November 7, 2019, E. B. Reyna Elementary held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the school’s Project Fit America Program Grant. Coach Jose Garcia and principal, Lucy Lara-Garza co-wrote the grant for this program and were awarded the funds to begin this school year. The Project Fit America Program is designed to get kids active and motivated to be fit and healthy. Lessons are designed to get kids moving through the use of inside and outside equipment. 2nd – 5th grade students participate in this fantastic program. As Coach Garcia stated during the ceremony, “Kids no longer avoid P.E. classes and always eager to begin a new activity. Thanks to the grant, students are now more proactive about their health and exercise.”

Destiney Acevedo said.

As part of Drug Free Awareness Week, Cavazos Elementary’s 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students enjoyed a motivational presentation from Sergio Castillo, player/kicker for the BC Lions Canadian Football Team. Sergio is a former La Joya ISD student who also played for La Joya High School as a kicker during his years there. During his presentation, he spoke about the importance of working hard and staying away from drugs so that goals and dreams can be achieved in life. Additionally, three lucky students were selected to receive autographed footballs. What an inspirational message he shared with our students and staff!! Thank you, Sergio Castillo, for visiting our school and for being such a great role model.

On Thursday, November 7, 2019, E. B. Reyna Elementary performed a number for the Lobos Fans at the La Joya ISD Football Stadium. Parents proudly watched as the Gem Squad danced and cheered for the crowd. Students practiced for hours at the home campus to provide some top quality entertainment. Students showed off their tumbling and dancing skills through the routine.

To top off the night, the Kika Gem Squad stood shoulder to shoulder with the Palmview Rubies to welcome the Lobos on to the field. It was a proud moment for our school as we were excellently represented by these extremely talented young performers.

As they drive through Bentsen Palm Drive.

Sergio Castillo VISITS CAVAZOS ELEMENTARY

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GIVE ME A P*R*I*D*E!

As they drive through Bentsen Palm Drive.
 tabasco elementary through fifth grade learned about the Mexican traditions of dia de los muertos including lessons on ofrendas, pan de muerto, calaveras, marigold flowers. They were taught the significance of these items during this special cultural event by our art teacher, Manibel Garza. As part of the lesson, students decorated their own masks using various items: feathers, leaves, petals, flowers, pipe cleaners, beads and much more. This is one example of how our Fine Arts Designated campus embeds the culture of our community into the classroom. Teaching culture education through art is allowing our students to grow successfully because they feel encouraged and supported as individuals.

The day of the dead is a tradition that celebrates the Mexican culture and is observed November 1st and 2nd. It is an opportunity to remember our loved ones who have passed away. Our students and parents at Henry B. Gonzalez Elementary were encouraged to create a shoebox in memory of a deceased family member, pet, or famous person. We had over 40 shoebox projects or nichos on display in the library. Students and staff took a gallery walk through the projects on November 1st. All participating students were surprised with some hot chocolate and pan de muerto. Jesus Villaibios, 4th grade student said he enjoyed working with his mom on his grandmother’s shadow box and tasting pan de muerto for the first time.

Students and staff took a gallery walk through the projects on November 1st. All participating students were surprised with some hot chocolate and pan de muerto. Jesus Villaibios, 4th grade student said he enjoyed working with his mom on his grandmother’s shadow box and tasting pan de muerto for the first time.

The Tabasco Elementary students joined the annual Book Character Parade on October 31, 2019. Students walked through the school’s hallways displaying posters promoting reading or drug-free messages and sporting their beautiful costumes depicting a book character. Pre-Kinder through 5th grade students paraded through the hallways which ended in the cafeteria where their parents awaited to take pictures as they made their way through the stage. Students love taking part in this parade and look forward to it every year. As 2nd Grade student Abel Garcia, states “It’s fun!” Teachers and staff members also joined in the fun and dressed up showing their school spirit!
Juniors in the T-STEM academy who follow the engineering track, focus on project-based learning. They do this in Jose Angel Garcia’s advanced engineering design class. Students had three options; build a display house with an A/C unit, a submarine, and an electric car.

“I will be creating a truck model,” student Oziel Morin said. “It will mainly consist of the motor components of an actual vehicle.” Morin enjoys fixing and breaking things apart, which makes it easier for him to construct the motor from scratch. He wants for his motor to be the fastest one and beat all of the other cars.

“I will have some challenges with building the A/C unit,” student Daisy Velazquez said. “It involves a large amount of wiring which can be complicated.” Velazquez wants her house to run smoothly with all the wiring that the A/C requires.

Her main goal is to make sure that every room in her house gets A/C.

“As a class, we came up with a deadline of 6 weeks to complete the project,” student Aaron Salinas. “We have 3-4 weeks for the manufacturing part and the rest of the time we will use it to create our project.” Salinas is excited to challenge himself while only having six weeks to complete his prototype.

“Engineering has helped me prepare for my future by giving me the experience in building a project with a teammate,” student Julian Hernandez said.

“I am really grateful that I have learned to work with a team, for my future career as an engineer will involve a lot of teammates.”

Students were very excited to embrace author, Claudia Villarreal, who shared the book, “The Bully Who Learned to Love.” Everyone listened eagerly as she read and as if the characters in the book came to life. In addition, she shared with them how it takes a team of collaboration to create the illustrations, storyline, colors and wardrobe of a book. Clauid Villarreal read the book to students from second grade through fifth grade. At the end of the presentation, the students took a pledge to be anti-bully free. All of our students were able to take pictures with her and Buddy, a character from the story.

Students loved it! Student, Luis Moya, 2nd grade, says “It was the story. Students loved it! Student, Luis Moya, 2nd grade, says “It was the best thing I have seen. This presentation is the best thing I have ever seen. The students were very engaged and eager to build and learn about 3-D figures and their attributes. What a great way to reinforce 3-D figures!

Author VISITS ZAPATA

Spotlight on 3-D figures! This amazing hands-on activity helps students at Dr. Mendiola Elementary visually understand the attributes of 3-D figures. Students worked with marshmallows and toothpicks to build 3-D prisms and recorded their attributes on chart paper. Students used toothpicks to represent the edges and marshmallows to represent the vertices. Ms. Vimi’s 3rd grade class was very engaged and eager to build and learn about 3-D figures and their attributes. What a great way to reinforce 3-D figures!

Students pictured are: Renata Garcia, Arcadio De La Fuente, & Rocio Salazar

Lights, Cameras, 3-D Figures!

On Wednesday, November 6, 2019, the fifth grade students at W.J Clinton Elementary participated in a presentation called “Skins and Skulls.” The presentation consisted of Mrs. Velador showing the students a variety of skins and skulls belonging to different species of animals native to Texas. Students learned about different adaptations crucial to the animal’s survival. This particular topic is tested in the fifth grade STAAR Test and crucial for the students to learn. This particular presentation is designed to help the students Master this particular portion STAAR Test. The students were very engaged in this presentation and were able to experience this unique activity for the first time.

Benavides Puts on a Show

Happy Veteran’s Day! Our 5th grade students, along with several other grades, attended a performance where they were able to showcase their talents and perform for the Veterans in the audience. Students honored Veterans by singing many favorites like, God Bless the USA and America the Great. The event was packed full of people in attendance. We are all very proud of Rosendo Benavides students for participating and showing their gratitude to the men and women who served our country.

Mayor & Mentor Visits With Kika De La Garza Student Council Officers

You could hear a pin drop as students gave their undivided attention to Palmview Mayor Ricardo Villarreal. Mr. Villarreal visited our campus, Kika de la Garza Elementary, in honor of our newly elected 2019-2020 Student Council Officers, Ezy Escalante, the President of Student Council, graciously welcomed Mr. Villarreal to the Swearing In Ceremony for the KDLG Student Council officers. As he gave his speech about how important it is to serve as a leader in the community, students listened attentively and with enthusiasm. Ronny Munoz, Student Council Treasurer asked questions about serving the public and reflected on what type of leadership he would like to offer his fellow student body. Students raised their right hand and were proudly sworn in by Mr. Villarreal, Palmview Mayor. It was a memorable moment for our newly elected officers. Thank you Mr. Villarreal for taking the time to mentor our students. It was a great learning and memorable experience!
We’re very excited about reading here at Escandon Elementary! We are instilling in our students a love for reading. We started the year in our Dual 1st grade class reading ‘Eva y el festival florerastico’ which was a success. Chapter books have helped students make connections to themselves by identifying with and comparing themselves to characters found in the stories. Our goal is to create lifelong learners who will later read chapter books on their own and be able to fully comprehend what they are reading. Everyday modeling to them during read alouds has helped develop stamina and pacing. Students are taught to think about what is being read, to make connections, to predict, making reading more fun and enjoyable.

MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE FIRST 17 READING RENAISSANCE DIAMOND READERS!

Memorial Middle School is super proud to announce their first Diamond Readers in Reading Renaissance for the 2019-2020 school year...to date, a total of SEVENTEEN and counting! In order to reach this elusive top reader status, students had to read one million words. On average, one million words equates to reading about 15 chapter books! This is a huge accomplishment for our readers so we take pride in celebrating their success.

TOP TABASCO READERS FALL INTO FUN

The year’s second reading challenge is over, and the school’s top readers have earned the privilege of a celebration. The fall-themed incentive – by invitation only – included several activities designed to help students take a load off, have a few laughs, and also express their artistic side. Every six weeks Tabasco is holding a reading challenge to help inspire readers to keep up their work on building up and maintaining their reading skills. Fifth-graders had to read 80,000 words, fourth needed 60,000, third needed 40,000, second needed 20,000, and first-graders needed to earn 24 points to participate. Students got a painting lesson where they got to put their personal spin on illustrating cute candy corn, played festival games like tic-tac-toe, darts, and a ring toss and even constructed their own fall-themed treat. Congratulations to all students who met their reading goals in the second six weeks!

STEM VOCABULARY PARADE AT CAVAZOS ELEMENTARY

On November 12th, students and staff participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Vocabulary Parade. Solar systems, life cycles, Google apps, monarch butterflies, and electronic devices were just some of the costumes that could be seen as students and staff entered the cafeteria for a procession across the stage. Everyone had the chance to present their individual or group vocabulary words on stage during the parade. Additionally, parents were also invited to this event and several were in attendance. STEM learning activities & lessons will always be considered of utmost importance at Cavazos Elementary.

STEMTASTIC LEARNING EXPERIENCES AT CLINTON ELEMENTARY

We are preparing students for a future in which they must be able to leverage academic knowledge and 21st-century skills by creating STEM challenges that teach students to collaborate and communicate effectively, make meaningful connections, and gain knowledge. Students in the GT classroom participated in a lesson about creating slime and learned about chemical change and properties of matter. After the experiment, they were challenged to reflect on their Seesaw journal using science vocabulary.
**Climbing Water Challenge**

Why is it that water defies gravity through plants and trees? Third Graders at Bentsen STEM Elementary were determined to find out through a Climbing Water STEM Challenge. They brainstormed and hypothesized before experimenting. They learned about gravity and capillary action as they used materials like cups, water, food coloring and paper towels to move water from one cup to another without touching or pouring it. Some tried dipping the paper towels in one cup and transferring water into another, but they realized that their water color was changing with this action. They discussed new ways to make this work and observed each other as they problem solved. Ultimately, they were able to place their paper towels in an arch from one cup to the next. Their result demonstrated the way plants use capillary action to draw water up through their stems into their leaves. As a bonus, students ended up with a rainbow of colors and some cool tie-dye paper towel art!

**The Academy Continues**

Science Academy, anyone? Here at Rosendo Benavides Elementary, the students are engaged and excited to be part of the drama. The book uses a lot of drama lesson by doing a reader’s theatre on the book The Little Old Lady Who Wasn’t Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams. Students created props to go along as they read. Anything by Linda Williams. Students created props to go along as they read. The book uses a lot of onomatopoeia throughout the story. Students were engaged and excited to be part of the drama.

**Student Experience (Continued)**

First grade students at Evangelina Garza STEM Elementary School learned how viruses and bacteria are transmitted (passed on) from hand to hand. They made an experiment using glitter and antibacterial gel to visualize microscopic germs on their hands. The objective of this experiment was to direct their attention to the importance of covering their mouth when coughing and nose when sneezing. In addition to that how important it is to wash hands with soap and water during this flu season. Students worked with their bilingual partner and were amazed at the results when only two classmates who got the "glitter" or germs on their hands, passed them along to all 21 students.

**Jose de Escandon STEM Elementary**

Jose de Escandon STEM Elementary kicked off its first meeting of their highly anticipated Techie Club on Thursday, November 14, 2019. The after-school Techie Club meeting during the 2019-20 school year is the first of many that is being made available to students during the 2019-20 school year. It is part of the campus-wide initiative to expand the use of technology tools in classroom instruction to transform the way students learn. Jose de Escandon STEM Elementary students from grades third thru fifth are invited to participate. The club’s mission is to promote the use and knowledge of technology through hands-on projects. Through participation in the club, students will gain exposure to coding, robotics, and artificial intelligence. During its first meeting, students discussed online safety and were able to participate in coding activities using the code.org website. The session ended with students playing with Ozobots.

**Sharing Germs in Room 220!**

Students at Elodia R. Chapa love their Math lessons, especially when they can use different technology apps at home and in class to learn. Seesaw, Quizziz and Kahoot are some of the apps that students get to enjoy and use to expand their knowledge in Math. Each week, Quizziz activities are assigned for homework so that students get to practice what has been taught in class. Parents are excited to see how their children use technology at home to learn and pass their weekly tests. We look forward to teaching our students and parents how to access and integrate the use of technology into their learning throughout the school year!
Sam Fordyce ACE Students were invited to join in the Día De Los Muertos ACE Event held at the La Joya ISD Planetarium on November 1, 2019. Students performed for an audience which included their families and Diana Lopez, the author of the book Coco. Author Diana Lopez opened up the event talking to students about her book Coco and how it came about. She explained how Disney invited her to write a novel adaptation of the Movie Coco. Presentations followed which included one about the “Altar de Muertos” and its significance. Families then enjoyed dance performances by the different campuses. After the presentation and performances, students and their families were invited to refreshments and to visit the different stations and take part in the activities.

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The Bilingual Bicultural Dual Language Program at Memorial Middle School hosted a “Noche de Cultura” on October 29th. The event was a culmination of a unit of study about the rich cultures of various Hispanic countries such as Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, and Mexico. Our Bilingual students delved into topics that included traditions, culture and traditional attire that distinguished the different regions of a country. These cross-curricular, project-based investigations integrated all subject areas such as math, science, reading, social studies, theater arts, and music. Students gained real-world experiences and knowledge about the diversity within our community and around the world. Students showcased their projects and research about the Hispanic Culture as parents and members of our community enjoyed culturally significant performances by Theater Arts, Choir, Folklorico and Mariachi. Guests were also delighted by the food at the event which included traditional dishes such as tamales, Pan de Muerto, spicy salsas, and more.

The Palmview Chamber of Commerce hosted their 5th Annual Miss Palmview Pageant, spotlighting LJISD students who are actively engaged in their community. The pageant is an initiative by the chamber to bring the community together, while giving young women the opportunity to earn a $500 dollar scholarship. The 2019 Miss Palmview Pageant was not about the aesthetic; it was about crowning young women who consistently go above and beyond for their community. Six young women were chosen to represent Palmview based on their service, leadership and interview skills. The fifteen contestants donned their best Great Gatsby themed and formal outfits throughout the night. The event attracted a large crowd and was filled with performances by children around the community.

WINNERS OF EACH CATEGORY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Tiny Miss Palmview: Avery Treviño
Little Miss Palmview: Alekzia Garibay
Miss Pre-Teen Palmview: Marla Peña
Miss Teen Palmview: Kaylee Ann Silva
Miss Palmview “Duchess of Crepe Myrtle” (Runner Up): Destanee Rivera
Miss Palmview “Duchess of Royal Palms”:

Janelle Grecia is a 4th-grade student at JFK. She grew an interest and curiosity for helping the earth when she researched pollution. She was astonished to find facts and statistics about landfills and how these affect our Earth on a daily basis. That’s when she knew she had to take action and help our community, but especially our Earth.

Janelle came up with the idea of initiating the Save the Earth Club at JFK. She began by organizing and taking notes as to what she needed, and what her plans for the club would be. Students began joining her in this movement and soon after the Save the Earth Club was established. For the month of October, the club hosted its first annual trash bash and have made plans for other events throughout the year. The Save the Earth members are also very eclectic and thankful for the Wal-Mart donation the club received and will be utilizing the money to purchase items to help our school recycle plastic, cans, and paper.

Janelle wants to encourage everyone in the community to take action just like she did, and help the earth by Recycling, Reusing, and Reducing.

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The Academies of LJHS hosted the Panel of Speaker series in mid-October, welcoming a successful group of working professionals, and a couple of engineering students. Students enrolled in the Academies of La Joya High School turned to technology to ask their questions through a mobile device, and then those questions were streamed to the moderator in real time. Our guests offered their professional experiences, as well as shared their educational journeys. On behalf of La Joya ISD, we’d like to sincerely thank our speakers for joining LJISD as a partner in education.

As part of the Fall Panel of Speaker Series held in mid-October, students welcomed various professionals and engineering students from the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. Students in the audience listened attentively to the speakers and had the privilege of asking the professional of their choice a question through a district moderator. The moderator then would read the question to the panelist, who would then in turn offer their answer and advice. Students and panelists both enjoyed the event. On behalf of La Joya ISD, we’d like to sincerely thank our speakers for joining LJISD as a partner in education!

The Juarez-Lincoln High School National Honor Society hosted the first ever “Spookfest” on campus on October 29, 2019. In attendance were students from all grade levels ranging from elementary to high school. According to Noel Guerra (11), NHS member, the organization wanted to give back to the community. “We got many organizations from school and around the community like Top Golf, STC, UTRGV and the RGV Vipers,” Guerra continued. The overall goal for “Spookfest” was to collaborate with organizations on and off campus and provide a safe alternative for LJISD students from around the district to “Trick or Treat.”

Monday, November the 11th was a special day at John F. Kennedy Elementary. Veterans were honored through an assembly held in the cafeteria which was proudly conducted by our GT and Student Council. Loud cheers, posters and the bright red, blue, white colors welcomed our veterans as they entered the school grounds. Our JFK choir under the guidance of Mrs. A. Farias dedicated “God Bless the USA” to thank our veterans. All grade levels joined in around the vestibule to continue the Red Carpet treatment to celebrate our HEROES. Thank you Veterans for your service. John F. Kennedy Elementary Salutes You!
The Academies of LJHS 10th Grade Students visited and toured Texas A&M Kingsville on Thursday, November 7. Students heard directly from University Professors about specifics pertaining to their field of study. Students visited with Dr. Alvarado-Stinson from the Engineering Department and learned about the different pathways students can major in while at Texas A&M. Advisors, Monica Caylor and Mr. Winterbottom gave students helpful tips as they prepare for college in the near future. We would like to thank our Superintendent of Schools and Board of Trustee for allowing our students to visit and experience trips such as this one.

**VETERANS, WE SALUTE YOU!**

The Academy of Health Science Professions & STEM hosted their fifth Annual Veteran’s Day Breakfast at the Abraham Lincoln Building Library on Monday, November 11, 2019. The AHSP-STEM National Honor Society welcomed local veterans – including two AHSP-STEM teachers who are veterans- at the traditional breakfast. The guests of honor were greeted with a roaring applause from the entire Academy of Health Science Professions & STEM student body and staff as they exited the library. “It was great to honor our local veterans who acted selflessly to ensure the freedoms we have today” said Senior, Vanessa Gonzalez. “This gives our generation the opportunity to appreciate what members of the US Armed Forces have given to and for our country.”

Senior, Vanessa Gonzalez. “This gives our generation the opportunity to appreciate what members of the US Armed Forces have given to and for our country.”

The students of La Joya Lincoln High School Academy of Public Service- Law Enforcement received a visit from La Joya ISD K-9 Officer Zip and K-9 Handler Officer Rene Salinas on October 24. Students were able to hear about the duties Officer Salinas and Zip are responsible for performing, as well as some of their experiences working together.

**ACADEMIES OF LJISD IN THE COMMUNITY**

**EDUGUIDE PRESIDENT VISITS PALMVIEW HS T-STEM**

Palmview High School T-STEM Academy was honored to host a learning tour attended by Mr. Bryan Taylor-President of EduGuide, Ms. Abdullah- LJISD Executive Director for Student Services, and Dr. Oliveira- LJISD Executive Director for Middle Schools. Mr. Bocanegra- T-STEM Academy Director, provided information on the implementation of EduGuide and how students have shown amazing growth. A panel was set up featuring Ms. Lindsay Barajas- T-STEM Academy Teacher, and some Academy students who shared their experiences with EduGuide. The learning tour was a great success. We look forward to working with our leaders to continue promoting student success.

**K-9 OFFICER ZIP VISITS JLHS PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY**

The students of Juan C. Cabrera’s students, other departments of Health Science Professions & STEM participated in the learning tour as well, and heard how some of the students were selected for the PBI program and how they have grown over the past year. The students were interviewed by a panel of professionals this past October. Each student submitted an application, 2 reference letters and sat through an interview spearhead by Academy Teachers and Work Force Solutions Specialist, Jasmine Hernandez. We look forward to working very closely with all of our Academy Ambassadors as they will represent the Academies in many different facets throughout this Academic School Year. Check out our Facebook Page from more information and highlights on our Academies of LJHS.

**STUDENTS TAKE PART IN JOB FAIR**

Ambassadors from the different Ford NGL and T-STEM Academies were able to experience job explorations up close and personal. The students were given the opportunity to interact with more than 100 employers at the Workforce Solutions, “Red, White and You” Job Fair. Some Ambassadors walked away excitedly after securing several paid internship positions. Due to our excellent partnership with Workforce Solutions, Mr. Joshua Vasquez extended a special invitation to the T-STEM students to attend the Workforce Solutions event. The students were able to interact with more than 100 employers and heard information on the implementation of EduGuide and how students have shown amazing growth. A panel was set up featuring Ms. Lindsay Barajas- T-STEM Academy Teacher, and some Academy students who shared their experiences with EduGuide. The learning tour was a great success. We look forward to working with our leaders to continue promoting student success.

**Pallsview High School T-STEM Academy was honored to host a learning tour attended by Mr. Bryan Taylor-President of EduGuide, Ms. Abdullah- LJISD Executive Director for Student Services, and Dr. Oliveira- LJISD Executive Director for Middle Schools. Mr. Bocanegra- T-STEM Academy Director, provided information on the implementation of EduGuide and how students have shown amazing growth. A panel was set up featuring Ms. Lindsay Barajas- T-STEM Academy Teacher, and some Academy students who shared their experiences with EduGuide. The learning tour was a great success. We look forward to working with our leaders to continue promoting student success.**

**ACADEMY Ambassadors**

The Academies of LJHS would like to congratulate all the newly selected TSTEM and FORD NGL Academy Ambassadors for the 2019-2020 School Year. Students were interviewed by a panel of professionals this past October. Each student submitted an application, 2 reference letters and sat through an interview spearhead by Academy Teachers and Work Force Solutions Specialist, Jasmine Hernandez. We look forward to working very closely with all of our Academy Ambassadors as they will represent the Academies in many different facets throughout this Academic School Year. Check out our Facebook Page for more information and highlights on our Academies of LJHS.

**PHS TSTEM JSTEM STUDENTS Recognized**

T-STEM Academy students Jandri Perez and Erick Pena were recognized at the La Joya ISD board meeting on Monday November 11th. Jandri and Erick participated in the JSTEM Summer Program at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. According to the UTRGV website, “The JSTEM (Journalism, Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) Project Based Inquiry (PBI) is an innovative summer enrichment program offered by UTRGV Continuing Education in partnership with College of Education & P-16 Integration.” This program is an opportunity for high school students to learn STEM in an authentically situated research setting at UTRGV. Jandri and Erick were part of a larger group of students that worked side by side with university students and professors to conduct research on the purification of water. They attended classes at UTRGV during the summer and they were exposed to a glimpse of university life. We are very proud of Jandri and Erick for their accomplishment!
On November 2, 2019, the Wellness Team at Husky Nation took on the La Joya ISD transportation department at the 2019 La Joya ISD Wellness Kick-Ball Tournament at the LJISD Sports Complex. With a score of 5-2, the Juarez-Lincoln High School Wellness Team claimed their championship status. This year marked the highest number of participants in 5 years. “It’s all about the unity amongst the staff and each other,” claims Jennifer Garcia. “I’m definitely going to be there next year.”

The RGV Academy Leaders’ Coalition held its first meeting of the year at the Mercedes Culinary Arts Building. Educators and Workforce leaders reviewed best practices for partnership development. Collaborative dialogue focused on the Ford NGL tactics and transformation strands. Ford NGL Directors, along with the LJISD Academies staff and Administrative Team, took part in the Coalition. We look forward to working collaboratively with neighboring school districts to ensure all of our students are obtaining an academically-sound education, riddled with unique experiences that allow them to be college, career and military ready.

Every Day Counts
AT LA JOYA ISD!

SHOW UP. SHINE BRIGHT.
LET'S SHOW OUR LA JOYA ISD PRIDE!

Winter Coat Drive

WARMING COMMUNITIES...ONE COAT AT A TIME.

COLLECTION DATE
December 7, 2019
9:00AM - 2:00PM
Public Information Center
200 W. Expressway 83 • La Joya TX 78560
(Please ensure that donations are bagged)
For more information please contact (956) 323-2585

Let’s help keep local families warm this winter by donating new or gently used winter clothing.
Donations may include scarves, gloves, coats and hats.